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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well as we soon head into the final two weeks of this term. As always, time with our young people is flying by but again they continue in the main to be working well at school. We are seeing an increase in student absence, this is a mixture of COVID related illness, self-isolation and commonly associated illness for this time of year. We currently have around 9% of students absent from school, this is 5% higher than normal although many are able to continue their studies from home whilst in isolation. Please do ensure you notify the school of the reason for any child absence and update us as that changes. If it is for self-isolation, remote learning will be provided. If your child is unwell, they will be marked as such and not expected to work from home.

Our journey to improve communications between home and school in streamlining our systems continues with the next phase of Go4Schools, as homework will be added from Monday 11 October. This will be located in the homework section of the Go4Schools app or online platform. We continue to encourage all parents to download the app as a quick and easy way to access school information. Students also have access to the app to view their homework, which was launched in tutor time this week. Instructions for students and parents/carers to access Go 4 Schools are also available on the school website [here](#).

The ethos of home learning at NLS is to set tasks that reinforce classwork, encourage retention of knowledge, develop independent study and to encourage enrichment opportunities. Every subject lends itself to a different type and frequency of home learning and this is detailed on the [home learning pages](#) of our website for each year group and subject. Alongside this, there are also additional home learning challenges for students in Year 7 and 8 that wish to extend their learning beyond the tasks set.

We are being notified daily of students testing positive for Covid-19, transmission locally is at its highest in the age group of 10-19 year olds. We have recorded a weekly average of 11 positive cases from the last 4 weeks. This is shared with the Local Authority on a weekly basis, who in turn work with the UK Health and Security Agency (Public Health England has been restructured). We have made changes to our Outbreak Management Plan under direction from the UK Health and Security Agency, which states an outbreak is now considered when 20% of a year group or 30% of a specific class are linked through positive cases. Thankfully, we are some way off those benchmarks but I do encourage parents to support the twice weekly testing of young people and other national guidance to reduce the risk of transmission.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all students involved in our Open Evening event. Prospective parents were exceptionally complimentary of all student helpers on the evening. It was a great event, our students were fantastic ambassadors of our school and local community, a special mention to Z e, Kaddy and Olly who are new Year 7 students, who delivered three wonderful speeches.

Have a great weekend – I will write again on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October in our end of term parent bulletin.



Mike Lowdell  
Head Teacher