

Head's Bulletin



Friday 1st February 2019

Wk 1: Wk commencing 11th February

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

What a week!

I think it is fair to say that this has been a very busy week at Nailsea School.

This time last week, I assume, we were all enjoying the snow and as a result of that closure there was no bulletin last Friday. On the note of snow, many thanks for your understanding in the decision that was taken to close the school site last week. As you can appreciate the safety of staff and students was key in the decision making. I would also like to publicly thank both the site team and the communications team that were involved in notifying parents using the website and social media. As I was unable to leave my house (living 45 minutes away) the team effort of those staff living in and around Nailsea was invaluable. Thank you.

As you are also aware, yesterday we were visited by two inspectors from Ofsted undertaking their inspection of the school. This was only a one-day short inspection and the purpose was to determine whether the school continues to provide a good education and whether safeguarding is effective.

The findings of this visit are currently confidential and so it is not possible for me to pass on any further information at this time. The report will be available in the next 14 days and when this is received I will, naturally, share this with the whole school community.

Although the outcome is not available at present I can comment on how immensely proud I was of all the staff, students and governors during the day. I know I have spoken before about the privilege it is to work here, but yesterday was another example of this—the students really shone.

I would also like to thank the 192 parents who took the time to complete the parent survey— a real increase in the amount of participation compared to the last inspection which I think really reflects positively on the school as a whole. All of the comments made by parents, staff and students were passed on to the inspection team.

In addition, many thanks to the parents that took the time to send in specific messages via email yesterday—these really were appreciated and I think reflects the very special partnership our school has with our parents and the community.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Elliott, Head teacher



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Key Dates Term 2

Tues 12th Feb

Head's Brunch

**Tues 12th and Wed
13th Feb**

Yr 9 Guided Choices
appointments

**Tues 12th and Wed
13th Feb**

Year 9 Guided Choices
appointments

Thurs 14th Feb

Non Uniform Day

**INSET day 4—15th
Feb**

Health and Safety on and around the school

The number of cars dropping off and collecting students is continuing to cause issues on site. We are concerned that this will cause an accident either involving cars, or a pedestrian if students and parents continue to do this.

We have reminded Year 13 students that, unless a parking permit has been applied for, they should not be parking on school site and we hope parents will also remember that they are not allowed to drive onto the school site at the beginning or end of the school day. There are some exceptions to this rule based on parents liaising directly with their son/daughter's Head of House.

Members of the site team have been checking the cars coming onto site this week and we thank families for continuing to support this policy, aimed to keep students safe.

It has also been reported to us that some of our students are taking risks when crossing Mizzymeade Road. I would ask parents to remind their children to be more mindful and to ensure that they are paying attention to what is happening around them.

Thanks for your support with these issues.

Exam Contingency Date—26th June 2019

We need to make parents aware of some important information from the Examination Boards that will affect all students taking examinations this summer.

A contingency day has been set up by the Examination boards for all GCSE and GCE examinations. This has been implemented by the Boards so that, in the event of a major national or local disruption, an exam may be moved to this day.

The date that has been set aside for contingency purposes is **Wednesday 26th June 2019**.

With this in mind, could we please encourage all parents and carers to make a note of the new reserve exam date, particularly if looking to book a post-exam holiday. The school has no influence with regards to this contingency day, as this is a date set by the Examination boards and we have no power to support any absence related to holidays taken that would include this date.

Thank you for taking note of this important information.

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Mobile phones during the school day

A reminder that mobile phones are not allowed to be used by students in school or on school site.

Phones should be switched off and kept in school bags. If you need to contact your son/daughter during the school day, please contact main reception and the message will be passed on.

Phones will be confiscated from students if they are being used during the school day. They will be returned at the end of the day, and behaviour points will be logged for that student. Thank you, in advance, for supporting this school policy.



Student Council work on Period Poverty

I have been really proud of the work of the Student Council in raising awareness of period poverty and for publicising ways the school can support students in this way. You may have seen notifications about this work on both our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Following these messages, some parents have expressed concern about students not being allowed to go to the toilet during lesson time. Hopefully parents can agree that it is important to restrict access to toilets at these times. Spending 10 minutes or so going to and from the toilet has been a way to skip lessons way before Tucker Jenkins tried this in Grange Hill and can be disruptive to lessons. Staff are discouraged from permitting students to leave during lesson time. In some schools this has often resulted in vandalism of areas. We are very lucky that with the design of our toilets and ethos of our school that this is not the case.

Our school day means that there is an extended break every 2 hours where visits can be made to the toilet and such self management is an important step for students to adopt. If, for example, a student requests to leave to go to the toilet at the beginning of period 3 (straight after the 20 minute morning break) this could definitely be seen as the student not being properly organised.

That is not to say there are, on occasions, emergencies where students may need to visit the toilet during a lesson changeover or during the lesson themselves.

Staff have been reminded to use discretion when a student asks for a toilet break. If you hear your child is not being allowed to visit the toilet when they have a genuine need please do inform the Head of House in confidence.

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Charity Days

As you will have seen from a letter this week we have now identified the charity days for the remainder of this year. The causes have been selected through a mixture of school based activities and fundraising requested by students.

The next dates are as follows:

Thurs February 14th—
Non uniform day in aid of Action for Children and Bliss.

Fri 15th March—
Comic Relief

Term dates 2019/20

Following a period of consultation we can now confirm both the term dates and INSET days for academic year 2019/20. These are shown below for your reference

Term Dates 2019/2020

Term 1

Mon 2nd September—Fri 25th October

INSET day 1—2nd September

Term 2

Mon 4th Nov—Fri 20th Dec

INSET day 2—22nd November

Term 3

Mon 6th Jan—Fri 14th Feb

INSET day 3—14th Feb

Term 4

Mon 24th Feb—Fri 3rd April

Term 5

Mon 20th April —Fri 22nd May

INSET day 4—20th April

Term 6

Mon 1st June —Fri 17th July

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