



7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/carers

It's been another busy week at school with a large amount of time spent touring the site with prospective new students and families following our Open Evening last week. At the end of today over 66 families would have visited and we have two more weeks of the schedule to go – I am certainly getting my step count up! As ever, it is a real pleasure being able to walk the school and all of the visitors have been impressed with not just the facilities they see but the warm relationships between students and between students and staff.

Please find some other messages for the week below:

## **Covid Guidance for Schools**

We are about to go into the autumn season of colds and flu and I would like to remind parents of the current DFE guidance regarding Covid. The full guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#Children> but a summary is below:

*Children and young people aged 18 years and under who have a positive test result*

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid-19 unless directed by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive Covid-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can.

After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who as a positive Covid-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

## **Information for students taking exams in summer 2023**

You may have seen headlines regarding decisions that have been made about exams in summer 2023. I wanted to explain more fully what this means for students preparing for GCSEs, AS and A Levels next year.

The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This was always likely to be the case this year, after a one-year transition year when exams returned in 2022.
- However, there will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019.
- This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade A\* or C at A level, or a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019.
- Exams in vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile



- Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations.
- Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will not be provided this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.
- If a student has studied the whole course but is ill during the exam period they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed.
- The exam boards are currently consulting on the exam timetable. In most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper they are able to sit another.

They are also consulting on what contingency arrangements to take this year in case exams are cancelled in summer 2023. Unlike last year, there is not an expectation that we collect evidence at three points throughout the year. When this decision is made by government, subject teachers will confirm what work, if any, would be used if exams are cancelled.

In addition to this information please find attached a Frequently Asked Question sheet that you may find useful as a reference point.

## **Christmas Appeal for Ukraine**

Nailsea School will be a collection point for a Christmas Appeal for Ukraine, coordinated by 'From Bristol with love for Ukraine'. This will gather Christmas presents for the children of the Odessa region. The group intend to send, as presents, new toys and winter clothes (with tags), sweets and chocolates, new puzzles (unwrapped) for children under the age of 16 years old. The deadline for this collection is **11<sup>th</sup> November 2022** and all gifts should be handed to reception. After checking and sorting the gifts will be packed and delivered by the groups Volunteer Transporters. I am sure that any gifts donated will bring a smile to young people and their families at what is a very challenging time.

## **Mental Health Week**

Next week Phoenix House Captains, Maddi and Cherry, have organised a cake sale with all proceeds being donated to the mental Health charity, Mind. Students will need to bring cash to purchase the cakes and any donations of any baked items can be brought to the Head of House office at the beginning of the day. This is taking place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October and it would be great to have your support for the important charity.

## **PTA Event**

Tickets are now on sale for the PTA Musical Bingo which takes place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00pm. Please sign up if you can as this fun evening is a fantastic way to support the school. Tickets are available from PTA members, Nailsea School Reception or [nailseapta@nailseaschool.com](mailto:nailseapta@nailseaschool.com).



## #BeKind

Kindness is one of our key values at Nailsea and, as mentioned earlier, visitors have regularly commented on the positive relationships they see here every day. On the few occasions where comments are made that are deliberately hurtful or unkind they are challenged by staff and sanctions imposed as required. Next week, Mr Graffagnino will be leading assemblies on the topic of Hate Crime and the importance of being tolerant and accepting in 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

**Finally**....as many of your know my own subject is History and, as a school, assemblies this week are focusing on the topic of Black History Month. The theme for 2022 is 'Time for Change: Action not Words'. If you would like to find out more about some key influencers in the world of politics, business and the arts you can use this document:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VMD2wnkVww7\\_3GAlrVshLyFodrQaHbnZZrsJUCjL9T4/mobilepresent?slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VMD2wnkVww7_3GAlrVshLyFodrQaHbnZZrsJUCjL9T4/mobilepresent?slide=id.p) This includes a link to a mixture of videos and articles describing their work and importance – one for each day of the month.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott  
Head teacher