



October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I apologise in advance for the length of the letter but in the current situation there often seems to be a lot of information to process with very little time for reflection. We have used the first four weeks of term making sure that parents, students and staff are safe, happy and prepared for the challenges yet to come. Whilst this has been a busy time I would like to thank both your child and yourself for the calm, orderly and supportive start to this academic year. I would like to commend your child in the part they have played in adapting to their new Covid secure life at NLC. With the number of changes and restrictions that have had to be put in place I can only applaud the students in their efforts to continue as though nothing has changed.

Although I am extremely pleased with the way both staff and students have adapted to the new way of working we must remind ourselves that as the regulations change and shift we must also adapt to an ever changing social and school landscape.

You will have already received a letter that has informed you of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England to provide advice on how to support your child. Please remember and be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. As a result of the positive case a small number of children who have possibly been in direct contact with the confirmed case have received correspondence from school and are currently self-isolating for 14 days. The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.

### **Remote Learning Programme**

Throughout the summer we have been working on our Remote Learning Programme in order to support our students at home should they be self-isolating or should we go into a school lockdown. As we have seen in recent times, there is simply nothing equivalent to having our students in front of their teachers, learning in an interactive and collaborative way. However, the health and safety needs of our students, staff and wider communities must come first and we have to respond to an ever-changing environment. We have therefore been working on our Remote Learning Programme to ensure that it is as effective as it can possibly be and that it remains as close to the curriculum in the classroom as possible, to ensure that we minimise the effects of absence from school.

We now have in place:

- **A Remote Learning Policy** – clearly explaining our purpose, vision and process for remote learning
- **Parent and Student Flowchart** – these serve to give clear advice and instruction for both self-isolation and lockdown scenarios
- **Support material for Parents** – this will support you as parents to understand what is required of your child in the event of self-isolation or lockdown scenarios

All of this information can be found on our COVID-19 area on the school website by accessing the following link: <https://www.nlconline.org.uk/netherhall-learning-campus-high-school/for-parentscarers/nlc-high-school-coronavirus-information/>

## **When your child needs to self-isolate**

Students should be self-isolating at home if the following applies:

- They, or someone in the household are showing symptoms of the virus
- They, or someone in the household have tested positive for the virus
- If this is the case and assuming students are well enough to work, they will be set the same work as they would have been completing in the classroom, using their SIMs APP account. The use of Microsoft 365 and staff emails will mean that their work can be easily submitted, assessed and returned to them with feedback and progression information.
- They will receive a call from their Head of Year/Form Tutor/Pastoral link within three days of their absence to check on their progress and their mental health and wellbeing.
- They will also receive a weekly phone call for the duration of their absence to ensure that they are happy, comfortable and progressing in their work.

Although we know that a full school lockdown is seen as a last resort by the government, we nevertheless need to be prepared for such an event happening again. Should the lockdown take place, student work will be uploaded to the SIMS App on a Monday morning for the week ahead. Again this work will be in line with what the students would have been completing in class so that gaps are minimised. The work will be accompanied by teacher notes which will give them additional guidance and support in order to aide students understanding of the work.

All work will be submitted using Microsoft 365 and via staff emails to support interaction between the student and teachers. Weekly contact to the students will come from their Head of Year, the Form Tutors or their Pastoral Mentor in order to support them and check in on their wellbeing and progress. Based on this contact, further more frequent contact may be made to support the students should that be necessary. Concerns regarding any lack of work or effort will be responded to by teachers and achievements will be celebrated weekly.

Our students who have Special Educational Needs will receive an enhanced level of support and will be looked after by our SENDCo, Mrs Morley and the SENDCo Team. If you would like the measures to be explained in more detail, please do contact Mrs Morley so that she can support both you and your child to prepare for these scenarios.

We are currently working with our students in school, predominately through Form Time and our Personal Development Hour to train the students in Remote Learning. This should serve to make them feel far better prepared for any absence that they may have.

We appreciate that this can be a lot of information to take in, especially in a time of uncertainty and anxiety. We very much want you to contact us should you need to talk through any of the information that we are sending out, so that we are, as a community, fully prepared for the possibilities of self-isolation or indeed a full school lockdown.

I started by saying that there is no absolute substitute for our students and teachers being together in the classroom. That said, we feel that we have planned for the best model to support the students in progressing despite possible absence from school. I ask, as always, for your patience during these times. Our staff are also parents and carers and the virus and restrictions affect them too. We will always do our absolute best for our students, but we can only do this in partnership with you as parents.

We hope that our community will remain safe and well and that we can take care of each other to come through these times stronger, a little more empathetic and closer as a community.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further support and guidance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael Kent  
**Principal**