

25th November 2022

Dear Parents/carers

I can't quite believe this is my last weekly letter of November and there are only 30 days until Christmas. As is usual we will finish for the Christmas break at lunchtime on Friday 16th December and I will include finalised timings for that day in next week's letter. Please find some other messages for the week as shown below.

Car Park Access

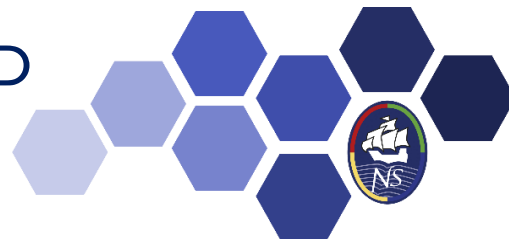
Unfortunately there are still a number of parents that are coming onto school site to drop off and pick up at the beginning and end of the school day. This presents a real Health and Safety risk to staff and students, exemplified by a parent being visibly distressed on Wednesday after witnessing what was a very close near miss. For those students that need to be dropped at the front of school, they will be receiving a permit to display in their vehicle to come onto site. The only other vehicles that are expected onsite are the coaches and taxis that drop students at school. In order to reduce unauthorised traffic flow on site we will be placing staff on the gate over the next few weeks preventing unauthorised vehicles from dropping off and picking up. Thank you to the majority of parents who do adhere to the request to not drive to the front of school. Disappointingly this morning a parent was particularly hostile in driving past the member of staff manning the gate, running over his foot in the process, luckily he was wearing steel toe cap shoes but I'm sure we can all agree this is unacceptable behaviour.

6th form Open Evening – 24th November

It was great to see so many year 11 families and a large number of new faces at the 6th form open evening last night. The application form has now gone live with a deadline of 9th December. Further details and the 6th form prospectus can also be found on the 6th form part of the website here: <https://www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/apply-to-sixth-form/>

School trips

I am delighted to see the return of school trips this year as teachers are finally able to organise subject enrichment activities. I am hearing some really exciting plans being put together in different subject areas and more details of these will come out once arrangements are confirmed. With every trip there is a massive amount of preparation, planning and paperwork involved and the extra work from teachers in putting these together is very much appreciated. This week the Y11 Geographers went out on their popular Bristol fieldtrip to gather evidence and data for their paper 2 exam. The trip included a tour of Bristol harbour and a very revealing behind the scenes exploration of the workings of Cabot Circus including security, recycling, development and more. I look forward to hearing back from other groups as they enjoy the opportunity to take their learning out into the community.



Mock exams

This week the mock exams for Y11 and Y13 have concluded.

These exams, set in the Sports Hall, enable students to practice the whole process ahead of their summer exam series from the briefing beforehand, through to entering the exam hall and finding their seat, experiencing the feeling of being in a full exam hall and writing non stop for an hour or more. The students stepped up to this challenge impressively. There were a few students who were overwhelmed by the process understandably and lots of support was in place to help them adjust. A persistent minority of students did turn up to the exam without the correct equipment and without a water bottle. The school cannot always provide these so we would ask parents to check with students so that they are prepared for the exams in the summer. A big thank you to all the students who have worked hard for these exams and took all the instructions and extra information on board; they will have placed themselves in the best possible position for a successful summer series.

Finallywe have hosted four external visitors over the course of this week as a result of our work in the Wessex Learning Trust. All of them were incredibly impressed with the students and staff that they met and it was reassuring to hear that the areas of focus we have been working on as a school were noted by them. It was very pleasing to receive specific comments in a follow up email from one of the visitors:

Your staff and pupils were a joy to work with and we can see why you are so proud of your school – there is just so much to celebrate! It was a genuine pleasure to visit today and see a snippet of your working day!

There may have been some dust in my eye!

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher