

6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a real pleasure to see our young people return after the half term. Colleagues have embraced the amendments to our curriculum model and in true Neston High School spirit the students have responded exceptionally well, adapting to the new methods and maintaining our cultural code of Ready, Respectful and Safe. It is clear that all within society are making decisions that have to be fluid and adaptable to local, regional and national events.

Overall, we have received very positive feedback from students, colleagues and parents although I acknowledge some feedback shows reservation around the changes. I thank you for your continued support and trust and we, as a school, continue to follow best guidance and advice from PHE and the DfE.

This week we have been not only delighted by the resilience and attitude of our students but also their engagement in learning. Alongside the regular lessons many in Year 11 and 6th Form have engaged in our lesson 6 programme of extended study in preparation for future exams. For clarification these activities presently can continue unless we receive different advice in the future.

Over the last few days the vibrancy in school has been fantastic and although we are now in a 'national lockdown' school remains open to all students and guidance to those families who may need to shield have been managed following the updated guidance. [Guidance on shielding](#)

When to self-isolate

The information below has been provided by NHS England. Please help us to prevent the spread of the virus by following the rules below. It is also important to note that if your child is asked to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with a student in school then the same rules apply.

It's a **legal requirement** to self-isolate if you test positive or are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. You could be fined if you do not self-isolate.

Self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see GOV.UK: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK

Home School Communication

Throughout the pandemic we have endeavoured to keep in touch with families on a weekly basis, through the weekly parent briefings that are emailed to families and available on our website. During this half term, we will soon be introducing a new Arbor Parent App, this app will replace SIMS App and Go4Schools and will provide a parent dashboard that will include lots of home/school information - more info to follow. The regular MS Teams Guardian Digest email will continue to be sent to parents, this report shows the homework and assignment status for the current week and homework due for the forthcoming week. We hope that you are finding this information useful. If you have not received Guardian Digest for your child, please contact admin@nestonhigh.com to check that we have your most up to date email address on file.

Username and passwords for Microsoft Teams

All students have their own email address for use at Neston High School. Each student will be aware of what this is, as they use it to access the school computers during their IT lessons. This email address and password are also used for Microsoft Teams – it isn't a different login.

Their email address takes the form of a 2-digit number, surname, and first name initial – followed by **@ed.nestonhigh.com**. The number indicates the year the student would have started secondary education.

For example, **Thomas Thingwall**, who started their Secondary Education in **2018** would have the email address: 18thingwallt@ed.nestonhigh.com

If your child has forgot their email address or password (or both!) a parental contact can request this by completing a form on our website. Please visit www.nestonhigh.com > Remote Learning > IT Support (or a direct link to the form is: [here](#))

Once the online form is completed, the data will be checked and processed. You should receive the details within 2 working days.

Laptops

Over the past 9 months the school has purchased a number of refurbished laptops to be used as loan machines in the event of students have had to self-isolate due to Covid-19 restrictions and don't have a laptop at home to access MS Teams. We recently conducted a survey to establish how many of our students do not have access to technology at home and we will be contacting these families in the next few weeks to offer support. At the current time priority for loan laptops is being given to students who are registered as entitled to free school meals, if you have not registered for free school meals and are entitled, please follow this link to register to ensure that your child gets the support that is available to them. [Free School Meals Application](#)

We are aware that some families are also looking to buy a home laptop, so we have contacted our supplier Tier1Online and negotiated a Neston High discount for Neston High families. Tier 1 sell high quality refurbished devices; these devices are sourced through contracts with large corporations who 'refresh' their hardware on a regular basis. Tier1 use a stringent process for checking and grading machines from these companies and devices are put through an extensive reconditioning process that includes upgrading peripherals such as Hard Drive & Memory, thorough Hard Drive wipe, Software Installation & a thorough cleaning process. This ensures a very high standard of product. Refurbished laptops are sold with a 12-month guarantee, and this can normally be extended for 2-3 years for a nominal cost.

To access the school discount when making a purchase please use codes below.

5% discount under £300 – use code "nestonhigh5" at checkout

10% discount over £300 – use code "nestonhigh10" at checkout

www.tier1online.com

I wish you a safe and secure week ahead and a relaxed weekend.

With kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher