



Nailsea School

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you this evening, following the recent update from the government on the next stage of response to coronavirus, experiencing a huge range of emotions. I am sure all of #teamNailsea is now feeling the same way.

Firstly, I am feeling a sense of relief. Relief that the hour by hour decision making that school staff have been subjected to in the last couple of days has now been removed with the national directive that schools will close on Friday 20th March. In our case, the school will close for all students at 3pm on Friday 20th March.

As a reminder, there have already been decisions made that certain students will not be expected in school for the rest of this week:

- Year 9 students are not expected in school on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March
- Year 8 students are not expected in school on Friday 20th March.

The children of key workers in both years 8 and years 9 can continue to come into school if required. Students in this position should report to 161 at 8:40am where they will receive an amended programme for the day.

I want to reassure parents that I have received notification from North Somerset that the council has been planning a coordinated approach in response to mandated school closures. This involves ensuring that the children of key workers can continue to attend school and those students that are eligible for free school meals still have access to this entitlement. I am due to be updated on these plans during the school day tomorrow and, in turn, I will notify parents on the intended strategy from Monday 23rd March.

My second response to the announcements made this afternoon are feelings of both anxiety and genuine sadness. Nailsea is a community that is extremely important to me and the thought of not seeing students and staff for, at present, an unknown period of time is really upsetting. I am sure that many students will be feeling the same and the next few weeks and possibly months could be challenging. I would hope parents are clear that we will continue to support students as much as possible. Further details will follow tomorrow.

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My final feelings are related specifically to those year 11 and 13 students who have received the news that their planned exams for May and June are cancelled. This is devastating news for them, their teacher and their parents, with all having worked to get to this stage. Teaching a year 11 History group and a year 13 Sociology group myself I know how hard students have been working and focusing as we approach the end of the examination courses. I am genuinely heartbroken that two year groups of amazing young people now have this further level of uncertainty placed upon them. No further details were given in the announcement this afternoon about the measures that will be taken as a result of exams not happening, but as soon as the details have been passed on to schools, I will update you all.

I will be in touch again tomorrow with some further details based on the conversations due to be had with North Somerset.

I very much look forward to seeing students tomorrow and, although year 9 will not be present, these students will also be in my thoughts.

Take care

Dee Elliott
Head teacher