



Nailsea School

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13th May 2022

Dear Parents/carers

There is no doubt that I know my mobile phone makes my life far easier. However, in the time I have been teaching, technology has significantly developed and with it the consequences of online use has certainly increased within school.

Unfortunately, there are an increasing number of issues we are having to pick up in school related to unkind/offensive behaviour that is taking place outside of school hours online, namely through social media. Not only is it upsetting to hear that students would treat each other in this way but the follow up investigations in school do take up a lot of staff time, when they would far prefer to be supporting students proactively and in a positive way. I would hope parents are monitoring the time their children are spending on line, regularly checking the material they are accessing. Support can also be found online here: [FOSI | Good Digital Parenting](#) and [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) Thank you, in advance, for following up this issue at home.

Ambition



As a school we are always trying to improve and this week we welcomed our School Improvement Partner into school. Mr Hicks spent time talking with teachers, talking with students, visiting lessons and looking at student work.

It was really pleasing that he identified a number of strengths in the school and the further capacity we now have to continue to drive improvements with some key staffing appointments having been made.

#AimHigh

Respect



With the exam season gearing up next week, I have continued to be impressed with the attitude of the students. As parents, although you cannot be in the exam hall with your child, you do play an important role. To ensure a smooth start it is important you make sure your child knows what day the exam is on and at what time it starts. Students should know their seat number as well.

Before exams, try to ensure that:

- Students get enough sleep, especially the night before exams
- Students are eating sensibly – especially breakfast on exam days. We will have an exam café running in the Juice Bar for those students that would prefer to eat on site.
- Students have all the equipment required: - pens and sharp pencils, erasers, a ruler and a watch (mobile phones are not allowed in the exams). Other exams specify other pieces of equipment, such as in Maths where a calculator and a protractor would be needed for some exams.

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Between exams as parents you could

- Reward your child's efforts to revise
- Reduce the number of chores that they have to do when exams start
- Make sure that the whole family respects the importance of keeping disturbances to a minimum
- Be sensitive to the pressure and stress that your teenager may be experiencing and encourage them to speak to you about it
- Make sure that time is built in for exercise and recreation
- Help them to keep things in perspective and not dwell on any question or paper they felt did not go as well as they had hoped.

#BePositive



Kindness

Phoenix and Unicorn launch their charity week next week and there are a range of fundraising activities planned as advertised through tutor groups and posters around school. It would be great to see these events supported so that the three chosen charities benefit. (Young Minds, Cancer Research UK and the RSPB). As before next Friday, 20th May will be a non-uniform day with students who take part asked to donate a minimum of £1.

#BeKind



Pride

As well as being able to celebrate success within school it is always great to hear about the endeavours of our students outside of school hours. It was fantastic to hear about the efforts of a number of our students as they completed the Ten Tours last weekend, walking distances of either 35 or 45 miles. The event is an incredible physical and psychological challenge with those taking part needing incredible determination and resilience as well as team working skills. Those involved should be rightly proud of their achievements.

#BeProud



Community

The 6th form is another growing part of our school community and we are very proud of the results students achieve and the careers and university courses they move on to. Mr Reddiford has been Head of 6th form at Nailsea for a considerable time and today he told students that he will be stepping down from this role at the end of the academic year. Mr Reddiford will remain teaching at the school in the Humanities faculty. I am sure many families and students, both previous and current, will want to join me in thanking Mr Reddiford for his work in the 6th form and the support he has given the students in his time in post.

I am delighted to pass on that Mr Truan, Assistant Headteacher, will be taking up the post of Head of 6th form from September and I know that he will continue to take the 6th form from strength to strength.

#TeamNailsea

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher