



Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



After the most unusual terms, and year, I have ever known in education, this was intended to be my final letter of 2020. To say I am exasperated with the announcements made yesterday regarding the return to school in January is a polite understatement. Following some further discussions that will take place this morning I plan to contact you again later today so that you and your son/daughter are clear on what this means for 4th January –the start of term 3. Please be assured this information will be with you by the end of the school day today.

In the meantime, please see, below, the reminders and notices that had been previously collated for this 'final' letter of term:

I hope you have managed to see a copy of the Term 2 newsletter that has confirmed the fantastic work that has continued in school over the last few months. You can read the stories here <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Newsletter-term-2-2020.pdf>

For obvious reasons we have not finished for Christmas as we normally would have done. However, our students have continued to be tremendous in their respect for year group bubbles, the hygiene routines and the need to wear masks.

KS4 Remote Learning Review

Students in years 10 and 11 have recently been in isolation and as a school we will really value the feedback and input of how the home learning experience was for both students and parents. As such, we would really appreciate you completing this very quick, 8 question survey. The link can be found here and will close on Tuesday 22nd December at 8am.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqnozslzVoQVW73i_5A2HxBoDhUtN-POA1UNkEyM1hNRzVVQOROWU5DOU1URFdVTjcwUS4u

Thank you, in advance, for this feedback which will inform future practice.

Consultation on support materials and advance information for exams 2021

To make exams in 2021 less daunting for GCSE, AS and A level students, for many subjects they will be told in advance some of the topics that will or will not be on the papers, helping them to manage their revision. For some subjects, students will be given support material in the exams, such as formulae and equations.

The government has published a consultation on the approach to be taken and parents can contribute their views. The consultation on this process **closes on 20th December** and can be found through this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams>

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School responsibility for Track and Tracing over the Christmas break

Public health have agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. **For Nailsea School, 6 days after the final day of teaching takes us to the 24th December, after which the government's Track and Trace system will take over.**

This arrangement should allow enough time for positive COVID-19 cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and relevant contacts in the school setting to be traced and informed.

Public Health England have issued the following advice:

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, up until Christmas Eve, if a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school
- Where a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Track and Trace.



It is important therefore that we continue to trace close contacts of anyone who has a positive test result and were in school 48 hours before the symptoms started. Should this be the case, please continue to report a positive test result by email to c19@nailseaschool.com and leave the following information:

- Your name
- Your child's name
- Their year/tutor group
- Date of first symptoms, and brief description of symptoms
- The date of the test
- The date of the positive result

The account will be monitored up until 24 December, so that we can continue to undertake the contact tracing and communicate with families of those children needing to self-isolate.

To support you in knowing where to report a positive result, please see the table below:

Symptoms started on:	Student was in school on, or after:	Report to c19@nailseaschool.com ?
Wednesday 16 th December	Monday 14 th December	Yes
Thursday 17 th December	Tuesday 15 th December	Yes
Friday 18 th December	Wednesday 16 th December	Yes
Saturday 19 th December	Thursday 17 th December	Yes
Sunday 20 th December	Friday 18 th December	Yes
Monday 21 st December	Friday 18 th December	No, report through NHS Track & Trace
Tuesday 22 nd December	Friday 18 th December	No, report through NHS Track & Trace

Safety over the Holiday period

I am sure all of #TeamNailsea wants to ensure we can return next term without people having to isolate. This does mean we have a responsibility over our actions during the two week break.

Whilst we continue to follow the risk assessment within school, I would encourage you to reduce the risk of your household having to self-isolate by adhering to the Hands, Face, Space controls when out in the community, and being extra vigilant in spotting the symptoms of COVID, and the whole household following self-isolation rules until receiving a negative test result.

As a reminder, the three symptoms are:

- high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- loss of smell/taste



If anyone in the household has one or more of these symptoms they, and, and their whole household must stay home (do not attend school or work), and get a test. Everyone in the home must stay home until the test result is received.

If the test result is positive then:

- report positive test results to the school immediately (see above table for dates over the Christmas period);
- the affected individual must stay home for the length of time instructed by Trace and Trace (usually 10 days),
- all other members of the household must self-isolate (for a period of 10 days, if no symptoms occur during this time)

Christmas Window, 23rd – 27th December

From 23 December to 27 December, you may choose to form a Christmas bubble. Social distancing still plays an important part in keeping everyone safe and in not spreading the virus.

A Christmas bubble will be able to spend time together in private homes, including second homes and caravans, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place. If you do form a Christmas bubble, you should not meet socially with friends and family you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble. In all other settings, people should follow local restrictions in the tier in which they are meeting.

A Christmas bubble consists of three households, your household makes up one of the three households. The Christmas window allows families and friends to get together, but people should remain aware of social distancing guidelines and allowing good ventilation when meeting indoors. If you do not form a Christmas bubble, you should continue to follow the guidance for the tier you are in.

New Years Eve

The Christmas Window will have closed by New Year's Eve and we will be back to the Tier restrictions, this means no socialising indoors, and meeting only with groups of 6 or fewer outside.

School Comms – updating details

There have been a handful of situations recently where we have urgently needed to contact a parent only to discover their contact details have changed.

Please use the School Gateway app to check the details the school holds for you are correct by selecting the “About Me” link. You can also notify the school of any changes or updates (eg new mobile number or email) via the School Gateway app using the “Update Details” tab.



Best wishes to Mrs Wells

I am sure students and parents will join me in wishing Mrs Wells all the best as she begins her maternity leave. Mrs Wells has been a real support to students and families since assuming her role as Head of Year 8 in September and her efforts have been hugely appreciated.

Mr Miles will be picking up the oversight of Year 8 in Mrs Wells’ absence.

Mrs Helen Siwek will be joining the PE team to cover Mrs Wells’ teaching and will be the Tutor of 8C from January.

I am sure #TeamNailsea will make both staff very welcome in their respective new roles.

Finally....

This year more than any other my faith in young people has been strengthened – they have been resilient, good-natured and community-minded in the midst of significant societal change. I am both proud and exceptionally lucky to be here at Nailsea School.

Thank you for all the support you have shown the school and the staff over the last term, and indeed the majority of the year. It has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated, especially as many of our staff have also been juggling pressures and anxieties related to our own personal situations. I know that, on occasions, decisions I have had to make have not always been easy or popular. Hand on heart, though, please be assured they have been taken with the very best interests of students, staff and families at the forefront of the decision making.

Have a safe and restful Christmas, and best wishes for the New Year. Let's hope for a tad more normality in 2021!

Take care and be kind.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher