

15th December 2023

Dear Parents/carers

The 70th day of the academic year has arrived and term finishes for Christmas at 12:20pm today. Despite it being the final week of term there has been lots happening – including a fantastic Christmas concert on Wednesday evening. I thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to the broad range of performances and extend my thanks to the staff that enabled such a great event to happen. It is always quite humbling to see the talent and confidence on display.

Yesterday afternoon year 11 students took part in their mock results event, so they are clearly in a good place about what to focus on when we return in January, after a well-earned break. Applications for Nailsea 6th form also remain open over the break, closing on the 5th January. It is from these options that decisions are made about the subjects that are timetabled so we would strongly encourage meeting this deadline. Further details can be found here [Applying to Sixth Form – Nailsea School](#)

Students return to school on **Thursday 4th January at 8:40am**. This will be a **week one**.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Parent Carer Survey

We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey regarding your thoughts on the ABSolute (Aspire, Believe, Succeed) Curriculum, specifically our ABSolute sessions delivered during Extended Tutor Time.

This survey should only be completed if you have a child/children currently in Years 7-11. Before completing the survey, we encourage you to visit the Personal Development page on our school's website <https://www.nailseaschool.com/personal-development/> to view the overview of topics covered across each year group. After reviewing this content, you will be in a better position to provide your feedback through this survey.

The feedback form can be found here <https://forms.office.com/e/kVbPeFzhc6> and will close to responses in the new year. Thank you, in advance, for taking time to provide this important feedback.

Staffing updates

The end of term 2 is one time during the academic that staff can move on to new challenges and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work of some colleagues that will not be returning in January. Ms Craze has spent two terms with the English department and has decided to return to Cornwall whilst Mrs Graffagnino's time in supporting Business Studies has also come to an end. We wish them both well for the future.

Mr Harris who has worked as both a Teaching Assistant and a cover supervisor is also spending more time on his degree course from January ahead of his teacher training course in September. Mr Harris has worked at Nailsea since 2021 and we wish him all the best for his career change.

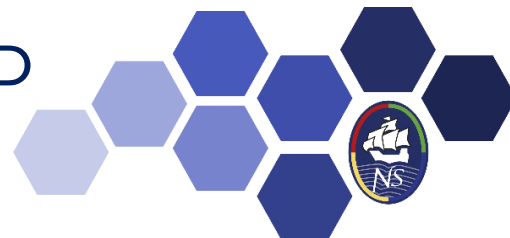
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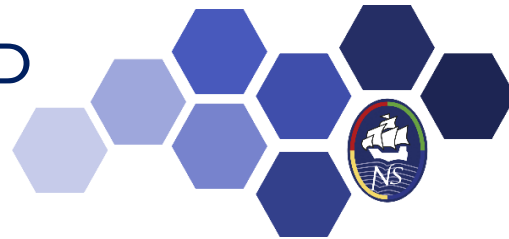
Mr Burgess, teacher of Physics, will also not be returning in January as he will be off travelling around Asia, taking the opportunity when he can. Mr Burgess has worked at Nailsea since September 2020. Starting at a new school whilst still in 'bubbles' and Covid restrictions applying must have been a huge challenge but that certainly did not show. Mr Burgess has also led on the Speech, Language and Communication focus across the school over the last two years. Mr Burgess been a huge asset to the Science department and Phoenix House and will be really missed. Bon voyage!

There have been other areas of the school where due to unavoidable staff absence there have been some changes made to timetables. These decisions are never taken lightly and at every turn the key factor behind the decision making is always what is best for the students, within the parameters we can operate within. If you ever have any questions on this matter please contact the appropriate Head of Faculty in the first instance.

Challenges of Christmas

Although many of us will be looking forward to the break, some may find the prospect of time away from routine a challenging one. As a reminder there are places that people can access support during the holiday:

WHO	ORGANISATION	DETAILS	TIMELINE	CONTACT
Young People	Childline	You can contact Childline about anything, whatever your worry it's better out than in!	Immediate helpline	www.childline.org.uk Tel: 0800 11 11
Anyone	Samaritans	Samaritans works to make sure there's always someone there for anyone who needs someone.	Immediate helpline	www.samaritans.org Tel: 116 123
Young People	Papyrus	For confidential suicide prevention for young people not coping with life	Immediate helpline	www.papyrus-uk.org Tel: 0800 068 41 41
Young People	Kooth	Your online mental wellbeing community. Access is free, safe and anonymous.	Immediate support	www.kooth.com
Students and Families	YoungMinds	A mental health charity for children, young people and their parents	Long term support	www.youngminds.org.uk
Families	North Somerset Parents and Carers Working Together	They aim to make everyday life better for parent carers & help every child & young person with an additional need or disability to reach their full potential	Long term support	www.nspcwt.org
Young People	OTR - Off The Record	Mental health services and resources	Long term support	www.otrnorthsomerset.org.uk



Date for the Diary

The next "Your Space" session will take place on 16th January 5.30 - 6.30pm and will focus on Managing anxiety in School. These informal sessions are open to all parents and carers and offer a friendly ear and a chance to ask questions, meet other parents and carers and seek support. Further information from Alison Moran amoran@nailseaschool.com

Finally...once school has broken up one of my Christmas rituals is to settle down and watch 'A Christmas Carol', with my favourite being the Alastair Sim version from 1951. The redemption of Scrooge in the final parts of the text or film always strike an emotional chord. Scrooge is clearly concerned about what he has seen as he asks the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:

*'Are these the shadows of the things that **will** be or the shadows of things that **may** be only?'*

Christmas and the New Year is an opportunity for honest reflection and to be able to look forward at what can be different with a new start in 2024. Just like Ebenezer Scrooge let's

'be better than [our] word...do it all and infinitely more...become as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town or borough, in the good old world'

Wishing you all a restful break and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2024

Take care and be kind

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Elliott".

Head teacher