



Nailsea School

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26th November

Dear Parents/carers

I am finishing this letter this morning with slightly sleepy eyes but very proud after a fantastic 6th Form Open Evening last night. We were able to go ahead with this face to face event given our continued drop and currently small number of Covid cases. (With the reduction in cases the Covid update has even slipped down my list of points in this weekly letter!)

Thank you to all of those that did attend the 6th Form event last night. A reminder that the deadline for applications is 14th December and all information, including an additional promotional film that will be added next week, can be found here [Apply to Sixth Form – Nailsea School](#) The students do a great job in talking about their experiences, the woman with glasses in the blue dress far less so!

No Pens Day

Speaking to students I have had some great feedback regarding the specific inclusion of speech and language activities during 'No Pens Day' that was held nationally on Wednesday this week. Research shows that speaking and understanding skills are fundamental for everything we do – learning, reading and writing, managing emotions, developing friendships and entering employment. However, speaking and understanding skills are underrepresented in the curriculum in comparison to reading and writing. This is something we are really focusing on changing both at Nailsea and across the Wessex Learning Trust.

Many thanks to the 200 students who also completed a survey about their experiences, through ClassCharts, and I will be sharing the findings with staff this week.

The Trust INSET day on Tuesday January 4th has Speech Language and Communication as the key focus so I will be able to update you on our ongoing plans in term 3.

Vaccinations

Many thanks to the team from Sirona and the many Nailsea staff involved in the successful administering of both Covid and Flu vaccinations this week. It was a huge logistical task but given the organisation and cooperation of all, the team finished a day earlier than expected. If any parents completed the paper form and/or missed the deadline for sending the forms into Sirona and/or their child was absent from school on the two days they were held, the nursing team will be holding catch up sessions in the future. As soon as we know the details of these we will let you all know.

Covid Reminders

- 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

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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.**

Values Update

Ambition

Mock exams begin for students next week for students in years 11 and 13, with some students also continuing to prepare for external exams in January. As a reminder

- Students should arrive 15 mins before the exam at the exam venue
- Students should be aware of their seat before arrival
- Students sitting an exam in Science, Maths and Languages should be clear of their tier of entry before arrival
- Students should bring correct equipment in a see through pencil case
- Students should deposit bags in lockers before arriving at the exam venue
- Students cannot bring any mobile device into the exam venue
- Water bottles can be brought into the venue, but should be clear. Any disruption to the exam caused by students using these will be logged.

We understand that for many students this will be the first time in a large exam venue. This experience is part of their preparation for the final exams in the summer and I know that with focus this experience will be a productive one. I wish all the students the best for this period. #AimHigh

Respect

Having completed my existing parent tours this week, a regular comment has been how wonderful our building and facilities are. I could not agree more. For the most part our students are also respectful of this. Unfortunately there has been an increased amount of litter left in outside areas during social times, most noticeably in the year 7 area. Regularly being on duty there myself there are plenty of bins and I would urge families to discuss the importance of using them to preserve the great environment we have at school. #BePositive



Kindness

Fantastic to hear that the school raised £786 for Children In Need last week, money that will help some really great causes both locally and nationally. Thank you for your support.

#BeKind



Pride

I concluded my existing parent tours this week – I hope those who attended found it useful to place areas that their sons/daughters may be talking about at home. Walking the site is always a great part of my day, getting to see students and staff working so collaboratively together. As is regularly the case visitors this week did comment on the great atmosphere and supportive feeling in classrooms.

#BeProud



Community

At lunchtime today local mental health social movement, Off The Record, held a drop in stand in the year 10 social area at lunchtime. This followed the success of meeting with year 11 students a few weeks ago. Families can continue to access this great community resource for mental health and wellbeing resources through their website which can be accessed here:

[Home - OTR - North Somerset \(otrnorthsomerset.org.uk\)](http://otrnorthsomerset.org.uk)

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

thank you for emphasising the importance of punctuality with your son/daughter at home, as per my message last week. There will be a continued focus on this until the end of term. I know the mornings are a little darker and colder but getting up and out to be in school on time really does set everyone up for the best day possible.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher