



24th November 2023

Dear Parents/carers

It was fantastic to see so many familiar and new faces at our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening last night. With the event coming towards the end of the trial exam period for year 11 the connection between exam outcomes and opportunities post 16 could not be clearer. Having the opportunity to speak with parents on the door last night was always a pleasure. I was also thrilled to see so many students at the History period 6 session, ahead of their final exam tomorrow. These exams will have provided everyone with a real opportunity to experience the process and reflect on outcomes as we move into the next stage of planning and preparation in January. Students will receive their mock results on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

## **Term Dates for 2024/25**

Please find the finalised dates for the 2024/25 academic year, including INSET days attached for your reference.

## **Enrichment week Update Wk Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Today was the final day for parents to pay deposits to secure places on the residential and off site day trips taking place in the enrichment week in June. Parents will be contacted towards the end of next week to confirm a place on the trip has been secured. If any residential or day trip is not filled there could be the opportunity for the places to be offered on a wider scale. Decisions will be made on this next week.

I am aware that a number of parents have expressed concerns about the process of being able to secure places for trips. Following feedback from previous trip experiences where, inevitably there are always restrictions on places available, the enrichment week process was organised differently, as explained below.

- Day Trips and residentials were offered to specific year groups so that the total numbers of students that could apply were reduced. This followed earlier feedback from parents.
- An initial form was sent to all parents in years 7, 8 and 9 asking for expressions of interest on preferences for the residential and day trips. This information was then used to see which trips/events were viable or not. With some trips being oversubscribed this then gave the school the option to secure additional places or alternative residential places in line with the order of preferences submitted. It was pleasing to see that 93% of students that completed the form were allocated their first choice activity.
- When this information was processed those students that had opted for specific events were sent letters regarding the allocation of a space on that event/or a very similar alternative. The letter indicated that options for payment to secure a place and pay a deposit would be available the following day. This was intended as a way of providing notice that the places were going to go 'live'. We have received feedback that the time between notification and the places going live, should be longer. However, in this case we were also operating within the timelines our external providers were asking to be adhered to. In future, where possible, the length of time between notification of places being allocated and required payment will be extended.

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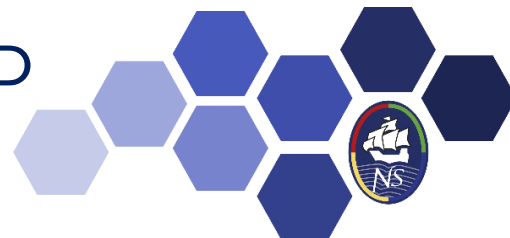
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I am aware that some students have been disappointed with not being able to have a place at their first choice but it is impossible to offer every trip for every student, given the limitations on places due to costs of transport and staff cover. Seeking initial preferences enabled the school to take positive action in securing additional/comparable places so that the greatest number of people were satisfied with their final offsite activities.

This is the first time that enrichment week has returned after a number of years and, as with any school event, there will be a review of the process and changes made where possible for subsequent events.

## **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Extended Tutor Time Session**

Students will spend their extended tutor time session and Tuesday period 5 in their first Careers and employability session of the year. Students in years 7 and 8 will be exploring future career paths and looking at how to make their CVs stand out from the crowd. Year 9 will have an assembly to introduce 'Unifrog' – an online portal that supports students in their choices moving forward. Year 10 will have their launch of the work experience programme for this year and year 11 will undertake an interview workshop – perfect timing, given that application deadlines for post 16 providers are fast approaching. I hope your child will be able to talk to you about the sessions when they get home on Tuesday, demonstrating another way that education is fully rounded here at Nailsea.

## **North Somerset Course for parents – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

NSPCWT Would like to invite parent carers and professionals to a fully funded face to face session on this BRAND NEW training from Catrina Lowri on emotionally based school avoidance. This session has been requested by the parent carer community and the group are so excited to be able to offer the support and guidance needed when families are experiencing this common issue.

**Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)** is a term used to describe children and young people (CYP) who experience challenges in attending school due to negative feelings (such as anxiety). EBSA is commonly associated with emotional and physical distress, and a reluctance to attend school, which can lead to reduced attendance and further anxiety regarding school.

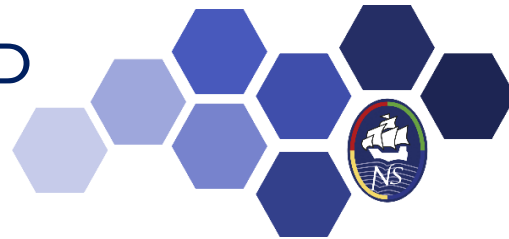
During this session, Catrina will guide you through the why's and the how's to try and support you through this with your child/young person. You will have the chance to discuss your personal circumstances if you wish, and to give you the tools and strategies to put in place. Places can be

booked here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotionally-based-school-avoidance-tickets-763907878027?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR3p5-53wdKRu4WasQuoEsVn0a0aPzf8WPY1wGfaQCJRqH96jv1fSfXgijM>

## **Anti Social Behaviour in North Somerset**

The police have contacted all North Somerset schools to make them aware that over the past few weeks, there has been a significant rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminality involving children and young people in Weston-super-Mare town centre.

Avon and Somerset Police have made several arrests, which include children and young people aged under 18. This has been possible as a result of investigations and proactive patrols, supported by footage from our close circuit television (CCTV) network. Although this is not directly linked to any young person in Nailsea, the education team at North Somerset are keen that all parties understand the current situation and possible consequences.



North Somerset Neighbourhood Policing will issue fixed penalty notices to those aged under 18 who are in breach of our Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). PSPOs cover a range of behaviour, including the use of alcohol in public places and acting in an anti-social or disorderly manner that causes, or is likely to cause, nuisance, harassment, alarm, or distress to any other person. When a PSPO is breached by a child or young person under the age of 18, this may be dealt with by the issue of £75 fixed penalty notice in appropriate circumstances or community-based reparation or restorative justice. This could include the young person who caused harm apologising, removing graffiti or taking part in mediation. Any fixed penalty notice would be served on a young person through their parent or carer. If a fixed penalty notice is not paid within 14 days, this can lead to prosecution which brings a maximum fine of £1,000 plus costs. Any money generated through fixed penalty notices must be reinvested into enforcement of ASB.

You can find more information about what anti-social behaviour is, what you can do about it and how we deal with it on the website: [www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/asb](http://www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/asb)

**Finally....** November is traditionally one of the trickiest years in the academic calendar. The weather is colder and wetter, the days are darker and sometimes it can all feel as if Spring is a very long way off. I am going to go early this year and get the Christmas decorations down from the loft this weekend to add a bit of sparkle to the House of Elliott. I hope you all have something nice planned for the weekend, remembering that even when times are tricky there are people here to offer support. As Ted Lasso said

*'Listen to your gut, and on the way down, listen to your heart and between those two things, they'll let you know what's what'*

Take care and be kind

Mrs D Elliott  
Headteacher