



Nether Stowe School

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14th December 2020

End of Term Letter

Dear parent or carer,

The word unprecedented doesn't really do justice to the challenges we have all faced in 2020. As a small school, I am exceptionally proud of Nether Stowe's strong place in the community and the support we provide to our pupils and parents. Throughout this year, this care and support has been more important than ever and the strong partnership we continue to forge and foster with you never more vital. Together, we can look forward to the New Year with some degree of optimism and continue to work in close cooperation for the benefit of all students.

There have been so many positives this term. The humour, wisdom, determination, resilience, kindness of our students every day is an inspiration. Staff throughout the school have worked tirelessly to ensure that the return to school for pupils was – and continues to be – successful.

Thank you for the kind, and understanding, support you have provided to the school. It is always very much appreciated. Whilst this end of term letter may be a little longer than usual, there are some important reminders and essential information to help you and your child prepare for the new term.

Arrangements for the end of term

To reiterate the information sent out in previous correspondence, school will finish for all pupils no later than **12:30 on Friday 18th December**

The new term starts for all pupils on **Tuesday 5th January** – please see below for a reminder of the relevant start times for your child.

Arrival at school

You will be aware that we operate a staggered start to the school day. However, even in the coldest and most inclement weather, with the exception of those pupils who arrive by bus, we will not be able to let pupils into the building before their allocated time. Please bear this in mind when arranging for your child to be dropped-off, or factor this in to the time they leave home in the morning.

Year Group	Entry time
Year 7	08:30
Year 8 and Year 9	08:40
Year 10 and Year 11	08:50

Email: office@netherstowe.com Website: www.netherstowe.com Twitter: [@netherstowe](https://twitter.com/netherstowe)



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Covid Notifications

Information was sent out on **Friday 11th December**, across all ATLP schools regarding the arrangements for notifying the school of a positive Covid case over the Christmas break ([please click here for the letter](#)).

Should you need to notify the school of a positive case, following the school closure on Friday 18th December, use only the following email address: Covid19@netherstowe.com. **Please note, other email accounts will not be monitored during the Christmas break and we will not be able to respond to enquiries.**

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term on **Monday 4th January**.

Communication with school

In the context of many restrictions on face-to-face communication in school, it is important that we maintain good protocols of communication by other means.

Tutors will continue the termly updates and I encourage you to proactively contact the class teacher when you would like to discuss questions about your child's work and progress.

Please check our guidance for communication ([available on the website here](#)) and be mindful that teachers and support staff frequently have very busy, full days. It is not always possible, or appropriate, to provide an immediate response to a phone call or query but we will always do our best to respond at the earliest opportunity.

Plan B

With a number of pupils unfortunately self-isolating at some point this term, many have had to make use of the Plan B resources ([click here for the student link](#)). We have also uploaded an instructional video to our YouTube channel to provide additional guidance for parents and pupils ([please click here to view](#)).

One challenge we have worked hard to address is ensuring students understand - and are able to navigate to - the relevant point in the resources. Importantly, teachers will be signposting the Plan B resources at least once per week with all of their classes from Y7 to Y13.

Furthermore, it is more appropriate to think of the Plan B resources as an important source to complement in-school learning rather than just a replacement for it. Pupils can access it at any time to help them to review content from lessons and, therefore, to help them revise for assessments and exams. This is especially important for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 who will be preparing for formal internal assessments in January.

For ease of access, the resources are designed to be mobile friendly as well as work on laptops and other internet connected devices. If you experience any problems accessing the resources, please contact: ITAdvice@atlp.org.uk. When emailing, please remember to state the school name, full pupil name as well as the nature of the problem.

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TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE



January timetables

Pupils will be provided with their updated timetables and group changes for January on **Wednesday 16th December**. Tutors will be available this week and on the return to school in January to support with any queries or questions.

Sixth Form applications

The application window for our Sixth Form is now open. All of the information, and a short video, is available via the homepage of the website ([click here](#)). Please contact Mrs Manton, Acting Head of Sixth Form, for more information or to discuss a place with us for next year.

The Nether Stowe Big Build

The transformation to the front of school is nearing completion. We are looking forward to being able to make use of our brand-new teaching spaces later in February, along with the completion of the Sports Hall shortly afterwards. Please see the posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for images and information.

Most importantly, I wish you and your family and very restful and very peaceful Christmas.

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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