

Newsletter

Term 4 | March 2025



A Message from the Head

As we conclude Term 4, it's heartening to reflect on the vibrant activities and achievements that have enriched our school community. Our motto, "Aspire | Believe | Succeed," has been exemplified by our students' dedication and enthusiasm throughout the term.

The House Challenge Programme has seen spirited participation, fostering both camaraderie and healthy competition among students.

Our Year 8 students embarked on the Rivers Geography Fieldwork Trip, gaining hands-on experience that deepened their understanding of geographical processes. Additionally, the Guided Choices Evening for Year 9 will hopefully provide valuable insights for students and parents as they navigate their academic pathways and consider their future steps.

The Career Sector Fair offered students across all years exposure to diverse career opportunities, inspiring them to explore various professional avenues.

Furthermore, the Unicorn House Fundraising Week has demonstrated the generosity and community spirit within our school, supporting local counselling charity - Wellspring who in turn assist many of our students.

As we look ahead, let's continue to embody our school values, encouraging our students to aspire, believe, and succeed in all their endeavours.

Wishing you all a restful break and looking forward to another term filled with growth and achievement



Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher

Local Partnership Board Update

Our Governing body has welcomed a number of new members over the last six months, who are bringing specific skills and qualities which strengthen our strategic capabilities, knowledge and effectiveness. Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be introducing our new Governors to you as we welcome them to our school community. You can find out more about our Governors as a whole on the school website, www.nailseaschool.com/our-team/our-governors/ This term, we would like to introduce Sarah Kaya.

Sarah Kaya

I am delighted to have joined Nailsea School as a parent governor. I moved to Nailsea 3 years ago after living in Turkey for over 10 years, where I worked as an English teacher. I have two children at the school in Years 7 and 9. The Nailsea School team have supported my children in their transition back to school in the UK, and I have had really effective engagement with the school's excellent leadership and pastoral teams, who are always striving for the best outcomes for all. I am hoping to draw on my experience within the education sector over the past twenty years as a teacher, lecturer, and civil servant and make a positive contribution to the school.



Dr Jo Edwards
Local Partnership Board

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

As we conclude another bustling term, we are thrilled to share a series of exciting events that continue to enhance our students' educational experiences and future prospects.

Year 12 students are starting to confirm highly ambitious work experience placements which provide invaluable insights into various career paths. They've also engaged with In2Med School seminars and HE+ Conferences designed to inspire and equip students with the tools they need for success in higher education. We continue to prioritise personalised support through ongoing 1:1 careers meetings, ensuring that every student receives tailored guidance as they navigate their future pathways. Finally, we are proud to highlight the record number of Aim Higher tasks submitted this term, showcasing critical thinking skills and reflecting our students' passion for exploring content beyond the classroom.

Leavers Week, study leave and final examinations are on the horizon for Year 13. They continue to impress us with their unwavering commitment and dedication to their studies and reaching their full potential. Following a fun filled week which includes our Leavers Colour Run and Leavers Day celebration assembly, students have been encouraged to stay focused yet maintain a balanced study routine. James Clear's quote "you do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems" underpins our recent messages; the systems that have been sequenced throughout their Post-16 studies will provide them with the knowledge, skills and strategies to excel throughout these summer exams.

Aspirational Learners

As we approach the summer examination period, we believe our Year 13 students are exceptionally well-prepared. They have successfully submitted their final assignments, created detailed revision timetables, and received their personalised exam schedules. This level of preparation reflects their hard work and dedication throughout the academic year. Our confidence in their success is bolstered by the VESPA A-Level study sessions that have been integral to their Post-16 journey, equipping students with the necessary skills and strategies to maximise their academic potential and empower them to approach their exams with confidence. VESPA will not only prepare our students for their upcoming exams but also instil lifelong learning skills that will benefit them in their future academic and professional pursuits.

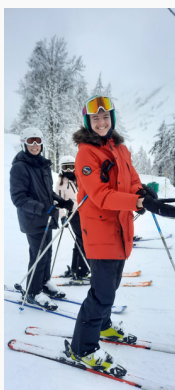
Independent Thinkers

Year 11 students have successfully completed their interviews to join Nailsea Sixth Form in September 2025. These discussions were an opportunity for students to explore their future career aspirations, subject choices, and review their mock outcomes and latest set of predicted grades. Students will receive their conditional offers before the Easter holidays, with all applicants expected to attend our transition event on Thursday 3rd July where they will experience life as a Nailsea Sixth Form student. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet teachers, engage with fellow students, and get a taste of the exciting learning environment that awaits them. We are proud to announce that we have seen a record number of internal and external applicants this academic year, highlighting the journey our sixth form has undertaken in recent years.

Community Ambassadors

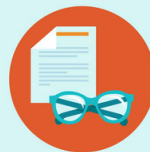
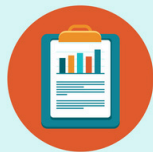
In early February, a group of enthusiastic sixth form students embarked on an adventurous ski trip to the stunning Aosta Valley in Italy, specifically to the renowned resort of La Thuile. This trip not only provided an opportunity for our students to experience the breathtaking beauty of the Italian Alps, but it also allowed them to excel in the art of skiing. Under the guidance of experienced instructors, students improved their skills on the slopes while enjoying the thrill of skiing in a picturesque setting.

Additionally, over 70 of our students had a fantastic time at AirHop Trampoline Park for their Term 4 social event, enjoying a lively atmosphere filled with fun and laughter. This event provided an excellent opportunity for our sixth formers to socialise, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories outside of the classroom.



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Careers & Employability Administrator
Email: LHumphreys@nailseaschool.com

CAREERS

This term saw the second Careers Sector Fairs taking place. This one focused on careers in professional services encompassing Law, Finance, Business and Recruitment along with Police and Armed Forces/ Teaching and Coaching. The afternoon was open to students from Years 9 to 13 and welcomed all students to attend during lunch and afterschool with their families. We had a brilliant turnout of 150 students over the course of the afternoon, with thanks to all the companies in attendance your presence and engagement made the event a resounding success and provided invaluable opportunities for our students to connect with leading professionals in the industry.

We also had Weston Training Provider Network come in and talk to our Year 10 students in an assembly on Apprenticeship Awareness and T- Levels, learning all about the different levels available and how and where to apply, providing awareness of alternative career pathways.

Should you work in a company that could offer support for Careers insights / work experience please do get in touch with Lhumphreys@nailseaschool.com.



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Art and Design

This term, Year 7 and 8 artists have been getting creative as they dive into their new projects. Year 7 students have been experimenting with their watercolour sets, mixing and exploring colours, while Year 8 students have been studying techniques used by artists and designers to create emphasis. Did you know that a circle and the colour red are commonly used to draw attention? Ask a Year 8 artist to tell you all about it!

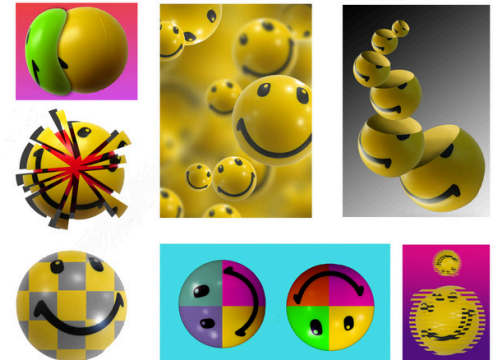
Meanwhile, Year 9 students have completed their major project for the year, producing expressive artworks featuring animals in urban environments. Fish, birds, mammals, and reptiles have all found a home among bricks and urban debris in these stunning pieces. Great work, Year 9.

Year 10 3D artists and photographers continue to impress as they refine their techniques and develop new skills. The 3D artists have been exploring clay slab building, learning how to construct intricate geometric structures. Their clay houses, adorned with delicate textures, are now home to a variety of brilliantly modelled animals.

Meanwhile, in the photography classroom, students have been honing their Photoshop skills, using the iconic Smiley as the foundation for a series of wonderfully expressive edits.

Our Year 11 and 13 artists and photographers are approaching the final stretch of their courses, with exams set for the start of Term 5. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them all the very best - not only in their exams but also in the exciting creative journeys that lie ahead. It has been a pleasure to teach the change-makers of the future, who truly embody this famous quote by painter Edgar Degas: "Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."

Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty



School Trip to Romeo and Juliet

On Wednesday, 12th March, a group of Year 9s and 10s went to see Romeo and Juliet at Bristol's Old Vic. It was a fantastic night of theatre as the students experienced a thought-provoking modern adaptation to Shakespeare's classic tale of 'star-crossed lovers.'

Alongside the original text, this re-envisioning of the story included Rap and R&B music that captured the core themes of conflict, struggle and the pursuit of love in the face of hatred. There were real moments of brilliance in this adaptation when the music blended beautifully with Shakespeare's text, notably in the fight scene between Mercutio and Tybalt. It was wonderful to see students engage with this modern adaptation as we explored how literary classics are still relevant in today's time.

It was wonderful to accompany such enthusiastic and thoughtful students to the theatre and it was certainly a school trip to remember!

Ms CB Jacobs
Head of Faculty



Humanities Faculty: Focus on Effective Revision and Assessment in Religious Studies

The Humanities Faculty is committed to equipping students with the skills for successful independent learning. A key focus of our work as a team has been on improving revision techniques, as many students find the "how" of revision more challenging than the "what."

In Religious Studies, innovative strategies are proving highly effective. The "Revision Clock," for example, helps students break down learning into manageable chunks, and results from the recent assessment have been impressive across Year 9.

Building on this success, the RS department has also adapted its assessment methods. Following the introduction of extended writing tasks, Mr. Boyce has designed a new format that allows students to effectively demonstrate their knowledge gained since September. Early results are very encouraging, highlighting the positive impact of these changes.

As Year 9 students prepare for their Guided Choices, we are confident that Religious Studies will be a popular option. The subject not only fosters an understanding of our diverse world but also develops crucial writing and thinking skills that benefit other subjects like English, Geography, and History.

Across the school, students are engaging with fascinating topics. Year 7 are currently exploring Judaism, while Year 8 are learning about Islam, including the Five Pillars and Ramadan. Our Year 11 and 13 students are completing their final content before embarking on focused revision for their upcoming summer examinations. We are optimistic that their hard work, alongside the dedication of their teachers, will be reflected in strong RS results once again in August.

Mr I Jones
Head of Faculty



Pioneer Student Leadership Programme

This term saw the launch of our student leadership programme, with all tutor reps from Years 7-10 invited to attend. This programme has been introduced across two other schools in the Wessex Learning Trust, running as a pilot and will be evaluated when the sessions conclude.

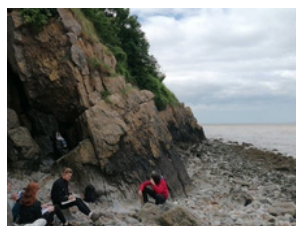
This programme is crucial as it will help to empower students to take initiative, develop skills, and contribute positively to our community. By fostering ambition and respect among peers, we hope to continue to create an environment where everyone feels valued and inspired to succeed. In the first session we talked about the skills and qualities of great leaders and looked at the differing leadership styles. It was made clear to the tutor reps that leadership is not about authority; it's about influence, and each of them has the potential to make a real difference.

The remaining sessions will look at the obstacles leaders have to overcome on occasions and how resilience can be built, even in testing times. The programme will conclude with the tutor reps devising their own leadership focus which will be reviewed before the end of the academic year. Both Ms Wisby and I were really impressed with the contributions of the group and we are excited to see how they go on to embrace the key aims of our school—Aspire, Believe, Succeed—in their everyday interactions.

Mrs D Elliott
Head teacher

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Year 11 and 13 Geographers

A massive good luck to our Year 11 and 13 Geographers whose exams start next term. The Geography department has been delighted to see the positive attitude students have shown in completing their courses and starting revision. GCSE period 6 attendance has continued to increase, and A level students are practising their synoptic paper 3, and demonstrating what fantastic Geographers they are, showcasing 7 years of Geography knowledge. GCSE and A-Level have their own SharePoint revision sites which has lots of useful documents for revision: KS5 Geography - Home and KS4 Geography - Home. Teachers will be available throughout study leave for students who wish to receive help before their exams. Some great memories of completing fieldwork are above!

Mrs K Thompson
Head of Geography

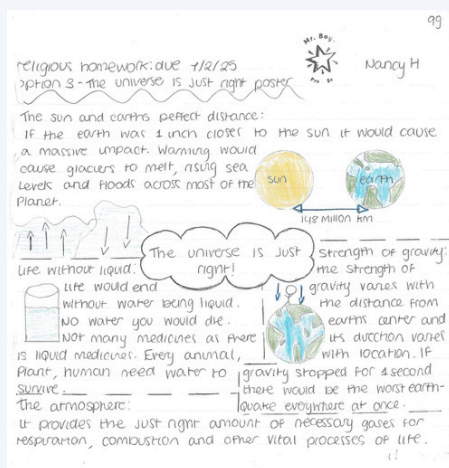


Religious Studies

Our Year 9 students have been exploring philosophical arguments for the existence of God, with a particular focus on Tennant's Anthropic Principle and Aesthetic Argument through their homework. The Anthropic Principle suggests the universe is "just right" (like Goldilocks' porridge!) for human life — with conditions so perfectly balanced that it points to intelligent design. The Aesthetic Argument highlights the beauty and wonder in the universe, beyond what's necessary for survival, as evidence of a purposeful creator.

Students were challenged to demonstrate their understanding creatively, and they rose to the occasion with impressive work. From stunning artwork and poetry celebrating natural beauty, to models and presentations explaining why the universe appears so finely tuned, their efforts showed real thought and skill. The quality of work has been outstanding and we are proud of their philosophical thinking and creativity in tackling these big questions!

Mr J Boyce
Teacher of Religious Studies



Tennant's aesthetic argument:

This collage connects and supports Tennant's aesthetic argument which is about humans being able to enjoy and appreciate beautiful things and he believed that this was a gift. Tennant believed that this meant this gift was from 'a designer' - God who wanted all humans to enjoy life.

There is unnecessary beauty on the earth and in the universe both natural (sunsets, night skies and waterfalls) and human (art and music). An omnibenevolent God would show his love to us in this way which is why Tennant believes the aesthetic argument.



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Drama Update

This term has seen the introduction of new topics for KS3 and the exciting arrival of three clubs to the extra-curricular schedule. Interest and confidence in Drama continue to grow, and students are showing enthusiasm for the increasing opportunities that the subject has to offer.

Year 7 has recently moved onto studying 'Melodrama and Silent Film', a topic that builds upon skills in mime from Unit 1. Students are thriving in the study of this new topic, expanding their imaginations and developing their focus on specificity of movement and the small details involved in precise characterisation.

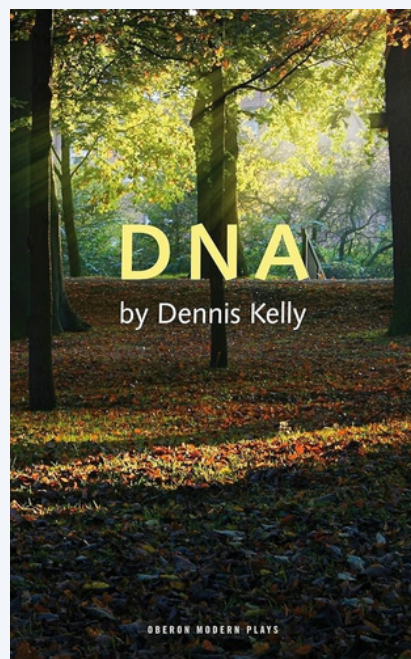
Year 8 students are being similarly challenged. They have recently been introduced to 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly, a play that explores individual responsibility, peer pressure, and group mentality. Students have been tasked with researching the context of the play, and exploring the acting methodology of Konstantin Stanislavski, to clearly and accurately convey the characters and situation to an audience.

In **Year 9**, we are coming to the end of what has been an incredibly satisfying exploration of Physical Theatre. Students have very much risen to the challenge of this unit and are now showing their final pieces that clearly reveal a sophistication of knowledge and understanding. All the work has been a joy to watch and process. The study of this unit holds students in good stead for future Devising Units, which task them with creating a more significant original performance piece, as well as for working at GCSE level.

This term, we have been delighted to start three Drama clubs. Desire for an extra-curricular offering has been growing amongst students, and we are happy to now be in a position where we can offer several opportunities that allow students to further develop interest and skill in the subject. During Monday lunch time, 'Rehearsal Recess' provides the space and time for students to rehearse any work that they feel needs developing from class. This can be in preparation for assessment, or simply to satisfy a wish to enhance a piece further. In Week 2, 'Theatre Sketch Social' runs during Tuesday lunch time, offering students the chance to explore short skits and scenes. Both groups are open to all in KS3. For Year 8 and 9 students, 'Theatre Think Tank' welcomes students to explore new theatre techniques and styles that they would not ordinarily learn in lessons. Any KS4 or KS5 students who would also like attend are very welcome.

As we continue to enhance the Drama offering, the Drama Department is increasingly impressed by students' growth and enthusiasm, and we are excited for what can be achieved in the future.

Dr J Lloyd
Head of Drama



DNA (Oberon Modern Plays)

The LGBTQ+ Student Group



The LGBTQ+ Student group has met weekly for the last 9 years. We are a group of students of all ages, from years 7 to 13. Our aim is to create a space where everyone is welcome. We discuss issues and current events that occur globally, as pertains to the LGBTQ+ community. We recommend movies, shows, cartoons and books that we think other students might enjoy or benefit from.

Sometimes we share our experiences, both positive and negative, and always support one another. It's great to talk about things that are happening to each of us, even if this maybe initially difficult. The group is a social, inclusive and welcoming space, and we welcome any new students who would like to join us. You can meet us every Friday lunchtime in room 146 (near the Media Café, in the Art Department).

Lastly, we'd like to give a shout out to one of our group members, Y13 student Aliah B, who has regularly attended the group since she was in Year 7. She has been such an amazing support to younger students, and we'd like to share a public THANK YOU to Aliah for all she's done for us and the community.

The LGBTQ+ Student Group



Online Safety Webinar for Parents and Carers

In February, we were delighted to host an Online Safety Webinar for parents and carers, led by Megan Haldane, Cyber Protect Officer from Avon & Somerset Police. Megan provided practical advice on the latest online risks, how to protect your family, and setting up effective security controls. The session was well attended and received fantastic feedback from families who appreciated the timely and relevant guidance. If you missed it, the recording is still available to watch here: [Online Safety Webinar recording](#). Keep an eye out for future events on this important topic.

Year 9 First Aid Workshops

Our Year 9 students took part in life-saving First Aid Workshops, delivered by the fantastic St John Ambulance Nailsea & Backwell Cadets. The sessions focused on essential skills such as CPR and the use of AEDs. Students had the opportunity to practise these techniques and ask questions about responding to emergencies. The workshops were hands-on, practical, and empowering — giving students knowledge and confidence that could one day save lives.

MP Visit: Sadik Al-Hassan

We were thrilled to welcome Sadik Al-Hassan, MP for North Somerset, who visited Year 9 PSHE and Year 12 Politics students for a dynamic Q&A session. Sadik was warm, engaging, and passionate — answering thoughtful questions from students about parliamentary democracy, current political challenges, and the issues that matter to young people today. The visit brought politics to life and perfectly complemented Year 9's recent learning on the democratic process.

