



Nailsea School

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26 March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

It has now been almost a week since the government ordered that schools, for the vast majority of pupils, should be closed. In that time our students, your children, have been amazing. Even when closed many staff have received kind, considerate and thoughtful messages from students, even in these challenging circumstances.

The last week has not been schooling as we know it. We are continuing to be open for the small number of children, who need a safe place while parents are doing the jobs necessary to keep the country running. We have used a skeleton structure of staff – both teaching and non-teaching- and I would like to extend my personal thanks to their flexible attitudes and willingness to come into school at a time when the government is continuing to advise the importance of social distancing. #teamnailsea have done a fantastic job, yet again.

In this new landscape of remote learning, we would be grateful if parents could take some time over the next few days to complete a 10 question survey, reviewing how the first week working from home has been from their perspective. Questions relate to the amount of work set, the type of work set and the feedback that students have received. Any comments and suggestions about the way things can be improved moving forward will be gratefully received. Given that closure of schools remains for the foreseeable future we do want to make the school weeks after the Easter break sustainable and meaningful for both students and staff. The link to the survey can be found here and we would appreciate responses by **9am on Monday 30th March:**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnozslzVoQVW73i_5A2HxBoDhUtN-POA1UQk5aS1RJQVcwVE1DNEIwRzVMME1YNUtQRS4u

In addition to the work that has been set for specific classes, I hope parents have been made aware of two additional opportunities that are open to both students and parents. Firstly, Nailsea School has been granted access to the National Theatre's Drama resources and for a temporary period, plays can be accessed remotely ensuring students studying from home can still watch them. Our access details are here:

Username: 6Mm,8By.

Password: 9Bx'4Qf£

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott

Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 2HN

Company Number: 8084047

Telephone: 01275 852251 e-mail: nailsch@nailseaschool.com Web: www.nailseaschool.com

Secondly, the Open University have a number of online courses that are free of charge. There is a huge range of subjects available and individuals can work through the materials at their own pace. Although completion of the courses do not lead to any formal credit towards a qualification, once finished, a certificate can be printed demonstrating both interest in a subject and a commitment to individual development. Such activities could be really pertinent for those students in year 13 looking towards Higher Education and year 11 students looking towards A Levels. The link can be found here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses#> and nothing could stop parents and children completing courses together – everyone likes a study buddy!

In the last couple of days Nailsea staff have made phone calls to our families eligible for free school meals and arranged a bank transfer to ensure that all students are supported over term time during this closure period. Schools have been made aware that the government is planning a voucher scheme and we are awaiting further details on this. Once the details are passed on to us, rest assured we will notify parents.

There is still the plan for the school to be open during the Easter holiday period (wk comm 6th April – 17th April, excluding the Bank Holidays of Friday 10th April and Monday 13th April) for the children of keyworkers. Given the ever changing situation if you require this for your child(ren), we would appreciate you giving as much notice of this as possible. As before, please notify the relevant Head of House if this is the case.

Finally, it has been a very surreal week. As we continue to go through these unparalleled times I will continue to be beside you, all be it at a distance. There will continue to be regular communication both to keep you updated but also to, wherever I can, make you smile. There is no doubt that when we do next meet we shall all be a little different – the seismic events we are witnessing will, inevitably, create permanent change. However, if that difference is characterised by compassion and selflessness, such as I have seen in the last week, then we shall all emerge better people for it.

Please do continue to be brave and strong, focusing on family, friends, health and wellness – for these are the most important things.

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher