



Nailsea School

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17th December 2021

Dear Parents/carers

As we are now at the end of term, on behalf of all the staff at Nailsea, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Whilst we have been able to re-introduce many of the aspects of school life over the last two terms, such as extra-curricular activities and practical work, recent announcements remind us of the challenges that we still face.

Christmas is also a time when some staff leave us and this year we wish Mr Lavelle (ICT and Technology) all the best for the future. Mr Lavelle has been with us since 2018 and had great success this year with a group of students who reached the final of the Solutions for the Planet 'Big Ideas' programme. A great achievement – especially when the bulk of the preparation was conducted during periods of remote learning. On behalf of all staff and students we thank Mr Lavelle for his service to the school.

Mrs Wells will be returning to school in January following her maternity leave and will resume her role as Head of Griffin House. Many thanks to staff that have covered in her absence; Ms Siwek for taking up the PE teaching responsibilities and Miss Duckworth for leading Griffin. We wish Ms Siwek well as she leaves Nailsea. Miss Duckworth remains in the pastoral team as an Assistant Head of House and will continue to provide support to a number of students and families.

As your son/daughter may have mentioned, Mr Miles has also recently returned to school following an injury sustained whilst playing football outside of school. Given medical advice although in the building and able to perform his Head of House role, there are still some restrictions to the amount of PE teaching he can complete. Many thanks for understanding that this may mean other staff are swapped in to deliver Mr Miles' practical lessons and to the remaining staff in the PE department for being so flexible so that groups do not miss out.

Return to School in January

As shared in previous letters, and also announced on ClassCharts, the start of term will be staggered to enable testing to take place. (Please check ClassCharts or letters here [Bulletins – Nailsea School](#) for further information that has been previously shared)

Students will be set work via ClassCharts and/or through Teams. Please find, attached, a guide that families may find useful as a reminder of how the Teams platform works.

A reminder that the c19@nailseaschool.com email address will remain monitored over the Christmas break. Please do continue to notify the school so that we are aware of current case levels ahead of testing in January. Thank you for your support with this.

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The Sirona nursing team have now provided details of catch up clinics for students who missed the flu and Covid19 vaccinations which they administered at the beginning of term. Letters from Sirona with all the information on how to book were sent out to families earlier this week.

Parent Voice

It was a real pleasure to meet a group of parents recently to discuss their experiences of Nailsea School. With the parents having students from years 7 – 13 currently at the school their insight proved really valuable. I hope to be able to hold future meetings in due course. For reference, please find a summary of the key points of the discussion /questions and actions taken following the meeting below

Topic	Query/Question/Concern	School response
Communication	Parents have experienced some inconsistencies in the time taken for some staff to respond to emails/requests for calls.	School expectation, given that some staff may be teaching, is that a reply is sent within 48 hours. School to share faculty structure with parents so that other contact can be made if needed (see below)
Induction for in year admission students	Parents stated that there were inconsistencies in the experiences of students who started school mid- year.	A new member of the admin team will start in January who will be the sole point of contact for in year admissions. Parental Handbook is in the process of being written for all parents to have a as reference point (To be available Term 4)
Exercise Books	Parents did not have the opportunity to see student exercise books as they were not brought home.	Although this was part of our Risk Assessment on returning to school in September 2021, students can take books home if they would like to do so.
Feedback provided by staff on student work/in exercise books	Parents did not feel there was enough feedback from teachers on work completed, as shown in exercise books.	A new feedback policy was introduced in September 2021 which would result in less written marking in exercise books. An explanation of this system and rationale for this can be found here: Letter-to-families-10th-September.pdf (nailseaschool.com)
Homework	Parents and students felt a C3 (30 min) detention being issued on the first time homework was not submitted/forgotten is causing anxiety	From January 2021 sanctions for homework will be adapted. Per term, students will be given 'No Homework' recorded on ClassCharts for the first time homework is not submitted in a subject but no C3 detention. The second time a student fails to submit a piece of homework by the deadline in that subject in that term will receive a C3 detention. Every term subjects will reset from scratch.
	Year 7 parents felt that it was difficult to manage the burden of homework. Other parents felt the length of time allocated for homework tasks were too long/inconsistent.	Year 7 Homework timetable has been reissued to teaching staff. (see below) Reminder given to staff about the length of time homework should take, namely: KS3 tasks (years 7-9): 15-30 mins KS4 tasks (years 10 and 11): 30 – 45 mins KS5 tasks (years 12 and 13): 45- 90 mins

Faculty Contacts

Given the move to a faculty structure please see below the names of staff contacts if needed of the Head of Faculty/Department:

- Head of English and Drama – Paul Jones – Pjones@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Maths – Ruth Coates – Rcoates@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Science – Morag Evry – Mevry@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Humanities (History, Geography, RS, Criminology, Politics) – Ian Jones – Ijones@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Expressive Arts (Art, Photography, Music, Film and Media) – Rachel Davies – Rd Davies@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Health (PE, Health and Social Care and Psychology) – Jen Wild – Jwild@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Business and ICT – Nick Jessop – Njessop@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Technology – Natasha Alright – Nalright@nailseaschool.com
- Head of Languages (French and Spanish) – Jackie Cahill – Jcahill@nailseaschool.com

Year 7 Homework Calendar

This is the only year group with a timetable that should be adhered to:

	Mon 1	Tues 1	Wed 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Wed 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
7A	Music	Geog, Spanish,	Science, Maths	IT, History	English	History	English, Spanish	Drama	Geog	Science, Maths
7B	Spanish	History, Science	Maths, Geog	IT, English	Music	Science, English	History, Spanish	Maths	Geog	Drama, Maths
7C	Drama, Geog	English	Maths, French	Science	History	Science, English	Geog	IT, French	History, Music	Maths
7D	Music, Geog	Maths, Drama	English, History	French	Science, IT	French	Geog	English	Science	Maths
7E	Science, History	Maths, Drama	English, IT	Geog	French, Music	Science, History	English	French	Geog	Maths
7F	History, Science	Music, Maths	IT	Spanish	English, Geog	History	English	Drama, Spanish	Science, Geog	Maths

Note:
Once a term: Ethics, PE, Art and Technology
Maths 7A-7C = 7X groups. 7D-F = 7Y

January examinations

External exams are timetabled from 10th January in a number of vocational and technical qualifications. The Education Secretary wrote to all schools yesterday with the following message: *'Students who are due to sit these exams will be prepared and it is right that they should be given every opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Exams and formal assessments will go ahead'*

In line with our current risk assessment, additional measures continue to be in place for events such as exams to ensure that all risks are mitigated. I wish students well in their final preparations for these.

Staying safe online

This week the Children's Commissioner has launched a guide for parents called "The things I wish my parents had known". This draws together advice from 16 to 21 year olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography. It can be accessed here:

[Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/)

A surprising but overriding message from young people is that parents should start these challenging conversations early. They suggest broaching topics before a child is given a phone or a social media account, which is often around the age of 9 or 10. The Children's Commissioner has asked schools to disseminate the guide to as many parents and carers as possible. She hopes that her guide will serve as a useful starting point to raise awareness and understanding of online harassment, and to complement key messages on the new relationships and sex education curriculum. Given the time of year, it is likely that electronic devices/phones may constitute Christmas gifts and so this resource may be very timely for parents/carers to access.

Term Dates 2022 2023

The term dates for the next academic year have now been confirmed as follows:

- Term 1: 05 September – 20 October 2022
- Term 2: 31 October – 16 December 2022
- Term 3: 04 January – 10 February 2023
- Term 4: 20 February – 31 March 2023
- Term 5: 17 April – 26 May 2023
- Term 6: 05 June – 20 July 2023

INSET days are:

- 1st September 2022
- 2nd September 2022
- 21st October 2022
- 3rd January 2023
- 21st July 2023

Finally...

today marks the end of my 26th term in post leading, as a parent described this week, 'a wonderful school'. Term 2 is always a tiring one for staff, students and parents with the days being shorter and darker. I wish everyone a restful break and I look forward to welcoming students back, all be it in a staggered way, in January – ready to begin another new start for us all.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

DElliott

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher

