

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you and your families are well and safely enjoying the relaxation in restrictions. The end of this half term we say goodbye to our Year 13 students. They have been a fabulous year who despite the pandemic have remained focused and resilient. I wish them every success for the future and look forward to hearing from them about their university courses and apprenticeships through our alumni organisation. Year 11 also finish their face-to-face studies, and again I am so proud at the mature and positive attitude they have maintained. These Year 11 students will start to complete transition units for their sixth form courses as well as having further taster sessions. We are delighted that more students than ever are returning to our own Elizabethan Sixth Form as they will be superb role models, with many holding leadership positions within the academy.

Thank you to all parents who responded to our parents' communication survey. These suggestions are really helpful and will inform our planning next year. I have included the link below for those of you who haven't had chance to complete it yet, as well as a more general survey about your child's education. We are committed at The Elizabethan to continuous improvement, so we really value your feedback which we take account of in our strategic plan. Please rest assured I read every response.

Stay safe

Mrs C Horrocks
Principal

[Parent Questionnaire on Communication](#)

[Summer Term Parent Consultation](#)

Sixth Form – Farewell to Year 13

We said a fond farewell to the Year 13 as they leave us and go on to the next exciting phase of their lives. They have been an incredibly warm and generous year group over the past two years; resilient, hard-working, industrious and above all else excellent role models. We wish them the very best for the future as each and every student moves on to university, apprenticeships or work. Best wishes from all the Elizabethan staff.

Sixth Form - Face-to-Face Transition Day

As one door closes, another opens - On the 24 June we are welcoming new students from around the area to our face-to-face transition day. This is a chance for students who have made applications and are holding offers to taste life as a Sixth Form student here at the Elizabethan. During the day, students will attend lessons in their chosen subjects, meet the tutors and teachers and enjoy the facilities we have to offer.

If you have not yet applied to join us and still wish to be considered, please complete the application on the website [HERE](#).

If you have further questions about the Sixth Form please contact Lee Dainty, Assistant Principal daintyl@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk

Uniform

Thank you to everyone who submitted responses to the recent uniform consultation. We have reflected on the responses and are proposing the following changes to our policy:

- Trutex will continue to supply uniform but trousers and other non-academy specific items may continue to be purchased from other suppliers.
- Financial support packages will continue to be available with access to support being simplified.

Furthermore, the academy plans to develop a co-ordinated second hand uniform shop and we would welcome your thoughts via the parent consultation.

Assessment

As we approach Half Term 6, I would like to share with you the Assessment Calendar:

- Thursday 10th June 2021 - Year 10 Parents Evening booked through School Cloud
- W/c 7th June - Year 9 Assessment Week
- W/c 14th June - Year 9 Assessment Week
- W/c 28th June - Year 9 Data shared with parents
- W/c 21st June - Year 7 Assessment Week and Year 12 Assessment Week
- W/c 28th June - Year 7 Assessment Week and Year 12 Assessment Week
- W/c Monday 12th July - Year 12 data shared with parents
- Year 7 written reports shared with parents' week commencing Monday 12 July 2021
- W/c 5th July - Year 10 Assessment Week
- W/c 12th July - Year 10 Assessment Week
- W/c Monday 19th July - Year 10 data shared with parents
- We will be completing assessments for Year 8 students for Core subjects only, the students will be starting their option subjects in September 2021. There will be a Parents' Evening for Year 8 students in the first term of the new Academic Year
- Year 13 results day is on Tuesday 10th August and Year 11 results day is on Thursday 12th June, we will update you on the timings of that day next half term.

Alumni

We are always keen, as part of our Elizabethan Alumni network, to know what our past students have gone on to do, whether that be courses of further education, employment or other notable achievements. If you are a past pupil of the school and would be happy to share your experiences and achievements then please email withalls@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk

Safeguarding

Our expectations around attendance and punctuality remain the same and are in line with DfE directives ... **school attendance continues to be mandatory for all students and the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child regularly attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance.** If your child is struggling to attend school and your Head of House is not aware and working with you to facilitate better routines, please get in contact as a matter of urgency. Now we are in a safer place regarding the coronavirus it is crucial we all work together in prioritising the return to effective learning routines, to avoid further stress and anxiety. As usual and to support this, you should plan your holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take your children out of school on holiday. We will continue to support those students who are struggling to re-engage and ensure everyone gives due care and attention to their own wellbeing.

All students have an allocated time to arrive in school and must continue to be on site and in tutor rooms at that time. We are witnessing an increasing number of students arriving late and having to sign in at reception rather than registering with their tutor. The first register mark is a critical stage in our safeguarding procedures and when we have to cross check attendance with P1, it significantly delays sending the absence message to parents/carers. We will be monitoring this very carefully and removing social time of those who continue to arrive late to school. Punctuality is a life skill that we all need to master.

Throughout the pandemic we have promoted the **Oak National Academy** as a resource to students and parents in providing opportunities to encourage independent learning and revision to secure understanding and reinforce what is covered in school. The academy is extending its support to schools, students and parent/carers across the summer.

Oak's Summer Teacher Hub and Summer Classroom will provide resources and lessons for both face-to-face summer schools and summer home-learning.

Their summer learning support offer includes:

- core priority units and lessons identified to prepare pupils for the next academic year
- newly designed unit quizzes as a formative tool to help identify gaps in knowledge
- creative, active and mental health resources from a range of partner organisations, signposting students to vital wellbeing support
- a full package of detailed guidance for teachers, parents and students

In addition, all 10,000+ of Oak's existing free, high-quality editable and adaptable lessons remain available, each featuring teacher-led videos to aid independent study across 35 subjects from early years foundation stage (EYFS) to key stage 4.

We urge you to explore this resource and work with your child to ensure they use it as a study aid.

Last week was **Mental Health Awareness Week** and the theme explored the positive connections between nature and wellbeing. Nature and technology are often pigeonholed as polar opposites, but when it comes to supporting our mental wellbeing, they can dovetail perfectly. Websites streaming footage from wildlife webcams, for example, saw an increase in traffic of more than 2,000% during lockdown as one antidote to people's feelings of isolation. Plus, in the 'Reference' category of the App Store chart, 6 of the current top 10 downloads are wildlife themed.

So how can nature and digital tech combine to benefit our mental health? What kind of app could get you looking at the night sky in a whole new way? How does geocaching work? In support National Online Safety produced a special #WakeUpWednesday guide with some fun tips for a natural feel-good boost ... check them out below

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guidance is based on many activities below that older adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips TO SUPPORT MENTAL WELLBEING THROUGH NATURE Online and Offline

'Nature' is a superb choice as the theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week, as there's clear evidence that getting access to nature is excellent for our mental health. With Covid-19 restrictions beginning to ease, it's the perfect time of year to rediscover the natural world and give ourselves a calming, uplifting treat. You don't have to drag the family on a four-hour hike, either – just 10 minutes each day in the garden, in the local park or your nearest green space could really help. Here are 12 suggestions for ways you can benefit from nature – both online and off.

ONLINE

- 1 Give something back to nature**
A swift internet search should bring up details of any local conservation projects you could volunteer for or litter-picking events that you could enrol the family in. It doesn't have to be a long-term commitment: most schemes are grateful for every bit of help!
- 2 Tranquil streams**
Search your preferred music player for some soothing natural sounds. A few minutes' gentle audio of rainfall, ocean waves or birdong are all great ways of unwinding at the end of the day to get you ready for an excellent night's sleep.
- 3 Give geocaching a go**
If you've not heard of it, geocaching is a modern twist on the traditional treasure hunt. Participants look for items hidden in outdoor locations, using a GPS-enabled device like a mobile phone or tablet. We'd recommend that an adult accompanies young adventurers!
- 4 Share what you see**
While you're out exploring nature, take a photo or video of anything you find that inspires you. Not only will it be a nice memory for you to look back on, but you could also share it safely on social media and maybe motivate others to engage with the natural world!
- 5 Watch the stars**
Looking at the night sky can be incredibly calming. There are some comprehensive stargazing websites and apps to help you locate and recognise different stars. It can take 20 minutes or so before you can see stars fully in the dark, even on clear nights, so allow your eyes time to adjust.
- 6 Wildlife on the web**
A Google search will bring up lots of sites that stream webcam footage of nature. From seeds to barn owls, rabbits to badgers, you can get an intimate, heart-warming view of all kinds of animal communities from inside the comfort of your own home.

OFFLINE

- 1 Ditch the phone**
Now the weather's improving, go for a walk in a green space nearby. If you're already familiar with your chosen route, you could always leave your phone at home to be completely free of the usual distractions and notifications.
- 2 Put down some roots**
Planting flowers, shrubs, herbs or vegetables can be extremely rewarding. Not only does it help us to connect with nature – it also provides an ongoing project to draw pleasure from. If your home doesn't have a garden, no problem: a window box will do the job just as well!
- 3 A different kind of tweet**
Most gardens in the UK attract a wonderful variety of birds, and just watching them for a few minutes can be immensely therapeutic. There are some excellent apps and sites to help you name any species you don't already know or even play a game: identifying bird song. Like bird song bingo!
- 4 Feed your feathered friends**
Hang a bird feeder where you can easily see it from a window. Then enjoy the helpood factor of a satisfied avian visitor pecking where you can see them. For something more advanced, you could try building a nesting box to fix onto a fence or under a window sill.
- 5 Park your worries**
If you're lucky enough to live with in easy travelling distance of a park, you'd benefit from using it. Whether it's to play ball games, get on your bike, walk the dog or just get some fresh air into your lungs, the potential bonuses for mental health are enormous.
- 6 Art and soul**
Younger children will enjoy drawing or painting animals or nature scenes, or writing a poem or song lyrics about nature. For extra art or craft fun, you could collect natural materials – leaves, feathers, tree bark or seeds, for example – to use in your creations.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Botman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She's also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/online-safety-tips-for-adults>, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/earth-wild/> | Mental Health and Nature, Mind, 2018

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 12.05.2021

Covid-19

A reminder please that all students who travel on school or service buses must continue to wear a mask.