



# Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all keeping well. Staff here at Nailsea are missing seeing students and took the time to let them know through a photo message that was published on social media last week. Many thanks for the continued messages of thanks and support in response to both this message and other communication sent home. It really is appreciated.

This week a further announcement is due from the government, reviewing the current lockdown procedures. Since my last letter the Education Secretary has also discussed a phased reopening of schools but no further details have been released. I am also aware that as parents you will probably have differing views on when it is right for your child to come back to school. I promise that that when the time comes we will work closely with you so you are clear about what is going to happen when. Getting this right is the most important thing, for both families and staff, and please be rest assured that the safety of all concerned will be key in any decisions that are taken.

Whilst school remains closed for the vast majority of students we are determined to do everything we can to make sure your child keeps achieving as well as possible and to help provide a productive structure to their days. The resilience and commitment of students to keep striving to be the best they can be, as well as taking time to help others in the community has been truly awe inspiring. The first of our 'Shut Down Shout Outs' published on Friday demonstrated the great things that are happening whilst students are at home. #teamnailsea has shown that they will not allow this situation to stop them from achieving their potential and making a real difference.

## **Year 11 Students – next steps**

Students can now access a series of 'Bridging tasks' for subjects that they are planning to study in the Sixth Form in September. These can be accessed through the Sixth Form area of the school website. <https://www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/sixth-form-bridging-tasks/> Even if students are planning to study elsewhere I would recommend that they still complete some of the tasks as it will certainly help them in preparedness for the next stage in their education.

I would also like to draw attention to this free website <https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/> which has a range of activities that support skills development, preparation for interview and careers advice that all students could access.

As a reminder Mrs Britton, our independent Careers Advisor, can be contacted if any student or parent needs any help or guidance. She can be emailed at [DBritton@nailseaschool.com](mailto:DBritton@nailseaschool.com)

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott

Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 2HN

Company Number: 8084047

Telephone: 01275 852251 e-mail: [nailsch@nailseaschool.com](mailto:nailsch@nailseaschool.com) Web: [www.nailseaschool.com](http://www.nailseaschool.com)

### **Families eligible for Free School Meals**

As many parents who are eligible for free school meals are aware the national supermarket voucher system has had a significant number of issues. These problems were all beyond the control of the school, but given the issues, we have taken the decision to revert back to the system of bank transfer – with fortnightly payments being made into bank accounts. As a reminder, any family who has had a change of circumstances can apply for free school meals through the documentation on the school website <https://www.nailseaschool.com/about-us/pupil-premium-free-school-meals/> . Please also notify your child's Head of House if you do become eligible so that your details can be added to our bank transfer lists.

### **Term 5 Cycle 2 – setting of work**

I am passionate about the importance of education and the opportunities it provides young people. However, at the moment the welfare and wellbeing of your children is also important. As has hopefully come across in previous letters, we are not expecting you to 'home educate' your children – an unrealistic expectation of home replicating what would have been experienced in school.

I also do not believe teachers could sustain planning and delivery of 'live lessons' from home. Some of our staff have been unwell and many have to care for their own young children and dependent relatives. In addition, a number of staff are in school every day to check in with vulnerable students and supervise those children of 'critical workers'. We want to do everything we can but also need to accept that there are limits to what can be achieved and we thank you for your understanding,

Thank you for your feedback on the first cycle of work in term 5 and as a result of this the following will be changed for Term 5 cycle 2 (with materials being accessible today)

- All titles in every subject will follow the same structure to help with the identification of topics e.g 'Yr group, Subject, Term x, Cycle x' - **'Yr 8 History Term 5 Cycle 2'**
- Any other attachments will be clearly labelled citing which particular lesson they are needed for in the cycle e.g 'Lesson 1 - Arguments for and against' making it easier to identify what is required, when.
- Maths teachers are continuing to set work through Hegarty Maths and the additional attachments are there for further support/extension. They do not need to be completed in addition to the Hegarty tasks.
- The lesson by lesson overview will continue to show the tasks to be completed and the tasks that should be submitted for feedback. Please do not spend longer than the recommended time on tasks.
- Staff will use the Noticeboard function on Show My Homework for messages, as opposed to adding what looks like additional tasks to be completed. These will show as blue on the calendar for the student.
- The significant change for this cycle is that staff have reduced the number of lessons that they are setting work for and so the numbers of 'lessons' will not reflect the number of lessons that take place over the timetabled fortnight. It is hoped these 'free lessons' will give families time to process the tasks/locate resources/organise themselves and still find the work achievable within a healthy balance of family life. Causing additional anxiety is the last thing we would want to do.

- 'Digging deeper' tasks will continue to be set for each subject per cycle for those students that want to continue their learning in a particular area. These are optional tasks.
- Please remember that if any students need to access paper copies of resources please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance and we can ensure that these packs are sent home at the start of each cycle.

I am aware of the impact that this closure is having on family life and that all of our experiences have been variable over this five week period. As adults we all want to support young people at a time of great uncertainty, relying on our knowledge to answer their questions, but in this case we have no more experience than they do of this unique situation. I can't predict the future but I will wherever possible shape my responses to make sure I do the best I possibly can for the young people and families at Nailsea School.

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**