



# Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/carers

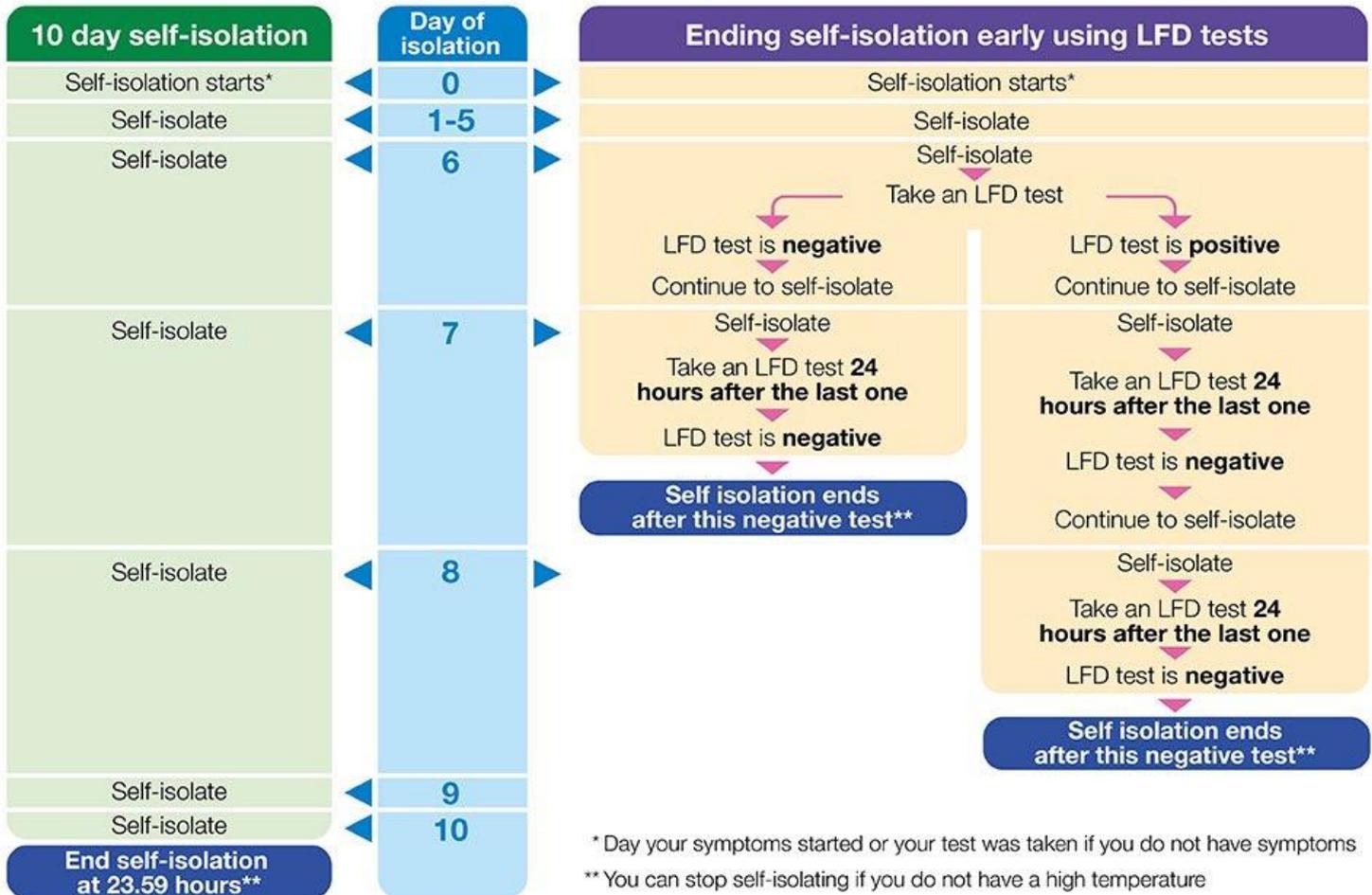
A different return to school after the Christmas break but, as ever, I must extend my gratitude to all the staff and students involved in the mass testing that has taken place this week. Students responded maturely and although not ideal, should have found remote learning eased them back into the new term. Teaching staff had an INSET day on Tuesday, focusing on Wessex Learning Trust plans to review and improve ways that Speech, Language and Communication are prioritised and developed in classrooms and across our schools – more updates on this in due course. The day was certainly thought provoking and will, I am sure, reap real rewards for all.

Special mention must go to the support staff for their essential role in the setting up, overseeing of and recording of the tests that have been processed this week. With teachers continuing to deliver lessons in a staggered way both face to face and online, it was the support staff that this task fell to – at the expense of and in addition to their usual 'day job'.

To be as transparent as possible I can confirm that there were two positive results returned from the tests undertaken on site. We are awaiting the outcome of the confirmatory PCR tests and individuals will continue to follow guidance. This does show the importance of LFD testing in identifying asymptomatic cases and, as a reminder, students and staff should be completing these every Sunday and Wednesday, reporting positive results to the [c19@nailseaschool.com](mailto:c19@nailseaschool.com) email address.

There has been much in the press about potential high levels of staff absence due to the Omicron variant. As happened in the final few days before the October half term break this could mean we simply don't have enough staff to cover all classes. If this is the case we will need to ask one or more year groups to switch to remote learning from home, potentially at short notice. Our priority will be for face-to-face-learning for years 11 and 13 students and other year groups could be asked to learn from home on a rota basis to reduce the impact on any particular year group. If teachers were well enough to do so, live lessons would be delivered from home and/or school via Teams. We will endeavour to contact you as soon as we know of any potential disruption.

I know that with the changes to isolation periods over the break, issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, we have fielded some questions from parents and there has been some confusion. The 10 day isolation period has now reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for some reason. Please find overleaf a graphic that families may find useful as a reference point outlining how negative LFD tests on day 6 and 7 of isolation can reduce the total time away from school.



The government updated guidance again late on Wednesday evening with changes to the need for a PCR being required for those returning a positive LFD result if they do not display symptoms. As a school we are updating our advice and guidance for families as we hear it.

### Vaccination opportunity

As mentioned in a separate communication this week, Tyntesfield Medical Group are offering vaccinations for age 12-17 year olds this Saturday, 8th January. Parents can book by calling their booking line 01275 866761 between 9am and 4pm on a weekday or by using the link to book on-line <https://my.drdoctor.co.uk/clinic/brockwaymedical>

The criteria for booking a vaccination is as follows:

- You must not have had a positive Covid PCR result within 12 weeks of the 8th January.
- This will be your 1st dose
- If it's your 2nd dose 12 weeks has elapsed by 8th January since your 1st dose
- If you are clinically vulnerable or live in a household with someone who is severely immunosuppressed the gap before the 2nd dose can be administered reduces to 8 weeks after the first dose

It will be great to have all students back on site from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January, ahead of which I would like to take this opportunity for a few key reminders:

- **Punctuality** – students should be on site for 8:35 am when the first warning bell is sounded for the start of lesson one. Lateness will be recorded on ClassCharts and Heads of House will impose sanctions for repeat offenders. Being punctual shows respect for others and their time, reduces disruption, sets first impressions and is a character trait that is important given the role it plays in future success.
- **Masks** – Students are expected to bring a mask, and ideally a spare, to school as they are now to be worn in classrooms as well as in communal areas. This will be reviewed by the government on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Failure to come to school with a mask will be recorded on ClassCharts.
- **Uniform** – Students should return to school with hair of a natural colour and without facial piercings. Both will need to be rectified/removed before returning to lessons on Monday. With colder weather and continued ventilation students are permitted to wear coats whilst walking around the building and in social areas but they will need to be removed in lessons. Please be assured we do monitor temperatures and, as shown last term, if a change of policy is required we will make you aware and adapt accordingly. 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. The only hooded top that is permitted to be worn by students in years 7 – 11 are the year 11 Leavers' Hoodies that were distributed last term.

Thank you, in advance, for your support in re-enforcing these key expectations at home.

### **Aspire Club**

On the back of the success of the Lunchtime Lectures, an Aspire Club group has been set up for Yrs7-10 (11-13 will be added soon) in Teams. On this Teams page, links to talks and opportunities to deepen knowledge and understanding will be posted weekly which students may wish to access.

The Lunchtime Lectures are continuing in school, every Friday in the Auditorium at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

### **Yr 11, 12 and 13 Exams – wk commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January**

We wish our students taking external exams in a range of subjects well as they commence this term. With the number of candidates involved the exams team have thought carefully about social distancing within the exam venues to continue to mitigate the risk of infection.

In addition to external exams, students studying French and Spanish in year 11, will have their mock speaking exams next week. These have been moved to Room 104 (next to the Finance Office) so that increased ventilation and social distancing is possible. To aid with the speaking process, as well as being socially distanced, staff and students will be wearing visors, as opposed to masks. Visors will be provided for the students. As a further mitigating factor we would ask that any student involved in these mock speaking exams also takes a LFD test on the evening before their scheduled speaking exam.

**Finally....**

there is the chance that term 3 will be unpredictable and it is possible that we will face some further disruptions to the continuity of education. Please be assured we will do all we can to minimise impact and inform you of any changes with as much notice as possible. We appreciate your understanding that there is the chance of us having to make some very late decisions based on the ever- changing situation. Your patience and support throughout the next few months will continue to be appreciated, as it has been throughout the last couple of years. This team effort makes a huge difference in being able to navigate our ongoing challenges. As we begin a new calendar year, I look forward to continuing to work together with you to ensure all of our students aspire, believe and succeed in whatever field they choose.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Take care and be kind  
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DElliott". The letter "D" is large and loops around the start of the name. The signature is written in black ink.

Mrs Dee Elliott  
Head teacher