



26th January 2024

Dear Parents/carers

It was lovely to see so many of our year 9 families at the Guided Choices evening last night. Students will have the rest of term to submit their preferred option choices for GCSE courses – although a number of student were so settled on their choices they completed the form last night before leaving! As I was not directly involved in the presentations it was nice to be able to walk around the subject areas and hear the conversations that were taking place. With this evening following on from the subject parents' evening, earlier in the term, students should now have a really good idea of the subjects they would like to take at GCSE and those that they will succeed in. 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:

Term date consultation 2025/26

North Somerset are consulting on proposed school term and holiday dates for 2025/2026. Please click on the link to view full details,

https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/SchoolTermDates2025_26

The consultation will close on 19 February 2024.

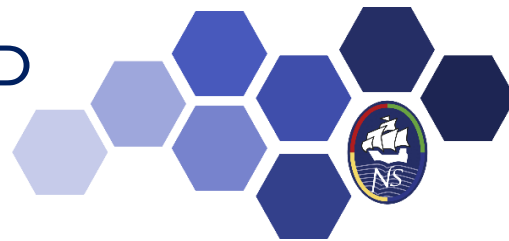
Attendance

At Nailsea we work hard with students to ensure they are the best that they can be. As part of our commitment to student success we closely monitor attendance and punctuality and work with students and their families to ensure students are in school on time, every time.

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. It goes without saying that those students with outstanding attendance, are most likely to achieve their full potential. Developing a good attitude to this important part of school life will not only help them now but also as adults in the world of work.

Students with 100% attendance are:

- 1.3 times more likely to achieve Grade 4 or above and 3.1 times more likely to achieve Grade 5 and above
- 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs Grade 4-9 or equivalent including English and Maths



Expectations: a reminder

Since returning from the Christmas break there have been a number of students wearing leggings rather than trousers.

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Trousers-Guide-Visual-helpful-links.pdf> clearly shows what is deemed appropriate for school and I would ask that families use this as a helpful reminder. There will be a drive towards ensuring there is consistency in uniform in the last two weeks of this term and at the start of term 4. The graphic, below, shows how this will be logged on Classcharts:



We have also noticed a number of students wearing excessive amounts of jewellery and chains/necklaces on the outside of their uniform. This is not permitted. As a gentle reminder, only two studs are allowed to be worn in each lower part of the ear and no hoops or decorative earrings.

I would also like to inform parents that hot water bottles are not permitted in school for health and safety reasons. This week some have been brought into school and caused a real distraction in lessons. Should a student require any support of any kind they should report to First Aid where appropriate action will be taken.

Thank you, in advance, for your support with these matters.

Finally...given my subject of choice, I have naturally always been a fan of *'Horrible Histories'*. The recurring sketch of 'Stupid Deaths' was one of my favourites – how will I ever forget that the Greek playwright Aeschylus died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his head? Given the writing team was the same, it was always going to be the case that I also watched the BBC series 'Ghosts' and following the series finale over the Christmas period, I have started re-watching from the start. In making us giggle at the supernatural, Ghosts is very British – a mashup of Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit* and Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased), not to mention the manifold silliness of Hammer horrors. Despite the comedy, at the heart of the series are stories of friendship and support, sometimes between the very strangest of pairings, and it is for this reason that I will watch time and again. Have a good weekend.

Take care and be kind

Head teacher