



Nailsea School

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5th February 2021

Dear Parents/carers

Thank you for your support during another positive week at Nailsea, despite the ongoing challenges of both the pandemic and remote learning. Students have remained focused and we are proud of the efforts being made.

Remote Learning

Next week, the final week of term 3, is an A1 on the timetable. Timetables can be found on the school website here: [Remote Learning – Nailsea School](#)

We have been really pleased with the responses to the student and parent survey that closes today. This will inform future practice and a summary of the comments will be shared next week.

Thank you to parents for supporting our remote provision at home, as I know this is a significant undertaking. We recognise, now more than ever, it is only through working in partnership that we can make this provision work as well as possible. We appreciate the novelty of home learning is wearing off for some but the ability to work independently will be a skill these students will take with them throughout the rest of their lives

We are proud of how we are managing and what is being delivered, but we are not complacent and are aware of some emerging issues. I am aware that there have been some cases this week where parents have been contacted/notified about a lack of submissions when this may not have been the case. I can only apologise if this has caused concern. As you can appreciate it is far easier to ascertain submissions and engagement when students are in front of the teacher, submitting their exercise book as a group.

There is the expectation that schools are tracking and are aware of student engagement/effort during this period, as at any other. We are also aware of the juggling that is happening for many families at home – the demands of employment, childcare, learning before any concerns around health or the wider impact of Covid-19. The last thing we would want to do is cause any additional concerns. To clarify the procedure from Monday:

- Staff have been asked to wait 24 hours after a lesson/deadline to add a 'No Submission' on the behaviour system. This will enable all students to submit work, if they are working outside the hours of the school day.
- School Comms will be notifying parents of any updates on submissions, positive or negative, on a daily basis during the working week.

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- Staff are being reminded to include the subject involved in any message that goes home on School Comms
- Queries from parents/students should be directed to the subject teacher in the first instance.

Shout outs

As part of the range of ways we acknowledge the fantastic work that students are doing, staff nominate students for our regular Shout Outs. This is a way of sharing when students have done that bit extra, a fantastic piece of work, or effort over and above what is expected. There have been lots of examples recently including impressive technology projects, clearly explained science investigations, imaginative and detailed pieces of writing, creative approaches to classwork, well argued history assignments, and more. There is always lots of opportunity for students to get themselves on to this list. Perhaps discuss with your child how they can review and add to their work before they submit it to really demonstrate their understanding or the extra effort and research they have put in. It is good to see students are developing valuable skills in knowing how to make sure their work and achievements are noticed. I look forward to hearing about all the excellent work taking place and seeing new names on the list in the coming weeks.

Qualifications 2021 update

It remains uncertain what arrangements will be in place for those students due to take examinations this summer. The national consultation which closed last week received over 90,000 responses. There is currently talk of externally set tests to help teachers come to an accurate assessment of student performance. It also seems likely that students will receive grades submitted by their teachers based on a range of evidence available to them including internal assessment, mock examinations, practical assessments and, perhaps, externally set tests.

My advice to students remains the same – keep focusing on your studies, attend remote lessons and submit all necessary work. This should be done in tandem with prioritising your own emotional health and wellbeing by taking some exercise and trying to find some time away from a screen. We are monitoring and supporting those students that are struggling with engagement and it is important to note that any improvements will be noted by staff.

Simon Lebus, Ofqual's Chief regulator, has said that the announcements on the final plans for exams will be made in the week commencing 22nd February. I have huge sympathy for students in year 11, 12 and 13 who will be anxious about how they are assessed this year. They should keep working to the best of their ability and remember we will do all we can to ensure that they get the exam grades that they deserve in the summer.

Year 9 Guided Choices and Subject Consultation Evening

Students in year 9 have had a busy couple of weeks with the Guided Choices evening last week and the subject evening last night. Thank you for all the families that attended the event and we look forward to receiving the completed form, if this has not already been sent in. Further details can be found here: [Information Evenings – Nailsea School](#)

Finally, as we enter the second week of February, perhaps there is the opportunity to feel optimistic about the future. The national R number is reducing and vaccinations are being rolled out. I am also aware that COVID is presenting huge challenges for families with illness, bereavement and employment worries. We are not taking this for granted and remain here to support and help our families and our community as and when needed. Please get in touch when needed.

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