



# Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/carers,

It's been another busy week here at Nailsea and as the discussions and uncertainty about the national picture continue we are working hard to ensure that 'normality' continues as much as possible for students when they come through the doors. It has been amazing to see how staff and students have adapted to the situation in school. With this being the 7<sup>th</sup> week of term, I know that we are all feeling tired. This time next week we will be embarking on a well deserved break. In the meantime, here are some updates for this week:

## **Government announcement about summer exams**

As you will have seen in the news this week, the government has confirmed that summer exams will take place next year finishing slightly later than usual. At present we do not have specific details about the exam schedule but as soon as we do I will ensure parents and students in year 11 and 13 are aware of these.

Official exams will be completed on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July so families should ensure that there are no holidays booked prior to this date. In addition, the exam board also publishes an exam contingency date, usually a week later, when all students should also be theoretically able to sit an exam if the need arises.

Next summer both A Level and GCSE results day will be in the same week:

- 24<sup>th</sup> August – A Level results
- 27<sup>th</sup> August – GCSE results

I know that there are still concerns being raised nationally regarding the decision for exams to go ahead. However, at this moment in time students and staff are working under the premise that this will be the case and preparations for exams are ongoing. A key part of this will be the mock exam period which will begin for both year groups in wk comm 23<sup>rd</sup> November. A separate letter will be sent via School Comms today to parents of students in year 11 and 13 sharing the mock exam timetable.

All departments have added some key pointers for students and parents ahead of the year 11 mocks. This information can be accessed here:

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/communication/information-evenings/>

It is worth noting that these exams will be one of the few fully timed exam responses both year groups will have had to date and if the national or local picture changes ahead of the exams they will be an important indicator of predicted performance.

**Cycling onto school site**

It is great to see students cycling to school and this is something we strongly encourage. However, we have had reports of students cycling to and from the school site without helmets and cycling in an erratic fashion. Although we have increased staff presence on Mizzymead Road to monitor this we would ask that parents speak with their children about the importance of cycle safety, especially as we enter the darker nights.

**Use of mobile phones in school**

As a reminder our school policy is that phones are 'off and away for the whole school day'. Students should not be using them during lessons or during social times. If there is the need to contact your son/daughter in an emergency during the day please contact reception on 01275 852251 and a message will be relayed to your son/daughter.

As a reminder if anyone chooses to record/film any person (student or staff) without their permission this is dealt with seriously within our behaviour policy.

Wishing you all the best for the weekend.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott