



# Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/carers

I hope things are well with you all. At Nailsea, we are so fortunate to have such a positive and resilient community of parents and carers and, despite the challenges, we are all working together to ensure that remote education, pastoral care and in school provision are as effective as they can possibly be. Thanks again for all of the positive feedback and emails – this does really mean a lot to us.

## Remote Learning

As you will have seen from my previous letter this week we are in the process of some essential maintenance with the Teams system and so lessons today (22<sup>nd</sup> Jan) and Monday (25<sup>th</sup> Jan) will be accessed only through Show My Homework. I will be updating everyone again on Monday.

As students in KS3 (years 7, 8 and 9) will have reported we are now reverting back to the 'Live Event' method of delivery for these lessons.

Next week, will be week B1 on the timetable. The timetable for next week is attached and from next week all the timetables will be on the website for reference.

As a school we are planning to send both a parent and student survey out with my letter next week to ascertain the techniques that are working well and the things that could improve. It would be great if as many people as possible could complete this next week.

We are aware that one issue at the moment may be screen fatigue and the need to be sat down all day – this applies to both parents and students. The following links (and I note the irony that these are web based!) may be useful for families to explore:

<https://www.cnet.com/health/do-these-exercises-if-you-sit-at-a-desk-all-day/> may be useful for people who want to think about improving posture after sitting at a desk all day

<http://ergonomictrends.com/20-20-20-rest-eyes-health-tool/> may be useful for people who want to take a break from looking at a screen

## Lateral Flow Testing

Testing has continued for students and staff regularly accessing the school site and I would like to recognise the exceptional work of everyone involved in the programme which has been led by Mrs Hurlow, Mr Perry and Mrs Haines. Students (and staff) have been independent, mature and brave in facing the testing process and all has proceeded as planned.

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As a reminder, when students return to school, the plan is that year groups will need to be tested and to ensure the process is as smooth as possible when we are dealing with full year groups, we are asking for consent to given in advance. Students over 16 years of age can provide their own consent but the form will still need to be completed in order to gather key information for the registration process.

The link to this form can be found below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC\\_kKVN2UUqnzosIzVoQVW73i\\_5A2HxB0DhUtN-POA1UM1JMVfJBvzNWMjY1TzFGMjgyOUkzMUxMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnzosIzVoQVW73i_5A2HxB0DhUtN-POA1UM1JMVfJBvzNWMjY1TzFGMjgyOUkzMUxMC4u)

On government advice, we will no longer be undertaking daily tests for those staff or students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. Staff will have to follow Public Health advice and self Isolate at home, as directed by Test and Trace. Contacts will be informed as and when necessary.

### **Students wishing to access school site**

Students who are children of critical workers and those vulnerable students can be supervised on school site for the period of wider school closure.

As a reminder, students need to be booked into this provision and cannot simply arrive at school. This is to ensure that we have the correct ratio of staff to students and that those students entitled to free school meals have been allocated them.

The booking form for wk comm 25<sup>th</sup> January closed last weekend. If the situation for families has changed and places need to be booked in this provision since the closure, all enquiries should be directed to [nailsch@nailseaschool.com](mailto:nailsch@nailseaschool.com) Spaces can only be allocated for this period if they are available.

The booking form for the final two weeks of term will be available in this letter next Friday.

### **Qualifications 2021 update**

There is no doubt that the media coverage regarding this issue can create anxiety and possibly hamper what it is our students should be focusing on in the coming weeks.

The broad principles, whilst the consultation is 'live' are:

- Grades are 'still to play for', awarded through teacher assessment judgements
- Curriculum content and assessments will continue as planned through remote learning
- There are likely to be some questions set by the exam boards.
- Students should continue to focus on work completion, engagement with remote learning and giving their best efforts – this is the best way to guarantee success.

I will update students and parents as soon as we have concrete information on any detailed arrangements but I am confident that if these principles are followed students will achieve the grades they deserve in their 2021 qualifications.

### **Year 9 Guided Choices**

Students in year 9 would have heard Ms Dee's assembly on the process on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan during tutor time. Parents will be able to attend the online presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan at 6pm. It's an exciting time for these students choosing their KS4 options.

### **Laptop lending library**

As you may have seen from social media we have set up a fundraising page for further laptops - the link can be found here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/laptop-lending-library?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/laptop-lending-library?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

It's been fantastic to see donations already coming in, especially considering the challenges people may be facing. If anyone can donate any amount, it really will make a difference.

Finally....

on a personal note I have found week three of term a challenge, as we all have or will at some point. It's important to acknowledge when this is the case. I think the weather and the darkness has not helped. However, the inauguration of President Biden on Wednesday was not only a highlight of the week but a moment of history. As I explained to the 6<sup>th</sup> form students in my check in on Thursday (when they could eventually hear me!) I did find the ceremony really emotional and not least because of the words of the poet Amanda Gorman, the Youth Poet Laureate. If you haven't seen her part in the ceremony, I would really recommend you do so. I would like to finish this week's letter with the final part of her poem:

*When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.  
The new dawn blooms as we free it.  
For there is always light,  
If only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

We will see the light, soon - we just need to brave enough until then.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully



Mrs Dee Elliott  
Head teacher