



Nailsea School

ASPIRE BELIEVE SUCCEED

18th March 2022

Dear Parents/carers

I always feel it is a real watershed moment in the year when I can both arrive and leave school in daylight and we are definitely there. It has been great to see sun shining on site and in the last few days as Spring is certainly arriving. Weather certainly impacts on my mood and with the challenges of some staff absence this week that sun has been very welcomed.

As mentioned, despite the ending of legal restrictions over half term, schools (and communities as a whole) are still seeing high rates of infection. Our student attendance rates are back above the national average, which is a reassurance. However, staff absence due to Covid and other illness remains very high, and the availability of supply teachers is minimal. Although our staff are going out of their way to cover colleagues wherever possible, there is still a risk that we could have to make a decision to close to a year group on any particular day or combine classes in a larger space. This will always be a last resort but I would want families to be aware of the possible decisions that would need to be made in certain situations. Government guidance is due to be updated again on 1st April and if/when any protocols need to be changed, I will inform families as soon as possible.

Lost Property

Our Lost Property area is becoming very full, especially with coats. Please check with your child and if they are missing an item they can drop by before school, at break, lunch or after school and hopefully locate their lost item. Lost Property is by the Heads of House office. At the end of this term we will clear the lost property and donate any items to charity.

School transport

As mentioned Covid cases in the area are still high and I am aware some local schools are experiencing a high volume of cases amongst pupils. On school mini buses or coaches we recommend students continue to wear masks due to the enclosed environment, proximity and lack of ventilation. This will be reviewed following the next government update on 1st April.



Ambition

Next week Ms Cowling will be coordinating a 'Classics Day' across the school ahead of the initial meeting of a new Classics club. There is increasing evidence that the study of classical subjects helps to

- Raise pupils' aspirations and achievement.
- Support language skills for pupils of all abilities, encouraging a structured approach to grammar and a strong foundation for literacy.
- Enrich pupils' vocabulary.
- Complement modern foreign language learning, familiarising pupils with linguistic structures and patterns that make them more confident language users.
- Encourage cultural insight. Offering pupils new perspectives on contemporary issues, including politics, conflict, citizenship and gender.

I hope students will enjoy the reference to the different curriculum subjects next Thursday and I look forward to seeing the Classics group grow as a key after school club.

#AimHigh



Respect

This time next week we will have seen the Eco Committee leading on the planting of 60 trees and bushes along the boundary on the back field. The group have sourced a number of silver birch, rowan and wild cherry trees. The hedgerow planning will include examples of Dog rose, hazel and crab apple. Do look out for the pictures in the newsletter that I am sure will reflect the hard work of the group.

#BePositive



Kindness

The next charity week will run from **28th March to 1st April** where money raised will be donated to the DEC Ukraine appeal, as well as raising awareness of the needs of the people who are displaced by this conflict. Events currently planned for the week include a Lip sync battle, cake sale, 'Guess the number of sweets in a jar' and an Easter egg hunt. Final details will be sent out next week.

Friday 1st April will be a non- school uniform day in exchange for a minimum donation of £1. Students, if they wish, can wear blue and yellow to show support for Ukraine. As a reminder any clothing worn should be suitable for a working environment.

#BeKind



Pride

Although staff absence has been a little higher this week it has meant that I have had the opportunity to cover a range of lessons in a number of subjects. The buzz of being in the classroom is the reason I entered teaching as a profession and I have really enjoyed working with students this week in a range of areas.

Subjects are working hard to ensure that students continue to take pride in the presentation of their work and in my cover lessons that was certainly something I noticed. As a reminder students should come to school with a pencil case, as a minimum, containing pens, pencils, a ruler and an eraser. Students who need support to be ready for the classroom can always seek resources from the Heads of House office.

#BeProud



Community

As a school we are always keen to work with local organisations to provide additional support for students and families.

Please find, attached, an overview of a way to access free webinars for parents/carers delivered by the Sirona Nursing team. Topics covered range from healthy eating, promoting good sleeping and focus on wellbeing. Details of how to book are on the attached pdf.
#TeamNailsea

Finally...

for the vast majority of the time I am incredibly proud of the conduct of our students both on site and whilst they walk to and from school. Unfortunately, yesterday afternoon I received a call from a member of the public who had seen a small group of students in Nailsea uniform behaving inappropriately on the way home. She had pulled her car over and challenged the students given the dangerous behaviour that was taking place. Understandably this member of the public was quite shaken and has now been left with an impression of our students that is not what is regularly seen and is certainly not in line with our school values. As a reminder, if a student is in uniform off site they are still representing the school and sanctions will be put in place for any poor or antisocial behaviour that may take place off site or/out of school hours. Thank you, in advance for discussing this at home and for supporting the school on this stance.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DElliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher