



Welcome

A Message from the Headteacher

Term 3 is one of the shortest terms but with January being one of the longest months of the year (or it certainly feels that way!) we have packed in an enormous amount of work as ever!

Year 7 & 8 students have been concentrating on improving their studies and focusing on building good working practises for their future.

Year 9s have been selecting their options and thinking hard about how they can shape their own future. They are busy preparing for next terms' 'Battle of the Bands' competition, where the skills they are developing in music will be on display for their classmates to hear!

Years 10 & 11 are getting to the business end of planning and building a strong foundation of revision and exam preparation. They enjoyed a trip to see Macbeth at the Bristol Old Vic – a contemporary interpretation which will add layers to their understanding of this historic text.

For those students in qualification years 10, 11, 12 & 13, Term 3 is very much a 'lining your ducks up' sort of term, a time for staff and students to prepare for the months ahead, to enable as smooth a passage as possible into the future.

Staff too have been incredible with their #TeamNailsea attitudes, pulling together providing cover when needed, invigilating, working with our Year 11s in period 6 lessons as well as doing all the extra-curricular activities that make life at Nailsea a little bit more colourful!

Whatever year you are in, and this is true for all of us, those in school and those not, it is always useful to stop for a moment and rethink plans, to refresh your view and consider what works well and plan for improvement, to look after yourself and to work smartly.

I hope that you enjoy your break and have time to refresh – Term 4 awaits!

Mrs Elliott

Headteacher



Governors

A Hello from the Governors

This term, it is great to see the energy and dynamism of the school despite the dark weeks of Winter, with a variety of curricular trips underway for students in KS4 and students from across the student body having the opportunity to join the skip trip in February. The Governors were very proud to see the accomplishments, confidence and enthusiasm of our students at a number of community engagements including Holocaust Memorial Day 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, awatts@nailseaschool.com if you would like to have more information.

We would like to give special 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 to organise events and thank you to everyone in our school community who support their initiatives.

Dr Jo Edwards

Parent Governor



Sixth Form Round-Up



Aspirational Learners

Pathways Programme

As part of our Pathways Programme this term, Year 13 students have completed mock interviews with a range of local employers which include Thatchers, Environmental Agency, Synoptix, Airbus, Barcan Kirby, Priority Football and Golden Valley Vets.

Those visiting our Sixth Form have commented on how impressed they've been by our student's ability to articulate the skills and attributes that would make them a success in their chosen area and giving specific examples of where these have been demonstrated throughout their post 16 studies.

We would like to thank all of the companies who have offered their time to carry out mock interviews and provide high quality feedback for our Year 13 students and look forward to working with you again in the future.



Independent Thinkers

Higher Education +

Over 4,000 Sixth Form students across 20 regions of the United Kingdom are engaging in the highly regarded HE+ scheme.

Somerset are working with Trinity Hall and the University of Cambridge to deliver a number of HE+ conferences and a residential trip to give students the guidance and experience of applying to highly competitive universities such as Cambridge.

Those Year 12 students representing Nailsea Sixth Form attended the launch conference earlier this term, held at Kings Academy in Cheddar.

This super-curricular programme supported a number of our Year 13 cohort to make competitive applications which so far has led to Thomas R being given a conditional offer to study Music at the University of Cambridge.



Community Ambassadors



Community Ambassadors

The Holocaust Memorial Event was held at The Tithe Barn in Nailsea on Saturday 27 January, arranged by the North Somerset Holocaust Memorial steering committee and supported by Nailsea Town and North Somerset Councils.

In addition to the event line up which included keynote speaker Tim Cole, a Professor at Bristol University and an expert on the Nazi Holocaust, the High Sheriff of Bristol, Sharon Foster, and a performance by a group of Ukrainian folk singers, were two of our Year 12 History students. Eva L and Courtney F-E. These ambassadors read a beautifully written piece, which was incredibly well received by the audience. Organiser Ben Kushner expressed how important it is to have young people involved in this memorial event, so that the messages and the lessons learned are carried forward by the next generation.

Mr Truan
Assistant Head - Sixth Form

What does Nailsea School PTA do?

We raise money for additional items for the school, that the school budget can't stretch to. We help fund items for all departments so all students benefit.



How do we do it?

By running a few events every year, like Musical Bingo, Uniform sales, Summer raffle, and Christmas Tree sales, and we would love it if anyone had ideas to share for events.

How can you help?

Support our Events

Our next event is Musical Bingo - and it would be great to see some new faces there.

It's a really 'easy' night out—the bar is well stocked with a range of reasonably priced drinks, the game is simple to play and it is a LOT of fun!

Tickets are £6 per person and you play as an individual so there is no limit on the size of the gang you bring along, please help us raise some funds and have bit of a giggle!

You can purchase tickets by email nailseaPTA@nailseaschool.com



2nd Hand Uniform Sale—17.02.24

We will be having a second-hand uniform sale on Saturday 17th February from 10am—12pm, in the reception at Nailsea School—a great opportunity to top up on supplies!



Easyfundraising

Can you help us raise funds for FREE for the PTA – when you shop online!



Are you thinking of booking a holiday, or making a large purchase, maybe renewing your car or home insurance?

Easyfundraising allows you to access over 7,000 online shops such as Amazon, ebay, Tesco and hotel, travel, insurance sites and many more and they will donate to us for FREE every time you spend with them. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it is completely FREE and does not take long. Register now before you start shopping, follow the link www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nailseaschoolpta/



Join our School Lottery

We run a weekly school lottery which is a fantastic way to support the school with a cash prize winner every week and a jackpot of £25,000.

Signing up is easy and tickets costs just £1 a week, so why not click on the link www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/nailsea-school/ and buy a ticket, you never know you could be the next lucky winner – Good luck!

Volunteer

We meet once a term and plan events – come along and meet with the team, any help no matter what you can offer is valuable. There are a range of opportunities, from coming along to committee meetings to helping at an event.

Stay in Touch Please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/NailseaPTA and share our events, so that we can reach as wide an audience as possible. If you'd like to drop us an email: Nailseapta@nailseaschool.com

Meeting with The Governors

Year 13 Senior Prefects Lily B-J and Lana R attended the last Governors meeting to present on the work of the School Council. The Year 13 leaders explained their role and how the Council runs in school with regular meetings of School Captains and tutor representatives. It was interesting to hear about how Council members are appointed and how they see their role providing student voice as well as taking community and civic responsibility and being a role models for younger students.

The Senior Prefects outlined the projects the School Council are working on as well as those being planned for the future. There is a wide range including expanding the type of reward events, fundraising for craft and cooking materials, valentines roses which unites the whole school, bake sale, Children in Need fundraising, Y7 disco, leavers hoodies and leavers handbook, eco projects delivering assemblies and influencing positive change in school.

Governors were impressed to hear about the collaborative working across year groups and the range of initiatives that the Student Council are delivering. Lily and Lana's confident and informative presentation provided a very positive picture of student voice in action across the school.



Mrs A Watts
Clerk to The Governors



Community Input

Student Council House Captains met North Somerset Council Highway Design and Engagement Consultants today at lunch to discuss how to improve the roads on their journeys to and from school.

They had some great suggestions from their Houses on which pavements needed mending and which streets needed improved lighting.



Miss G Britton
Student Council Coordinator

House Points Totals

The first three terms of the year are nearly done—so we're almost half way through the year—time to see who is at the top of the leader board...Congratulations to Unicorn, but keep going everyone there's still plenty of time for the others to steal the top spot!

PLACE	HOUSE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL
1st	Unicorn	76,766	2,600	74,166
2nd	Dragon	76,277	3,473	72,804
3rd	Phoenix	75,725	3,329	72,396
4th	Griffin	74,938	3,732	71,206



Dragon Charity Week

Thank you to all everyone that supported the Dragon fundraising day at the end of last term by buying cakes, donating money for non-school uniform or helping to organise.

The fundraising was a great success and we managed to raise **£828.92**, which is amazing! The money has been split between Off The Record and the Bristol Children's Hospital's Grand Appeal. We have already received a note of thanks from the Grand Appeal and we are sure that the money is going to a great cause in both cases.

Well done Dragon House!



Mr C Miles
Head of Griffin House

Griffin Charity Week

Term 3 sees Griffin House fundraising for it's chosen charity - the RSPCA.

The RSPCA is a national organisation dedicated to the prevention or cruelty to animals. It works to raise standards of care, and awareness of issues, affecting all animals in England and Wales.

Griffin House will be hosting a non-uniform day and a guess the pet competition to raise awareness and funds for this important animal welfare charity.



Mrs S Vass
Head of Griffin House

Health and Social Care

Term 3 has been another busy term for Health and Social Care students:

Year 10

Have started their controlled assessment on Human Lifespan Development, and have demonstrated incredible levels of dedication and preparation by returning at lunchtimes to ensure their notes are of excellent quality.

Year 11

Have started their exam unit preparation for the Summer series – they have enjoyed taking each other's blood pressures and heart rates, interpreting these readings into indicators of their current and future health!

Year 12 and 13

Have sat external exams in the January series – this has seen them increase their revision levels, and apply their learning to lots of past papers. We have now moved onto their coursework units, namely understanding dementia, public health campaigns and physiological disorders, which they have approached with newfound motivation to speed through!!



News from the PE Department



Avon Schools District Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Will M and Isabel M who took part on Sunday 21st January in the Avon Schools Cross Country Championships finishing 27th and 22nd in a strong field resulting in the North Somerset teams finishing 3rd.



Rosslyn Park

Nailsea School have been selected to participate in the World's largest school's rugby 7's tournament, Rosslyn Park. Rosslyn Park 7s started in 1939 and since then has evolved into the largest school rugby tournament with over 10,000 boys and girls aged 11-18 competing annually. Nailsea School were selected as one of 275 U16 colts teams for 2024. This is an outstanding achievement as over 1000 state and private schools applied for the tournament in 2022/23. The tournament draws inspiration from current and past professional players, coaches and support staff and students will be able to immerse themselves in an elite environment whilst watching and possibly playing against the next Academy and International rugby stars of the future.



Swimming Gala 2024

The annual swimming gala will take place on Thursday 22nd February at Hutton Moore. Club swimmers are encouraged to represent the school in this event. Please talk to someone in the PE office or drop Miss Wild an email as soon as possible if this is you!



#LetGirlsPlay Biggest Ever Football Session

On Friday 8th March, Nailsea will be taking part in the biggest ever football session along with hundreds of other schools. The aim to get as many girls as possible all playing football on the same day across England. More information coming soon.

Term 3 & 4 Extra-Curricular

Please find a link to our current clubs, these will run until the end of term 4 [CLICK HERE](#)

Miss J Wild
Head of Department



Year 12 Field Studies Trip

Our Year 12 geographers went to Slapton, Devon, to study coastal process and Urban and rural change. During the week they prepared and collected the data for their Geographical investigation.

The first day was a bright but breezy trip to Start Bay, studying coastal processes and management in the area. Students took along ranging poles and

dummy levels to look at the pros and cons of each.

During the trip, students also visited Totnes to get a better understanding of what makes it unique, to consider its 'transition town' status and to consider if it was a 'clone' town or a 'home' town. It was a good and useful trip – thanks for having us Devon!

Mr Anstey

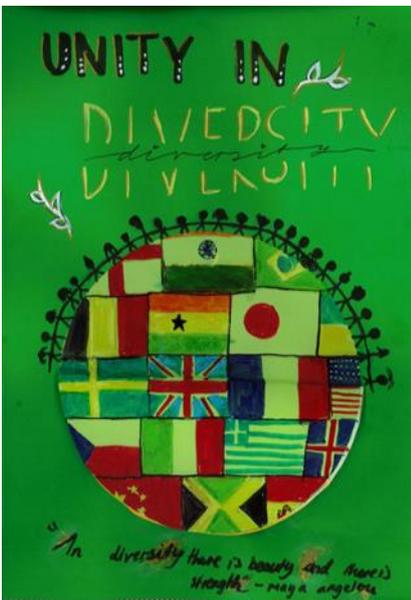
Assistant Head of Geography

Antarctic Flag Competition

Congratulations to Rowan P in Year 9 whose winning Antarctic flag has made it all the way to the Halley VI Research Station on the Brunt Ice Shelf, Antarctica. Emma who is holding Rowan's flag is studying ice fractures and a large crack in the ice called Halloween. More information about this can be found [HERE](#)



Well done Rowan.



2nd Place: Flo B (U3)



3rd Place: Ruth L (G5)

ABSolute/RS Interfaith Week Competition Winners

We are thrilled to announce the winners of our first annual Interfaith Week competition. After careful consideration, Mr. Boyce and Miss Cartwright selected the top 3 entries out of the many impressive and thoughtful submissions we received.

Well done to all those that took part and congratulations to all those successful entries.



1st Place: Issy W (P6)

MFL News

**Year 7 – Mon Collège**

Year 7 French students are learning all about the topic of school this term. What are the main differences between French and English schools? They are learning how to articulate what their favourite lesson is in French and why, expressing different views on their subjects alongside describing their school day and timetable. Telling the time features significantly so we are able to say in French what time the school day starts and finishes eloquently.

Year 8 – Mon Identité

Year 8 French linguists unpick everything about themselves and what makes them unique in Term 3. They learn to describe their personality, different relationships, music and clothes. Students will build up to describing what they might wear to a party or on the weekend, successfully showing they are able to use the future tense in their learning. (Tenses focus more heavily at GCSE level!)

Year 9 – A L’Horizon

We delve deeply into all things career related this term learning how to say what job we would like to do in the future and why. We take time to explore why it is important to learn a language other than our mother tongue and the different job prospects this can open up for us! We cover the challenging concepts of the imperfect and future tenses so we are able to articulate what we wanted to be when we were younger and what we will do in the future. The world is our oyster!

Be sure to check next terms newsletter where you will be able to learn about what our KS3 Spanish students are learning in Term 4.

Miss Cahill
Head of Faculty

**Hinckley Point C**

Earlier in the term, a second group of students took part in the Hinckley Point trip, facilitated by EDF, to tour the construction site of Hinckley Point C, the latest nuclear fusion reactor on the site.

The centre highlights the importance of the energy mix and how nuclear power plays an important part. The centre has many interactive displays and visitors are encouraged to explore how electricity is created in a fun and interactive way.

The first part of this STEM focussed trip took us to Cannington Court, a Tudor manor leased and renovated by EDF. Here we received a talk about the site, and a discussion about the mammoth challenges of building the twin reactors at Hinckley C. The students then split into groups, and were given the opportunity to design and build a construction crane from sets of Meccano.

There were several interesting designs, from spindly cranes to mech-warriors that lifted with grabbing hands.

The best design, as awarded by one of the chief engineers of the site, was created by Arthur, Will, Blake, Elizabeth and Flo. Congratulations to them for their success #AimHigh



Mr Bradley
Science Teacher

Library News



Our Graphic Novel and Manga Club meet every month to share artwork, ideas for future books and are just starting to read and review the short list for the National Award in Graphic Novels and Manga – The Excelsior Award. It is the only fully independent, nationwide book award for graphic novels and Manga where children aged 9-18 decide the winner (via four age-appropriate categories).

Love is in the Air....

As we are entering the month of February, what better way to study the romance genre in our English guided reading lessons and to offer a Blind Date with a Book throughout February.



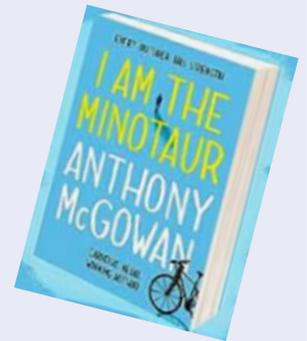
Students have the option of trying a book wrapped up with only 3 words to describe it. They can spend time getting to know their book and if they have read it, they are in with a chance to gain house points.

Students from last year explained that they found their favourite book/author by trying out "Blind Date with a Book".

Recommended Read...

I am the Minotaur by Anthony McGowan

Written by a Carnegie Medal Winning Author, this book tells the powerful story of a character called Stinky Mog. Desperate to 'fit in' at school, continue to care for his mum and then dealing with teenage pressures, it can be hard. It discusses friendships, family and what the word 'hero'

**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 Truan in Health is awarding 'star status' to Fedir K, for outstanding effort and always helping with equipment.
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths gives a big shout out to Harry H, for his efforts in maths.
- ★ Mrs Wisby in English / Drama is nominating Misha M, working really hard in writing a fantastic piece of rhetoric.
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL gives a big shout out to Ollie S, for always pushing himself in lessons and being curious about Spanish.
- ★ Miss Timmins in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Saphira R, for your amazing History knowledge and willingness to share with the class!
- ★ Mrs Piper in Enterprise is nominating Tilda E, for dedication and hard work in IT.
- ★ The finance department gives special thanks to Evangeline P for being especially polite and thoughtful—thank you! #Kindness.

YEAR 8

- ★ Miss Zimmerman in English / Drama thinks you're a star Emily J, for excellent progress in English and brilliant creative writing work.
- ★ Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Emily J, for consistently working hard in Geography.
- ★ Mr Miles in Health is really impressed with Molly W and Suzanne S, for consistently working hard in PE lessons.

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**YEAR 9**

- ★ Miss Creswick in English / Drama thinks you're a star Anna S, for your hard work and dedication. You are becoming more confident by the day.
- ★ Mrs Piper in Enterprise is giving star-status to Aoife M and Louis B, for always working hard and helping others in the class.
- ★ Miss Driscoll in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Bea H, for making excellent progress in French which was demonstrated in your brilliant end of unit writing assessment. Well done!
- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Expressive Arts is awarding 'star status' to Chloe and Abi (9D), for the refinement and imagination shown in their groups clay model house.
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Flo S, for the increased confidence shown in maths.
- ★ Miss Dee in Science is really impressed with Max M, Ruslan F and Tymofii S, for excellent teamwork during their practical lessons.
- ★ Miss Creswick in Humanities is giving star-status to Rowan P, for demonstrating growing confidence in History and always trying his hardest.
- ★ Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Tommy B, for his use of invading space in tag rugby.

YEAR 10

- ★ Mrs Cooper in English / Drama is really impressed with Athena C, for always trying your very best.
- ★ Ms Davies in Expressive Arts gives a big shout out to Josh J, for always working hard and helping others in the class.
- ★ Ms Thompson in Humanities gives a big shout out to Leah E, for her hard working attitude and determination to improve.
- ★ Miss Wild in Health is awarding 'star status' to Lily-May H, for her commitment to her OCR coursework.
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Louis C, for excellent preparation and performance in the recent speaking assessment - keep up the good work!
- ★ Miss Dee in Science is really impressed with Noah W, for working exceptionally hard in class to make sure he understands each topic before moving on - Well Done!
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths is nominating Sophie S, for being such a good and thoughtful peer to those in need.
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Enterprise is really impressed with the ongoing focus of 10D's Business Studies group, for fully committing to their NEA work. Amazing!

YEAR 11

- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths gives a big shout out to Adrian H, for his efforts when expanding brackets.
- ★ Miss Cahill in MFL is giving star-status to Alba C, for persistent effort in French with regards the recent mocks, in particular effort with regards speaking booklet.
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Humanities gives a big shout out to all 10 members of 11c that are attending lunchtime revision sessions (you know who you are!), for demonstrating real maturity in their revision.
- ★ Ms Davies in Expressive Arts is really impressed with Elsie F, for constantly striving for excellence in Photography.

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**YEAR 11 CONTINUED**

- ★ Ms Jacobs in English / Drama is giving star-status to Hector S, for the amazing work he did in his English mocks.
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Sam B, for an amazing practice pitch in Business Studies that I had the pleasure to hear when covering a lesson.
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Sam P, for working really hard on their AR coursework and producing some amazing work!
- ★ Mrs Macleod in Health is really impressed with Year 11 Health and Social Care, for outstanding attitudes, commitment and effort in your controlled assessment!

SIXTH FORM

- ★ Mr Boyce in 6th Form gives a big shout out to Maisie J for always going above and beyond in her preparation, participation and work in lessons. You are one of the most committed, outstanding students I have had the pleasure of teaching at A Level!
- ★ Miss Wild in 6th Form gives a big shout out to Year 12 OCR group for Unit 1, for application of Starlings law and cardiovascular drift on Friday.
- ★ Ms Davies in 6th Form is giving star-status to Year 13 Artists & Photographers, for being creative masterminds.
- ★ Ms Thompson in 6th Form is really impressed with Year 13 Geographers, for some excellent mock results and their determination to improve and succeed.
- ★ Mrs Macleod in 6th Form gives a big shout out to Year 12 and 13 Health and Social Care, for exceptional levels of motivation, revision and dedication in their preparation for their January exams. Well done!!

STAFF

- ★ Mrs Elliott gives all Staff Members a big shout out, with special thanks to everyone that has pitched in during staff absence so that lessons are covered. #TeamNailsea

TERM 4 - KEY DATES

Day	Month	Focus	Who
Monday 19 th	February	INSET DAY	Teaching & Support Staff
Tuesday 20 th	February	Return to School	Whole School
Friday 23 rd	February	Cern Trip	Years 12-13 (Pre-Booked)
Wednesday 28 th	February	Student Council Meeting	Student Council
Thursday 7 th	March	Year 7 Subject Evening	Families & Students
Friday 8 th	March	Student Council Fundraising Day Non-School Uniform	Whole School
Wednesday 13 th	March	Family Forum	Parents & Carers
Friday 15 th	March	English Trip	Years 12 -13
Monday 18 th	March	House Matches	Years 7-11
Thursday 21 st	March	Year 8 Subject Evening	Families & Students
Monday 25 th	March	House Matches	Years 7-11
Tuesday 26 th	March	Year 11 Group Photo	Year 11
Wednesday 27 th	March	Student Council Meeting	Student Council
Thursday 28 th	March	Phoenix Charity Day Non-School Uniform	Whole School
Thursday 28 th	March	Last day of Term 4	Whole School