



Nailsea School

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17 March 2020

Dear Parents

As discussed yesterday, I do want to keep you updated about the measures the school is taking in response to Covid-19 as often as possible.

You may be aware that the Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson, met with officials and union leaders yesterday and we would hope to see some further clarity around examinations and school closures in due course.

Yesterday afternoon I met with staff to update them on the measures we have taken as a school that you received details of in the letters sent home.

Our contingency planning covers two scenarios: remaining open or closing

Scenario 1: Remaining open

Following the press conference yesterday this remains the government's current position for all schools. I have reiterated to staff that they should not come into school if they are in a vulnerable group OR if they live with someone in that position. **I would ask parents to make the same call for their own child.** As was redefined last night you should keep your child off school if

- They have a new or continuous cough or a high temperature for 14 days **AND**
- Any family member living in the household should also be isolated for the same period

The government's advice continues to be that there is no evidence that people who do not have symptoms are infectious to others, so we plan to remain open for other students. This situation could change quickly and I will write to you all again if this does change.

I would ask you to repeat to your child our request for regular handwashing during the school day. If you are able to give you child their own personal supply of hand sanitiser that would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, if your child is ill, self-isolating or you are keeping them off school and they are well enough, we would like them to complete work. You will appreciate that with all the changing demands on our time this week, that in the short term, setting bespoke work will be challenging. In some ways this would be easier with a school closure (see below) but in the meantime students have access to other platforms, such as Show My Homework, and can complete work in this way, such as using Hegarty Maths.

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We have issued a Microsoft form to both students and parents to ascertain if any families do not have regular internet access where alternative arrangements will be made so that work can also be provided. Please find the link to this form below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnozslzVoQVXT5tAGfQHRErSLIBbOeTNFUQII2RzZYRzVITDBLR01LSzQ2VVhVNjZGQy4u

This link has also been pasted into the main Parent pay message so that parents can access this. We would ask that this form is completed by **1pm on Wednesday 18th March** so that we can be fully informed for the next stage of planning.

Whilst we remain open with what could be a depleted staff and your child is absent, along with a number of others, it may take time to respond to individual queries although we will aim to do so. There have been parents who have sought the school's opinion as to whether their children are well enough to attend school. **This is a decision that has to remain with the parents/carers given the government advice and we are not in a position to decide.**

In the last 24 hours two further decisions have been taken, that I would like you to be aware of:

- The year 11 Art and Photography catch up day that was scheduled to take place on Saturday 21st March, from 9am until 4pm, will not take place.
- The ABSolute sessions scheduled for periods 3 and 4 on 26th March have been cancelled and students should attend normal lessons at these times.

I have, naturally, received some emails regarding the internal Art and Photography GCSE exams that are scheduled for the next two weeks. Understandably the current situation is making students anxious. Please be assured that we are continuing to liaise with exam boards to ascertain the best way forward for staff and students and further details will be passed on as soon as we have them.

Scenario 2: Closing

I don't have much to add here; we will await government directives on this but we are currently drawing up plans to:

- Set work up on line
- Keep in touch with vulnerable students and families
- Find some ways of supporting students with free school meals
- Provide pastoral support for students and families who would need this

Thank you again for your support. This is a very challenging period. We will do all we can to support your child and our priority is not to raise anxiety levels.

I will write again in due course.

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher