20th March

Dear Parents/Carers

In line with government guidance Nailsea School will close at 3pm this afternoon for an indefinite period of time.

Although, in truth, this was an inevitable decision the last couple of days have been very difficult for all and once again, we thank our families for the support you have given the staff and the school. This letter does contain a lot of information which I hope parents will find useful and act as a point of reference.

Further to the assemblies with year 11, the 6th form and year 8 yesterday, we have met with years 7 and 10 today to reassure students about the coming weeks and, in all likelihood, months. This includes reiterating that staff will be picking up emails (a list of addresses are available on the website) when the school is closed and they will respond to any queries in this way. Resources and revision will be set by individual teachers using both Show My Homework and through Office 365, initially for the two weeks up to the Easter break so as not to overwhelm students. It is expected that students return this work to staff for marking, either through SMH or via email, during the period of closure. Students who do not have internet access will be provided with paper copies of tasks before they leave today and should ensure work is handed to staff when possible.

I would like to offer similar levels of reassurance for parents/carers – if for any reason you would like to speak to a member of staff this can be done through the email system and, where possible, a follow up phone call will be arranged. The following guidance may also be useful to support and encourage home learning at this time:

1. Please discuss the timetable your child will be following at home. Many students will feel comfortable in spending time during the day completing work for the 5 lessons that would have taken place on the day the school is closed to them. Alternatively, using the additional resources listed in Appendix 1, students can spend time widening their knowledge in an area of interest.

2. Any work produced should be shared with your child's teacher on their return to school.

3. Please think about ensuring the time at home includes structure and breaks. Extensions of learning can include practical tasks, such as cooking, playing board games and completing puzzles.

4. Creating 'zones' at home could help. A working or study area for example. If the weather is fine an outdoor space at home could be invaluable in ensuring positive levels of well being.

5. Please avoid allowing your child to play online games for extended periods and without adult supervision.

6. Please monitor social media usage during the period of closure and report any concerns in the usual way.

We are aware that the extended period of time could prove challenging for families and we have also put together a directory of services to support both mental health and wellbeing. The pdf document has been sent along with this letter.

As you may be aware schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

- **Vulnerable children** include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.
- Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in Annex 2.

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then we will try and make school provision available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.

Nailsea School will welcome students in the listed categories from Monday 23rd March, operating the normal school hours for students of 8:40am – 3pm. Thank you to those key workers that have identified themselves by the email link and we can accommodate these students on site. **It is important to know, in advance, which students are expected on site on which days for safeguarding purposes. Please notify your child's Head of House if you know that your child will be attending and the dates of required attendance.** I am aware that with work patterns parents may require students to be in school for some days in the coming weeks but not others. Again, as much clarification we can have in advance the better. Students attending do not need to wear uniform but should enter the school building through reception where they can be registered. Lunch will be provided for these students but students can bring their own lunch if they wish.

For any families that are eligible for free school meals but live outside the BS48 postcode, and therefore will not be attending school, we will be providing weekly hampers that will be delivered home. The first delivery will take place on Tuesday 24th March and will then happen every Tuesday moving forward. Any student that is eligible for free school meals, living within the BS48 postcode, irrespective of whether they are attending for full days at school, will be provided a lunch on site during the period of closure. In order to ensure catering staff availability is maximised lunch during this period will run from 11:50 to 12:50 and there will be no morning break. Students coming onto site for lunch should come through main reception to be registered. Again, students are not required to wear uniform on site.

I do want to take some time to pay tribute to our magnificent team of staff who have continued to work to support each other and care for our students. Many have commented at how devastated they feel at this closure and although staff have accepted this it does not diminish their resolve to do what is best for our students.

Finally, it goes without saying that we are living in the midst of a national emergency and our school will do all it can to continue to support our families. As Bob Marley once said 'You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice'.

I will be thinking of you all over the next few weeks (and possibly months) and will keep you informed of any updates as they arise.

Take care

Dee Elliott
Headteacher

Appendix 1: A list of free online resources that students can access in a range of subject areas

Khan Academy
https://www.khanacademy.org
Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. This does use the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning
http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/
This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn
https://www.futurelearn.com
Free to access 100s of courses

Scratch
https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/
Creative computer programming

Ted Ed
https://ed.ted.com
All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids
https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/
Activities and quizzes for KS3 students

Duolingo
https://www.duolingo.com
Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science
https://mysteryscience.com
Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This
https://thekidsshouldseethis.com
Wide range of cool educational videos

Crest Awards
https://www.crestawards.org
Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards
https://idea.org.uk
Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Tinkercad
https://www.tinkercad.com
All kinds of making.

British Council
https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find
Resources for English language learning

Big History Project
https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home
Aimed at Secondary age. Multi disciplinary activities.

Geography Games
https://world-geography-games.com/world.html
Geography gaming!

The Artful Parent
https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/
Good, free art activities

Appendix 2: Key Worker Definition as defined by UK Government

Health and social care
This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributers of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare
This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and support staff and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services
This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government
This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods
This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security
This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services
This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and

data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.