



Nailsea School

12th November

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Dear Parents/carers
Happy Friday!

I am really pleased to report that we have continued to have a reduction in the number of active Covid-19 cases within the school community and at the time of writing this relates to less than 1% of the school population. We have, as yet, not received an update regarding the possible de-escalation of amber measures that were introduced across the South West. As a result, the following will continue to apply next week:

- Parents continue to use the c19@nailseaschool email address to **report any issues related to Covid-19**. It would be very helpful if this initial email included the name and tutor group of the child and the date when symptoms started, if any. Once confirmed information related to the end of isolation is also very helpful. This will ensure that our records are updated internally and classroom teachers can be informed.
- Students to **continue twice weekly home testing** to pick up asymptomatic cases
- **Students should not come to school if suffering from symptoms of COVID-19** (high temperature, loss of taste or smell, continuous cough). If your child does show symptoms please take them for a PCR test as per NHS guidelines.
- **Masks** to be worn on home-to-school transport and those who travel to school by public transport, in corridors and communal indoor areas at breaktime and lunchtime when not eating. They can be worn in classes if students wish.
- **Internal social areas divided up per year group at break time and lunchtime** will continue during the period of amber escalation.
- **Use of hand gel, ventilation and enhanced cleaning measures.**

Some students (those who are not exempt) are continuing to arrive at school without face masks and others have to be prompted several times during the day to wear them properly, covering both nose and mouth. This is both frustrating and demonstrates a lack of wider social responsibility. Thank you for reiterating the importance of these measures at home.

There has been no further word from the Sirona team regarding the date of the vaccinations that will be held at Nailsea School. I understand this could seem frustrating to families given that they may know of students in other settings in the local area that have been vaccinated. Please be assured that the school has no control over when our dates are scheduled or confirmed. Once again, on this issue, it is for individual families to decide if vaccination is an option they choose to take.

Staff absence – PE

Due to a male member of staff sustaining a serious injury whilst playing sport outside of school, the PE department are currently operating at reduced capacity, specifically to run extra-curricular clubs and attend tournaments. The department are working hard to maintain as much coverage as possible but with staff unable to be in two places at once, there will be some teams that may have training sessions cancelled so that the remaining staff can accompany other year groups to fixtures. The team are trying to ensure that opportunities are still available to all year groups, despite them possibly being less frequent. Thank you in advance for your understanding and I am sure you will join me in wishing the member of staff well with his recovery.

TikTok

As you may be aware, nationally, there have been a number of defamatory videos of teachers posted by students on TikTok as part of a so-called 'challenge'. I am saddened to say that it was brought to my attention yesterday that some TikTok accounts have been set up using the 'Nailsea School' logo and such accounts include posted videos referencing current and former members of staff, using photographs from the school website. These have been reported to TikTok as this is in clear breach of community guidelines under which they operate.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind families that if any abusive comments are made by students about staff, using online forums/social media, the advice from teaching unions is that the police should be contacted. In addition, if any specific student can be identified as being involved we will move in accordance with our school behaviour policy. It does truly sadden me to have to report this issue and many thanks in advance for supporting our staff by understanding the stance that is being taken on this issue.

Values Update

Ambition

Year 10 students had their **work experience programme** explained to them in an assembly on Tuesday. This is a great opportunity for students to find out more about a possible career and employment route. Student PIN numbers, to access the system, can be accessed through their tutor.

Following the success of the **PTA Christmas Card competition/sale** last year students in years 7 – 11 can now begin to submit entries for this year. All entries need to be handed into Head of House by 18th November with the name/year and tutor group. The winning entries will be selected on 19th November ready for printing. A winner from each year will be selected and used in Nailsea School's very own Christmas Card Selection. These will be on sale via Parentpay from w/c 2nd December. £5 for 10 cards.

#AimHigh

Respect

Although completed in classrooms this week and not the whole school event we have historically held, the **two minute silence** was observed with real empathy and compassion this week.

#BePositive





Kindness

Students at Nailsea will be able to support Children In Need on **Friday 19th November through a non-uniform day**. Students taking part should bring £1 into school which will be collected by the members of Students' Council during period 1. I would ask that students ensure the alternative clothes worn on that day are appropriate for a working environment. Those students that have PE on the day will be able to use the changing rooms on that day, whilst masked, so can also take part in the non-uniform day.

#BeKind



Pride

I am sure year 11 and 13 students are taking pride in their preparation for the mock exams that are scheduled to begin on 29th November. Apologies for any difficulty parents had in accessing the 'Prep for Success' materials through our virtual event held yesterday evening. Students should now be able to access the talks through their Microsoft Teams account if they were unavailable last night. If you have any questions regarding Prep for Success or the mock exams please contact Ms Dee kdee@nailseaschool.com.

On the same topic of exams, please find a link to a letter from the Chief Regulator at Ofqual, Dr Jo Saxton, for all students sitting exams this year [Letter to students - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

#BeProud



Community

It was great to be able to take 3 families of students currently in year 7 around the school on a tour this week. As a reminder, as existing parents missed this opportunity when choosing Nailsea there are some further opportunities to join a tour on:

Monday 15th Nov at 8:50am

Monday 22nd Nov at 11:10am

Wednesday 24th Nov at 11:10am

Thursday 25th Nov at 11:10am

Places can be booked through phoning main reception.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

we are already moving through the term at pace and December will be here before we know it. Mrs Corkerton, as requested by students, has added her Christmas book display in the library and Mrs Perkins is working towards the Christmas concert being able to go ahead with the continued drop in cases. For me, half term finished on a high with Gary Barlow announcing the release of his Christmas album – his first ever! You can't beat a bit of 'Sleigh Ride' driving to school in the dark on a November morning. Mr Elliott is, naturally, thrilled.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher