



## IMPORTANT NOTICE RE. COVID-19

Thank you parents and carers, yet again, for all your support in helping us to reduce the spread of Covid-19 at Helston Community College. We are pleased that, thanks to your support, we have avoided the high levels of cases seen in many other Cornish schools. However, rates of infection continue to rise across Cornwall and over half of new cases are occurring in schools, with some having to close certain year groups. It is so important that we continue to be vigilant and do all we can to keep our school COVID-safe.

### Home Testing

**Students should continue testing and reporting results twice a week** (ideally on Sundays and Wednesdays). **This includes testing at home, throughout the October half-term break** and before returning to school. **All results should be reported, even if your result is negative or void.** **New test kits are being made available for students to collect in school this week.**

Please check that your child has received enough of test kits to continue testing over the half term break. You can help them to take the test and report their results. Testing is free of charge. If you do require more test kits, you can order more online through [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), or collect them from your local pharmacy.

By testing your child twice a week over half term, you will help to keep your child and others safe and keep your child in school, minimising disruption to their education and your family.

### Close Contacts

Due to high rates of COVID-19 within Cornwall, Public Health Cornwall has issued new guidance regarding close/household contacts. You are asked to:

- Book a PCR test for anyone in your household who is identified as a close/household contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Ensure that anyone who is a household contact of a confirmed case and is attending school, takes a daily rapid Lateral Flow Test, for 7 days.

### Facemasks

At the time of writing, all staff and students are required to wear a facemask while in the communal areas of the school building, unless exempt. It is extremely important that students arrive at school with their own facemask, which they are responsible for looking after. A reusable facemask is best, as this saves money and is better for the environment.

### Self-isolating

Students only need to self-isolate if they have symptoms, or have tested positive on a PCR test. Students who are awaiting a PCR result, but have no symptoms, should attend school as normal.

If you have any questions regarding Helston Community College's COVID-19 measures, please contact Mr. Oates (Senior Assistant Headteacher).