



Welcome



A Message from the Headteacher

As the end of term 2 approaches, and another year closes, our thoughts turn to all that we have achieved. When it comes to the New Year we can take a pen to 2023 and think "What Worked Well" and put 2024 into action with an "Even Better If..."

In school life there is much focus on moving forward to keep aspirations front and centre, and that it is wholly right that learning should mean progress: socially, academically, emotionally and creatively. However, to create a culture of life-long learning, it is as important to celebrate the "What worked well" as it is to learn from the "Even better if". If we don't recognise our achievements and celebrate our successes, they just become another chore on our tick-list.

So in that spirit, I would like to offer a huge 'well done' to #TeamNailsea, to offer my thanks to everyone, for working so hard, in keeping our community an exciting and thriving place to learn.

Happy Christmas and let's celebrate the achievements of 2023 as we welcome the opportunities 2024 brings!

Mrs Dionne Elliott
Headteacher



Governors

A Hello from the Governors

This term, the Governors were pleased to attend the Art showcase and the Sixth Form Open Evening, where the school welcomed prospective students and their families. The Governors were very proud to see the accomplishments, confidence and enthusiasm of our students at both occasions. Many thanks to all staff and students who put so much time into preparing these events.

The Governors have been working closely with the school leaders on specific school improvement targets this term, with leaders from the Wessex Learning Trust. Thank you to all the staff who have facilitated the Governors with their work.

We have some new vacancies on our governing body and would like to invite any parents who would like to help to serve our community and to improve opportunities for our students to consider joining us. Please contact our Clerk, Mrs Annette Watts awatts@nailseaschool.com if you would like to have more information.

Lastly, at Christmas, particular thanks to our Nailsea PTA, whose efforts we greatly value, supporting our school and raising our profile within our community. Many thanks to all the parents and carers who get involved, and thank you to everyone in our school community who support their initiatives.

Thank you to all our families for supporting our school. We hope all students, families and staff enjoy a very 'Happy Christmas'.

Dr Jo Edwards
Parent Governor





Sixth Form Round-Up

Thank you to all of the Year 11 students and parents/carers who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening earlier this term, we appreciate the positive feedback that has been received and look forward to supporting you through the next phase of your journey towards post 16 study.

Our Year 13 students have successfully completed their mock examinations, delivered their EPQ presentations and many have started to attend interviews and receive university offers making this an exciting time of year. Good luck to those students who have January exams, and we hope you can find the balance between preparing over the Christmas period and enjoying time with family and friends.

At the start of their post 16 journey, Year 12 have all visited Bath to experience a university campus, been through the Prefect application process and have made the decision whether to take an EPQ alongside their other level 3 studies. Next term students will start to consider potential work experience opportunities for our Pathways Week during the summer term.

We are extremely proud of the achievements our students are making on a daily basis, and look forward to celebrating with them at our Christmas Ball before we break up for the holiday period.

Mr Truan - Assistant Head - Sixth Form

NAILSEA SIXTH FORM - YOUR JOURNEY | YOUR FUTURE

Year 12 Bath University Trip – Careers/Pathways



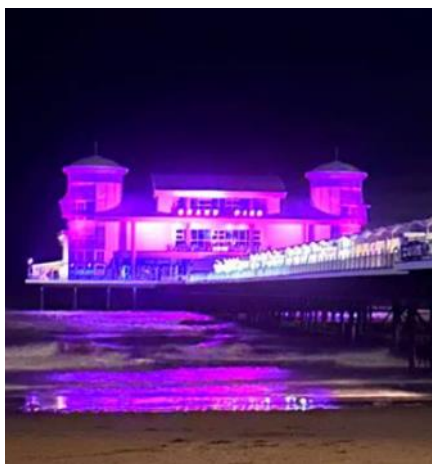
Our Year 12 students travelled to Bath University this term where they were given a tour of the impressive facilities, listened to a guest speaker who shared information about the university application process and were given the opportunity to ask current university students questions. The primary focus of our Pathways Programme is to ensure that students are in the best position to make well informed decisions regarding the post 18 options on offer, and we believe this trip is an essential part of the process.

Enrichment

Our enrichment programme provides an opportunity for students to develop skills away from the classroom and academic environment whilst encouraging them to socialise with students outside of their own year group and friendship groups.

The choices on offer range from learning Italian to running the social media of the sixth form to wellbeing sessions – a wide range of different options to suit all.

This term as well as numerous other activities, students have been getting creative with developing their mark making skills and sharing their reading journeys.



Christmas Social

Nearly 80 students have signed up to this years' Christmas Social to be held at the Grand Pier in Weston Super Mare.

The evening is an opportunity for students to celebrate their hard work and let their hair down! They're invited to enjoy a great British fish and chip supper, before hitting the dance floor.

A great way to get in the Christmas spirit and start the Christmas break.

Happy Christmas!

PTA Update

Thank you to every one that attended our AGM this term it was great to welcome our new Treasurer and volunteers. We look forward to hearing your ideas, and welcome your involvement. We have to say a hearty thank you to Sarah Hallett who has stepped down from the role of chair, Sarah will still be involved in all things PTA but is stepping away from the leading role! The role of the Chair is currently being covered by two volunteers as a temporary measure and we'd love to be able to share this role with perhaps a new volunteer.

Life on the PTA at secondary school is quite different to that of a Primary school - many of the fundraising activities are aimed at parents rather than students, though we are willing to listen to any new ideas, especially if it comes with a willing team of helpers!

Unfortunately we have had to cancel two events recently—due to lack of ticket sales, feedback has suggested that it was just a case of bad timing for the quiz night and a over saturated market for the wreath making event! Never-the-less our



Christmas Tree sales did well and it has been fantastic to see the decorated articles filling your homes with Christmas cheer.

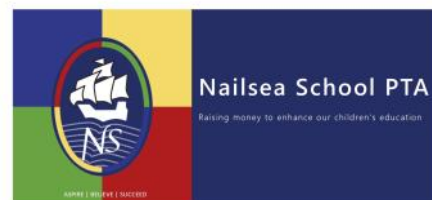
In the new year we will be thinking of events and

activities we might like to pursue, so if you have thoughts on what might be a popular fundraiser, then please do get in touch!

Before the end of Term we will be supporting the Christmas Concert with a refreshments stand, we will also be out with the Lion's Father Christmas float and our collecting tins!

In the New Year we're hoping to have a 2nd Hand Uniform sale—we're looking to do this more regularly so that people can see what they're buying and we can keep our stock to manageable levels.

If you'd like to join our committee, you are more than welcome to turn up at our next meeting at the School, 7pm on the 24th January. Alternatively—if you'd like to be added to our list of event volunteers, then please drop us an email.



Christmas Shopping?

As ever there are lots of ways that you can help us fundraise without leaving the comfort of your home - you can join **Your School Lottery**, it's £1 a week with a local prize each week and a jackpot of £25,000 drawn nationally.

Easyfundraising is another really easy way to help the PTA top up their funds. It's free to use, and many of the big shops give cashback to the PTA if you use the site to purchase—it's a handy app to use whilst Christmas shopping!



Stay in Touch

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/NailseaPTA for up-to-date information about our events.

Drop us an email: Nailseapta@nailseaschool.com



Eco Club Update

Pupils in all year groups have been invited to explore the DEN area and get hands on with nature in terms 1 and 2.

Nailsea School is fortunate to have the DEN area, which is a quiet part of the school site that has a woodland area, a pond, a gardening area and plenty of space to run around. Pupils have therefore enjoyed having access to this space as well as getting involved in some activities.

In term 1 pupils were encouraged to make small sculptures using willow branches, which were then hung in the gardening area. They also collected branches, moss, leaves and anything else they could find to make mini-dens for small figurines in the landscape.

In term 2 students got their hands dirty to plant some spring flowering bulbs. We planted about 100 crocuses and Russian snowdrops which like to take root over the winter before sprouting in the spring.

We hope that our efforts will be rewarded with some colourful flowers in the new year.

Mrs F Bicknell
Eco Club Coordinator



Student Council - Children in Need

Students on both the sixth form and lower school student councils felt very strongly about raising money for Children In Need and decided on a cake sale, which are always popular. The Year 11

House Captains worked hard encouraging their houses to bring in cakes – a special mention to Phoenix House who brought in the most. The cake sale was highly successful and students raised over £90 for the charity – a very impressive achievement!

The student council is a place for the House Captains to raise any issues or ideas from their houses and is led by the Sixth Form Head Prefects, Lily and Lana.

This term students have raised the need for more picnic benches outside and are currently investigating how many are needed and the best places for them to go for maximum enjoyment by students. Keep an eye out for their fundraising this year!



Miss G Britton
Head of Year—Sixth Form

The Science of Happiness Workshop

On Tuesday 31st October, Dr Sarah Jelbert, a lecturer from the School of Psychological Science at the University of Bristol and one of her students came to school to run a workshop for 50 Year 12 and 13 Psychology and Health and Social Care students.

The workshop was part of the Festival of Social Science, and the funding provider was the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

It was a great opportunity to learn more about research into lifetime happiness and consider questions such as whether happiness is down to nature or nurture? We really enjoyed the experience, and it provided a great opportunity for Aim Higher in action.



For Better.
For Good.

Lily P
Year 13 Psychology student



English Round Up

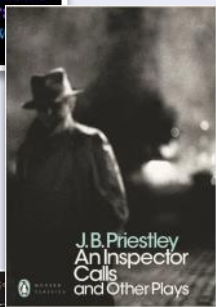
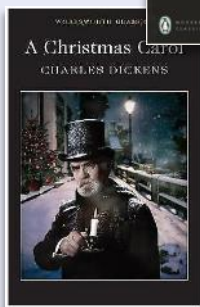
Year 7 have been exploring the art of rhetoric. We've studied a range of famous speeches, from Emmeline Pankhurst to Martin Luther King Jr to Greta Thunberg. After learning from the best, we've crafted our own persuasive speeches, using a range of techniques we've picked up along the way.

Year 8 have been on a journey through the Gothic. As the nights are drawing in, students have been on an exploration of the darker sides of the human condition. Starting with The Castle of Otranto and ending with Jekyll and Hyde, students have read a range of extracts to prepare them for crafting their own Gothic piece.

Year 9 have been studying a range of modern short stories, looking carefully at the writer's craft and how meaning has been created. This has allowed students to throw themselves into a creative writing unit where they're crafted and re-crafted their own descriptive writing.

Year 10 have been enjoying the classic play 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley, a story that explores themes of social responsibility and cause and effect. With its gripping plot and many twists and turns, the play has kept students on their toes as they consider who is most responsible for the tragedy of the play.

Year 11 are currently studying 'A Christmas Carol.' Certainly a fitting tribute to this time of year! We've enjoyed reading this classic tale of redemption and transformation, which has been a welcome foil to the stress of the mock exam period.



Ms C B Jacobs
Head of Faculty

Film and Media Studies

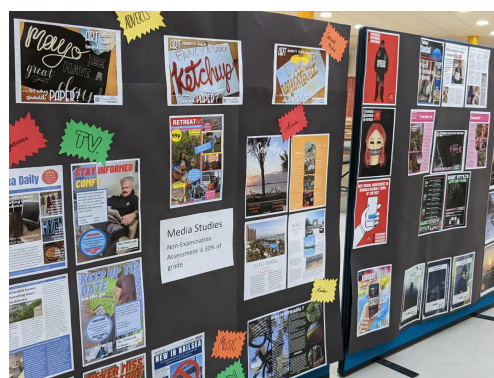
Y12 students of Film and Media participated in a Careers session with Ross from University Campus Weston on Wednesday 22nd November. The students learnt about how the creative industries are growing and the plethora of possibilities for them in this field. Ross explained how many production companies are basing themselves in the UK due to our varied landscapes which can look aesthetically pleasing on the big screen. Students also had an opportunity to practise their knowledge of cinematography and editing which they found enjoyable.

Y12 Film students have also been exploring the works of Spike Lee and learning about racism in the USA in the 1980s through 'Do The Right Thing.' Students have found this interesting and liked Lee's style which is very modern.

Y10 Film students continued with their study of teenage films by analysing 'Rebel Without A Cause' and the impact of society's 1950s moral panic over teenagers on film.

Y12 and Y10 students have been exploring the issues with regulating the internet. They have been debating how dangerous social media is which was very enlightening. Y12 students have studied Zendaya's social media and Y10 students looked at Marcus Rashford. Both celebrities are known for their anthropology and their desire to use their social media for good.

Both the Film and Media Studies groups took part in the Expressive Arts Showcase earlier in the term, and it was great for students and families to see their work presented in this way.



Miss G Britton
Head of Department

Music Update

It has been a busy term in music, with concerts, festivities and plenty of music making!

On Wednesday 6th of December all of Year 7 took part in a Christmas Song competition performing festive classics that they have learned in their music lessons. As well as developing their vocal skills, students also enjoyed planning an entertaining performance, and the number of costumes, props, dance moves and more on display did not disappoint! During the school day students shared their performances with the rest of the year, and a panel of judges gave them feedback on their songs. It was a very tough decision, but 7B's performance of Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody" took the top spot, with its enthusiastic singing, skillful solos, brilliant drumming, costumes, party poppers, a full dance routine and more (including some home baked cookies for the judges which may have helped!) Special mention was given to 7H, 7D and 7E for their performances, but we were impressed with the effort and enthusiasm of all of the classes. Parents and carers were then invited in to share these performances, which proved to be a lovely way to finish this project. We hope that Year 7 have enjoyed their performance work and are keen to come and sing with our choir group next term, which rehearses every Wednesday lunchtime!

Year 8 have finished their dance music compositions, and have produced some real dancefloor classics, including catchy synth riffs, explosive "drops" and big basslines! We will be compiling some of our favourites to share in the next newsletter. Year 9 have been working in bands learning their choice of song, including bass, drums, guitar, piano and vocals. They have been performing their songs in their lessons which has been fantastic to hear, and this will lead to a "Battle of the bands" performance across the year group after Christmas. Year 10 have started studying their first set work "Killer Queen" by Queen, resulting in some lovely class performances of the song, and Year 11 have just completed their first full assessed composition as well as their solo performances (alongside also sitting their mock exams - what a busy term!)

Our Christmas concert, which is taking place on Wednesday 13th December features performances by our orchestra, wind band, choir, jazz band and string group, as well as many talented small groups and soloists. There have been some great pieces learned in clubs this term, including a Christmas Medley in orchestra, jazz band tackling Eddie Floyd's "Knock on Wood", with our choir very much enjoying Ryan Gosling's "I'm Just Ken" from the Barbie movie! Clubs will restart after Christmas, and this is a great time to come along and learn new material. All are welcome - please speak to your music teacher for more information.

Finally, we are delighted to have so many students keen to join us on our Music tour to Belgium taking place in June 2024. In the new year we will start rehearsing pieces for this tour, and there will be an information evening coming with more details of all the fantastic concerts and excursions that will take place. Watch this space for more information soon!

Mr D Pate
Head of Faculty



Chepstow Castle Trip 2023

Our Year 7 history excursion to Chepstow Castle proved to be an exceptionally enriching experience. The students engaged with the defensive features of the castle, thoroughly examining key elements such as barbicans, murder holes, and bailies.

The exploration of barbicans provided insights into the strategic significance of these structures in fortifying the castle entrance. Analysis of murder holes demonstrated the tactical advantages they offered defenders during sieges, and the examination of the bailey allowed students to understand how they served not only in the day to day running of the castle, but also as another defensive feature.

An amusing yet educational component of the trip involved students having the opportunity to experience sitting on a medieval toilet, or garderobe, offering a tangible connection to the daily life within the castle.

Overall, the Chepstow Castle excursion successfully combined hands-on experiences with academic exploration, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for medieval history among our Year 7 cohort.



Geography Fieldwork

Term 1 and 2 has been a busy two terms for Geography fieldwork.

Year 7

At the end of term 1, Year 7 Geography students visited Chepstow. Students were using their fieldwork skills to assess how Chepstow varies from place to place. They used emoji mapping, environmental quality assessments, and land use to investigate three differing locations. Back in the classroom our students were introduced to GIS, and started to geolocate their data on a map of Chesptow by building up layers of data using tracing paper.

In term 2, students were well placed to investigate whether Nailsea is an appealing place to live. They completed fieldwork around the school grounds and have been using the enquiry process to present their results, analyse their findings and draw conclusions, as well as evaluating how we can improve our fieldwork.

Year 8

Year 8 have started a new topic on our Watery World studying Rivers and Coasts. As part of investigating drainage basins, students have been measuring infiltration rates around the school grounds, and seeing how different surfaces vary. Using the enquiry process they have been presenting and analysing results, and finding out about the impact permeable and impermeable surfaces have on flooding.



Year 8 Fieldwork Trip—Nailsea

Year 11

Year 11 students have completed their second GCSE fieldtrip to Bristol this term. They have been studying the sustainable use of brown field sites and assessing how successful this has been along the Bristol harbourside. We enjoyed a tour of the harbourside by boat and learned all about regeneration. Collecting fieldwork at several sites allowed students to compare the success of each strategy used, giving them vital knowledge for their exams in June.



Year 11 Fieldwork Trip
Bristol



Year 7 Fieldwork Trip—Chepstow



Contour Models in Geography

As part of our 'map skills' topic year 7 students study how to show the relief or shape of the land.

In class we look at the different ways to show changes in height and slope including; contour lines, spot heights and colour shading.

We then consider what different landscapes eg. valleys and cliffs might look like on an Ordnance Survey map.

To consolidate this learning pupils were asked to make their own 'contour models' and we were blown away by the effort and creative skill that had gone into some of the designs.

Here are some from 7F that were particularly impressive. Well done to Liam, Harry and Eddie!



Antarctic Flag Competition 2023/24

Thank you so much to all students who entered the Polar Network Antarctic Flag competition.

The Geography department were blown away with the number of entries and the high standard this year. It was very difficult to shortlist and come up with a winning flag. We loved the use of colours, nations flags, and wildlife which really symbolised the global cooperation and special wildlife of the continent. We also loved how some students used IT to design their flags.

We managed to short list to a selection of 10, and out of those we chose one winner and two runners up. Rowan P took first place and Evangeline and Niah were runners up. We loved the strong use of colour in the flags and wildlife of Rowans, which showed global cooperation and the unique and special wildlife of the continent. We were stunned by the beauty of Niah's drawing and the creativity of Evangeline's entry.

Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone for entering.

Rowan's entry has been sent off to the Polar Network and will be making its way to Antarctica to be photographed with the Scientists working there. We can't wait to see it!



Rowan P



Niah M



Evangeline P

Trainee Teacher Visitor

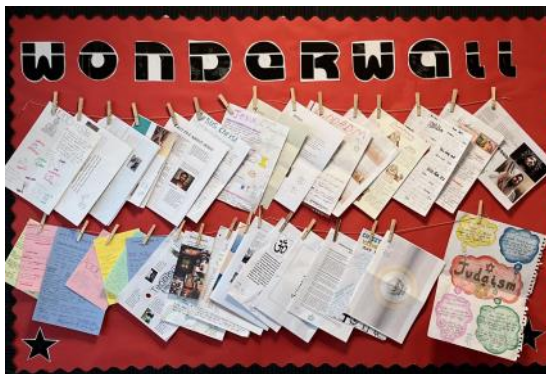
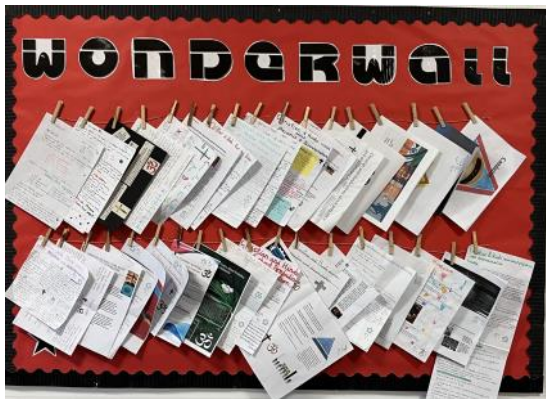
Languages at Nailsea School through the eyes of a trainee teacher;

"My first placement as a trainee teacher has been at Nailsea School and I've found both the languages department and the wider school community to be incredibly supportive and welcoming.

This has been my first experience of teaching in the UK, after spending time living and teaching in Spain, and I've enjoyed getting to know the school and students.

I've particularly valued having the chance to work with a tutor group, as it has helped me to develop my understanding of the pastoral role of a teacher. I really feel that my time at Nailsea School has set me up well for my future career as a teacher!"

Miss Burgoyne
Trainee Teacher



Religious Studies Update

This Term in Religious Studies

Students have been actively engaged in their Religious Studies lessons, analysing sacred texts and exploring how faith informs perspectives on morality.

Year 7 have continued examining Old Testament narratives, recently completing an assessment on the story of Abraham and Isaac. They analysed ethical dimensions of the story and what it reveals about perspectives on obedience and sacrifice.

Year 8 began a new unit on Jesus's final days in Jerusalem. Students are thoughtfully evaluating the sequence of Holy Week events and their ongoing significance for Christians worldwide, including modern commemorations.

Year 9 have been studying moral exemplars across religious traditions who courageously confronted injustice, including figures like Martin Luther King Jr, Malala Yousafzai, Oscar Romero, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Examining these leaders' motives and actions from a religious viewpoint has sparked insightful class discussions on human rights and moral courage.

Interfaith Week

The Religious Studies department held an interfaith arts competition to celebrate Interfaith Week, challenging students to create artwork or poems related to religious understanding and coexistence. The depth of insight and effort evident in the submissions were incredible to see. Winners will be announced next term, but all participants meaningfully celebrated interfaith ideals and represented the school's commitments to inclusion, compassion, and diversity. The RS department is proud of how students applied their classroom learnings to promote respect and peace.

Additionally, all tutor groups participated in an interfaith quiz that tested their knowledge of diverse religious traditions. This reinforced the respect for other faiths fostered in RS lessons.

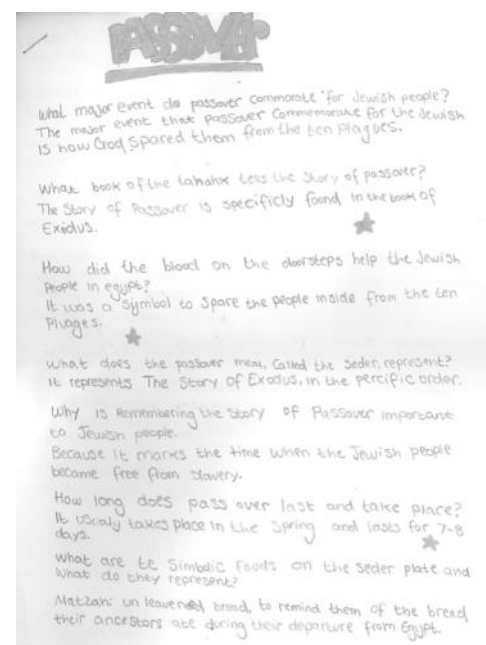
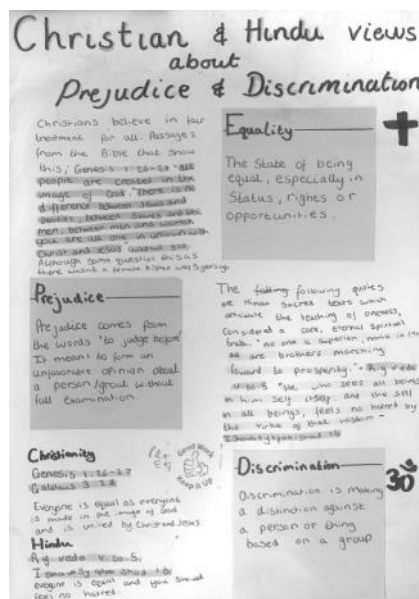
"WonderWall" Success

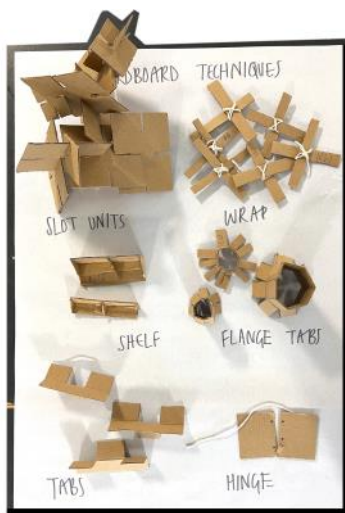
Mr. Boyce has been extremely impressed by the amazing homework he has received over the last two terms. Your outstanding homework is shining on our "WonderWall." You can view some examples below. 'And after all you're on my wonderwall'

🎵 #NailseaAspires #HomeworkHeroes

Mr. Boyce

Teacher of Religious Studies





Year 9 Aspire Art & Design

We're happy to share some exciting updates on the evolution of our Year 9 Art curriculum. This academic year we have introduced an Aspire Art & Design component, with the aim of fostering increased choice, collaborative group work, exploratory learning and the infusion of 'play' as an integral part of the creative process.

During Term 1, our Y9 artists explored how to apply different densities and layers of gouache and watercolour paint. The focus this term has been on 3D Art, specifically the techniques of cardboard and clay construction as a means of creating architectural models.

We're so pleased with the confident and creative manner in which our students have responded to the challenge. The mini houses, dwellings and abodes zing with the qualities of divergent thinking and structural understanding. Next term we are moving on to all things photography, when we're sure to be wowed once again.



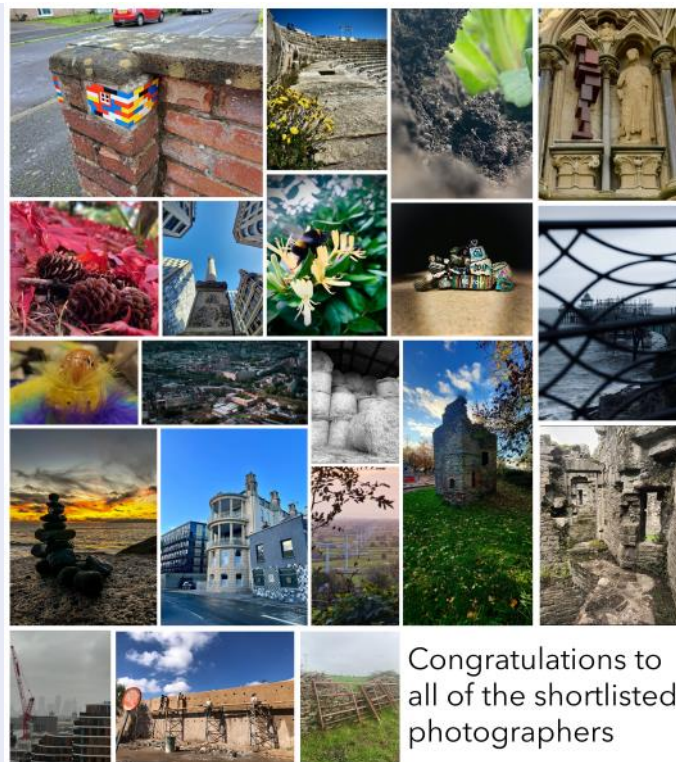
Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty

Photography Competition

Each year we look forward to seeing the entries for our Photography Competition. It is always so exciting to see the range of interpretations, creative approaches, and the skilful application of camera techniques.

This year the theme was 'rebuilding', and the responses have been outstanding, as usual. From tranquil natural landscapes featuring regrowth to bustling urban constructions, the concept of rebuilding has been interpreted in all manner of ways by our intrepid photographers. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition, and well done to those who were shortlisted.

The judges from our local Rotary Club were very impressed by the standard of all entries.



Congratulations to all of the shortlisted photographers

Special congratulations go to the following students who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd for their Key Stage:

KS3:

1st: Erin R
2nd: Issy W
3rd: Natalie P

KS4 & 5:

1st: Harrison P
2nd: Sam A
3rd: Lucy M

Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty



Poetry Performance

At the end of Term 1 the English Department held their annual Year 7 Poetry Performance celebration.

The afternoon saw every Year 7 class perform a poem of their choice to the rest of the year group and then to parents and carers after school.

The creativity on display was fantastic; we saw shadow puppets, snow globes, trees that came to life and even a recreation of life in a Year 7 English classroom!

All the students impressed the judges with their confidence, imagination and teamwork. The judges had a difficult time choosing a winner and the scores were very close. 7E came in third place with their performance of The Loveliest of Trees, The Cherry Now by A.E Houseman. They were just pipped to second place by 7A with their shadow puppet rendition of In Time of Silver Rain by Langston

Hughes. Finally, 7C were crowned this year's winners for their brilliant performance of The Trees by Phillip Larkin.

The English Department would like to thank all the students in Year 7 for putting on such wonderful performances and all the parents and carers who came along to watch and support the event. It was a lovely way to end Year 7's first term at Nailsea School!

Mrs J Jones
Assistant Head of Faculty

News from the PE Department

What a busy term! Core PE lessons have seen students continue to make great progress in the range of activities followed. The programme of study for these activities can always be found on the school website. This enables you to know what equipment students need ahead of time. I also take this opportunity to remind you that no jewellery can be worn in PE lessons for the safety of all.

Examination PE continues to go from strength to strength. The Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE classes showing high levels of dedication in their end of unit tests and mock exam. The Year 10 OCR PE students have shown an extremely mature and focused attitude in their assessment lessons with a high number of dedicated students already attending P6 lessons.

Finally, the autumn extra curricular programme will draw to a close at the end of the term with new activities when we return in January. See our website for further details : [Physical Education – Nailsea School](#).

I would like to thank Miss Tanner, Miss Herring, Mr Taylor, Mr Miles and Annabel S for the dedication and additional time they have given in leading the clubs and fixtures this term. Their time and effort has contributed to a high number of achievements this term to name a few-A 4th place finish for Lowena in Year 10 who progresses to the next round representing the area, in cross country in the New Year. The Year 11 football team have progressed to the 5th round of the ESSFA cup. The Year 8 Netball team who finished 4th in their pool at their District Tournament and the Year 10 Hockey team finished 4th in the District Tournament.

The PE Department wishes you all a lovely break and can't wait to see what you achieve in the New Year!

Miss Wild
Head of Faculty



Priority Football Academy

We're taking a moment to shout about the successes of the Priority Football Academy with a Term 2 round up! At the beginning of November Priority Academy had a close match with TPS who won 7-3.

The Academy saw some new players interested in joining the team at the Nailsea School Sixth Form Open Evening and we look forward to seeing their applications in 2024.

More recently the team won an absolutely incredible 10-0 against Bristol City Robins, a fantastic result which our boys should be very proud of.

The team have made a good start to December with a 1 - 0 win against Writhlington School in the Somerset School's under 18's Cup.

Follow the squad on Facebook — [HERE](#)



Remembrance Service

Dragon House Captain, Peter and Phoenix House Captain, Edith, were nominated by their Heads of House to join other students from the Wessex Learning Trust at a remembrance service in Cheddar.

Led by Reverend Ruth Motion the Wreath Laying Ceremony included children from each of the seventeen schools of the Trust, with the students laying a wreath from their school at the Memorial Cross.

Peter and Edith were accompanied by Deputy Head, Mr Jones and Connect Youth Worker Mr Wylie. The two House Captains read a list of names who had fought and lost their lives at war.



The Wessex Learning Trust were joined by members of the Royal British Legion, The Lions Club and The Rotary Club to honour the sacrifices made.

Gavin Ball, Chief Executive at Wessex Learning Trust read the poem 'In Flanders Fields' written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae.

Here at Nailsea School a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of the sacrifices and loss that war brings.



Library News

It's been another busy term in Nailsea School Library with Halloween crafts, Remembrance Day and students reading about these topics in the English Guided Reading lessons.

Remembrance Display and Memory Wall

In its second year of running; Nailsea School Library invited parents, carers and students to send in photos of family members who were involved in either World War I or II. Photos were used from last year alongside any new students to our school from September. The Craft Club who meet in the library every week produced some beautiful poppies to add alongside the display. A huge thank you to the Craft Club students and Mrs. Moran. Years 7 to 9 learnt about the historical war genre in fiction within their guided reading lessons.



Highly Recommended



The fabulous Katherine Rundell's new novel 'Impossible Creatures' was released in September and is the winner of the Waterstones book of the year 2023. It is a magical and fantasy novel that follows the main character Christopher, who learns that his grandfather is a special guardian between the non-magic world and a mythical place called, Archipelago. Rundell takes us on various adventures throughout the book and the reader gets to see a special 'Guardian's Bestiary' at the beginning.

Health & Social Care

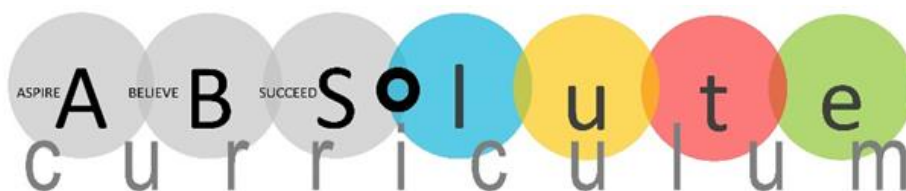


Term 2 has been busy for Health and Social Care students! Year 11 students have demonstrated huge levels of motivation, resilience and hard work throughout their controlled assessment. We are incredibly proud of the standards that they have achieved – well done!

We were privileged to welcome practising paramedics to carry out training with our Year 12 and 13 Health and Social Care students, looking at many areas of first aid – from CPR, using defibrillators, bandaging and choking. These sessions were highly engaging, practical and incredibly purposeful to our students who will be embarking on their careers in the sector.

We are very grateful for the support of these paramedics, who give up their time to inspire and educate our students – thank you!

Mrs N Macleod
Head of Department



ABSolute Curriculum

Guests

Year 7 Kooth: Students learned about the Kooth platform, available to support their wellbeing. Kooth provides an excellent online resource where students can access help confidentially. [Home - Kooth](#)

Year 10 Alcohol Awareness: An interactive alcohol awareness session called “Smashed” explored the risks of underage drinking in an informative and engaging way. #AlcoholAwareness

Year 10 First Aid: We welcomed back Emma and Sarah from the St John Ambulance Nailsea & Backwell Cadets. They delivered a brilliant first aid workshop on CPR and AEDs. Students got hands-on experience in performing CPR and using an AED – potentially life-saving skills. Many thanks to Emma and Sarah!

Assemblies

House assemblies play a vital role in our school culture. Every week, students have assemblies on various topics.

Particular highlights this term included:

- An anti-bullying week assembly by Mrs. Wisby on this year’s theme “Let’s make a noise about bullying”. Mrs. Wisby emphasised the difference between banter and bullying and how bullying goes against our school ethos.
- A poignant Remembrance assembly by the History team and two students. It looked specifically at the sacrifice for our freedom in World War I, linking to last summer’s Battlefields trip.
- Sixth Form students delivered leadership-themed house assemblies as part of their prefect application process. It was brilliant to see them already demonstrating leadership skills.
- In our Aspire Assembly, tutor groups took the theme of Aspire and created their own assemblies to deliver. Superb examples of student leadership!

Parent and Carer Survey

We would like to invite parents and carers 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 - <https://forms.office.com/e/kVbPeFzhc6>

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Growing Up S1: Why am I feeling like this? Identity S2: Who am I? Relationships S3: What are the different types of relationships? Risk and safety S4: What do we mean by ‘risk’? Careers S5: Careers Session (S. Ruty)	Money and Me S1: How enterprising am I? (1) S2: How enterprising am I? (2) Identity S3: Stereotypes S4: Faith and Values Careers S5: Careers Session (S. Ruty)	Risk and Safety S1: How do we manage risky situations? S2: Being assertive and dealing with pressure S3: Gambling Communities S4: How can I contribute to my community? Careers S5: Careers Session (S. Ruty)	Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Health S1: Pornography: Dangers, effect on relationships and Mental Wellbeing. Emotional wellbeing and mental wellbeing S2: Pressures and influences S3: Emotional wellbeing S4: Bereavement Careers S5: Careers Session (S. Ruty)

ABSolute Sessions – Term 3 (Extended Tutor Time)

Finally, I have had the pleasure to meet with two of our school governors this term to discuss the ABSolute Curriculum. We had productive conversations about where we have come from, the improvements made to the Curriculum, and future goals. Additionally, Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan recently wrote to parents and schools encouraging greater transparency between schools and parents regarding Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum plans and materials. We have always openly shared details of our ABSolute Curriculum at Nailsea including the what, when and why of our programme. We carefully plan and deliver age-appropriate RSE content. We happily meet with interested parents to discuss the specific resources used. Our ABSolute Curriculum is a real source of pride - created collaboratively between parents, staff and students.

Visit our Personal Development page on our website for further information: [Personal Development – Nailsea School](#)

Mr J Boyce

ABSolute Curriculum Coordinator

NAILSEA SCHOOL STARS

Celebrating those that have aimed a little bit higher, believed in going the extra mile and succeeded in reaching their goals. If there's someone you think deserves "Nailsea School Stars" recognition, or you have a great story to share then please do drop us an email with details to fdavies@nailseaschool.com

**YEAR 7**

- ★ Mr Boyce in Humanities is really impressed with Annabelle E in Year 7, for always giving 100% effort in her RS work. You really are a star! #BeProud
- ★ Mrs Davies in English / Drama is really impressed with Cherry-Rose H in Year 7, for always pushing forward that bit extra.
- ★ Mr Pate in Expressive Arts gives a big shout out to Flo B in Year 7, for amazing guitar playing and singing.
- ★ Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Lola E in Year 7, for her incredible performance in Hockey and football.
- ★ Miss Burgoyne in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Roman L in Year 7, for a huge improvement in his focus and effort during lessons, and for always aiming high!
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is giving star-status to Ruby H in Year 7, for being a valued member of the group and always helping others.
- ★ Mrs Jones in English / Drama is really impressed with Sofia M in Year 7, for having a brilliant attitude to learning in English lessons.

YEAR 8

- ★ Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Daniel B in Year 8, for helping the year 9 rugby team to win the North Somerset Schools Rugby Festival.
- ★ Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Florence H in Year 8, for consistently working hard in class and a great achievement in the last assessment.
- ★ Mrs Wisby in English / Drama is really impressed with Jamie R in Year 8, for consistently working hard in class and showing lots of engagement.
- ★ Mrs Price in Enterprise thinks you're a star Joseph M in Year 8, for being such a creative entrepreneur.
- ★ Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Noah M & Ronnie V in Year 8, for helping the year 9 rugby team to win the North Somerset Schools Rugby Festival.
- ★ Mrs Case in Expressive Arts is really impressed with Sam W and Harry W, in Year 8, for a composing an amazing dance track in music.
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL wants to nominate Tomo H in Year 8, for a great improvement in French lessons this term. Bon effort Tomo!

YEAR 9

- ★ Ms Jacobs in English / Drama gives a big shout out to Andrew C in Year 9, for writing an amazing essay.
- ★ Mrs Coombs is giving Archie G star status on getting shortlisted for the KS3 photo competition—well done, a great effort!
- ★ Ms Davies in Expressive Arts is really impressed with Eleanor W, in Year 9, for taking an amazingly creative approach with all tasks.
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths is really impressed with Harvey W, in Year 9, for his improved focus and commitment to learning. #BeProud
- ★ Miss Wild in Health is awarding 'star status' to her 9X gymnastics class, for an amazing 'giving it a go' attitude - so much progress made!
- ★ Mrs Price in Enterprise is really impressed with James C in Year 9, for helping other students.
- ★ Miss Dee in Science gives a big shout out to James C in Year 9, for always giving 100% effort in his Science work. Well done!
- ★ Mr Boyce in Humanities gives a big shout out to Jimi W in Year 9, for always giving amazing contributions to RS lessons. I can see the effort that you are putting in! #BePositive
- ★ Miss Driscoll in MFL is really impressed with Marvin A in Year 9, for always being focused in lessons and providing excellent contributions in class. Bravo! #AimHigh

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YEAR 10

- ★ Mrs Elliott in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to 10D Business Studies class in Year 10, for fantastic focus and effort on Tasks 1 and 2 of your NEA assignment. #BeProud
- ★ Ms Davies in Expressive Arts is awarding 'star status' to Andrii M in Year 10, for always striving to achieve at the highest levels.
- ★ Miss Creswick in English / Drama says you are a star Darcy P in Year 10, for great work during our study of 'An Inspector Calls'. #AimHigh
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Humanities is really impressed with Dec M in Year 10, for a fantastic start to GCSE History - great focus and determination. #AimHigh
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths gives a big shout out to Joel R in Year 10, for his work ethic and commitment to learning. #BePositive
- ★ Miss Tanner in Health is awarding 'star status' to Lowena S in Year 10, for her incredible performance in Cross Country placing 4th in the whole of North Somerset!
- ★ Mrs Price in Enterprise is really impressed with Samuel A in Year 10, for outstanding knowledge and a great attitude.
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Sophie S in Year 10, for consistent high-quality, accurate writing in Spanish. Keep up the good work.
- ★ Miss Tanner in Health gives a big shout out to the Year 10 Hockey Team, for their ever improving hockey performances!

YEAR 11

- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths commends Adam A in Year 11, for his determination and drive. #AimHigh
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to all of her 11C History class, for being an absolute pleasure to teach. You have focused well in revision lessons this term and I know we can continue to work together for those final results. #BeProud
- ★ Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with her Year 11 GCSE PE group, for their attitude and commitment to their progress in PE. Leading by example teaching each other and sharing their understanding. What a group!
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is really impressed with Jack C in Year 11, for making excellent progress with his Spreadsheet NEA.
- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Expressive Arts is really impressed with Jacob T in Year 11, for the independent edits he is creating at home for his photography coursework.
- ★ Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is really impressed with Rosie D in Year 11, for working so hard in Spanish given that you only started learning it at the beginning of year 10!
- ★ Mrs Macleod in Health gives a big shout out to Year 11 Health and Social Care, for their exceptional performance, resilience and motivation in their controlled assessment this term. Well done!

SIXTH FORM

- ★ Mrs Price in 6th Form is nominating Anna A in Year 12, for being such a fantastic ambassador for Nailsea School students when she represents Firebrands Hockey Club at the weekends.
- ★ Miss Wild in 6th Form gives a big shout out to Zareen E in Year 12, for actively making sure she had not only caught up on work from the start of the course but fully understood this ahead of her LO1 exam.
- ★ Mr Graff in 6th Form is awarding 'star status' to Hannah L in Year 13, for Quality NEA for the analysis section.
- ★ Miss Cahill in 6th Form commends Lily BJ in Year 13, for excellent commitment shown to her active revision for mock exams.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner in 6th Form is really impressed with Year 13 EPQ students, for the effort put into your EPQ presentations.