



# Nailsea School

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18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/carers

This week, with the government announcement on Monday, we had to take a number of decisions about key events this term and those affected have been contacted separately. It goes without saying that although this is hugely disappointing our priority does need to be reducing the chances of any transmission both within the school and wider community. Many thanks to those families that have expressed their understanding for the decisions taken and for the ongoing support and thanks shown for the school and for staff. It is hugely appreciated.

## **Covid-19 Testing**

Please remember that students are encouraged to continue with the at home testing programme twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday). This is a vital way of picking up any asymptomatic cases in the school community.

Parents are required to report the result to the NHS and, if required, to use [covid19@nailseaschool.com](mailto:covid19@nailseaschool.com) to report a positive lateral flow test result.

## **Yr 11 and 13 Book Donations**

At this time of year many families with students in years 11 and 13 take the very kind decision to donate GCSE/A Level textbooks and revision guides to be used by other students. If you would like to do this we would be very grateful. The books should be brought to reception where there are some quarantine collection boxes in place near the door. Please do pop the reception team an email ahead of the drop off on [nailsea.school@nailseaschool.com](mailto:nailsea.school@nailseaschool.com) so they know to expect you. Thanks in advance for supporting our students in this way.

## **Uniform expectations**

As you are aware, one change we have made to existing practice this year is to enable students to attend school wearing PE kit on the days they have PE. This was introduced initially as a way to reduce use of unventilated changing rooms, but as you can see from the 'Covid Keepers' responses (shown later in this letter) there have been other benefits and a clear majority of parents will want to see this continuing.

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It has become obvious over the last week, however, that a small minority of students are choosing to attend school in PE kit on the days they do not have PE lessons. I would ask for your support in speaking with your son/daughter to reiterate that this is not permitted. Any student contravening this clear expectation will be issued with a sanction. Thank you, in advance, for working with us in order to resolve this issue.

I would draw your attention to uniform expectations generally on the school website <https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/>. We are seeing an increasing number of students attending school with false nails or piercings which are not permitted and again any student who persists with this will be issued with a sanction. We appreciate your help in reiterating the uniform expectation.

### **Parental Feedback on 'Covid Keepers' Survey**

Many thanks to the families that responded to the survey questions attached to last week's letter. As you can see from the attachment there were some key thoughts and rationale for the feedback.

In line with the responses from September 2021:

- Subject Parent Consultation Evenings will continue as virtual events.
- Students will continue attending school in their PE kits on days PE lessons are timetabled
- Tutor groups will return to being vertical with 4/5 students from years 7-10 in each tutor group.

We are aware that a number of existing students have not experienced or have only briefly experienced the vertical tutor system. Plans are in place for students to transition to these new groups when we return in September.

### **Laptop updates**

During the National Lockdown we were able to loan out many laptops to support the remote learning of our students. The devices are now in need of updating and some software needs to be re-installed. As you can imagine, this is potentially quite a large job. With this in mind, we would ask that any devices be returned to us before the end of the academic year. Students should enter the building through their usual bubble entrance and notify the member of staff on the entrance who will take the laptop for updating. Please be assured that if your son/daughter would like to borrow a laptop for the new academic year, this can be arranged in September.

### **Finally...**

despite Covid cases rising nationally and with other local schools having to send year groups of students home to isolate we have, to date, remained unaffected. It may only be a matter of time however, given the transmissibility of the new variant. We are continuing with controls in school in relation to cleaning, sanitising and mask wearing for staff in communal areas.

Data does suggest that it is secondary age children who are one group that are now most susceptible to the virus as well as being a group identified as one of the chief carriers. Therefore, I would ask everyone to continue to adhere to the guidance and to continue with routine self-testing. If, at any point, students are directed to self-isolate guidance should be followed and they should remain at home. These words are not intended to admonish anyone but are a reminder that we do need to continue to work together. Please be assured that I will continue in my role to protect the health and wellbeing of your children when they are on site and thank you, in advance, for the important role you play outside of school hours.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott". The letter 'D' is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. The name "Dee Elliott" is written in a cursive script.

Mrs Dee Elliott  
Head teacher