



Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

14th January 2022

Dear Parents/carers

It has been a fantastic first full week back – although this sounds very odd stating this on the 17th January!

One of my great joys of the break was simply sitting on the sofa and watching a lot (possibly too much!) television. One of the regulars in the Christmas schedule are the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures and this year the guest lecturer was Professor Jonathan Van-Tam. I know that the opening of my weekly letters for months have been linked to Covid, but I am not concerned about continuing this theme on this occasion and thoroughly recommend families taking the opportunity to watch the series of 3 lectures that are available on BBC iPlayer here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0012tzd/royal-institution-christmas-lectures-2021-1-the-invisible-enemy> I know from some students and families that have contacted me and spoken with me about them, they found it incredibly useful.

Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning

Please find the updated Risk Assessment here [Covid-19 Latest – Nailsea School](#)

Please note yesterday (13th January) the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, announced the government had decided to further reduce the legally required self-isolation period, down from seven days, following scientific advice. People must test negative for coronavirus on the fifth and sixth days (with the day a positive test is recorded being day one) of their isolation period before they are allowed to leave. The attached Risk assessment will be changed in line with this new advice when it comes into force on Monday 17th January.

As previously mentioned schools have been asked to plan contingencies, which includes a number of scenarios. This may require reduced operations as a direct result of pressures upon staffing availability or in the event of a worsening public health situation. In particular:

1. Onsite provision where staffing levels are too low: In the event of insufficient staffing to safely operate face to face learning will be prioritised for those students in key examination groups who are due to sit public examinations, as well as children of 'key workers' and those identified as vulnerable.
2. Remote learning: Whilst most of our students, families and staff are familiar with our model for operating remote learning remotely, reminders can be found here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Remote-Learning-Information-1.pdf>

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Face Coverings

Thank you to students, staff and parents for following the new national guidance so carefully. This will remain in place until the next Government review. We will continue to remind and promote the use of face coverings throughout the school community, in addition to ensuring that students are clear when exemptions are in place (for example in PE lessons).

We have also been informed by the Department for Education that face coverings are not required to be worn when students are sitting examinations and formal assessments (although they can remain on if individuals choose to wear them.) Face coverings must be worn when entering and leaving exam rooms and we will issue all relevant students with clear guidance in their examination venue.

Ambition



As well as a number of students being involved in external exams this week and next week, year 13 and year 11 students will be in the process of receiving their **mock exam results**. For year 11 students they will receive their full set of results in a Mock results day during tutor time on **Thursday 20th January**. These exams are an initial indicator of progress so far but they certainly do not reflect the final outcomes. It remains essential that Year 11 and 13 take every opportunity to study and revise both within and beyond the classroom. If the national climate's status quo remains then schools will remain fully open and exams will proceed as normal this summer.

Miss Creswick would like to draw attention to a number of opportunities currently being offered through the **University of Bristol**:

You can't stop the Beat: Discussions on Music and Revolution - All years (Event on 25th January)

This 1.5 hour (17:30-19:00) interactive Zoom webinar is open to any member of the public and is perfect for students who want to experience what discussing interest ideas is like at University level. This panel event will comprise of experts and creatives discussing why music has such a cultural significance, the role it plays in social movements and how it impacts peoples lives. Students and teachers can sign up using this [online form](#).

BME Aspire to Medicine Conference - Year 12 (Event on 16th February)

This annual virtual conference will run 09:30-13:00 and is a great opportunity for aspiring doctors from ethnic minority backgrounds to gain a valuable insight into the profession. The conference will include a variety of interactive sessions and informative talks. Students can register for this via the [online form](#). Please apply by Wednesday 9th February.

Faith and Higher Education: Muslim Students and their Carers - Years 9-12 (Event on 2nd March)

This event is aimed at students who follow the Muslim faith and will explore the ideas and misconceptions behind pursuing Higher Education and one's Muslim faith. The event will consist of a panel discussion followed by a Q&A. A festive halal dinner will follow the event.

Students can sign up to the event using [this form](#). Any questions please contact fssl-outreach@bristol.ac.uk.

Upcoming UWE Bristol Virtual Open Day

For those students in the 6th form this information from UWE about their virtual Open Day may be useful:

If you haven't been able to get to one of our On Campus Open Days or prefer to do things digitally, why not register for our upcoming Virtual Open Day on Wednesday 19 January 16:00-19:00.

This event is a great opportunity for you to explore the university from your own home and get all of the information you'll need to see if UWE Bristol is right for you. Here's a taste of what you can expect:

Watch videos and take part in live Q&A chats about the course you're interested in, as well as with other key university services from accommodation to fees and funding.

Join live Q&A chats with our current students and get a feel for what life is like at UWE Bristol.

Got an interest in sport? Or musically-inclined? Make sure you watch our videos from our fantastic Centre for Music and Centre for Sport.

Watch 360° tours of each campus and its facilities.

Registration can be done through this link [https://www.uwe.ac.uk/events/ug-open-day-registration?utm_campaign=12914470_01-2022%20Schools%20and%20Colleges%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Do%20mailer%20-%20General%20account&dm_i=1HO4,7OSVA,8HP58J,VC2PG,1](https://www.uwe.ac.uk/events/ug-open-day-registration?utm_campaign=12914470_01-2022%20Schools%20and%20Colleges%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Do%20mailer%20-%20General%20account&dm_i=1HO4,7OSVA,8HP58J,VC2PG,1#AimHigh)
#AimHigh



Respect

Despite the restrictions that are currently in place, wearing masks means that all students can continue to access all food outlets across the school. I know that one of the drawbacks of being in bubbles last year was that not all students could access the main dining area and the delights that our catering team create on a weekly basis. In order to ensure that we show respect for each other and that all students can get through the queues at lunchtime it is important that students use their **card to pay for purchases**. This is an incredibly time efficient system. Since returning from the Christmas break it has become clear that a number of students are not using their card when purchasing items. Having to input the student name on the system and their year group takes much longer for the catering team and so service is being slowed. As a reminder students without cards will be asked to wait at the end of the queue. This should not be something that students take issue with as having a photo card is part of the equipment expected to have in school.

As a reminder students can buy replacement cards, if they have been lost, from the Finance Office for £5.

#BePositive

Kindness



One of our key Nailsea values is 'Kindness' which is, in part, embodied through 'supporting others through encouragement.' I know that many families and students have appreciated the swiftness of house points being shared through ClassCharts so that student success can be celebrated at home. For the rest of this month I would like to give students and families an opportunity to thank a member of staff. This can be a teaching or non teaching member of staff and can be for any reason, big or small. We know staff will really appreciate your encouragement. The link to the form can be found below and will stay live until midday on 30th January

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnzoslzVoQVW73i_5A2HxBoDhUtN-POA1UMjBHWjROUEQ3U0FVNIA5UFkwVDdNODNIWi4u

#BeKind

Pride



One of the rites of passage for year 11 students is on the horizon – the **year group photo** will take place on **Thursday 27th Jan during period 1**. This is always a very proud moment for me and this year's photo will join the 12 others in the corridor outside of my office to commemorate their time at Nailsea School. As with last year to mitigate transmission risks, sections of the year group will have their photos taken in turn and through the wizardry of technology the year group will then appear as a full group. As a reminder students will need to be in full uniform for the photo with their black school jumper being worn. I hope the students are looking forward to this as much as I am.

#BeProud

Community



For those families that follow various Nailsea based social media accounts on Facebook you may have seen how three Nailsea students have recently been **recognised for helping local residents in the community**. Two 6th formers, Jess and Jonny W-S supported a local resident in the painting of a fence and year 10 student, Brad P, helped out when a cat had been injured. It is great to see the young people in our school embodying our school values in the community in this way.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

my assembly this week focused on the true hero of the Harry Potter books in my opinion, Neville Longbottom. The 20th anniversary show was another one of my watches over the break! As I explained to students, through the books, Neville develops a quiet but deep resolve, showing courage in standing up to others – both his enemies and his friends. The key quotation I used was one uttered by Neville in a conversation with Harry when he returned to Hogwarts in the final book:

'It helps when you stand up to them. It gives everyone hope. I used to notice that when you did it Harry'

I hope we all continue to move through 2022 doing the right thing and being noticed for the right reasons. I emphasised to students that I don't think you can ever underestimate what people notice about them – about what is said and how it is said. I am certainly making a point of noticing when our wonderful students do the right thing, as many of them do every day in school and beyond.

Wishing you all the best for a lovely weekend.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher