



Nailsea School

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29th April 2022

Dear Parents/carers

I hope you have enjoyed some time relaxing with friends and family over the last fortnight. I have to admit the Easter break is always my favourite of the school year – and the good weather and lighter evenings certainly helped.

Although we have had two weeks away from school there are some staff for various reasons that have not returned to classes this week. I am sure you can appreciate that I cannot discuss specific issues but please be assured that we are doing all we can to ensure those students and classes impacted by staff absence are being supported as much as possible. As you may be aware teacher absence is a challenge many schools are facing at present and pressures also mean that supply teachers are in short supply. Last term we were fortunate enough that we did not need to send any year groups to work from home. This will always be the aim but, in some situations, such a decision may need to be taken. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding if this does happen.

Ambition



I know that families with students in years 11 and 13 would have had an Easter break that also contained periods of revision. With exams starting on 16th May we are very much in the home stretch and at school we are certainly emphasising the possible long-term gains from this short term focus.

Ms Dee has contacted year 11 parents and spoken to students about an amended timetable for students from 16th May that will support and enhance revision, so that it is targeted to ensure excellent levels of preparation. A reminder, of course, that this is as well as, not instead of revision that should be continuing at home.

Mr Reddiford has informed year 13 that their lessons will continue up to and including their leaving day on 13 May. After that some subjects may wish to continue with lessons, but that will be at the discretion of individual teachers.

#AimHigh

Respect

I was contacted by a local resident on the final day of last term who reported that she had narrowly avoided being hit by a Nailsea pupil as they cycled out of the school the previous day.

I would ask families to discuss the importance of safety and the consideration of others whilst travelling to and from school.

#BePositive

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Kindness

During the last week of term 4, a rigorous interview process took place leading to the successful appointment of a new Head of House. As always with staff interviews, student voice plays an important part as we observe how candidates interact with students, and the student feedback for each candidate is an essential part of the process.

For this interview, I attended the student panel task, which included students from every year group, Y7 – Y11. It was impressive to see the students working together to support one another and realising which members of the group were less comfortable with the process. Although students enjoy being part of the interview panel, it can be a daunting experience speaking up in front of peers, especially students they don't know. The kindness shown by the older students in encouraging the younger ones to express their opinions was fantastic to see and a great reflection of our vertical tutor group structure.

#BeKind



Pride

Regarding our uniform, the start of term has been largely positive with students looking smart and correctly dressed in line with school rules. Uniform is an important way in which students show their pride in the school and support the high expectations we have for each of them. To reduce confrontation at the start of the summer term, I would ask for your support in this matter.

I am also conscious that some families may be struggling with the cost of uniform and there are various ways the school can help if this is the case. Please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

#BeProud



Community

As Term 5 starts some staff are beginning their new roles within school. Mr Paul Jones starts his substantive role as Deputy Head teacher and Mrs Jacobs begins her tenure as Head of the English and Drama faculty. I am in no doubt that both will make a significant contribution to the further development of the school.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

it seems as if we have hardly blinked and Term 5 has started. We have a busy term ahead but I am confident that our fantastic students and staff will rise to the challenge and continue to make us proud.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher