



3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/carers

I trust all of you had a relaxing half term break.

Term 2 has started at pace and the weather has certainly turned autumnal. As you are aware from correspondence sent last term, the new system of monitoring punctuality to school has been in place for a week and it has been encouraging to see that the numbers of students arriving after the 8:40am bell has dwindled significantly as the week has gone on. All information regarding your child at school can be accessed through your Classcharts log in – please do get in touch if you ever need any assistance with your account. The information shared through the system will enable families to spot any particular patterns across the timetable cycle and prompt discussions at home.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

## **Autumnal Weather**

With the weather changing and as we approach winter can I please remind families that

- Students cycling to school should be using lights and wearing a helmet and reflective clothing as the afternoons become darker.
- Students should be coming to school with a coat given the drop in temperatures and the rain that is likely.
- Certain areas outside the main school will be 'out of bounds' given the change in season. The back field is now closed until further notice, irrespective of daily weather conditions. Students can continue to access the hard courts for recreational purposes. During heavy rain students will also be reminded to stay in the building during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

## **Parent View**

As a school we are always keen to receive feedback and all parents and carers have the option to respond to the parent view survey. This survey is open all year and can be accessed here:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views>

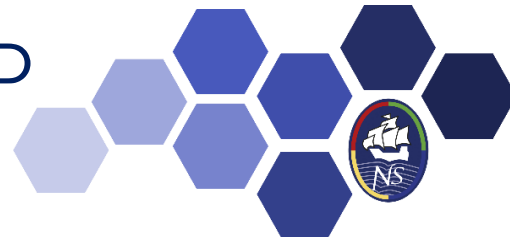
## **PTA AGM 8<sup>th</sup> November @7pm**

The PTA would like to welcome new member and event volunteers to meet the team at their AGM in Nailsea School at 7pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November in the Conference Room.

Joining the PTA is a great opportunity to help with hands-on fundraising and get an insight into life at Nailsea school.

The activities that our PTA run are aimed, in the main, at adults so PTA life at secondary school is a little less frenetic than at primary school.

Last year our PTA fundraised over £10, 000 for the school – which benefited #TeamNailsea immensely. If you would like to meet the team and offer your support, please do come along.



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

The preferences forms closed at 9am this morning. As parents in years 7, 8 and 9 are aware from previous letters sent, the next stage will be assessing which students will be allocated their residential or offsite activities based on these preferences. As a school, we will need to ensure that numbers on each activity are viable and we will confirm if the activity has enough numbers to run in the next couple of weeks.

## **Staff absences**

On occasions, for reasons that are unavoidable, staff may not be in school and lessons will be covered by other staff. These lessons may be taken by existing staff or those from a supply agency. All staff that cover lessons will be asking students to continue their curriculum with work that would have been covered if their teacher was present. If any member of staff is off for a sustained period of time, a different approach is taken where timetables may be amended so that exam classes can be prioritised with existing staff that are subject specialists. I appreciate that neither of these options are ideal but please be assured departments are doing all they can to ensure that student experience is as best as it can be in the situation. Thank you for your understanding in these difficult conditions.

## **Exam Access Arrangements**

There have been a number of enquiries coming through to different members of staff regarding exam access arrangements. This is proving quite challenging to monitor. As a result, we have set up one new email address where all enquiries should be sent. Please use [eeaenquiries@nailseaschool.com](mailto:eeaenquiries@nailseaschool.com) moving forward. Thank you for your support.

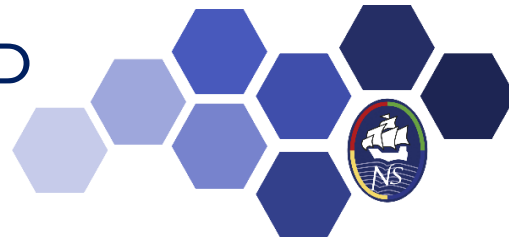
## **Sky Dive Success**

Earlier in the year I wrote to tell you that Rose, a member of our catering team, was intending to skydive for charity. Well – she's done it and there is photographic evidence as you can see! She would like to update you on the experience:  
'I can't believe I've done it! It was exhilarating, giving me an amazing view of our part of the world. I've been so excited ever since I signed up and have never been anxious. Thank you to everyone that has supported me – it has meant so much. The total raised so far is £7205.77 which is slightly short of my target. If anyone would like to show their support I have kept both links open:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rosemary-lea-wilson?utm\\_term=95wMKj95v](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rosemary-lea-wilson?utm_term=95wMKj95v)

[www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20399175](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20399175)





**Finally....** I know I am slightly late to the 'Ted Lasso' party but, my goodness, he was the coach that both I (and Richmond AFC) didn't know we needed in our lives! Emmy award winning 'Ted' is more than a feel-good series, it's more a full on demonstration of positive thinking with Coach Lasso delivering observations that better our view of the world and people around us. While Lasso himself – the down-home American football coach who suddenly finds himself across the pond coaching English football – became famous for his folksy insight, those life lessons ultimately come from all the wonderful players. (Who can't love Ray Kent a little bit?!)

Every episode has many insightful lines and following my series binging, a number of staff and students have noticed the addition above my office door this week. Ted's poster and the word 'believe' became an actual plot device upon which the whole season often hung. 'Believe' means having faith and being open and courageous enough to remain so, even in the face of impossible odds.



I know that our year 11 and 13 students have their November exams on the horizon and I attended the year 11 assembly on this issue this week. I would urge us all to #BeMoreTed, as he says:

*'I think it's the lack of hope that comes and gets you. See I believe in hope, I believe in belief'*

As a school we 'believe' every student can achieve their potential with hard work and effort – that both the staff and the students are prepared to put in. As we saw in August, the jubilation of students receiving those final results is one key reason I come into work every day. We've got this.

Take care and be kind

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher