



Nailsea School

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2nd September 2021

Dear Families

I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing and fulfilling summer break, including quality family time with the easing of restrictions continuing. Ahead of the return to school next week, I thought it was timely to contact with you for a few reminders, especially given the updates received from the government over the summer.

Covid Update

Cases in North Somerset and across the country remain high though hospitalisations, thankfully, have not risen to the extent that was widely predicted. Students aged 16 and 17 have been invited to take up the offer of vaccinations before returning to school. At the time of writing there has been no further information passed on to schools regarding the vaccination programme spreading to younger children.

You will find attached some further documents for your reference

- Parent version of the Contingency plan, detailing the new arrangements for students requiring isolation
- Updated Remote Learning Plan for all students that have to isolate from September 2021
- New Risk Assessment document related to the onsite testing that is required on site before students return to school

To summarise, the concept of 'bubbles' has been removed and school will no longer be charged with identifying close contacts of positive Covid cases. Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace and will be strongly advised to take a PCR test but will NOT be expected to self-isolate if they are a family member, under 18 years of age or double vaccinated. As such, I do not envisage instructing significant numbers of children to self-isolate as happened last academic year. I do need to convey against this background **the critical role that will now be played by self-testing and reporting.** Testing should continue on Wednesdays and Sundays and reported to the school if positive. Please keep your child off school should they display the well known symptoms of Covid 19. Your support with the testing regime will help us possibly avoid a local outbreak and is key to the successful start of this academic year.

Operational Information - September

When students return we will be continuing to encourage enhanced hand hygiene (sanitiser and tissues will remain in classrooms), enhanced cleaning routines will continue and ventilation will remain in rooms with doors and windows staying open. Students may wish to think about layering beneath uniform, given the seasonal changes ahead. Without bubbles students will be able to access specialist rooms and equipment for all timetabled lessons. When in 'normal classrooms' seating arrangements will remain with students facing the front. Seating plans will continue to be logged centrally and are expected to be adhered to at all times.

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott

Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 2HN

Company Number: 8084047

Telephone: 01275 852251 e-mail: nailsch@nailseaschool.com Web: www.nailseaschool.com

Students will need to be tested once before returning to school and a reminder of the testing schedule and return dates for all year groups is shown below:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Mon 6th Sept	Test 1 am	Test 1 pm					
Tues 7th Sept				Test 1 am		Test 1 pm	
Wed 8th Sept	Start day 8:30 am	Start day 10 am *	Test 1 pm		Test 1 am	Start day 8:30 am	
Thurs 9th Sept	Test 2 am	Test 2 pm	Start day 8:40 am	Start day 8:40 am	Start day 8:40 am		
Fri 10th Sept				Test 2 am		Test 2 pm	Test 1 pm
Mon 13th Sept			Test 2 am		Test 2 am		Start day 8:40 am
Tues 14th Sept							Test 2 am

*There will be adult supervision for those students in year 8 that need to arrive at the normal time of 8:40am. I would ask that parents notify their Head of House if this supervision is required so we know who to expect.

Access to School Site: Students are still expected to be on site at 8:35 am ahead of lesson one beginning at 8:40 am. With bubbles not being required students can enter the building through the following entrances:

- Main pedestrian/student entrance off Mizzymeard road (this was used by year 7 and 9 only last year)
- Juice Bar entrance (accessed via the Ash Hayes Road entrance which was used by year 10 in term 6)
- Station Road entrance (previously used by year 8)
- 6th form students, only, will be able to enter the building through the Community Entrance once their cards have been activated
- Students should revert to walking/cycling onto site through the pedestrian/cycle entrance from Mizzymeard Road and so should not be cycling/walking down the main drive. Please encourage your child to think about cycle safety, wearing a helmet and being considerate for other pedestrians/road users on the ride to and from school.
- For the safety of all students, parents should not be driving on to school site to drop off or pick up unless this has been agreed with the child's Head of House for a specific reason.
- To restrict the numbers of visitors on site, we are continuing with appointment only visits from parents/carers.
- Students travelling on public and school transport are still required to wear a face mask.

Uniform and equipment: should be in line with normal expectations and can be found here [Uniform – Nailsea School](#) It would have been unreasonable to have attempted to raise uniform expectations during the course of the 17 months when families may have been

struck by Covid, possibly grieving, certainly missing out on social opportunities and, in some cases, losing out on income. As mentioned in my July letter, our stance on returning will be firmer in relation to all aspects of the uniform policy from the very first day. I do not seek conflict with either students or families and am looking to work with you to 'raise the bar'. The appropriate wearing of uniform is an expression of belonging and part of the expectations when your child joins #teamnailesea

- Please note that girls should not be wearing leggings and hoodies are not permitted. A further reminder that, following feedback, students can continue to attend school in their PE kit on days they have PE. Please remember that PE kit also needs to adhere to the expectations of this uniform which have previously been communicated by Ms Wild, Head of Health Faculty.
- Piercing and acrylic nails are not permitted for Health and safety reasons.
- Small stud/sleeper earrings are permitted. All piercings, including fresh ones, will have to be removed for PE lessons. Students must remove all personal effects, including piercings, for every practical PE lesson for health and safety reasons.
- Hair must be of a natural colour.
- Mobile phones need to continue to be 'off and away for the whole school day'. Phones will be confiscated if seen being used and persistent offences will result in parents being asked to collect the device from school.

The vast majority of our students and families adhere to the very clear expectations without any difficulties and I thank you for this.

Break and Lunchtimes: With bubbles being removed all students from years 7-13 will be able to access all eating outlets during social times. These can be found at:

- The main canteen area next to the MizzyMead Road entrance
- The snack bar next to the MizzyMead Road entrance
- The Media Café
- The Juice Bar

The different areas sell slightly different products which all students can experience on our return. As a reminder we operate a cashless catering system so students will need to have their own cards to purchase food. Students new to the school in September will have these activated in the first few days. Replacement cards will need to be purchased for existing students.

Naturally, students can also bring a packed lunch to school if they would prefer.

Finally....my weekly letters will return from Friday 10th September. If you do have any queries, school staff return from Monday 6th September but please bear in mind that as well as many staff being involved in the testing of students, staff training is also taking place.

I hope you enjoy the remaining few days of the summer holiday. We are all looking forward to seeing students in school again and the new year 7 and 12 students starting their time with us.

Take care and be Kind

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher