



23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/carers

I hope you all had some time to relax over the half term break – including those staff and students who had been part of the ski trip the week before. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Sutherland and the staff that accompanied the students on the trip. I know that the students had a fantastic time and such experiences cannot be possible without the time that staff give to these events.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Year 11 Photograph

As a reminder these will take place during tutor time and part of lesson one on Monday 26th February. Students should wear their hoodie or school jumper for the photographs.

Reminder about equipment and drinks in lessons

Students should be coming to school equipped for learning. Although they may not always have every exercise book with them there is the expectation that students will have the following available in their pencil case; pens, pencils, ruler and green pen. Ideally if students could have a glue stick this would also be helpful.

Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle into school and use the many water fountains around site. Water bottles can be refilled at break and lunchtimes. Other drinks can be purchased from the canteen and can be drunk during social times. A small minority of students have begun piercing the lid of purchased bottles, rather than drinking them in the conventional way. Staff will confiscate these bottles if they are seen being used in this way.

Mobile phone policy

As you may be aware the government published some non-statutory guidance earlier this week making suggestions to schools on their policy of mobile phones in school. Nailsea School has had the same policy in place for many years and will continue to be adhered to. As a reminder mobile phones should be 'off and away for the whole school day'. It is understandable that students have phones but if seen being used in school, phones will be confiscated until the end of the day. Students that have repeated confiscations will have alternative arrangements, such as handing the phone in at the start of the school day to avoid temptation.

As a reminder, to help with this policy, parents should contact main reception where a message will be passed on to their child if needed. We would ask for your support in not sending messages through the mobile phone during the day.

PTA Musical Bingo event – 15th March

Our PTA do an amazing job in supporting the school through their fundraising. The next event, Musical Bingo, takes place in March. Tickets can be purchased at £6 through this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/musical-bingo-tickets-824979234097>



Attendance Benefits

The government is very clear that attendance is a key priority for schools. The Trust attendance target is 96%. Nailsea School's attendance to date is higher than both the national and South West average which is pleasing to see. We acknowledge there are occasions where students cannot attend school and those absences are authorised. A student with 90% attendance has had half a day off school a week and over 5 years this level of attendance will mean the student has missed half a school year.

It is important to remember the benefits that high attendance has on both academic success and wellbeing. Benefits of High Attendance include:

- Good progress
- It gives students the best chance of being successful at school
- Evidence shows students make better progress and get better results than students with poor attendance. For example, in Year 11, an attendance rate of 90% results in underachievement at GCSE examinations by one grade
- It allows students to be able to be involved in all activities that the school runs
- It supports students to develop positive social relationships with friends and staff
- At the start of terms, particularly when classes are new, or where there are planned assessments being held at school, students miss out on key times in their education
- It promotes a good work ethic
- It supports a safe lifestyle

Your Space

The next support sessions for parents have been set for 4th March during the day starting at 9.00am, and 11th March during the early evening starting at 5.15pm. Parents do not need to book. If you would like to find out more about the sessions or future plans please contact Alison Moran amoran@nailseaschool.com.

Finally...as you read this letter year 13 students are in Switzerland visiting CERN, the largest particle physics laboratory in the world. This scale doesn't come cheap. With an annual budget of 1.1 billion euros that is equivalent to the cost of a cappuccino a year for every European citizen. It was also the place in 1989 that Tim Berners Lee invented the world wide web (I did Google that!) I look forward to hearing about this great experience from the students and staff when they return next week. Enjoy your weekend coffees!

Take care and be kind

Head teacher