

Head's Bulletin



Friday 24th January 2019

Wk 1: Wk Commencing 28th January

Term Dates

201718

Term 3

Mon 7th Jan—Fri
15th Feb

INSET day 4—15th
Feb

Term 4

Mon 25th Feb—Fri
5th April

Term 5

Tues 23rd April —
Fri 24th May

Term 6

Mon 3rd June —
Tues 23rd July

Publication of School Performance Tables 2019

Yesterday the government published the national school performance tables. This information includes reporting the Progress 8 measure at KS4 (GCSE results from August 2018). This measure is intended to track the progress children make from leaving primary school to leaving secondary school. The statistics published in the KS4 tables are based on pupils' performance in eight qualifications; English & Maths; three Ebacc subjects (Sciences, Languages, History or Geography) and the three highest scores from a range of other approved qualifications.

The average Progress 8 score of all schools nationally is 0. Nailsea School's Progress 8 score is -0.45 , which is a low measure and I know parents may be concerned about what that may mean for their children.

The reason behind this score is that Nailsea School does not make it compulsory for its students to take the eight subjects that count towards the overall score in the new progress measure. For example students do not have to take all of the subjects listed in brackets above.

Although this more flexible approach works positively for the students this ethos has impacted negatively on Nailsea School's overall Progress 8 outcome. This explains why our Progress 8 score is at odds with our GCSE attainment results in subjects, including in English and Maths, which are above national average.

In addition, in yesterday's published tables that also reflected on the most recent A Level results Nailsea School was recognised as the highest performing school in North Somerset. The same teachers and the same subjects are being taught but in this A Level measure no specified qualifications need to be followed as they do in the GCSE measure.

Given the comparisons that are drawn between schools with the publication of these performance tables I would like to assure parents that the school is committed to improving our Progress 8 score. However we will do so whilst continuing to uphold our core values of seeing young people as individuals.

I am sure many you share my belief that there is more to education than the narrow measure of certain GCSEs and schools are about much more than statistical data. I am incredibly proud of the quality of the curriculum provision and the pastoral care that students currently have at Nailsea as we prepare the next generation to take their place as self confident and well informed citizens.

Have a lovely weekend **Mrs Elliott, Head teacher**

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Key Dates Term 2

Wk Comm 28th Jan

6th form interviews
with Yr 11 students
begin

Wed 30th Jan

Parent Forum event—
Mental Health

Thurs 31st Jan

ABSolute Day 3

Thurs 31st Jan

Yr 9 Guided Choices
Evening

Open Door Clinics

Open Door Parent Clinics are held most Wednesday afternoons during term time for parents to speak directly with Mrs Elliott regarding any concerns or suggestions they may have.

These are held from 3:30pm until 5:30pm and can be booked through contacting Mrs Elliott's PA, Miss Jan Stirling, on 01275 852251 or at JStirling@nailseaschool.com.



Yr 9 Guided Choices—31st January, 6pm—8pm

We are looking forward to seeing year 9 parents and students next Thursday at 6pm for our Guided Choices evening. This event is a key one in the school life of Year 9 students. Not only are they reaching the end of Key Stage 3 but they also will be making key decisions about which subjects to study at Key Stage 4. Students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum which mainly consists of a number of examined subjects. Some of these are compulsory whilst others are chosen from a range of options. Students receive information, advice and guidance to help them make sound choices based on their own interests, abilities and ambitions. As parents and carers your help in supporting this process is essential. During the evening there will be a talk outlining the options process, the framework within which choices must be made for your child and information about the increased challenge of new GCSE exams. This will be followed by an opportunity to circulate round a market place of stalls, staffed by teachers who are subject specialists, where more specific information about particular courses can be gathered.

In the last week of this term year 9 students and parents will then come along to an individual appointment to complete their final choices with a member of staff. Timetabling and staffing the options is a complex process and whilst we try our best to accommodate combinations of options, occasionally this proves impossible. If problems arise we will look at reserve choices and contact you. We hope to be in a position to finalise next year's timetable by the beginning of July, when we will inform students of their final options. It is an exciting time and we look forward to seeing families next week.

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