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Our Ref: SYA/HWI

21 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As this half term draws to a close, I would like to share some key messages so that next term can be as successful as this one.

Despite a number of schools in the region adopting partial opening or distance learning, we have been able to sustain a normal provision this past few weeks. Key to that continued position is the lateral flow testing of students twice a week. I would ask that a test is conducted shortly before your child returns to the academy on Monday 1 November so that we can be as sure as possible, that all students attending are free from the virus. Staff will be doing the same. Please continue to participate in this so that any asymptomatic cases can be identified before these are transmitted to others and move to daily testing should a member of your household have symptoms or test positive. Further kits to supplement those provided by the academy can be ordered through the government website.

We will be continuing to expect students to wear face coverings in communal spaces such the corridors, hall and canteen where 2 metre social distancing cannot be maintained and on school transport. This currently does not include classrooms and changing rooms. Please do let us know if your child has an exemption so that they are not challenged unnecessarily.

Half term is a good time also to stock up on any stationery that your child might need replacing as this saves time in class and the loaning of equipment is especially undesirable during the pandemic.

As we enter the colder months should your child wish to wear a black V-neck unbranded jumper to supplement their uniform, they are welcome to wear one. This is not in replacement to the blazer. Your child can also wear their outdoor coat at break and lunchtime whilst outside. All classrooms are now provided with a device for measuring room temperature and air quality so that ventilation and temperature can be kept in balance throughout the coming weeks.

This term has been a very positive start to the academic year with Year 7 settling in well and being able to enjoy their Porthpean activities to get to know one another and really gel as a year group. We have also seen this week the appointment of our Year 11 Prefects from which we will be finding our next Head Boy and Girl. I have been really pleased with the quality of the applicants this year. They are to be congratulated as this is a rigorous selection process. Open Evening was very well attended although the format was adapted for social distancing and our Positive Futures Evening was very successful with many Year 10 and 11 students using that event to plan their future study destinations or training providers.



Your role in supporting testing is particularly important so that we can continue to enjoy that increased freedom.

It has been great to welcome the community increasingly into the academy, including three highly successful flu and COVID community vaccination events, however, we will be continuing to monitor the rates of infection and adapting our plans if needed in response to the prevailing picture, which, across Cornwall, is currently heading in the wrong direction, limiting what else we can offer in the coming weeks.

I hope that you and your families remain well and that you have a good half term. I look forward to welcoming your child back on Monday 1 November.

Yours faithfully

Mr Scott Yalden Headteacher

