



Nailsea School

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28th January 2022

Dear Parents/carers

Next week is week 20 of 2021/22, meaning that we will be over half way through the academic year when I send my next letter home – unbelievable! Those students in exam years have 12 school weeks remaining before they begin. So much has happened this year already. However, there is also still everything to play for – trying new clubs, pushing ourselves every lesson and making the most of all of the further opportunities for support there are to ensure we can be the very best versions of ourselves. Here's hoping our students continue to seize those opportunities as we move into the second half of the year.

Measures to mitigate Covid transmission

Given the government announcements, from Thursday 27th January the country has now reverted to Plan A measures. As mentioned last week this means that face masks are no longer required to be worn by staff or students in classrooms and communal areas.

Although in school we have a relatively small number of students currently that have tested positive (just over 2% of the student population) there are high numbers of cases in North Somerset and as such we will continue with the following:

- Students and staff can continue to wear face masks in classrooms and corridors if they wish to do so.
- Students and staff should continue testing twice a week.
- Any possible cases or confirmed cases should be confirmed through c19@nailseaschool.com
- Students that use any form of provided transport (North Somerset taxi, school minibus, school coach) are being asked to continue to wear face masks for the duration of the journey.
- If a student/staff member is attending school whilst another member of the household is positive we would ask that they continue to wear a mask in school at all times and conduct daily LFD tests whilst household members are positive.
- Visitors and parents coming onto site are asked to continue to wear face masks until half term when this will be reviewed.

Although the government have changed the requirements on the use of face masks, we as a school recognise that case numbers in North Somerset are high and still increasing. Therefore, to reduce the risk of large numbers of staff being absent due to positive results we request the use of face masks by visitors. We hope that you understand our position in trying to ensure we remain open for teaching.

Severe weather/emergency procedure

In the event of severe weather there may be the need to take the decision to close the school to students. A number of Nailsea staff live a distance from the school and it may be that weather/a situation away from North Somerset is one that may influence this decision, given the need to have enough staff on site to make it safe for students.

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As a reminder, all communication at short notice will be sent through School Comms and shared through our social media platforms. I would ask that families ensure they have access to these methods of communication so that they can be as up to date on decision making as and when required.

Illegal Vaping Products

There has been a recent rise in reports across the UK of school children using vaping products. These products are commonly referred to as 'disposable vapes', 'nicotine puffs', or 'Geek Bars'. This latter name is an actual trade name but is sometimes used for all brands.

The law is clear - no nicotine vaping product should be sold to anyone under the age of 18. Some of the products have been found to contain an excessive amount of nicotine which is harmful in continual consumption. Some are unregistered, which means the necessary safety data has not been provided to the MHRA before placing them on the market.

Some of the vapes look similar to a highlighter pen. The price, design, and flavours of these vapes, combined with widespread publicity on social media, make them particularly attractive to young people.

The Wessex Learning Trust does have a clear policy on smoking and vaping which can be accessed here: [No-Smoking-and-No-Vaping-Policy-January-2022.pdf \(nailseaschool.com\)](https://www.nailseaschool.com/No-Smoking-and-No-Vaping-Policy-January-2022.pdf) I would particularly draw attention to one part of this policy:

3.6 Learners are prohibited from smoking or being in possession of smoking paraphernalia while in school, on school activities (such as trips or visits). Any breeches of this will be dealt with in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, and Trust's Drugs Policy

Ambition



Year 9 students have begun the important steps in exploring and deciding on their GCSE courses, as our Guided Choices programme is well underway. We are very much looking forward to seeing families at the **Guided Choices Evening on 3rd February** where staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

#AimHigh

Respect



The Eco Schools Committee are demonstrating real respect for the environment in their most recent project. Students in the group will be planting trees on the school field in March, planning and design how and where this should happen. The group have already been out to measure the prospective areas and to decide on how the space could be used. More updates will follow in the next few weeks. It's great to see students being involved in shaping the school in this way.

#BePositive

Kindness



Many thanks to all the families that have already thanked a member of staff, as launched at the start of the month. These thanks can be for teaching or non-teaching members 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_kkVN2UUqnozslzVoQVW73i_5A2HxB0DhUtN-POA1UMjBHWjROUEQ3U0FVNIA5UFkwVDdNODNIWi4u

#BeKind

Pride



The easing of restrictions has meant that sporting fixtures are well and truly back on track and it has been great to see huge success this week from some of our teams. The U15 football team was cheered on by Mr Truan, resulting in a 6-2 victory over St Katherine's on Wednesday. This followed a 5-1 win over Holyrood by Mr Taylor's year 8 team on Tuesday. Both teams progress to the next stage of the Somerset cup and we wish them luck in the next round. The groups demonstrated great team spirit and were very positive ambassadors for the school – qualities possibly more important than the final results.

#BeProud

Community



Nailsea Town Council is currently looking for opinions from its residents on how to spend a significant amount of money. This would be a great opportunity for families to discuss the current local environment and get involved in putting their suggestions forward to make the town a better place.

The council will be collecting ideas from now until 1st March and the consultation can be accessed here

<https://www.nailseatowncouncil.gov.uk/public-consultation/>

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

regular readers of my letters will know I am a fan of musical theatre and having become somewhat obsessed with 'Hamilton' during lockdown, I was incredibly excited to watch 'Encanto' over the Christmas break. The thought of the lyrical wizardry of Lin Manuel Miranda hitting my tv screen once again was going to be a real treat! As expected, I have been swept up in what seems to have become a national focus on the soundtrack. I started this letter talking about the few weeks ahead and I know that many of our students will feel that they have to maintain a façade/image of how they are, but their true feelings could be different with the prospect of exams and next steps on the horizon. Luisa felt the same way in the film see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQwVkr8rCYw> Please remember that our students can be themselves and always speak to any member of staff about worries and concerns, as can parents if there is the need. We are here to help and support.

#TeamNailsea looks out for each other!

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher