



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life



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UPDATE TO PARENTS: Tuesday May 5th 2020

This update's main focus is our curriculum and teaching and learning offer:

Interactive learning:

At Noadswood, we have taken the view, throughout this crisis, that we want your children to have a rich diet of learning combined with the opportunity to have some variety in their day, time with family, time to be creative, time to go for some exercise.

We believe this remains fundamentally the right attitude to adopt - home school cannot ever be a replica of school, how ever it is done, and it should not become an environment in which academic pressure is brought to bear on the students nor yet on you as parents.

Please always remember: no one is ahead and no one is behind; we are all navigating the same storm as well as we can.

Colleagues are planning their curriculum with that in mind and sharing with us their rationale for doing so and the content.

We take seriously that it is for us and all schools to make responsible curriculum and teaching/learning decisions when schools begin to welcome more pupils back through the doors about how to prepare all of them the best, taking account of the time lost from regular, enriching and relational school, which will have impacted on everyone.

We work together, as New Forest Head colleagues, on a daily basis, and with colleagues from the Local Authority and the Regional Schools Commission regularly so that we can take unified decisions on all this as things progress over the next few weeks and months.

All that said, with lockdown extending the way that it has, we also recognise that learning needs to be an interactive experience as far as possible. We have access to the Oak Academy resources you may have heard mentioned on Government press conferences, which include a host of interactive resources for some subjects, and some of our own colleagues are developing lessons on various interactive platforms and sharing these with your children. We are asking departments to weave this sort of practice into the existing schedule for the week.

In addition, though we continue not to want children to feel burdened and stressed – this is all so hard for them – we also believe there needs to be structured follow up between them and teachers about key pieces of work each week in each year group for each subject. Follow up will not necessarily mean assessment as we might usually understand it, as this needs adjusting for the circumstances of home school, but it will ensure that all students focus on these key pieces and that the right people can contact you if they are not completed. There is more below on how best to support your children with their Assignments on Frog.

Why not online live lessons?

At the moment, we are not asking colleagues to deliver live online lessons from their homes, from where the majority of colleagues are still working, in line with Government instruction. We have a rota of colleagues going into school each day to support the children attending but the rest of the staff rightly continue to observe the lockdown and social distancing by working from home.

So our reasons for not asking for the delivery of live lessons at this stage are as follows:

Firstly, many questions need to be answered about safeguarding both for young people and for our colleagues. Most of our safeguarding measures that we would employ in school cannot be in place in so many diverse locations. Of course, the risks are low but our advice has been to avoid such means of whole class teaching for the time being.

Secondly, we are concerned about the consistency of what pupils are able to access and what our colleagues are able to deliver. A significant number of our pupils would not be able access the platforms necessary on their phones/within their contracts and some of our teachers do not have access to the resources required to do this well from home. This would lead to a very inconsistent coverage of the curriculum that our colleagues are working very hard to make as consistent as possible during these challenging times.

Having liaised closely with the other New Forest schools, we are aware that some platforms are now being safely employed for live one to one and small group intervention for more vulnerable students, particularly those in Year 10, and this is something we will discuss this week and come back to you to about.

We have also issued laptops on loan from school to the extent we are able to from the equipment we have in school and have made contact with local companies to see if there are ways we can source any equipment for more students from them. Finally, we have completed the DfE application processes for their laptop schemes for specific groups of students and will keep you posted as these schemes roll out.


Our strategy on this will evolve in line with what we can resource brilliantly well for our young people as restrictions gradually loosen – we all await what we think will be Sunday's Prime Minister's update with particular interest in this respect...

How best to support your child with their school Assignments in Frog:

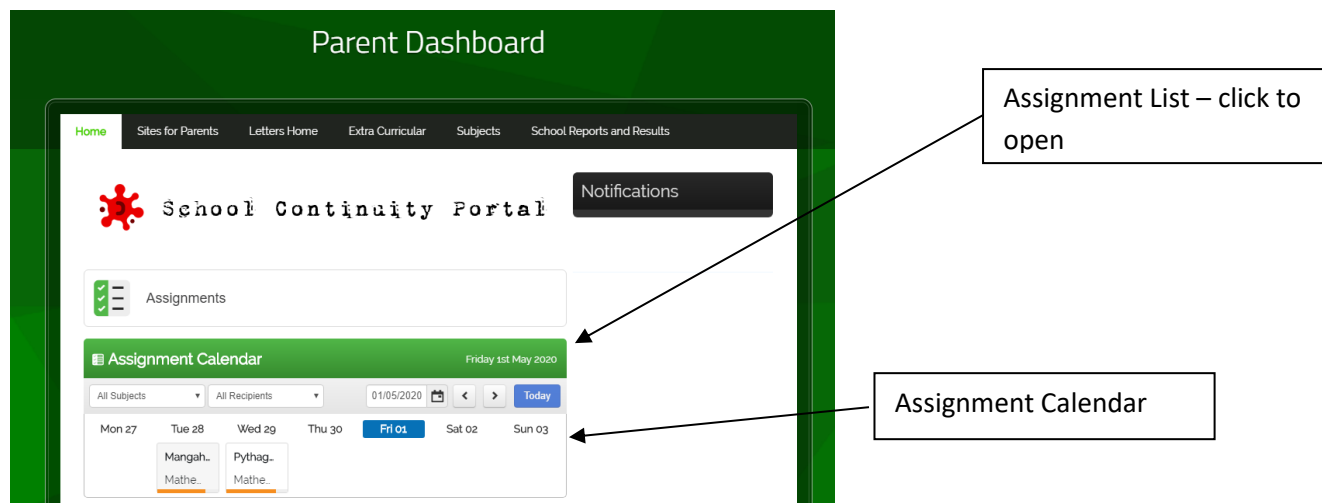
This has become a really hot topic of conversation amongst parents and carers nationwide. Many of us are battling with our own working from home while trying ensure that our children are doing what school 'expects'. We know and empathise that as parents, some of you are trying to motivate reluctant and even uncooperative teenagers whilst others are supporting the most conscientious children who are anxious that they might not be keeping up. You are doing this around your own work and responsibilities and often other siblings, too.

We have asked our colleagues to ensure that all assignments have a minimum of 5 days to be completed. There continues to be a mix of short 'regular' tasks in some subjects while others are more project based and can last from a fortnight to three weeks. However, the to do list for pupils will build up if they were to have too many days without completing any study, of course.

Some of the assignments are just for fun or voluntary whilst others are key – it is worth checking the instructions, especially if your child has lots to do.

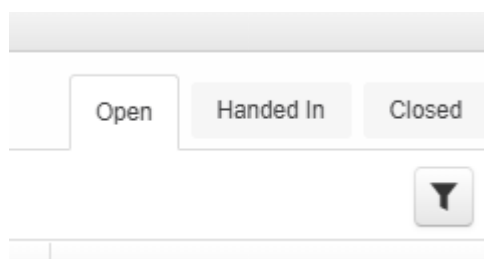
A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of a dark red background with a white wavy line that curves across the width of the page.

Your Dashboard is a good place to look to help your children plan what to do when:



On the Parent dashboard, there are two ways of monitoring the work set. The Assignment calendar shows when work is due to be completed but be careful: if it was set a couple of weeks ago, there might now be more than an hour's work to complete for the next day. But generally speaking this is a good place to look to aid prioritising work.

The Assignment tab above will give you a fuller view of all of the Assignments. Children reduce the list by marking the Assignment as handed in. Now, if you are concerned that your child appears to have very little work to do it *may* be worth changing the view in Assignments to Handed In:



You can then chat to your children about what has been submitted, and check no one is hitting Handed in, even if what has been done is incomplete.

DfE update for parents and carers:

If you haven't read this document for a while, it is worth doing so as it is regularly updated. Please contact us if you have any questions having done so. The link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Update for Y11 students:

Yearbook and Hoodies:

We are really pleased to confirm that our processes are underway for preparing both of these lovely mementos of your child's time at Noadswood.

We've also consulted our Head Boy and Head Girl, Ellis and Becky, to get a sense of the interest out there for these products, and, not surprisingly the feedback was very positive.

Look out for separate communications about how to express interest and make payments in due course - these are on their way.

Leavers' Prom:

I want to reassure you that our commitment to holding a Leavers' Prom for the Class of 2020 remains an unwavering one.

At the present time, as I know you'll appreciate, it would be foolish to try to stipulate a date when we none of us know the ways in which lockdown will be relaxed, nor yet the length of time it will be before we can safely hold larger gatherings in our communities.

What you and your children need to know is: we will hold a Leavers' Prom for them. We can't wait to be able to do so. It doesn't matter when it will be - they will still be the Class of 2020 and we will still be here for them.

There is an excited group of students beginning to think creatively about the event - if you or your son/daughter want to join in with that, just drop me an email and I'll point you in the right direction.

Update from Eastleigh College:

As you know, colleges are placing onto their websites a host of resources for pre KS5 students.

I received an update from just one of them - Eastleigh - at the end of last week to share with you today:


Support for your Year 11

We have developed transition materials for all Year 11 learners and will be updating resources fortnightly at a minimum. These resources can be used by current, or potential applicants to the College. The transition materials introduce the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for each subject (e.g. Engineering) and for each level (e.g. L2) of qualification we offer at the College.

As well as being available on our website <https://www.eastleigh.ac.uk/school-leavers/resources-for-year-11s/>

We hope these resources are helpful, and we will also happily consider developing additional resources to meet your needs. Please direct any queries you may have about support for your Year 11 pupils to Lou Gittens (Vice Principal (Curriculum)) whose email address is: lgittens@eastleigh.ac.uk

Our planned open event on Monday 8 June will now take place online. The event will run from 1630 hrs and 1900 hrs as per our website where registration can be made in advance through Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eastleigh-college-open-event-tickets-72063581111>. Please keep encouraging your sons and daughters to check in with their prospective college's website or with their apprentice provider and let us know if you or they hit problems with their plans for September so we can help.



More on College Preparation and Careers Resources:

Mr Hewitt wrote to Year 11 students over the weekend explaining the following to them:

The KS5 preparation site in FROG now contains resources and activities for more subjects areas, notably sports and PE.

There are now also links to some personal development and careers courses. Follow the links to CareersPilot or to the Saints Foundation. These are great activities for building your CVs in order to stand out from the crowd!

If you intend to study maths courses at college please fill in the form on the maths page to let Miss Towsey know. The form is now working!!

The FROG site will be open all summer so please do encourage your sons and daughters to take advantage of the resources to get ready for starting their studies again.

In the meantime it's been lovely hearing from Year 11s during lockdown about what they've been doing to keep busy and creative - there's been some incredible work out there. But if you're in any way worried about your son or daughter, about how they're feeling with college or an apprenticeship on the horizon in such uncertain times or about any aspect of their wellbeing, please don't hesitate to contact me at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk or contact Mrs Loveday, Assistant Headteacher via ePraise or on the lifeline phone on 07946 884 122 between 10-12 each school day, or, of course, their House Leaders and Mr Lewis, our careers advisor, are still out there for them, same as ever. Don't sit on a worry or a question.

Competitions and activities:

Please draw your children's attention to my letters aimed at them if they haven't seen them – there are a host of activities available to them, from Music to VE Day Commemorating and from story writing ideas to a Thank You Keyworkers banner design competition ...

Reaching out through the letters and the activities in them is a brilliant way to sustain community and enrichment activities at this time and the response has been superb. I'd love to hear from your child at headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk and you can also send your questions and comments about anything about our provision and I will ensure it's addressed by the right people.

With all best wishes and enormous thanks for your ongoing incredible support of the young people and of the school,

Kathryn Marshall and the Noadswood Leadership Team