



Dear Students, Parents, Carers & members of our community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we approach the end of this half term. My message is a very short one this week, as I am preparing to write to you again regarding the arrangements at NFS when we return after the half term break, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Many of you will have seen the message from the Prime Minister, who has asked secondary schools to start to consider how they might arrange some face to face contact between teachers and students, in order to better support their learning at home. This will initially involve students from Years 10 and 12, as they face public examinations next year. All I would like to do at this stage is reassure students and their families that we will be taking a cautious approach to this challenge, and we will be prioritising safety over all other considerations.

For students in the other year groups, I'm afraid that remote learning will continue for the foreseeable future. However, I would like to thank all of the parents and carers that have taken the time to email us details of how our students are keeping busy, and to show us some of the amazing things they have achieved during lockdown!

Finally, it is also my sad duty to inform you that the Coronavirus has impacted upon the families of some of our staff and students, and so I would urge everyone to continue to observe all of the safety recommendations regarding social distancing and hygiene. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to everyone affected by the virus, both within our community and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

*Mark Watts*  
Head of School

**A message  
from the  
Head of  
School**

## Safeguarding: Important Information for Parents/Carers & Students

### General messages

#### **Mental Health Awareness Week (18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020) –**

This week it is Mental Health Awareness Week and there are a variety of resources available to you as parents and your child. The school will be providing daily resources for your child which will be sent to them via TEAMS. However, if you as parents have concerns regarding your child and are wondering how best to support them then there is a parent webinar on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10am.

The session will cover the following topics:

What is mental health?

How we can look after our own mental health?

Providing love and security for children.

Coaching for parents including how to communicate to children so they listen

Sharing top tips on family well-being.

### **Safeguarding concerns**

If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding your child (for example, self-harming, mental health, medical etc.) then as parents the following sites/numbers in 'important contacts' below may be helpful during this difficult time. We would also like to direct you to our safeguarding section on our website which provides you with information on mental health, online safety and safeguarding. As parents you are still able to email key staff at Nottingham Free School who you have been liaising with. We have listed their email and telephone contacts in the box below.

### **Online Safety Parent Support**

With most resources being online and requiring access to specific websites, children are required to be online for most of the day. Additionally, some parents are required to go to work leaving children on their own. CEOP (child exploitation online protection) have provided parent resources and activities which are useful to use with your children. We have attached the sheets for you to take a look. Please email [kgray@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:kgray@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) or [seyers@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:seyers@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) if you have any concerns.

### **CAMHS support**

The school's CAMHS support worker has informed us of support for our community during this difficult period. The contact details are:

**If you are a young person or parent needing urgent support outside of office hours (after 5pm) then please contact the CAMHS crisis team Monday-Friday 8am to 8pm on 01158440560 or after 8pm 01159691300. If calling weekends or bank holidays then call 01158440560 between 10am and 6pm**

Please pass this on to your child so that they are able to access this support.

### **Important contacts**

**Children's and Families Direct (social services) – 0115 8764800 [candfdirect@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:candfdirect@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)**

KOOTH (online counselling) – KOOTH.com

BASE 51 (counselling) – [info@base51.org.uk](mailto:info@base51.org.uk) [www.base51.org.uk](http://www.base51.org.uk)

SHARP (support for self-harming) - 0115 9158900 [Camhs.Sharp@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Camhs.Sharp@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Harmless (support for self-harming) – [www.harmless.org.uk](http://www.harmless.org.uk)

WAIS (domestic violence support) - [http://www.wais.org.uk/viewpage.php?page\\_id=16](http://www.wais.org.uk/viewpage.php?page_id=16)

Thinkuknow (online safety) – [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Young minds – [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Samaritans – [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

B-eat (eating disorders) – [www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

LGBT – [www.youngstonewall.org.uk](http://www.youngstonewall.org.uk)

### **Key staff email contacts:**

[kgray@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:kgray@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – senior leader for student welfare and designated safeguarding lead.

[Jharnan@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:Jharnan@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – SENDCO and designated safeguarding officer.

[sseymour@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:sseymour@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – student welfare/attendance officer + designated safeguarding officer.

[pcleverley@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:pcleverley@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – P16 lead and designated safeguarding officer

[itomasevic@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:itomasevic@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – senior leader for KS4 achievement

[abritten@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:abritten@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – senior leader for year 8 achievement

[rfarnie@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:rfarnie@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – senior leader for year 7 achievement

[lwilson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:lwilson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – Head of Year 7

[sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – Head of year 8&9

[scockayne@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:scockayne@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – Head of year 10&11

[dmachin@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:dmachin@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) – Achievement Co-ordinator for year 10&11

## Keeping Up with Education

### General Notices

#### Reading

- Our students' top 5 recommended reading suggestions are now on Youtube. Students can also send their recommendations to Miss Grant for the chance to be featured on the next video!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrhpiCjJZc0&t=18s>
- Hay Festival 2020 is an online literature festival featuring talks by a range of fantastic children and YA authors this week. There will be a number of live videos posted from 8am every day. Available here:  
<https://www.hayfestival.com/c-247-programme-for-schools.aspx?resetfilters=true&localesetting=en-GB>

Year Group	Notices for Year Groups
9	Year 9 continue to complete <b>Work Pack 3 (11 May – 5 June on the Remote Learning section of the NFS website)</b> . Remember that subject teachers can check student progress or feedback during the 3 week cycle, but there is no expectation of handing in work until 3 week deadline date. Also students will <b>no longer submit work logs to tutors</b> (Students can use the Work Planner for their own personal use if they wish, and do not need to submit, or tell their teacher, on Teams they have completed online work (Seneca, Hegarty, Quizlet, etc. Any paper based work needs to be submitted on Teams via photos, etc.
10	This week, Year 10 will <b>continue to receive their work through Microsoft Teams</b> . Remember that students will no longer submit work logs to tutors and do not need to submit, or tell their teacher, on Teams they have completed online work (Seneca, Hegarty, Quizlet, etc.). Any paper based work needs to be submitted on Teams via photos, etc. We hope that some of our students accessed and enjoyed the OddSocks live stream of Macbeth on Friday 15 May! There are so many great resources available online at the moment! If you find one please let school know and they can communicate with all relevant students.
11	We hope all year 11 students can now access the 'bridging tasks' that they must complete ( <a href="https://www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk/page.php?d=learning&amp;p=year11">https://www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk/page.php?d=learning&amp;p=year11</a> ). Students will be completing a work pathway depending on what and where they are studying next year. Students need to select the correct pathway and then complete the relevant work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pathway 1 – A Levels at NFS.</li><li>• Pathway 2 – A Level courses at another sixth form or college.</li><li>• Pathway 3 - Level 1, 2 or 3 course at another college (or an apprenticeship).</li></ul> Students should email their tutor if they need any support in accessing or completing this work.

## Sixth Form

### General Message

Students should be mindful of the upcoming mocks (week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June) and revising work in preparation.

They should also be logging onto Unifrog and working through the various quizzes and sections it contains: the Searching For Opportunities tool is very helpful: the apprenticeships section is updated daily. Students can also be logging what they have done in terms of research on the Applications tool. For those applying to university, now is the time to be thinking of personal statements – again, there is a helpful tool for this.

Please encourage students to get in touch with their tutors if they have any questions/concerns about this.