



27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family, friends and loved ones safe and well. I realise in these difficult times the first weekend of term 5 will have merged with being at home more than usual, with families continuing to be in isolation.

Please be assured that we remain committed to doing all we can to support you and your children. With ongoing feedback from parents and many national updates since I last wrote to you, this letter should ensure you have all information and current guidance in the one place.

Term 5 Cycle 1 Home Learning

Students should now be working on the lesson by lesson breakdown of tasks that went 'live on SMH on 20th April. We are aware that when setting work, the quantity is never going to be perfect for every single student. To help with this

- Students should focus on the work in the current cycle – the tasks that are shown as dark green. Do not worry if work set before Easter has not been completed.
- Students should use the overview sheet per subject (the one with the lesson by lesson breakdown and school logo) to see what should be worked on each hour.
- These overview sheets clearly show which of the tasks should be submitted for feedback for their teachers, often highlighted in yellow.
- Some students have found it useful to follow their timetable to enable a sense of structure. However, this is not compulsory. One other option is to outline the number of lessons' work that has been set for each subject and tick this off as completed. An example, sent in by a student, using this technique is shown below.

Each subject has been listed in the first column with the total number of lessons (in brackets) across the fortnight.

The student has created a table showing the total number of lessons for each subject e.g. Maths has 7 and Music has 2 lessons per fortnight.

Every time a lesson is completed in each subject the cell is coloured green, meaning that the student can clearly see what has been achieved and what it still to do across the fortnight.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	EAST
MATHS (7)	✓	✓	✓								
HISTORY (4)											
ENGLISH (3)											
GEOGRAPHY (4)	✓	✓	✓	✓							
SCIENCE (7)											
TECH (4)											
ART (2)											
DRAMA (2)	✓	✓									
MUSIC (2)											
PE (2)											
SPANISH (4)											
RE (1)											

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- When submitting work to teachers, students need to have logged in through their own SMH account (and not a parent account). If students are still finding this problematic, teachers are happy to receive work via email.
- Any tasks highlighted orange on the SMH calendar are short quizzes to test understanding that are completed through SMH.
- The Maths department have set tasks largely through Hegarty (and students are directed to specific videos per lesson in the overview sheet). Any further attachments are for extension/support and not all need to be used at once or at all by some students.
- The 'digging deeper' tasks are optional and are there for those students that would like to continue their learning in a particular subject/topic.
- Students should not spend longer than advised on the tasks per lesson. If something remains unfinished or needs to partly completed to fit in with the time available that is perfectly acceptable.

Based on feedback to date and ahead of Term 5 Cycle 2 I will be asking staff to

- Remove any previous tasks that were set prior to the Easter break to avoid confusion of more than one set of tasks per subject being visible.
- Clearly name the overview sheet amongst the attachments e.g 'Music Year 7 Term 5 Cycle 1' so when downloaded these are easily identified.
- Ensure that any messages are uploaded to SMH through the 'Notice' function and not added on as homework (this will mean that this will show as a different colour and not appear as an additional task) to avoid confusion.

We do recognise that the final decision about the work being completed will be taken by families. We just want to ensure that there is work available for students to access the full breadth of the curriculum during this period. Remote learning can never capture or recreate the interaction, practical activity or expertise that a normal day at school can provide. There is no doubt that all parents and carers are working hard to support their children but I know that some families are finding this incredibly challenging to maintain. I hope the clarifications in this letter have put your mind at ease – families are doing their best and that is absolutely good enough.

There are some newly launched national support resources for education at home that you may also find useful – including daily lessons. Teachers will look to begin to incorporate these into those lessons, but were only made aware of the resources when they went online last week:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.thenational.academy>

Finally, please be assured that when school does resume we are not going to be launching into immediate testing or a series of assessments. We are aware that once schools do return there will need to be a period of revisiting and consolidation and this will be planned as part of the transition back into full time schooling. As you can appreciate it is impossible to plan too far in advance at the moment but you will be kept informed as and when we know more.

Staying in touch

Students should, where possible, continue to use and check their school email address. I know, particularly for 6th form students, this is the preferred way of contact for Mr Reddiford and he has, this week, sent a number of Higher Education resources to a number of students.

Exam Results

The government have announced that the results will be issued to students on the originally declared exam results:

- Year 13 – Thursday 13th August 2020 (AS/A Levels, Level 3 qualifications)
- Year 11 – Thursday 20 August 2020 (GCSE qualifications)

Government announcement for IT support

The school have received further details following the government's announcement last week. Laptops will be available for young people that fall into the following groups:

- Students with a social worker
- Care leavers
- Disadvantaged students in year 10 ahead of sitting their GCSEs next year.

The school is now beginning the ordering of these devices and we will be in touch with families of students who are eligible in due course.

I know this remains a worrying and challenging time for our families and for everyone in #teamnailsea. School does remain open for you to email or phone if you need any help or advice. As previously mentioned, as well as continuing some home learning it is important to us that our children remain well, safe and happy. It has been wonderful to receive messages from students and parents and I would ask, if possible, that you keep sending these in. Receiving an email from a year 11 student reporting that he had been successful in securing an apprenticeship on Saturday afternoon truly made my weekend. I may have even had a little dust in my eye!

I will continue to stay in touch through the website, social media and regular letters.

Thank you, as always, for your support and don't hesitate to get in touch if you need to.

Stay safe and be kind

Dee Elliott
Head teacher