



Dear Students, Parents, Carers and members of the community,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Head of School, here at Nottingham Free School. My name is Mark Watts, and I am delighted to be taking up this position, despite the difficult circumstances facing everyone at this time. I started my teaching career almost twenty five years ago at Toot Hill School, which eventually became the founding school for the Nova Education Trust. I have since been the Head of School at two other Nova schools, first at Nottingham University Samworth Academy (NUSA), and more recently at Kirk Hallam Community Academy.

NUSA was the first Nova school to work under our banner of 'Work hard, be kind', and it is therefore a message that is very dear to my heart. I am a firm believer in the power of these core values, and the difference they make to pupils, and the people around them. A school that focuses on hard work and kindness helps its students grow into happy, successful people, regardless of how 'good' they are at any given subject.

Nottingham Free School opened in 2014 with those same values at its core, and thanks to the hard work and commitment of its staff and students it has already developed into a highly successful school that everyone is rightly proud of. I have been appointed to lead the school into the next chapter of its journey of growth, a journey I look forward to sharing with you all.

Unfortunately, the immediate future is fraught with uncertainty as we all adjust to the current situation regarding Coronavirus. Everyone at NFS will continue to do their very best to support all of our students, their well-being and their learning. Our staff are becoming more adept at setting work for remote learning, and our students are settling into new working habits. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone helping their children at home to get organised and get working! I appreciate just how challenging that can be, especially given the wider concerns and pressures facing families at this time.

I hope to get the opportunity to speak to you in person in the near future, but in the meantime I hope that you are as well as possible in the circumstances, and that our students are helping around the home as well as completing their school work!

Regards,

Mark Watts
Head of School

**A
message
from the
Head of
School**

Safeguarding: Important Information for Parents/Carers & Students

General message

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 or 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.

New Text Health Service

Nottingham CityCare Partnership's 0-19 public health nursing service are launching their new Text Health service today, where young people aged 11-19 and parents and carers can text a public health nurse for help and advice about health related issues.

Young people:

Aged 11-19? Our school nurses are still here to help with all kinds of things in these unsettling times. Just text Nottingham CityCare's TextHealth service on 07480 635024 and we'll reply back. T&Cs: bit.ly/ChatHealthPrivacy

You can seek help on the following:

- Emotional Health
- Relationships
- Self-harm
- Bullying
- Alcohol
- Healthy eating
- Drugs
- Smoking

Parents:

Need advice about your child's health and wellbeing in these unsettling times, Nottingham CityCare's Text Health service is available for parents/carers of 0-19 year olds to text a school nurse or health visitor. Just text us on 07480 635002 and we'll reply back. T&Cs: bit.ly/ChatHealthPrivacy

You can seek help on the following:

- Sleep
- Feeding
- Breastfeeding
- Bottle feeding
- Introducing solids
- Toileting
- Child Health
- Adjusting to parents
- Toddler behaviour

Important contacts

Children's and Families Direct (social services) – 0115 8764800 candfdirect@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

KOOTH (online counselling) – KOOTH.com

BASE 51 (counselling) – info@base51.org.uk www.base51.org.uk

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

Harmless (support for self-harming) – www.harmless.org.uk

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

Thinkuknow (online safety) – www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Young minds – www.youngminds.org.uk

Samaritans – www.samaritans.org

B-eat (eating disorders) – www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

LGBT – www.youngstonewall.org.uk

Key staff email contacts:

kgray@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Senior Leader for student welfare and designated safeguarding lead.

Jharnan@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – SENDCO and Designated Safeguarding officer.

sseymour@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Student Welfare/Attendance Officer + designated safeguarding officer.

pcleverley@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – P16 lead and designated safeguarding officer

jtomasevic@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Senior leader for KS4 achievement

abritten@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Senior leader for year 8 achievement

rfarnie@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Senior Leader for year 7 achievement

lwilson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Head of Year 7

sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Head of Year 8&9

scockayne@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Head of Year 10&11

dmachin@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk – Achievement Co-ordinator for year 10&11

Keeping Up with Education

General Notices

Reading

Miss Grant has started collecting fortnightly reading recommendations. Every student has received an assignment on Teams from their English teacher asking them to send a recommended book to Miss Grant. She will then collate the recommendations and share with all students. It would be great if you could encourage your child/children to do this.

Here is a quote from author Matt Haig which sums up how essential reading is, especially at strange times like these.

“It’s important because it gives you room to exist beyond the reality you’re given. It is how humans merge. How minds connect. Dreams. Empathy. Understanding. Escape. Reading is love in action.”

Notices for Each Year Group

Year Group	
7	You should be working your way through your current work pack, which has one week left. If you find yourself finishing sooner than expected, then please do some of the extension tasks and keep revising the previous work – use as many different memorisation techniques as possible and see if you can get someone to test you. You should also now be starting a new student work log for the next two weeks. Make sure you sent your last one to your tutor on Friday; if you forgot, do it now.
8	You should be working your way through your current work pack, which has one week left. If you find yourself finishing sooner than expected, then please do some of the extension tasks and keep revising the previous work – use as many different memorisation techniques as possible and see if you can get someone to test you. You should also now be starting a new student work log for the next two weeks. Make sure you sent your last one to your tutor on Friday; if you forgot, do it now.
9	You need to be working your way through your current work pack, which has one week left. It is important that you keep up with your GCSE work, and make sure you complete all the interactive learning that is set on Hegarty (maths), Seneca (sciences and humanities) and Quizlet (Spanish). You will now be starting a new student work log for the next two weeks. Have you sent your last work log to your tutor? You must do this! Tutors will be making contact with your parents/carers if you do not submit it. The next work log is due on Friday 15 May . Take care.
10	Your teachers are continuing to set you individual work on Microsoft Teams and many subjects are using online learning platforms such as Seneca. This is to ensure that the work is interactive and you get instant feedback as to how you are progressing. Please make sure that you can access all of this with no problems and get in touch if you need help. Because it is an important school year for you, it is critical that you keep up to date with as much GCSE work as possible. This will ensure you feel more confident about year 11 and the GCSE exams. Please note that any students not completing work at home will be part of our compulsory ‘catch up sessions’ when the school reopens so that you achieve your potential by the end of year 11. You should have now completed your student work log for the last two weeks and returned it to your tutor via the Microsoft Teams assignment. The next work log is due on Friday 15 May . Take care.
11	You have now been set relevant work to complete up to the 19 June 2020. The work you complete is dependent on whether you are studying A Levels or a Level 1, 2 or 3 course next year. Mr Tomasevic has sent you and your parents/carers an email with all the instructions and expectations on. There are also videos explaining how to log the work on our YouTube channel. The links to these videos are in the email from Mr Tomasevic. We will be in contact soon about GCSE results day. Remember to log on to Microsoft Teams to access your Work Log documents and to keep in contact with your tutor. Send your first work log to your tutor on Friday 15 May . Take care.

Sixth Form

General Message

Year 12 mock exams are scheduled for the week beginning 15th June. If we are not back by then, the intention is for these to be set remotely. These will help staff to monitor where students are in academic terms and to plan for next steps. Students should be preparing by completing the work set and by revising work from the year so far.