



Nailsea School

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6th November 2020

Dear Parents/carers

Apologies for the delay in getting my regular weekly update to you all this afternoon. Although the letter had been written I wanted to amend the letter slightly to update all parents, given the situation this morning.

As you are aware the school were notified of a positive student case at 8:10am this morning. The message of notification to year 7 parents was sent home immediately through SchoolComs. SchoolComms is clearly a way that messages can be sent out quickly and securely and I would urge families to ensure they have an account in order for similar messages, if needed in the future, to be received. On being notified of the positive case and with our main focus being safety, prior to contacting Public Health England the decision was taken to speak to the students, isolate the group and ensure they could leave the site safely. Many thanks to the parents that were so supportive at this time. Students had all left the building safely within an hour. They will be returning to school on Wednesday 18th November. I have written to year 7 parents separately to outline the Blended Learning that will take place whilst they are at home.

This week we have also been in the very early days of our additional measures that I outlined in my letter to you on Wednesday 4th November (details can be found here <https://www.nailseaschool.com/communication/covid-19/>) and students have responded incredibly positively. It was very reassuring to see that when the official documentation was published on Wednesday afternoon the decisions we had taken were in line with the national guidance.

The ultimate aim of these measures is to ensure, in line with government directives, that Nailsea School remains open and is a safe place for students to learn and staff to work. The wearing of masks in school may stop your child from contracting COVID-19 and then bringing this home to you. It will also help keep teaching and support staff in schools free of the virus and reduce the likelihood of virus transmission. Thank you again, for supporting the school with these measures.

Staff at Nailsea will continue to do our very best to maintain the current level of provision for all students. If the infection rates/requirement for staff and students to isolate significantly increase, it may be that there are some adjustments made to the way the school operates. This could include:

- Combining classes within the year group bubbles
- Teaching larger groups in bigger spaces in school
- Closing early for some groups of children
- Closing for certain year groups
- Teaching some groups on a rota system
- Closing the school

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The last three options would only become necessary if we feel the health and safety of students is at serious risk. For example, if there are not enough staff on site to supervise students safely. Please be assured that I will notify families if this is a situation we find ourselves in and this will only be considered as a last resort.

National Lockdown also began yesterday and I know that many individuals and families found this challenging earlier in the year. However, I would urge parents and students to remind themselves of the current rules regarding the mixing of households. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

We are also mindful of reports of students meeting up in groups of more than 6 in and around the community. Again, this is something we discuss in tutor groups and students are reminded of the guidelines and reasons behind them. We would appreciate it if parents could reinforce the message by discussing expectations amongst families

I would ask that students and parents are mindful of the impact that not following these rules may have on the school community. In addition, I have attached as an appendix to this letter, a flow diagram that parents may find useful as a reference point when deciding if their child should come to school or not.

There are a number of additional messages I would like to pass on with subheadings for ease of reference:

Conduct of visitors on school site

Given the increased safety measures, at present, we are asking that parents and visitors do not come onto school site.

As and when we review these precautions, I would like to reiterate the importance of all visitors behaving appropriately when interacting with others on site. Nailsea School will not tolerate inappropriate conduct on its premises and will act to defend its teachers, members of staff, students and their parents, and other members of the school community. Failure to do so will result in a person/persons being banned from being on school site.

School Togs

In line with Government guidelines, and to ensure that they support local families during this current lockdown period School Togs will be operating an order service.

Parents can call the store, 01275 857491, and prepay for items, collecting them from the store. School Togs will be able to receive orders between 9am and 5pm Monday - Friday, and 10am - 1pm on a Saturday.

PTA Meeting – 11th November

The PTA Annual General Meeting is due to take place at 7:30pm on 11th November via Zoom.

The team, who are continuing to do an amazing job supporting the school, are always pleased to welcome new faces.

Details about the meeting can be found on the Twitter page @nailsea_pta or Facebook Nailsea SchoolPTA

Students in the Community

We regularly discuss with students the ways to contribute positively to the community and the negative impact of anti-social behaviour. It is always more effective when we can work in conjunction with parents to strengthen a message. Recently we have been made aware of reports of teenagers acting irresponsibly around the railway bridge and cycle path at Flax Bourton. Please do discuss the dangers of this with your son/daughter as although there is nothing to indicate these are Nailsea School students, it is nonetheless worth highlighting.

I have also been contacted by a parent regarding the speed at which KS4/5 students are riding their bikes when leaving school. Disappointingly it has been reported that when members of the public have, quite rightly, challenged this inappropriate behaviour, the students have responded disrespectfully. As parents may be aware we do have more vulnerable members of the school community that do need to be escorted onto site every morning. They are also members of #teamnailsea and everyone has the right to a safe journey to school. I would ask that parents of students who cycle to school and come through the main entrance, given the bubble situation at the moment, speak with their children about this issue. Our priority is always to keep our students and our families safe.

Question Time Extra Time

Finally, as you may have seen on social media, one of our year 12 students, Erin Davies, featured on Question Time Extra Time last night with Adrian Chiles and did a superb job contributing to the panel discussion. Listeners were texting in commenting on how great Erin was during the show. Erin should be incredibly proud of herself, as I am of her. If you do get some time over the weekend to listen you can do so here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000nzp5>

As we enter a weekend where all of our plans will have changed, do stay safe and be kind.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher