

Dear Parent/ Carer,

One could argue that confusion reigns where return to school planning is concerned with the Department for Education unable to reassure MPs, the unions and school leadership colleagues. Here at Nightingale Community Academy we are preparing to provide an updated timetable that will allow every learner to access a curriculum offer here at Beechcroft Road supported by a range of changes to our normal routines. In the background my team leaders are putting together plans to bring in more frontline teachers and learning support staff every day to enable us to teach while maintaining social distancing expectations where possible in order to mitigate risk.

Nerissa, our **Chefs in Schools volunteer** has prepared a vegetarian feast this week and the boys have been tucking in. There is fresh fruit available all the time and leftover food is being sent home with children in takeaway boxes. We are even managing to use some of the produce from Tom's Farm, including eggs and rhubarb that Nerissa managed to squeeze into delicious flapjacks to supplement Monday's dessert offering.

| Lunch Menu | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Monday | Jacket Potato with cheese/ beans/ tuna | Coleslaw & Salad | Fruit, Greek yoghurt & honey |
| Tuesday | Corn, Pepper & Kidney Bean Chilli | Rice & Green Beans | Fruit, Greek yoghurt & honey |
| Wednesday | Fuseli Pasta Bake w/ Tomato, Basil & Cheese | Salad & Roasted Carrots | Fruit, Greek yoghurt & honey |




If you would like access to the food we are making please speak to a member of the team and we will put you on the list. If your need is urgent contact reception so that we can respond immediately.

I hope you all agree that **communication to parents and carers** is being managed carefully and thoughtfully by the members of my team but we won't get it right all of the time. Please feel free to email info@nightingaleca.org or call for assistance if something goes wrong. There are one or two families for whom we have still not confirmed email contact details. If you haven't had any email from us it is likely that you are one of them. Please contact reception where Sharon will take your details or provide you with a school-based email address that you can use to communicate with us and log into Microsoft Teams.

An increasing number of boys are having their therapy sessions through the online platform and should you need further information about their progress Claudia has set up **Therapy rooms in Microsoft Teams** where you will also find helpful wellbeing resources to use at home. Other members of the staff team are at your disposal should you require help of any kind.

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The NCA Online Offer will be scaled back once final decisions about face-to-face teaching have been made and implemented. That said, we ordered a number of devices for young learners and staff which arrived last Wednesday (typically late!) and are being set up and tested as I write. The distribution will begin on Monday or Tuesday.

On the subject of online engagement there are a number of boys who have not been attending enough lessons online. I would remind parent/ carers that the COVID-19 virus is likely to be with us for the long-term and that it will not take long for boys to develop gaps in their learning that cannot be adequately filled in the time they have remaining in school. It is more important than ever for us to develop predictable routines that the boys can follow every day where school is concerned. As soon as the government relaxes the lockdown we will respond with an offer that allows you to plan your days with certainty, whether your child attends the school site or works from home. For now, please make sure your child engages in the learning offer every day.

Our **Learning Heroes** last week were:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Key stage 1 | |
| Cherry | Archie |
| Key stage 2 | |
| Willow | Harvey C & Stuart |
| Oak | Ashley |
| Maple | Kayden |
| Key Stage 3 | |
| Year 7 | Jaylen, Jay & Mekhai |
| Year 8 | Bobby |
| Year 9 | Freddie and Brooklyn |
| Key stage 4 | |
| Year 10 | Bradley |
| Year 11 | Danny |

Well done to all of these boys who have set a fabulous example! I'd also like to congratulate the following boys for **excellent attendance** in school or online:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Key stage 1 | |
| Cherry | Mack, Archie & Sam |
| Key stage 2 | |
| Willow | Kayson, Elijah, Stuart, Harvey & Kah'zae |
| Oak | Dorian |
| Maple | Kayden |
| Key Stage 3 | |
| Year 7 | Jay |
| Year 8 | Brandon & Bobby |
| Year 9 | Brooklyn |
| Key stage 4 | |
| Year 10 | Matiewos & Bradley |
| Year 11 | Danny & Matthew |

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The Year 9 GCSE/ BTEC/ City & Guilds Options Booklet is now available to download from the website (select the curriculum tab on the homepage) and has been emailed to those parents for whom we have an accurate email address. Yasmin Yoconnor@nightingaleca.org is leading on this work and has placed information in Microsoft Teams to enable the boys to make their choices. If you cannot access the online account that has been created for you please email Yasmin or speak to a year 9 tutor. The deadline for options choices is Thursday 21st May.

We have a number of **volunteers reading with children in online sessions**. If you think your child would benefit, please email Madeleine via info@nightingaleca.org and she will make the necessary connections.

Finally, we are in the middle of a stock audit at Tom's Farm this week so that we can work out the value of our animals and plan for next year. Josh and the team have been working really antisocial hours during the birthing season and it's really paid off. We are now the proud owners of 46 new lambs, 8 new goats and over 250 chicks. Not bad for two months work Josh & Kate! Much of the new stock will be sold to help us keep the farm running and a few will be slaughtered for meat. You can keep up to date by searching Tom's farm on Facebook or tomsfarmnca on Instagram.

Have a safe and productive weekend.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre Bailey', written in a cursive style.

Andre Bailey
Principal