



# Nailsea School

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Tuesday 21 April

Dear parents/carers,

As yesterday was scheduled to be an INSET day, today was the day students would have returned to school. I hope you all had a restful 'Easter break' and welcome back to our very first 'remote' Term 5. There is no denying that in the last few weeks we have all had to adapt to new ways of working, and I wanted to start this letter by acknowledging the amazing job you, as parents and carers, are all doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

As work for term 5 has now been uploaded on Show My Homework, I want to also continue to reassure you that, given the situation, there is the acceptance that the amount of work completed at home could never replicate the amount completed when students would have been in school. Having routines are important for us all, as is a calm home environment – I would not want experiences of home schooling to create levels of stress between family members. I would recommend your child takes breaks away from screens as well, and also make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

As you will know from the letters sent before Easter, work is being set by staff and submitted by students in a different way this term, following your feedback. Work is now showing for subjects in a fortnightly cycle, with clear indications of what could be completed per 'lesson' as well as the specific piece of work that will receive feedback, just as would have happened when in school. We will be keen to seek your views on this as we move through this term and there will be an additional parent survey sent out in due course.

Student work will also be regularly recognised on a whole school level as we move through 'term 5'. At the end of the first fortnightly cycle, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, departments will select those students that have impressed with both effort and achievement. These 'shout outs' will be shared via social media and the school website. In addition to this fortnightly recognition, students will have the opportunity to get involved in our virtual house challenges that were launched yesterday. All details can be found on the school Facebook page and the school Twitter account.

For those who follow the daily government briefings you will be aware that over the weekend the Education Secretary announced some further developments linked specifically to online learning resources and the provision of technology for disadvantaged students. These announcements were made to us at school at the same time as everyone else so when we are aware of further details, we will share this with you. In a similar way Ofqual, the body that oversees exam qualifications, also stated that further details would be available after the Easter break. Students in years 11 and 13 studying GCSE, A Level and vocational qualifications will have this information passed on when it becomes available.

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As I reflected over the weekend, it has definitely been a strange and challenging time. It is important for us all to recognise that it is understandable for any of us to feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. In addition to this letter, there is a letter for students reminding them about ways to stay safe during this period of lockdown which I trust will act as a useful reminder and point of reference.

I hope you know that we are all here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. The check in calls will continue through term 5 and both staff and families are really appreciating this contact. However, you do not need to wait for the call to get in touch if you have an issue. The email addresses of all staff are on the website and please don't hesitate to contact me personally on [DElliott@nailseaschool.com](mailto:DElliott@nailseaschool.com) if you feel the need or would like to do so.

There is no doubt that I do miss having students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. We are continuing with the system of having a staff rota to supervise the students that are accessing the site, as they are classed as vulnerable and/or children of critical workers. Parents should continue to contact their child's Head of House to notify them of this need by noon on the day before their attendance.

As Gavin Williamson stated in the Downing Street briefing on Sunday afternoon, we cannot say yet when we will be able to open the school fully. However, rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep your children learning and you all feeling connected to us and the school.

Stay safe and be kind

**Dee Elliott**  
**Head teacher**