



Nailsea School

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24th September 2021

Dear Parents/carers

I hope everyone has had a good week. Students and staff are continuing to settle well into term with a full cycle of the two week timetable having been completed.

Open Evening – Thurs 30th September

Although organised slightly differently this year it will be lovely to be able to welcome families on site for our Open Evening next week. A number of students have already volunteered to be guides and will be rightly rewarded with house points for their efforts. So that we can keep everyone as safe as possible this year we have staggered times for our Open Evening visits from prospective parents. The three original presentations and tour slots on the evening were, quite overwhelmingly, fully booked within two days. As such we have taken the decision to include a further presentation at 4pm.

In order for staff to have time to prepare for this **school will finish for students at 2pm on Thursday 30th September**. So that students and staff can have some time to compensate for a later finish, as we usually do, school will **start for students at 9:40am on Friday 1st October**. I appreciate the earlier finish on a Thursday is a change to usual practice but I hope parents can understand the importance of this day in the school calendar.

For students travelling by school transport amendments are being made. If any student does need to stay at school until 3pm on Thursday or arrive at school at the normal time of 8:40am on Friday they should report to 161, bringing a book with them, where they will be supervised.

Tours for existing parents

Given the upheaval of the last months I know that many parents of our existing students would also love to have the opportunity to visit the school. This is completely understandable and please be assured that we are looking at ways that this can be implemented as soon as possible. Further details will be made available in this weekly letter towards the end of this term. As a reminder any parent can arrange a meeting with Mrs Elliott if they would like to discuss any issues. This can be arranged by contacting Annette Watts, Assistant to SLT, on AWatts@nailseaschool.com.

Term dates 2021/22

North Somerset have confirmed our academic year will now end on 21st July to acknowledge the Platinum Jubilee. Term dates for the year are updated and can be found on the website here <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/WLT-North-Somerset-Term-Dates-and-Holidays-2021-22.pdf>

Class Charts

Many thanks for your understanding as we move to this new Trust wide system. As with moving to any new system it will take some time to become familiar with the new ways of working. I know a number of parents have raised concerns about the ClassCharts system not being able to send parent notifications when homework is set.

At present this is something that is being investigated as part of the Trust package. In the interim period I would suggest parents log in to their accounts on a daily basis to check homework. We are looking into this and as soon as there is any update we will contact you.

Extra-Curricular clubs

The finalised version of the extra-curricular clubs on offer can be found on our website here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Extra-Curricular-Directory-2021-22.pdf> There really is something for everyone and I know students are very excited about these returning.

Vaccination update

As mentioned last week, the school has been advised that all students in Years 8 – 11 will be offered a vaccination by mid-November. In order to reduce disruption to both the students and the school the nursing team will be conducting both the nasal flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same sessions.

Parents will be receiving consent forms for each vaccine individually and will be able to express their wishes for either, or both, vaccines. The teams will only be vaccinating young people with parental consent.

I have been advised that further information and links for the digital consent system will be sent to the school in the coming week. There will also be a printable consent form for those who do not have access to the internet. For more information around this programme please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-children-and-young-people-guidance-for-schools>

PE Uniform expectations September 2021

The opportunity for students to wear PE kit on the days they have PE have been received well. The PE department are going to review this procedure at the end of term one, with the decision resting on the level to which PE uniform expectations are being upheld.

The largest issue at the moment is that students should be wearing a plain navy blue jumper on the days they have PE. This should not be any other colour or heavily covered in logos.

Thank you, in advance, for enabling these expectations to be adhered to.

Mobile Devices - Advice for Parents

Please spend time each week with your child checking their mobile phone usage including their time spent on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Parents can simply and easily put a number of controls in place to restrict phone usage and the content that can be accessed.

If your child has an Android phone you can install the Family Link App to restrict content and screen time. More details can be found here <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

If your child has an iPhone you can follow this guidance <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Please check that your child has not installed a Virtual Private Network (VPN) App or Software to bypass any restrictions that you have placed on their usage. Please read this factsheet for more information.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vYhaJroG8KZYee7PxDwR8Qr0iwxaAlrR/view>

School Nursing Team

Sirona Care and Health School Nursing Service has worked closely with us to set up the delivery of a new clinic which will offer young people an opportunity to access a free, confidential, non-judgmental health service. Within these clinics, the team will be able to provide support, guidance and professional advice on a wide range of health issues/concerns. This will start on Tuesdays, initially through appointment and then be open to drop ins. The team will be based in an office off of reception.

Whilst this service will be confidential, all young people who visit the clinic are encouraged to involve their parents/carers in all aspects of their healthcare. As with all our services, safeguarding policies and protocols will be followed and appropriate action taken should any safeguarding concerns arise regarding a young person.

Should you require any further information regarding the School Nursing Service, please see <https://cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/school-health-nursing/north-somerset>

Finally...

a new year is always a good time for a new challenge and I am sure that many students and parents have thought the same. I have already staggered myself that I am on the cusp of finishing week 5 of Couch to 5K, although the run tonight is due to be for 20 minutes non stop-eeeekkk! It is always important to share with our students that challenges and learning should never stop. The belief that we can all 'Aspire Believe Succeed' should never leave us. I will certainly be giving my best in this afternoon's challenge, just as this is all I can ever ask of any member of #TeamNailsea.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Elliott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher