



20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/carers

This is my final letter to you during the most challenging of academic years. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. As I am sure we are all hoping, here's to much more normality from September 2021.

### Start of term update and reminders

Currently government guidance is stating that in September year groups will not have to separate into 'bubbles'. There is the requirement for students to take a Lateral Flow test in school before starting lessons. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help break the chain of transmission after the holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people. Essentially by testing staff and students we will make our school a safer place for everyone.

**Testing** over 1000 people on site is a large undertaking and the order of return is shown below. Year groups will have been contacted separately about the appointment times prior to returning to school.

Please note the information below is a change to the start time for year 12 students, as stated in previous communication.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Test 1 am	Test 1 pm					
<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>				Test 1 am		Test 1 pm	
<b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Start day 8:30 am	Start day 10 am *	Test 1 pm		Test 1 am	Start day 8:30 am	
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Test 2 am	Test 2 pm	Start day 8:40 am	Start day 8:40 am	Start day 8:40 am		
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>				Test 2 am		Test 2 pm	Test 1 pm
<b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>			Test 2 am		Test 2 am		Start day 8:40 am
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>							Test 2 am

\*There will be adult supervision for those students in year 8 that need to arrive at the normal time of 8:40am. I would ask that parents notify their Head of House if this is supervision is required so we know who to expect.

With school returning to normal students will not be in bubbles and will have access to specialist rooms. Students are still encouraged to be on site at 8:35 am ahead of lesson one beginning at 8:40 am. With bubbles not being required students can enter the building through the following entrances:

- Main student entrance of Mizzymead road (this has been used by year 7 and 9 only this year)
- Juice Bar entrance (accessed via Ash Hayes Road entrance, currently used by year 10)
- Station Road entrances (currently used by year 8)

Students should revert to walking/cycling onto site through the pedestrian/cycle entrance from Mizzymead Road and so should not be cycling/walking down the main drive.

**Uniform and equipment** should be in line with normal expectations and can be found here [Uniform – Nailsea School](#)

Please note that girls should not be wearing leggings and hoodies are not permitted.

A further reminder that, following feedback, students can continue to attend school in their PE kit on days they have PE. Please remember that PE kit also needs to adhere to the expectations of this uniform which have previously been communicated by Ms Wild, Head of Health Faculty.

**Piercing and acrylic nails** are not permitted for Health and safety reasons. Small stud/sleeper earrings are permitted. Students should refrain from getting their ears pierced until the start of the 6 week break. All piercings, including fresh ones, will have to be removed for PE lessons. Students must remove all personal effects, including piercings, for every practical PE lesson for health and safety reasons. Hair must be of a natural colour.

**Mobile phones** need to continue to be 'off and away for the whole school day'. Phones will be confiscated if seen being used and persistent offences will result in parents being asked to collect the device from school. I would ask parents to be mindful not to make contact with their child on their mobile phone during the day to reduce usage. Any messages, if required, can be passed on through reception.

### **Staffing update**

We have welcomed back two members of staff from maternity leave this term. Miss Figgures returns to the English department and Mrs Ginnis has returned as Head of History, covering the role whilst Mrs Dowland is on maternity leave. It has been great to have them back with us.

As is usual at this time of year please find, overleaf, a list of staff leaving us this term and those joining us in September. It is always sad to say goodbye to staff especially as, once again, we find ourselves in the position of not being able to do this face to face in the way we would have liked. I would like to thank all the staff who are leaving us for all of their work and commitment to the school and our families. I wish them all well in the next adventure.

Staff leaving	Staff joining
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miss Lucy Cadwallader - Safeguarding Officer</li> <li>• Mr Will Hellier - Head of Dragon House</li> <li>• Mrs Cathy Hounsell – DT department</li> <li>• Mr Craig Mawford – Assistant Head teacher</li> <li>• Mrs Anja Slijkhuis – Cover Supervisor</li> <li>• Mr Jared Ward – Humanities department</li> <li>• Mrs Helen Young – Science department</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miss Kate Dyer – History and Geography</li> <li>• Mr Steven Harris – Learning Support</li> <li>• Mrs Jane Hewson – Learning Support</li> <li>• Miss Abbie Jarvis – Art and DT</li> <li>• Mrs Kirsty Nicholson – History</li> <li>• Mrs Elizabeth Nicklen – Learning Support</li> <li>• Mrs Paula Shilton – Learning Support</li> <li>• Mr Rob Steel – Learning Support</li> <li>• Mr Sam Taylor – PE</li> <li>• Mrs Sian Teague – Learning Support</li> <li>• Mr David Truan – Assistant Head teacher</li> <li>• Mr Anthony Wood – Science</li> </ul>

Given their length of service, it would seem only fitting to specifically mention three members of staff:

**Mr Mawford** joined Nailsea in 2014 as Head of Unicorn House and would not like to be reminded that under his tenure Unicorn were never victorious in the House Championship. Since 2018 he has been a member of the senior team, as Assistant Head teacher - Behaviour and Wellbeing. In his time in post his focus has always been supporting the students, families and staff as much as possible and, understandably, demands on his time significantly increased during periods of lockdown. As the school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead he has liaised with external agencies on many complex situations, forging many strong relationships with families along the way. Since being at Nailsea Mr Mawford has become a father to both Alice and George who have tried their best to make their voices heard during online learning. Mr Mawford is moving to an Assistant Head teacher role at a school in Weston and we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

**Mrs Hounsell** joined Nailsea School in December 2009 working in the Technology department, primarily as a Food and Nutrition teacher at GCSE. Beyond the classroom students also benefited from Mrs Hounsell supporting them with their Duke of Edinburgh projects, as well as STEM club and being a Dragon House tutor. This year, with us having to abandon the vertical tutor system, she has helped 7F settle into secondary school life as well as supporting Ms Allright as Head of Technology. Mrs Hounsell leaves us to begin her retirement and I know she already has lots of exciting adventures planned. Enjoy!

**Mr Hellier** joined the school in 2006 and has since, quite rightly, inherited the title of ‘Mr Nailsea’. I know that a huge number of students and families have had the benefit of Mr Hellier’s support and guidance over the years in the variety of roles that he has held, most recently as Head of Dragon House. ‘Team Green’ have benefited from his care, compassion, good humour and, at times, his singing voice. Not seeing Mr Hellier in the school building will be very odd for all the staff, parents and students when we return in September but he has left indelible memories for us all. Being a local I am sure we will get the chance to see him continuing to support the school – all be it not as a member of staff but as a resident.

### **Last day of term arrangements**

The last day of term will be Wednesday 21st July.

The day will run as follows:

8:40 - 9:35 - Period 1

9:35 - 10:30 - Period 2

10:30 - 10:50 - Break

10:50 - 11:45 - Period 3

11:45 - 12:20pm - Lunch

12:20 - 12:30pm - Tutor time

Students will be dismissed by their tutor at 12:30pm to leave for the summer break. If your child uses transport provided by the school they have been informed about the changes to the timings of the school day in advance.

### **Exams and Appeals information for students receiving exam results in Summer 2021**

As a reminder A Level/Level 3 results will be available on 10<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE/Level 2 qualifications will be available for collection on 12<sup>th</sup> August. For students and families that are expecting results this year I would refer them to the summer 2021 section on the exams page of the website which can be found here:

[Exams Information – Nailsea School](#)

### **Term dates for 2021/22**

The terms dates for the new academic year can be found here [Diary Dates – Nailsea School](#)

(Please note, discussions are being held regarding term 6 in 2022 finishing on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July to give those staff working in education an additional day's holiday to recognise the Platinum Jubilee. This will be confirmed in due course)

### **Finally...**

at the end of this year, once again, I would like to thank you for all of your support, kindness and positivity. I would like to pay tribute to the exceptional hard work of our staff who have gone the extra mile to support students to continue to make progress despite the challenges of the year.

I am privileged to be the Head teacher of Nailsea School, working with such superb staff, students and families. Here's to a fantastic 2021/22 academic year where the future for our school community should be both bright and exciting. Wishing you all the best for the summer break and I look forward to seeing you all safe and well in September.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully



Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher