



Nailsea School

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19th November 2021

Dear Parents/carers

Covid-19 cases continue to drop within the school community which is pleasing with, currently, 7 active cases spread amongst years 7, 9, 10 and 11. This equates to around 0.5% of the school population being impacted. Last week we were informed that a regional update would arrive with schools by the end of this week. As yet we have not received an update regarding the possible de-escalation of amber measures.

Internally we have taken the decision that 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.**

Positively we have had it confirmed with Public Health advisors that the 6th Form Open Evening, due to be held on Thursday 25th November from 5pm – 7pm, can continue to go ahead as a face to face event with the following reminders/mitigating factors in place:

- All staff and visitors should be encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test, the night before or prior to the event taking place
- Anyone with symptoms should not attend
- Masks should be worn by all
- The one way system that we will have in operation will reduce numbers gathering
- When in rooms visitors should be mindful of social-distancing taking place as much as possible
- All areas used will be well ventilated
- Hand-gel will be used

It will be fantastic to see students on site to be able to find out more about our Sixth Form Provision and thank you, in advance, for adhering to these measures.

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Student Vaccinations

As parents are aware from communication earlier in the week, the Sirona team will be in school next Monday – Wednesday to administer vaccinations. As you can imagine although the school are only acting as the venue for this there will be some disruption to lessons during this period. Students will be escorted to the Sports Hall during their teaching group's allotted time slot so there will be some interruptions to learning. I would hope the short term disruption on these three days will enable more consistency of experience in the future.

This week, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that [all healthy 16 to 17 year olds should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine](#) at least 12 weeks after the first vaccine dose, or 12 weeks following a positive COVID-19 test result – whichever is later. To be consistent with this advice, the clinical guidance has also been updated by the UK Health Security Agency to recommend that young people aged 12-17 who are not in a high-risk group should wait 12 weeks after a positive COVID-19 infection before getting their first vaccine dose. This is a change from previous advice that vaccination should be deferred for around 4 weeks after confirmed infection.

School-aged immunisation service (SAIS) teams are already applying this change, with students being asked to confirm whether they have had a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the last 12 weeks and where there is uncertainty the vaccination would not proceed. Some parents of students yet to be vaccinated may be asked by SAIS teams to give consent again for their child to be vaccinated in schools, based on this change.

Christmas Lunch

With Christmas a matter of weeks away we are planning our Christmas lunch celebrations for **Wednesday 15th December**, with the return of the very popular Christmas Bap, as we did last year. This will consist of a large bap, filled with either turkey, stuffing and pigs in blankets, or the vegetarian option of a Quorn fillet, stuffing and veggie sausages.

All payments would need to be made via Parent pay by **Friday 3rd December**. Those students who are entitled to Free School Meals should have received separate communication from Mrs Ruddy.

Safety on school site before and after school

Although mentioned previously in one weekly letter, I do need to remind families that the dropping off and picking up of students outside reception is limited to a small number of cars, with those having had this agreed by Heads of House. Given the numbers of students walking across the site at these busy times for Health and Safety reasons it is important we keep traffic to a minimum at these peak times. In the interests of the welfare of staff and students, parents will be challenged if arriving on site without permission. Thank you in advance for ensuring we are keeping everyone safe.

In addition, given that their use is illegal, Electric Scooters are not permitted on school site. I am aware that some students may already own one and, with Christmas coming, they may be one of the gifts that students receive. Although it is perfectly legal to buy, sell and own e-scooters, it is not currently legal to use them on roads, pavements or cycle lanes. The only legal users of e-scooters in public spaces are those people, over 18s with a driving licence, who are using the official Bristol e-scooters.

Punctuality Focus

For the remainder of this term I have asked students and staff to focus relentlessly on punctuality to lessons, both at the start of the day and during lessons and tutor time when in school. Establishing good time-keeping habits early is good preparation for adult life when

we are increasingly responsible for our own time-keeping. Punctuality is an important part of self-discipline and is essential to good time management.

Students who arrive late at the beginning of lessons will miss important information and often disrupt the teaching and learning of others. In addition, those students who are repeatedly late to school will receive late detentions.

I would be grateful for the support of all parents/carers in ensuring that their child leaves home early enough each morning to get to school on time and in encouraging them to be punctual.

Uniform update

As we approach colder weather and the need for increased ventilation I would like to update you on an amendment to the uniform policy. From Monday, students will be permitted to wear coats when sitting in social areas/walking the corridors to and from classrooms. Students will still not be permitted to wear non uniform hoodies when in the building and these will be asked to be removed, as is current practice.

There is the expectation that students will remove their coats when seated in a lesson or during tutor time to signal the start of learning. If students feel the cold they are reminded that they should layer uniform below the permitted top layers of the school shirt, jumper and/or fleece.

I trust all can appreciate that this change has been made with the best interests of students in mind and that as parents you will be supportive of the ongoing expectations of uniform standards within the classroom.



Ambition

Nailsea continues to see an increase in the numbers of students that are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, be that the Bronze Award in year 9 or the Silver Award in year 10. Mr Bunce will be leading a session through Teams at 5pm on Wednesday 24th November as an introduction to the amazing possibilities on offer. In addition to this, families may find this introductory video a useful starting point [Bronze | Choose your activities - YouTube](#)
#AimHigh



Respect

It was great to hear that the school's **Eco Club**, working with Mrs Bicknell, are working towards the planting of 30 trees, creating a small copse on the school field. The Woodland Trust are donating the trees to schools across the country. Given the news coverage over the last few weeks related to the topic, I am very impressed that our students are showing such respect for the environment at both a school level and within the wider community.
#BePositive



Kindness

Students' Council meetings are now up and running and the fortnightly meetings I have with the School Presidents, Connor and Sofia, demonstrate just how much the group want to achieve this year. One area of strength that the school has, which the council want to continue to build on, is the amount of pastoral support that is offered to students. It would be great, if they have not done already, that students completed the short survey that has been added as an announcement to ClassCharts seeking views on a **peer listener scheme** the council are exploring introducing.
#BeKind



Pride

Students have represented the school with pride this week, during a return of numerous **sporting fixtures**. Students have been involved in all years, from students in year 7 having their first experience of a North Somerset secondary rugby tournament, to the Priority Football Team in the 6th form continuing with their English Colleges cup and league games.

It was fantastic for me to have the opportunity to watch part of the Priority Academy game. Apologies to the team for my very 'enthusiastic' (loud!) support from the side lines. Students can find out more about how they can combine their A Level studies with weekly training and fixtures by attending our **6th Form Open Evening on 25th November from 5pm – 7pm** and speaking to representatives from Priority Academy. Further details can also be found here [Sixth-Form-Prospectus-2022-DIGITAL-VERSION.pdf \(nailseaschool.com\)](#)
#BeProud



Community

I am always keen to seek the views of students and families and am aiming to arrange a group of parents who could provide some feedback on their experiences of the school to date as part of a **Parent Voice Group**. It is hoped that this would be able to be a face-to-face meeting and Gavin Ball, Chief Executive of the Wessex Learning Trust, will also be in attendance.

If you are interested in taking part, can you please contact Annette Watts, Assistant to the Senior Leadership Team, on AWatts@nailseaschool.com citing your availability to attend a meeting during the school day.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

thank you to all the students that have submitted entries to the PTA Christmas Card competition. I was informed this week that the overall winning design will also be the chosen card sent by the Wessex Learning Trust to all of their partner organisations over the Christmas period. Exciting! I will update you on the winners next week.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dee Elliott' with a decorative underline.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher