



Update for Parents/Carers: Tuesday 26th May 2020

## This update:

- Wraps up Mental Health Awareness Week
- Invites you to share your thoughts, and contribute to our planning and risk assessment compilation via our Community Survey
- Updates you regarding Y10 online live lessons from Monday June 1st
- Explains the School Nursing Team's support packages

#### Thank You – Mental Health Awareness Week

Thank you, on behalf of tutors, House Leaders and all of us to those of you who supported Mental Health Awareness Week and prompted your children to get involved in some of the activities, a selection of which are in my most recent letter to students. Do encourage them to send more pictures in, if they do any of the activities or similar in the break to <a href="headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk">headteacher@noadswood.hants.sch.uk</a>

For me, the wellbeing agenda and a culture of kindness needs to be a matter of policy in our school and in our country; I am so keen for us do more overt work around this to support our young people and our staff still more consistently than ever before, now and in the new future ahead.

Take a look at the article below by Mark Rowland, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation, who captures this brilliantly well, making sensible points about wellbeing needing to be a key point of all risk assessments and planning forwards from this time apart we are currently navigating through:

https://inews.co.uk/opinion/comment/kindness-has-given-us-hope-during-coronavirus-now-it-must-be-in-every-government-policy-2857901?bblinkid=224720098&bbemailid=22038479&bbejrid=1512600331

#### **Community Survey:**

You will have received an ePraise message connecting you to a Community Survey for all parents/carers of young people in every year group, exploring your views on remote/online learning, communication and wellbeing during this long time apart. I am so keen to hear your views and to follow up on where you feel there are gaps or a mixed experience



There is also a specific question for those of you with **Y10 students** about your thoughts on their possible attendance in school later in next half term in small, socially distanced groups, supported by a robust risk assessment around hygiene and health and safety.

As you know, we are awaiting the Government update around the progress with their 5 key tests and guidance that will then come from this, still heralded to come our way on Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> (and any other key scientific/medical/Department for Education that also emerges) before updating you further on our plans.

But we now know the following from the Government's Daily Bulletin to schools yesterday, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020:

'The government has announced that secondary schools should offer face-to-face support for a quarter of Year 10 and 12 pupils at any one time from 15 June. This is in addition to the current provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in all year groups.'

We understand the level of national interest and concern about this; we will ensure that what we deliver, at the right time, is in line with the latest national safety directives and guidance, in common with all our New Forest partner schools and colleges.

We continue to plan and prepare meticulously for more people to be on site, and we are compiling and discussing with our Governors the school's risk assessment to help us to understand the best ways we can safely open to more Y10 students and colleagues.

We know that whilst no school can eliminate the risk that is currently out there regarding COVID 19, we can work to put in place health and safety measures to keep the risk as low as possible at Noadswood as we bring the appropriately organised groups of Y10 into school from around June 15<sup>th</sup>, whilst maintaining the following provision:

- Our Keyworker in school learning,
- Some further very small group interventions with some Y10s (new) and with some students in other year groups who need specific support (as throughout the lockdown),
- Remote learning/interactive learning/wellbeing support and check ins, and now some live learning provision.

Your views on all of this are now to be a key ingredient of this ongoing planning.

**Y11 parents/carers** also have some separate questions in our survey – we do not want your young people to be 'out of sight, out of mind' and I am keen to know what more we can do, in liaison with partner colleges and providers to help them prepare for next year.

We would therefore be incredibly thankful for everyone taking the time to complete this survey – you will play a powerful role in informing our ongoing thinking, with your thoughts to date and suggestions for the future. I can't wait to see the outcomes of the survey, and there will be no concern/query that is a nuisance.

### Year 10 Online Live Lessons:

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, teachers in safe, socially distanced pairs, came into school to get familiar with the technology and teaching approaches needed to deliver our schedule of online live lessons for Y10 from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, about which Mr Hewitt has written to parents/carers and Y10 students in recent days. I would like to thank publicly Mr Finn, Mr Wells, Mr Moody and Mr Hewitt for all of the work that has gone into preparing for this launch behind the scenes, as well as every member of staff taking the leap of faith they need to in order to develop this essential teaching and learning approach in our school.

We know you will support us with urging your sons/daughters to log in for all of the lessons that apply to them on the published schedule, and to get in touch straightaway by ePraise or email if they hit any technical buffers of any kind so we can help.

We will also be reaching out to those of you who don't have the necessary kit to make accessing these lessons easy – another key reason for completing the Community Survey, as we ask questions about the equipment your children have available to them in these pressured times for everyone.

The letter issued by Mr Hewitt is below as a reminder – you and your children couldn't read this too often or absorb it too deeply so they really can benefit from this schedule of lessons. We are excited to connect with the students in this way and to get feedback to continue refining our practice to make this work effectively for everyone:



Dear Year 10

#### June 'Live' Teaching

As you know, it has been very difficult for schools to plan ahead while guidance surrounding lock down and social distancing develops from week to week. You will have heard in the news that Year 10 are, quite rightly, being prioritised in preparation for your qualifications in 2021.



As of the  $1^{st}$  June we are asking you all to attend live lessons from home. Our teachers will be presenting lessons from classrooms in school, you will be able to use a Q&A function by typing you questions on screen. Some teachers will be filming themselves, and others will be filming their resources or demonstrations of activities such as experiments and demonstrations. Live audio will be available in all lessons. These lessons will run alongside the distance learning activities that your teachers are already providing. There will be two sessions a day and two slots within each session to allow us to personalise what we will teach.

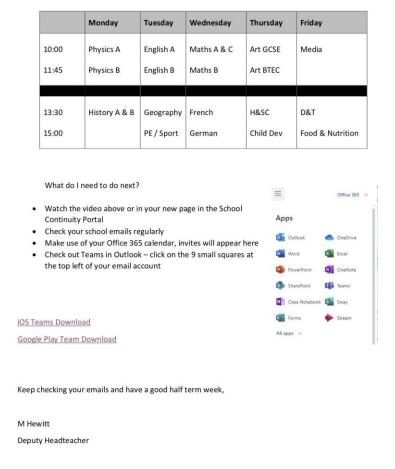


We will be using <u>Microsoft Teams</u> to deliver lessons. You will receive email invitations to the lessons which will correspond to the schedule set out below. It is important that you do not delete the emails as they contain the link to follow at the correct time. The link will automatically send you to the Live Event. You should download the Outlook Apps and

Teams App on your mobile devices. You will not need new usernames or passwords. Microsoft Teams is part of the Office 365 account that you use to access your email.

Please use this link to see a short film explaining how this will work. You may need to sign into your Office 365 Account!

It is really important that you sign into these live lessons. We will be taking a register of those who join in so that we can try to avoid any of you falling further behind. We are aware that some of you are sharing devices with siblings to complete school work, please could you consult the schedule below so that as a year 10 pupil you can access the lessons at the correct time.



# **School Nursing Service:**

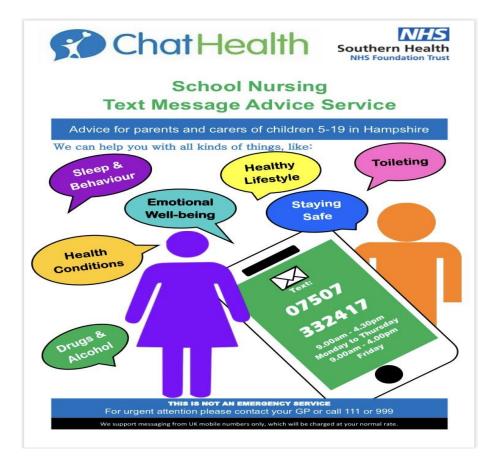
I have been sent a variety of support with wellbeing for us all from the School Nursing Service in the last couple of days.

The first is a family wellbeing pack, the link to which is here:

## Family Wellbeing Pack - Click to View

It includes an update for you about the Service's work at this time, and provides links to wellbeing resources and ideas similar to those on our Frog Wellbeing Portal but worth a glance if you'd like a fresh approach to this sort of thing, and it's good to give a shout out to what all services are doing while we are all apart – it could be the one with advice that works for you or your child when nothing else has.

There is also a new parent advice service coming on stream on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> - *ChatHealth* - a text messaging service for parents and carers of children aged 5-19, all the details and the text number for which are in the picture below. This service will be in addition to the service already established for young people which I will promote in my first letter to your sons/daughters after the break.



We hope that all of the youngsters have a happy, safe half term break, and that everyone has a good, peaceful week together – we will be back with you with updates following the completion of the survey and the Government updates on and around Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> when we return for the next half term, still close and together while apart, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

With our best wishes and thanks for all of your support and forbearance,

Kathryn Marshall and the Noadswood Leadership Team.