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24th February 2023

Dear Parents/carers

Many thanks for your understanding as the school continues to plan as much as possible for the proposed strike action next Thursday. As mentioned before, students with Education Health Care Plans will need to register for their place on site on the day using this form https://forms.office.com/e/AYUw1sAsbm. This form will close on Tuesday 28th February at midday.

Other messages for the week can be read below:

Focus on punctuality

This week there has been a clear drive on the importance of punctuality to lessons across the school.

As a reminder there are three times during the school day when bells are rung:

- 8:35 am to signal the start of the school day
- 11:15am to signal the end of break
- 1:55pm to signal the end of lunch

These bells are movement bells and once they are heard students are expected to move to their next destination, be that tutor base, assembly or lessons.

Good punctuality at school is essential for students to achieve their full educational potential. It is also vital for students to form good habits for later life. When asked for references from employers or other educational institutions, punctuality is always asked about.

Poor punctuality can also cause real disruption. Some young people may feel uncomfortable and embarrassed arriving late to a classroom when everyone else is settled. When a student arrives late it also disrupts the teacher and the rest of the class compromising everyone's learning.

I would ask parents to use their access to Classcharts to discuss punctuality within the school day with their child at home and, thank you in advance, for supporting the school with this important issue.

Local Road Closure

I have been asked to pass on that parts of Ash Hayes Road will be closed for roadworks next week from Monday to Wednesday.

Year 11 and 13: Power to Perform

It was lovely to see so many parents of year 11 students attend the 'Preparing for Exams' event last night in the auditorium. Mr Jones will be sending home the slides from the evening so those that could not make the event can access the information. Year 11 students will be having an assembly on the similar theme of the event next Tuesday in extended tutor time.

With external exams starting in the week commencing 15th May the reality is that we are 9 school weeks away from that date. In what will become my regular slot in this letter related to the thing parents can do to support their child at home, please find attached some hints and tips that you may find useful.







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As ever, please do contact us at the school if you feel that we can offer any additional help of support.



Exam Invigilators

We are looking to expand our pool of Exam Invigilators ahead of the May and June examination period. Hours will vary throughout the exam season but a full schedule will be agreed in advance and as no experience is needed full training will be given. If you or members of your family might be interested please do get in touch with the Exams Office. For more information and to apply please follow the link on the school website https://www.nailseaschool.com/join-us/current-vacancies/

Contacting the school

If you need to make the school aware of anything, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance. A list of the current tutors can be found on the link below with staff contact details. https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/school-houses/

Finally....like many of us, I was saddened to hear of the death of John Motson yesterday. I have very fond memories of listening to his commentary with my dad and Grandad and always loved his pre match interviews, dressed in his trademark sheepskin coat during Grandstand on Saturday mornings. Motson's career also took in some of football's darkest moments and I vividly remember his voice accompanying much of the news footage on the day of the Hillsborough disaster when I was 12 years old in 1989.

In the comments that have been made about him in the last 24 hours it was his energy and passion for football that clearly came across that endeared him to so many people. His obsession for facts and figures was also his trademark which, apparently, he always wrote on an A4 sheet of card in felt tip pen for each match.

Other comments recall the lunches he would host, inviting 40 or so people at a time as a way of thanking those present for simply being his friends. He would always insist on paying although there was never any ostentation intended. As one regular at the event described:

'It was a show of friendship, not a show of wealth. John always had time for you. He showed you the art of being a friend'

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott Head teacher



