



Nailsea School

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1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing this week's letter with slightly sore feet but with a huge feeling of pride reflecting back on last night's Open Evening. As you know this was done slightly differently this year in order to mitigate any risks to the school and wider community but the event still very much had the same 'feel', showing just how warm and welcoming our school is. Having to include 4 presentations, responding to demand, meant staff and students were touring and talking for four hours – a huge effort. The positive responses received from parents and students as they left certainly made it all worthwhile. We have already received a number of emails from prospective parents thanking the staff and students for their time and effort. Lots of the praise was for the exceptional job the student tour guides did so, as well as receiving the house points on offer, these students should reflect on the hugely positive impact they have had on our community and be rightly proud of themselves.

Reporting illness and use of First Aid room

As has been the current practice for a while, parents should continue to use the c19@nailseaschool.com 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.

We are also aware, as has also been reported nationally, that there is currently quite a nasty cold working its way through the community. Students should be referred to the First Aid room in the event of an emergency (a fall/bleeding/vomiting/feeling faint). This week, on average, there have been 15 referrals to First Aid every day with the vast majority of these being non emergencies. We would greatly appreciate you discussing the importance of students using self-management skills, for example in keeping themselves hydrated, so that these large numbers can be reduced and managed within the school.

Vaccination update

We have had it confirmed that vaccinations for students at Nailsea will be scheduled for term 2.

Further details will follow next week.

2022 Exams Announcement

Yesterday the DfE and Ofqual published a decisions document setting out what changes will be put in place for GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022, following the recent consultation on this. The document can be found here:

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https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/outcome/decisions-proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022?fbclid=IwAR2TiLHggZdmC5F9f21cl4l0khDjAUgeucajiNFoivRIY6GmZgNL2vzyY_Q

In addition families may wish to read this blog explaining the approach that will be taken to grading this year <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/30/exams-and-assessments-2022-fairness-and-clarity/>

It has been confirmed that results for exams will return to their normal format next year. Level 3 courses and A Levels will have results released on **18th August** and GCSEs on **25th August**.

Key dates for year groups

Please be aware of the following events scheduled for the remainder of term 1 and term 2. Letters for each event are also sent to the relevant year groups in advance of the event providing further details.

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| Year 10 | 7 th October Parent Information Evening (online event) |
| | 16 th December Subject Evening (online event) |
| Year 11 | 14 th October Subject evening (online event) |
| | 21 st October Preparation for Success (face to face event) |
| | 25 th November 6 th form Open Evening (face to face event) |
| Year 13 | 2 nd December Subject Evening (online event) |

Please be assured the school will be responding to the current Public Health situation and amending plans if required to do so.

Pokemon Cards

A large number of our younger students are bringing Pokemon cards to school. This is taking me back to my university days of watching SMTV: Live with Ant, Dec and Cat Deeley on a Saturday morning and on the one hand does make me very nostalgic. However, on the other, some students are struggling to focus in lessons and this is also causing friction at social times between some groups. I would ask for your support, therefore, in ensuring these cards are kept at home.

Finally...

I was asked several times last night 'why Nailsea?' and this gave me a chance to articulate again why our school is a place like no other. Every child here is unique and irrespective of background, prior attainment and experiences they are all cared for and pushed so that they are prepared for their next steps at 16 or 18. However, our strong and improving academic results, are not the only thing. Success for me will not just be the outcomes of our current and future students at 16 or 18 but what that young person is doing at 25 and 35. I want our

students to be great citizens, great employees, neighbours, partners and parents. Having these skills, as well as qualifications, demonstrates success. Our caring school with high aspirations engenders in our students self-confidence and courage to face the future whatever that may hold. That is 'why Nailsea?' and I couldn't be more proud.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DElliott". 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