



Nailsea School

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15th October 2021

Dear Parents/carers

And so concludes the final full week of term 2. As a reminder next Friday (Friday 22nd October) is an INSET day and students are not required on site. It has been another busy week including the first parents' evening of the year, with year 11 last night. As always this partnership between home and school in discussing progress is key in ensuring students achieve the very best outcomes. Please also remember that these calendared events should not be the only time that parents contact staff if they have queries or concerns and I would encourage staff to use the staff contact details found on the website here [Staff-List-2021-2022-1.pdf \(nailseaschool.com\)](#)

Covid Update

A reminder that parents should continue to use the c19@nailseaschool email address to report any issues related to Covid-19. It would be very helpful if this initial email included the name and tutor group of the child and the date when symptoms started, if any. Once confirmed, information related to the end of isolation is also very helpful. This will ensure that our records are updated internally, and classroom teachers can be informed.

There has been some confusion about the need to isolate siblings of those who are awaiting PCR results within the household. Although this may seem at odds with being precautionary, this is government guidance that we, as a school, have been asked to follow. Any changes to guidance will be communicated as soon as we are aware. Again, as before, schools receive this information at the same time as the general public

To confirm:

- anyone testing positive on a LFT should isolate until the results of the follow up PCR test are known
- the guidance currently states that those who are double jabbed, or under 18 years and 6 months are not required to isolate if they have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. They are advised to get a PCR test, but they do not have to isolate whilst they are waiting for their own results, if they are not presenting with any symptoms.
- If students are 'ill' and not fit to return to school they should contact the school absence line in the usual way on 01275 850400

In addition, we have received a number of queries following students returning a PCR negative result after a positive LFT. We are in weekly contact with Public Health representatives in North Somerset who have confirmed that LFTs will pick up other non-COVID 19 coronaviruses which include the common cold and winter flu. This is the reason for the need to take a PCR following an LFT as it is detecting only the COVID-19 virus. We are aware that there is a non-COVID coronavirus prevalent in the community and we are seeing a growing number of positive LFT results followed by a negative PCR as a result of this being transmitted.

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At present we have under 5% of the school population that has either tested positive for Covid-19 or is awaiting PCR results in years 7-11. As mentioned previously this is, when compared to other schools regionally, a low number. This does not mean we should become complacent and families can help mitigate the spread of the virus by

- Continuing twice weekly at home testing to pick up asymptomatic cases
- Not attending school if suffering from symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, loss of taste or smell, continuous cough). If your child does show symptoms please take them for a PCR test as per NHS guidelines.
- Masks must be worn on home-to-school transport and are strongly recommended for those who travel to school by public transport.
- Masks can be worn on the school site if so desired by staff and students.

Class Charts

From term 2 we will be moving to the second stage of Class Charts usage. Parents and students, by now, should all have used their log in codes to activate their accounts. If you have any issues with accessing the system please contact reception in the first instance. It is even more important that accounts are activated within the next two weeks of this term before we move to the next phase.

From term 2 all information about detentions (issuing of them, dates and times, record of attendance) will only be done through Class Charts. This will mean that individual emails/letters will not be sent home to parents. The system, at present, does not have the option to send notifications and, as such, parents and students will need to regularly check in to their accounts. As mentioned in previous correspondence we are liaising with the Wessex Learning Trust about accessing the communication/notification function in due course.

An introduction/reminder of the behaviour system at Nailsea

For those parents that have downloaded the Class Charts app they will be aware that any positive or negative behaviour point added during the day can be seen through the app. The screenshots below show the options a teacher can choose from:



The pastoral team meet every morning reviewing the behaviour report sent from the day before. This enables quick and appropriate contact to be made either with the student or the parents if patterns of disruption and/or challenging behaviour are happening. If a lesson is disrupted by any student making a poor choice this is always followed up, even though other students in the class may not know the details of this.

When persistent patterns are established, students are placed on Stage 1 of our behaviour system as explained in our Behaviour and Rewards policy accessible here [Policies – Nailsea School](#). This enables additional support to also be accessed so that students can make more positive behaviour choices.

Currently across the school just under 3% of students are on one of these behaviour stages as outlined in the policy. The stages are reviewed every 6 weeks and at the term 1 review just over 1% of students have moved through the behaviour stages, demonstrating that most have now moved down the stages and that the interventions applied are having a positive impact.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Local Governing Body who give of their time in attending any Stage 4 meetings that are required as well as our parents who continue to be engaged with school partnerships.

6th form dress code

It has been great to see the number of students attending Nailsea 6th form increase over recent years. The team are finalising preparations for our 6th form Open Evening on the 25th November which, although slightly different to mitigate risks of transmission, will enable some important conversations about the great courses we have on offer to take place.

With students now out of bubbles and 6th form students being far more visible around the site I wanted to remind families that students should dress in an appropriate way to support and encourage the ethos of the school and the uniform and appearance policies in operation in Years 7 to 11.

6th form students are not required to wear uniform but must dress appropriately for school in a casual but smart manner. They should remember that:

- Hooded clothing may only be worn with the hood up in extreme weather conditions and not in the building, as is the case with students in years 7-11.
- Inappropriate slogans must not be worn on clothing.
- Shorts, skirts and tops should be of an appropriate length so that shoulders, midriffs and tops of legs are all covered and underwear is not visible
- Headphones and mobile phones should be kept in bags outside of the Sixth Form areas.

Thank you for your support in continuing the high standards we have of our students and preparing them for the future working world.

Visits for existing year 7 parents

We are aware that current year 7 parents have not been able to visit the school based on the national situation when they were applying for secondary school places. As such I would be delighted to invite existing year 7 parents to join me should they wish for a daytime tour during term 2 so that they too can see the school in action.

The initial dates are listed below and can be booked through reception:

- Monday 1st November 11:10 am
- Monday 8th November 11:10 am
- Wednesday 10th November 11:10am
- Monday 15th November 8:50 am
- Monday 22nd November 11:10 am
- Wednesday 24th November 11:10 am
- Thursday 25th November 11:10 am
- Monday 29th November 8:50 am

Places will be limited on each tour given the current risk assessment. However, if these tours are filled I will look into additional dates being added. I look forward to meeting you.

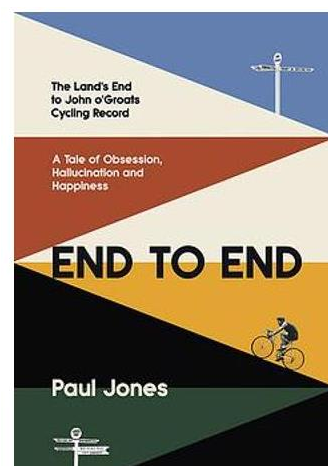
Cycling to school

It is fantastic to see the large number of students cycling to school -both great for the environment and for their own physical and mental health. However, it is important for our students to remember that they are sharing the road/pavements with members of the public. Earlier this week a member of the public came into reception, rather shaken, as she had almost been knocked over by a student cycling erratically when leaving the school at 3pm. When challenged by this local resident the student was then reported as being abusive. I am very proud of our students and was saddened that this one incident had clearly tainted this local resident's view of our school and our students. I would appreciate you discussing the importance of behaviour on the way to and from school at home.

Finally...

It has been fantastic to see over 170 students attending the first 3 'Lunchtime Lectures' led by Art, Drama and DT since the start of term. The lectures enable staff to deliver topics that are not necessarily covered in curriculum time, providing a wider understanding of the subject and hinterland knowledge for our students. Today Mr Jones, Head of English, is explaining the process he went through in having his book published. As a non-cyclist I can thoroughly recommend it. Great to see our students living up to the school values #AimHigh.

A number of our students also excel at activities outside of school and one of our year 9 students who is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do has asked me to publicise details about his club – please see the attached flyer. Alex says it would be great to welcome new members.



Given that next Friday is an INSET day, I will be sending my weekly letter next Thursday, my final update of this term. In the meantime have a lovely weekend.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott". The letter "D" is large and stylized, with a horizontal line underneath it. The name "Elliott" is written in a cursive script to the right of the "D".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher