



2nd February 2024

Dear Parents/carers

My first letter in February has taken a long time to arrive with January feeling a very long month indeed. As ever, lots of events have happened this week with some great sporting success for our football teams. It was also lovely to speak to the parents of my year 11 History class at the subject evening last night as it gave me a chance to personally pass on how hard they are all working. As with every student in year 11 and 13, teachers do feel very much that there is a partnership in ensuring students gain the very best results possible. We will do all we can to ensure the best outcomes are achieved.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Measles cases

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles across the country and is encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine. Currently, there are no cases of measles reported in North Somerset, but action is important now to prevent cases of measles and stop it from spreading. The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella.

You are very unlikely to get measles if you've had both doses of the MMR vaccine or you've had measles before. Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

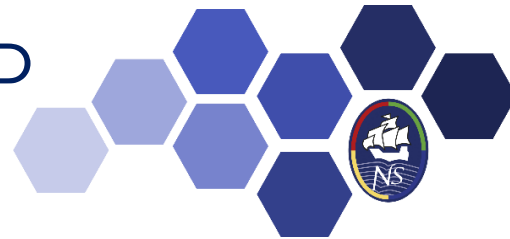
Anyone who thinks they have measles are being advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice. For more information about measles, see the [nhs.uk/measles](https://www.nhs.uk/measles) website.

Use of the school car park

We have witnessed a number of near misses in the car park recently where parent cars have come close to injuring or worse a student getting to their bus or a taxi.

For safety reasons parent cars are not permitted into the school car park at the beginning or end of the day.

We have also received complaints from the school bus trying to navigate the turning circle around parent cars that are parked at 3pm and when trying to speak to parents they have received rude and abusive responses.



As this issue is worryingly dangerous, in line with many other schools, we have sought quotes for electronic gates to prevent unauthorised access to the car park, but obviously the cost is expensive and not the way we would wish to allocate school funds.

If you feel you have a valid reason for driving on to the school site please contact your Head of House to request a car park permit. Thank you for prioritising the safety of our students.

Student arrival time on site

As you are aware students are expected to be on site for the warning bell at 8:35am in order to be on time for period one or tutor at 8:40am. It has been noted, over the last few weeks, that some students are entering the building at 8am or earlier. At this point of the day there are no staff on duty and so students are unsupervised. If there is a reason for your child to arrive earlier than 8:15am can you please contact the Head of House who can ensure that appropriate measures are out in place. Many thanks for your understanding.

Wellbeing activities

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. A chance to remind you about our wellbeing and support pages on the school website which include some new information about how parents can help their child, together with advice on talking to children about mental health.

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/wellbeing-support/>

In addition, Off the Record will be holding drop in support sessions for students in school. These start next week and will run every Monday lunchtime, Week 2, in Room 140. Any student from Years 7 – 11 is welcome to drop in, bring their lunch and join the chat and games taking place.

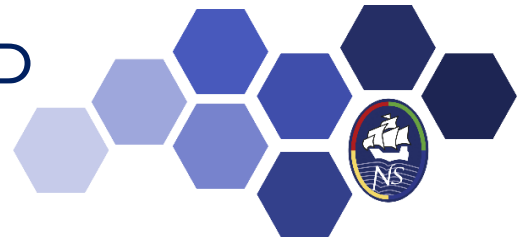
<https://otrnorthsomerset.org.uk/about-otr/>

Bikeability

Safe cycling courses are being run during the half term holiday covering road safety, managing complex roads and building confidence dealing with unexpected situations. See flyer attached for more information and to book your child a place <https://bit.ly/48Ai378>

Griffin Fundraising Day

Next Friday, 9th Feb, as well as being the last day of term will be Griffin House's charity day. This will be a non-uniform day with the suggestion that students donate £1. As a reminder any clothing worn should be appropriate for a working environment. I will update you on the amount raised and the charity chosen in due course.



Finally...we wish all the students and staff that depart on the Ski trip this weekend all the very best. I am sure they will have a wonderful time. Many thanks, also, to the staff that are on the trip, giving up their time, to enable students to have these additional experiences.*

Take care and be kind

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Elliott', on a light blue rectangular background.

Head teacher

*Yr 11 Historians - Rosie, Daisy, Hector and Emma – I am also looking forward to seeing that work I have set you for the coach drive completed on your return 😊 #TeamHistory