



Nailsea School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your family have managed to enjoy a summer break and stay safe during these unprecedented times. We wish all of our pupils well as they commence the new academic year. As a school, I assure you that we will follow the guidance issued by the Department for Education and the relevant Governmental Agencies.

As outlined by the Education Minister, we are planning for all pupils to return to school on a full-time basis. It is essential that all pupils and their parents/guardians follow the Government advice and guidance, therefore parents should not congregate at the school gate and/or enter the school site, either in person or in a vehicle, without an appointment. If you have any queries, please contact the school via telephone or email at any stage.

Start of Term 2020/21

The new term begins as follows:

- Tuesday 1st September – INSET day - staff only
- Wednesday 2nd September – Training day – staff only
- Thursday 3rd September – **Year 7** students, (from 8:40 am), **Year 12** students (from 9:40am, unless an external entrant, which is 9:00am) and Hub students ONLY
- Friday 4th September students – **ALL students** in school

As outlined in my letter of the 13th August (which can be accessed on the school website in the Letters Home section, <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Letter-to-families-13th-Aug-2020.pdf>) there will be many new protocols in place for the academic year 2020/2021. Our priority is to ensure that our pupils and colleagues are safe. This final letter before term starts outlines our current plans. However, please note these are subject to change based on evolving Government advice and guidance.

Implications for school organisation in the academic year 2020/21

A protective bubble strategy for all year groups has been implemented.

Pupils will be required to sanitise their hands on arrival at school and will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Hand sanitisers will be available in the school, and pupils are encouraged to carry their own personal hand sanitiser, and should follow the Government guidance regarding respiratory hygiene. Pupils may wear a face covering if they wish, but the Department for Education has not made face coverings mandatory in schools. I have included a factsheet that parents and students may find useful to clarify the situation related to face coverings at Nailsea School.

I have included a 'Logistics of the School Site' presentation that families may also find useful as a point of reference. As it shows, the school site will look different, but I hope that this will act as a good way to be prepared for next week.

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Behaviour expectations

As mentioned in the FAQ document placed on the website in July (pages 6 and 7), <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FAQ-Sept-opening-Final-.pdf> there has been a change to our behaviour policy, and I would urge parents to discuss these changes at home with your child/children prior to starting back at school. These will also be emphasised to students on their first day in school.

Reporting symptoms of Covid-19

If your child, or anyone else in your household, shows COVID-19 symptoms, you should not send them to school, but should instead follow Government guidance in relation to testing and isolation, and must notify the school. If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated, and parents contacted in order to be sent home immediately, following Government guidance.

Access to school site

To minimise potential transmission of COVID-19, parents and other visitors will not be allowed on the school premises without an appointment. Please contact the school via telephone or email, if you have any questions or queries at any stage. In addition, only students that have a prior arrangement for 2020/21, regarding dropping off at the front of school with the Heads of House will be permitted on site. All other parents are reminded that they must not drive up to the front of the school to drop off or collect pupils at the start or at the end of the school day. Apart from causing congestion at busy times, heightened by increased bus use, this also creates a considerable Health and Safety risk for our school community.

Please pay particular attention to the entrances that have been allocated to different year groups. Students will ONLY be permitted into the school building at their designated entrance, and this should be no earlier than 8:30am. Please take this into account, given that some students may need to alter their route to school.

Lunchtime arrangements

As identified in the letter dated 13th August, students will have an allocated year group bubble indoor and outdoor eating space at lunchtime and breaktime where there will be a limited food offer for students to purchase in these areas at both times. ALL Students will NEED to purchase items using their cards. As mentioned until the end of August these can be purchased at a reduced price of £3 through parent pay, and from September, the price of a replacement card will return to £5.

Contact Details

Please ensure that you review and amend accordingly, via School Comms, the current data held on the SIMS system so that we can make contact if needed. Families new to the school will receive a letter linked to setting up an account in the first week of term.

Mobile phones

We recognise the usefulness of mobile phones but school policy is clear. While pupils may bring mobile phones to school, we cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage and it is for parents to assess any health risk. If a mobile phone is brought to school, it must be

turned off, and not used or produced during the school day without the explicit permission of a member of staff. Phones which are produced in school, either during class or at break or lunchtime, will be confiscated.

Using a phone to take photographs is forbidden. We are concerned at the use of the camera function, in school and indeed outside school, to record and transmit images which have been taken without the permission of the other party and which, in some cases, have been used to intimidate and bully other pupils. This is strictly prohibited and pupils who engage in such activities or who send messages and/or images which cause offence to members of the school community, whether initiated inside or outside school, will be dealt with very seriously. This also applies to any messages or images posted anywhere online.

School Uniform

School uniform is a very important aspect of school life and we ask for your support in ensuring that full and correct uniform, as highlighted in the uniform list (available here <https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/>), is worn by pupils at all times, including to and from school. We have confirmed that full school uniform should be worn each day, except for the days when your child has PE. On these days your son/daughter should come to school already dressed in their school PE kit, including tracksuit bottoms. On these days, school uniform should be brought to school in a bag to change into, in case of inclement weather during PE lessons. Rooms will be ventilated (open windows and doors) and so students may want to think about layering beneath their uniform, especially considering possible inclement weather. Non uniform items will not be permitted to be worn on top of uniform.

Our school rules also specifically reference jewellery, nail varnish and extremes of hair colour and style. Once again your support is welcomed in adhering to these rules.

Absence and Lateness

All parents should continue to inform the school about students being absent. Details can be found here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/contact/report-a-student-absence/>

Equipment

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations pupils are no longer allowed to share equipment, therefore the following is required to be brought to school every day from the start of the academic year:

- Pencil case
- Pencil and pens (black pens and green pens)
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Highlighters
- Scientific calculator
- Apron and tea towels (when having Food Tech lessons only for years 10 and 11)
- Headphones (for music lessons only)

Whilst not compulsory items of equipment we also strongly advise that people have their own

- Hand sanitiser
- Tissues
- Refillable water bottle

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter well in the year ahead. Despite all of the challenges we are determined to continue to provide the highest possible quality of education to the young people in our care. It is extremely important that we work together and accept collective responsibility to adhere to government guidance in relation to health and respiratory hygiene, and follow the amended behaviour policy at all times.

I very much look forward to seeing you all very soon

Your sincerely

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher