



Nailsea School

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19 March 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of support and community spirit that is being felt in school at the moment during what is a very unsettling time for everyone. The personal messages the school has received from a number of parents has been incredibly welcome and, on occasions, quite overwhelming. Thank you.

Given the announcement made by the government yesterday to cancel summer exams, we have made it a priority to meet with those students directly affected today. An assembly was held with year 11 students during period 2 and the 6th form have met during the normal assembly time this afternoon. Understandably, students and parents are unsettled about the, as yet, unknown process by which examining bodies will award qualifications. A number of parents have queried the process with us already this morning via email but this is not a decision the school can take. This government decision will be passed on to schools in due course and once this information is known we will pass this on to you as soon as possible. Mr Reddiford was very clear with year 11 students that this situation will not impact on students returning to Nailsea Sixth Form in September. As a result the usual offer letter will not be issued and students will receive an email to their school email address in the next two weeks.

A common question from both years 11 and 13 students has been related, unsurprisingly, to the study requirements for them whilst at home, given the cancelled exams. For year 13 students with coursework although we don't know the details of how A level/level 3 grades will be allocated this year, teacher assessment seems like a very probable solution. Given that, any coursework may be used to justify the grades, it is expected that these tasks should still be done and submitted to teachers for marking. For year 11 students and year 13 students undertaking non coursework based subjects, we are currently compiling a selection of tasks that students can pick from to complete. These will not be related to exam specifications but will focus on the wider skills/knowledge that students in both years would benefit from. This will be completed today and details sent home tomorrow.

The plans for tomorrow remains as indicated yesterday:

- On **Friday 20th March** we will be open to all students, **except for students in years 8 and 9.**

We will also remain open for students in years 8 and 9 whose parents/carers work in front line NHS or other Emergency Services staff, who are not in household isolation. In this instance students should report to 161 at the start of the day as normal classes will not be operational.

During closure tomorrow, as happened today, students who are eligible for Free School Meals, can continue to come on site for a hot meal should they wish to do so. Students should come to reception between 12:50pm and 1:00pm where they will be registered. Students in years 8 and 9, on their specific closure days will then leave through reception at 1:40pm.

An assembly will be held with year 8 before they leave today in order to reassure students. Students at KS3 (years 7, 8 and 9) will be set work by their class teachers using Show My Homework. Tasks will be set for the 2 week timetabled period so as not to overwhelm students and to enable us to respond to any government announcements.

Teachers will be available on email (a list of addresses are available on the website) to answer any queries or concerns regarding their learning. Students in year 8 who do not have internet access have already been provided with a pack of work. During tomorrow the remaining year groups (years 7, 10 and 12) will have work collated and paper copies will be passed on to those that require it. Assemblies will also be held with each year group.

At the time of sending this letter we are still awaiting the government definition of 'key workers'. As you are aware from the announcement yesterday it is expected that the children of these workers should have the opportunity to continue to attend school, whilst not displaying symptoms or self isolating. Based on the information shared to date about this definition (Emergency services, NHS staff and delivery drivers, for example) we will need to establish how many Nailsea students would fall into this category.

Please reference the flow diagram overleaf to establish if you meet the criteria for identification as a Key Worker.

Once identified, can you please notify the school by emailing kw@nailseaschool.com. Please include:

- **Full name of parents**
- **Full name of child**
- **Year group**
- **Key Worker category**

To have a full picture we do need to have this information submitted as soon as possible and plans for next week will be based on the responses by **8am on Friday 20th March**.

Thanks again for your ongoing support. I will be in touch tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

Dee Elliott
Head teacher



