

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the school, particularly during our first half term of returning and having to work differently in response to the pandemic.

The students settled back with us really well and we have been so proud at how they adapted to the new circumstances so swiftly and with very minimal fuss. We look forward to welcome all students back after half term.

I would like to outline a few changes that we will be making to ensure that our school continues to function as efficiently as possible during both Covid times and beyond.

Entering and Exiting the school – timings of the school day

We are making no changes to the timings of the start of the school day. They will remain as follows:

Year group	Time
7	08:30am
8	08:40am
9	08:45am
10	08:40am
11	08:30am
NUSA16	08:45am

Our students in Year 7 – Year 10, will continue to leave on a rota basis each week. The order of departure will be text to you on a Monday morning each week.

From Monday 2nd November 2020, all students in Year 11 and NUSA16 will leave at 3pm every day. The reason for this is to ensure we are maximising their learning time in the lead up to the exams in the summer months.

It is vital that all students arrive to school on time. We are preparing them for a world of work where it would be unacceptable to just turn up late. Therefore, where students are late without a valid reason, they will lose Bromcom points.

Masks

The Department for Education guidance has now changed regarding wearing of masks in school. As Nottingham has now entered Tier 2 of the Covid restrictions, it has been made compulsory that students over the age of 11 wear a mask whilst in communal areas of a school building. Therefore, we will be expecting all students to wear a mask whilst in corridors, on entering the school and whilst queuing for dinner.

What if my child is exempt?

If your child is exempt from wearing masks for any reason, please complete this survey by Friday 30th October at 3pm. It is vital that this is completed, even if you have previously indicated this. All students on the exempt list will be provided with exemption cards which they will be expected to carry in their blazer pocket.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuJ3l5BxLxw5AjCKkTPyHePBUOUIIMTY1RTFWUK5XTTIOSFY1OFFDUjNMWS4u>

What if my child forgets their mask?

We will have disposable masks available for students to use should they forget their own mask.

What if my child refuses to wear a mask?

If you have not completed the exemption survey above, refusal will be dealt with in the same way that refusal is dealt with for any behaviour incidents. Students will be issued with a red flag and sent to ICE. We know that this is highly unlikely to happen given the fact that we are asking parents to complete the survey above where exemption is required.

Provision for children who have to isolate

Where individual students may be self-isolating, assignments will be set via Teams for completion. There will be no live teaching in this situation but students can still submit questions via the forum for teachers to respond to at a later time. Students can also email teachers, via the school email account where applicable.

'Bubbles' and corridor conduct

As you will be aware, we are operating a 'Bubble' system for all year groups. Whilst they do stay within the same year group for lessons and dinner time, they do move around the school all together. This is why we have introduced a 'one way system' to ensure that students all move quickly and safely in the same direction around the school building to avoid mixing where possible. We need to always ensure that corridor conduct is safe so our deduction of points for poor corridor conduct will increase after half term.

Anti-Bullying week – November 16th – 20th

We will do not tolerate bullying at NUSA. During the week commencing Monday 16th November we will be running lots of activities within school aimed at showing the impact bullying can have on a child and the consequences for students who think it is a good idea to bully. We will looking to get parents involvement with this and will write to you after half term with more information.

Police

We have a built a great relationship with our new school Police officer – PC Paul Konikowski. PC Paul is in school each Friday and works with groups of students and individual students as directed by the pastoral team. His work is purely preventative and is vital for us to ensure that we address any issues which may arise for our students as soon as possible.

Here is a little introduction from PC Paul himself:

I have been a police officer for 21 years, starting in West Midlands Police. I transferred "back home" after two years of travelling up and down the M42, moving onto response in St Ann's before moving onto a dedicated burglary team. After this, I became a School Liaison Officer for Gedling and remained as the dedicated School Officer until the force disbanded the post in 2015.

Following this, I worked as a prisoner handler at Mansfield Police Station, a role I really enjoyed. I was approached to take part in a Schools Officer pilot, one of three roles that was reintroduced by the Chief Constable for the 2017-18 academic year.

I again took on the role within the Gedling Schools and stayed there until Summer 2020 when I had the opportunity to move over to the City West area and to cover the schools there.

I now provide support for school staff, pupils and parents – along with completing intervention work at NUSA, Fernwood School, Nottingham Girls Academy, Ellis Guilford, Trinity Catholic School, Woodlands School and R.E.A.L. Education (an Alternative Provision)

Engagement with young people is a role I really enjoy. I believe this helps break down barriers between the police and young people, many of whom have a negative view of law enforcement.

I sincerely hope that working in partnerships with schools and academies, we can have an impact on reducing youth criminality and to encourage young people to make better choices as they are growing up

Covid cases

At present, Nottingham is still in Tier 2 with the insinuation that we may move to Tier 3 at any time. The tier system does not currently impact schools and we are expected to be open as normal after half term. If this changes. I will write to you immediately.

What will happen if you hear of any cases of Covid during half term?

If we have any notifications of new Covid cases during half term we will contact any parents and students directly where they may be required to self-isolate.

How do I report a positive Covid case to school during half term?

If your child receives a positive Covid test result during half term, please send us an email on the contact@nusa.org.uk address. Please provide the full name of your child and the date on which their test was taken. This will then allow us to make contact with yourself and all of the relevant parties who may have been affected.

I hope that you all have a lovely half term and that you stay safe and well.

Yours Sincerely,

Emma Howard