Year 10 Alcoholics Anonymous Q&A

Year 10 students took part in a powerful and moving Q&A with three members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who courageously shared their personal journeys through addiction and recovery. Students asked insightful questions around the causes and signs of addiction, its impact on relationships, resilience, and life beyond addiction. The event was a real-life example of the strength and support that AA offers, leaving a lasting impression on students and deepening their understanding of this challenging topic.



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Spotlight on Hockey

Nailsea's Key Stage 3 hockey team got off to a winning start in their opening game against St Katherine's school with a 5-0 victory. Many students were playing in their first competitive school hockey match or their first full pitch game. Rudi B opened the scoring within the first couple of minutes with a fine solo effort, that despite the best efforts of the St Kath's keeper found the back of the net.

After a frantic opening few minutes the game settled down and Tommy G and Em W demonstrated some superb defensive screening to limit any opportunities of St Kath's breaking in to our half. The team made great use of wide options and some excellent linking play between Meadow H and Joy S on the right side of the field and Lily H and Max H on the left created a number of goal scoring opportunities that were only narrowly missed.

With 10 minutes played Rudi doubled the score line after a smartly taken, quick free pass by Meadow dissected the pitch and a neat pass from Tommy G fed Rudi B whose shot from the edge of the circle was expertly finished.

This was quickly followed by a third, after some persistent play from Olivia H up front resulted in a break for Maya S who followed in and scored on the rebound. A quadruple change saw the introduction of four Year 7 debutants, Molly H, Milo P, Erin P and Tom E. All four quickly adapted to the pace of the game and the demands of their position with both Tom and Milo scoring before half time and cementing Nailsea's control of the game.

The second half saw a tweak to the formation and a few players changing position due to injuries. This allowed Tia F to move further up the pitch from her role of sweeper to midfield and she covered the pitch expertly cutting out number of attacking passes from St Kath's. With around five minutes remaining St Kath's began to apply more pressure and were awarded a penalty flick after a player was brought down inside the circle. Harry H making his debut in goal was the only player standing in the oppositions way but he anticipated the shot superbly and made a fine save. Well done to all players on an excellent opening result.

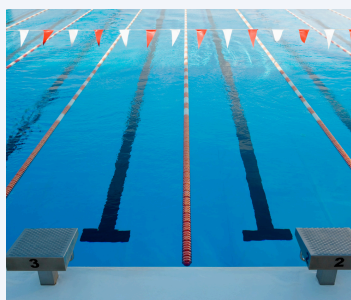
Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher



Swimming Success

A huge well done to sisters Elsie and Neve S in Griffin House (Years 8 and 10 respectively). Who recently competed at the South West Regional Swimming Championships held on the 14th and 15th March at Millfield School. Both girls had some excellent individual performances and a particular well done to Elsie whose time for her 200m Butterfly ranks her 17th nationally and places her in a strong position for the national squad selection this summer. Great work girls!

Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher



Year 10 District Netball

A highly talented Year 10 squad played in the glorious sunshine on the 18th March at St Kath's in this years tournament. As a squad they have the depth to be able to play in a number of positions which tactically means they are a force to be reckoned with. Their quality of movement and passing was outstanding, which enabled them to outplay a large number of their competitor's including local rivals Backwell. Wins of 9-1 and 6-1 shows the level of their attacking play. Due to the high level of competition at the top of the table, the top five positions came down to goals scored and goals against. With two narrow losses with one goal separating us, we unfortunately ended up finishing 5th. The squad were immensely proud of their achievements as was I as their coach, with well deserved players of the matches being awarded to Izzy G, Frankie T, Isabella C and Saule S. Some of the players already play for teams outside of school which is really pleasing. Although the netball season is coming to an end I would really love to for more to become involved next season. If anyone needs to know how to find a team please ask one of the PE teachers.

Squad: Bea H, Saule S, Isabella C, Frankie T, Phoebe T, Amelie G, Leyla M, Issy G, Bonnie L

Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher

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Girls Festival of Football

On Wednesday 5th March we took a Year 9 and a mixed Year 7 and * team to Churchill School for the biggest ever Festival of Girl's Football. This was a national initiative in partnership with the FA to showcase the girl's game.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 team played seven games during the afternoon, with a number of students playing their first ever games of competitive football. The afternoon started with a 1-0 victory over Broadoak School. A quick turnaround and the girls came up against Backwell A in their next game who narrowly edged the game 1-0. Next up was a close game against Churchill School with the girls coming out 2-1 victors. Two tough games against strong and physical opponents in Priory School and Hans Price resulted in narrow 2-0 and 1-0 defeats respectively. The girls remained positive going in to the penultimate game against Backwell B where they came out 2-0 winners. Unfortunately the team were edged out in 1-0 loss for their final game with a late long range effort from a strong Worle team. The team finished 4th in their group - well done to all players who took part and thank you to all of the girls who stood in on rotation as goal keeper during the afternoon.

Squad: Ava M (Year 8), Cici R (Year 8), Layla A (Year 7), Olivia D (Year 7), Molly H (Year 7), Chloe L (Year 7), Maisie R (Year 7), Olivia S (Year 7), Annabelle S (Year 7)

Our Year 9 team were competing in the 11 a side tournament against Backwell and Clevedon Schools. In their first game against Backwell, Nailsea took an early lead with an excellent team goal. Backwell soon got back in to the game and had a number of attacks that were shut down by our defence. The persistence of Backwell paid off with an equaliser just before half time. At the change of ends and with the benefit of a slight slope and the sun behind us, Nailsea controlled possession for much of the second half and were rewarded five minutes before the end with another goal to make the final score 2-1.

In the second game against Clevedon there was nothing between the two teams in the first half with much of the play in the middle of the pitch and neither team able to create many attacking opportunities. Early in to the second half some excellent link up play between the midfield and attack led to a composed finish. Nailsea continued to control the play for the remainder of the second half with Clevedon struggling to get into their attacking half. This pressure was rewarded shortly before the end when they were awarded a penalty that was calmly converted resulting in a 2-1 win.

Congratulations to the whole team on two excellent performances. Here they are proudly displaying their winner's medals.

Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher



Squad: Back Row (L-R) Ruby W, Joy S, Em W, Nicola M, Tia F, Emily P

Front Row (L-R) Meadow H, Alessia C, Martha C, Xanthe S, Trinity M.

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Humanities Trip to Berlin

This term the Humanities team and some Sixth Form students visited Berlin which was filled with incredible experiences. This journey was not only an opportunity for our students to explore the vibrant city, but also to engage deeply with its rich and complex history.

Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp

Our visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was a poignant and powerful moment for everyone. As we walked through the camp, students were able to reflect on the unimaginable suffering endured by millions during the Holocaust. The visit served as reminder of the atrocities that took place. In particular, I was struck by the maturity and intelligence of the students in the sector of the camp designated for Jewish prisoners. Some students took the opportunity to reflect on the differences in how The Holocaust had been remembered between East and West Germany, and the difficulties the country as a whole has in trying to adequately engage with its past.

The Berlin Wall

Standing before the remnants of the Berlin Wall, our students gained a new understanding of the physical and psychological divisions caused by the Cold War. After lunch, we walked along a sector of The Berlin wall (The East Side Gallery). The students were able to learn about the dangers of trying to cross the wall, and see its imposing nature from the historic photographs that exist as reminders around the site. Luckily, the weather was kind to us for the whole trip and so the group were able to get some excellent photos in the sunshine!

The Wannsee Museum

The Wannsee Museum provided a sobering insight into the planning and execution of the Holocaust. The villa, where the infamous "Wannsee Conference" took place in 1942, served as the meeting point for Nazi officials who devised the "Final Solution." The museum's exhibits allowed students to engage with this chilling chapter of history, offering a deeper understanding of how institutionalised hatred and systematic violence can unfold. It also gave, in particular the History A level students, a chance to see the attempts of some individuals and groups to deny the existence of the Holocaust. This allowed them to fully understand the fight many have gone through for victims and survivors to be remembered and properly commemorated.

The Jewish Memorial

The striking Jewish Memorial in the heart of Berlin was an emotional experience for many. Comprising 2,711 concrete slabs, the memorial stands as a tribute to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. It prompted thoughtful discussions about collective memory, and the need to ensure such atrocities are never repeated. The students also spent time quietly engaging with the stories of the victims by visiting the museum located underneath the memorial.

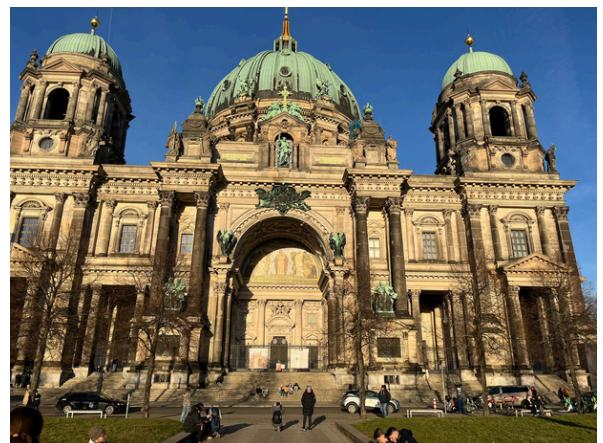
Brandenburg Gate

Our trip also included a visit to the iconic Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, a couple of Berlin's most famous landmarks. The students were able to take some incredible images as the sun set together.

Overview

We are incredibly proud of how thoughtfully and respectfully our students engaged with each site. The students really enjoyed the final moment of the trip, a visit to the top of the Berlin TV tower to get some amazing clear views of the city sky line at night! We hope that the memories and lessons from this trip will continue to inspire them.

Mr E Brisco, Ms L Ginnis, and Mr J Boyce.
Humanities Team



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Spanish

Year 7 – Mi insti

Year 7 Spanish students are learning all about school this term. They compare Spanish and English schools and focus on the different aspects of school life, including lessons, subjects, and timetables. Students express their opinions on their favourite subjects and explain why they enjoy them. Food also plays an important role, as students learn how to say what they have to eat and drink throughout in Spanish.

Year 8 – ¿Qué hacemos?

Year 8 Spanish students focus on arranging to meet up with friends and making plans. They learn how to talk about different places in town, the times they can meet, and what they might wear. Students also practice giving excuses when they can't meet up, discussing things like being busy or having other commitments. They use the present tense to discuss their plans, preferences, and routines, as well as to express when they can and can't meet. This helps them build confidence in using everyday language for social situations.

Year 9 – Jóvenes en acción

Year 9 Spanish students focus on young people's actions and how they contribute to society. The topic revolves around volunteer work, activism, and what teenagers do to make a difference in their communities. Students express their opinions about social issues, discuss their aspirations, and talk about what they hope to achieve in the future. Through exploring these themes, students also practice the future tense and improve their ability to communicate their thoughts in Spanish.

Year 10 – Mi estilo de vida

Year 10 Spanish students look into their lifestyle and how their everyday habits reflect their identity. The students talk about their diet, health, fitness routines, and how they manage their time. They also learn how to describe what they typically do on a normal day, expressing likes and dislikes about their routines. The future tense is practiced as students describe the lifestyle changes they would like to make in the future, providing an opportunity for personal reflection and growth.

Year 11 – Revisión

Year 11 Spanish students focus on revising all the key topics covered throughout their GCSE course, with a special emphasis on speaking skills. They work on fluency and pronunciation, while revisiting key structures from previous modules such as personal identity, social issues, school life, and future aspirations. This term helps students feel confident in their spoken Spanish as they prepare for their final GCSE exams.

Finally, on the last day of term we are taking our Round 2 Wessex Translation Bee qualifiers to compete against the other schools in the Trust. They have done incredibly well to get this far and hopefully we can see some of our students make it through to the final.

Check back in next term to read what French students are up to in Term 5!



Mr E Bennett
Acting Head of Dept - MFL



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Developing Education in Nature (DEN)

We have been working hard in the DEN to continue with our 'Outdoor Classroom' project; clearing overgrown areas, painting furniture and tidying our resources shed. Pupils have started to prepare the raised beds, ready to plant strawberries in the coming weeks. The daffodil bulbs we planted in the winter are bringing a pop of colour to the main entrance to the school. Now that spring has arrived we are keen to start growing more plants from seed, ready to plant out both in the DEN and in other parts of the school site. Thanks to a £50 gardening voucher donated by the Nailsea Horticultural Society we will be able to buy compost and gardening supplies to create some hanging baskets.

The Nailsea Horticultural Society will be hosting their **Spring Show at Nailsea School on Saturday 5th April between 12 and 5pm**. We encourage pupils and their families to come and take a look at the amazing home-grown produce and taste some home-made refreshments. Members of the local community can enter different competitions for the chance to win prizes. For more information about the categories or what to expect from the show please visit their website at <https://nailseahorticulturalsociety.co.uk/>. If you can't make this date then look out for their Summer Show which will take place on Saturday 2nd August. We also plan to have an 'Open Gate' at the DEN between 11am and 2pm on the day of the Spring Show if anyone wants to take a look at our progress or get their hands dirty.

Our successful bid to the UK's leading outdoor learning and play charity; 'Learning through Landscapes', has provided us with a range of resources to encourage outdoor learning, including a 'fire-pit kit'. We now have some fire-lighting sticks, safety gloves and a fire blanket to add to our existing equipment. Teachers and support staff were invited to some after school training in the DEN, delivered by Ali from 'Learning through Landscapes'. She taught us how to safely create a fire-pit area, light a small fire and encouraged us to think of opportunities to share these skills with pupils. Staff enjoyed collecting tinder and kindling to provide fuel for the fires, toasting marshmallows and sharing ideas and experiences in the Spring sunshine.

While Ali was visiting Nailsea School she met with a group of pupils who regularly attend the Thursday lunchtime 'Eco-schools' club in the DEN. They took her on a tour of our school site, carrying out a 'Climate Audit' to assess what we are doing well and what could be improved in terms of biodiversity, water and temperature management. We noticed that the trees and sun-shade in the courtyard made a big difference to the temperature on a hot day and discussed ways of adding more 'natural shading' to other social spaces. Inspired by conversations during the tour and staff training a 'Biodiversity Action Plan' will be created to share our short, medium and long-term plans to help make Nailsea School a greener place.

Thank you to pupils, staff and members of the community who have helped sow the seeds for potential outdoor learning projects in the future.

Mrs F Bicknell

Eco Club Co-ordinator

Nailsea Horticultural Society Presents

Spring Flower Show
Nailsea School
Saturday 5th April
12 pm and 5 pm.



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House Challenges Term 4

There really is something for everyone in the House Challenge programme as we've seen in this term's challenges.

Environmentalists showed their love of nature submitting some beautiful, thought-provoking and inspiring poems reflecting their thoughts on the environment. All the students who took part have been individually rewarded as the level of effort and creativity was so high. Copies of their work will be displayed around the school to share with the school community.

Our book worms have taken part in the World Book Day Treasure Hunt. Students were encouraged to bring in an item indicative of their favourite book rather than full fancy dress which was more inclusive and reflective of secondary school. There was lots of mystery and detective work as we tried to work out the connection from pots of honey, to a skull and to a zany hat getting students and staff involved trying to guess the books.

Performers filled the auditorium with a range of songs from Taylor Swift to My Chemical Romance. Standard was high and showcased talent from all year groups with the audience impressed, captivated and joining in by clapping along. A really fabulous atmosphere and so popular that an extra day had to be hastily arranged to fit in all those that wanted to perform. Heads of House led by example in this Term's Heads of House Challenge which is when we really got to see the competition hotting up. Playing against the clock each House team, made up from a combination of Heads of House, Assistant Heads of House, House Captains & Tutors raced to lift and stack paper cups using only a balloon. The audience piled in to see who had the most hot air - who was left breathless - whose bubble burst! Mayhem ensued with a hilarious race against the clock ably compared by our Sixth Form Prefects.

As I write this - still to come this term House Matches, Speed Stackers and Egg-cellent Historical Figures - as always students can find out how to get involved and take part in the House Challenge by talking to their Tutor or Head of House. Full information on the House Screens.

House Challenge Teams

Mrs A Watts
SLT Assistant



House Ethos

Ambition

Dragon students demonstrate ambition by developing skills, learning new knowledge, leading to growth.

Community

Our Dragon community faces challenges, fears and difficult moments with courage.

Resilience

Dragon students show resilience when faced with new opportunities.



House Heroes

Greta Thunberg [ambition]
Nelson Mandela [community]
Simone Biles [resilience]

House Song

High Hopes - [Panic at the Disco]

"Igniting Passion. Fuelling Dreams"

House Ethos

Pride

We are considerate, treating others with respect and reflecting proudly on all of our achievements.

Community

Empathy, we show understanding in sharing the feelings of others, offering support and compassion.

Perseverance

We work together, and individually, with determination to reach our goals.



House Heroes

Maya Angelou [pride]
Kevin Sinfield [community]
Alan Turing [perseverance]

House Song

Best Days of my Life - American Authors

"Rising Above Limits. Reaching New Heights"

House Ethos

Kindness

We are friendly, generous and empathetic to all in our school community, contributing to the wellbeing of all.

Community

United, we work together for a common purpose or goal within our house and school.

Fearless

We face challenges with courage, confidence and pride.



House Heroes

Charles Dickens [kindness]
Corita Kent [community]
Maggie Aderin-Pocock [fearless]

House Song

Don't Stop Believing - Journey

"From Fire. Comes Strength"

House Ethos

Respect

We respect others around us, we are considerate of others points of view and we treat others the way we'd like to be treated.

Community

Unicorn House community is trustworthy, always ensuring we are reliable and responsible.

Tenacity

We are driven to achieve and strive for excellence in all that we do.



House Heroes

Malala Yousafzai [respect]
David Attenborough [community]
Martin Luther King Jr [tenacity]

House Song

Hall of Fame - The Script

"Progress. Not Perfection"

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From Backwell Parish Hall to the England Squad

Evert C's in Year 10 journey in karate is one of passion, perseverance, and remarkable resilience. For nearly as long as he can remember, he has dedicated himself to the discipline, starting his training at Backwell Parish Hall and now standing proudly with a place on the JKS England Squad. His story is one of dedication and overcoming challenges, proving that success doesn't come without hard work and a resilient mindset. Karate has also shaped Evert's attitude toward life, something that has proven a valuable life skill. The road to success hasn't been without its hurdles. One of the most significant challenges Evert faced came at a pivotal moment in his journey—just as he was preparing for his black belt exam. Suffering a break to his hand, could have been enough to derail the dreams of many aspiring martial artists, but Evert didn't let it stop him. Instead, he chose to face this setback with the same steady resilience he had learned from karate. Even though he had to restart his training, his determination remained unwavering. That disappointment is now firmly in the past. Evert's perseverance paid off when he was selected for the Bristol Karate Academy Competition Squad, where his skills and dedication were recognized. In January, he was invited to try out for the JKS England Karate Squad, with one of the most senior Karate instructors in England, Matt Price, attending the selection process. Evert's success at the try-outs marked the beginning of a new chapter in his karate career. Since his acceptance into the England Squad, Evert has already begun attending rigorous training sessions, preparing for a year full of competition. With 12 competitions scheduled for his first year alone, Evert's commitment to the sport is truly remarkable. It's not a journey for the faint-hearted. The intense training, long hours, and long-distance travel are demanding, but Evert's dedication to achieving his goals remains unwavering. As Evert embarks on this exciting new chapter of his karate journey, there is no doubt in our minds that he has what it takes to succeed. His perseverance, resilience, and the calm mindset developed through years of karate training will serve him well in the challenges ahead. We wish Evert every success in this exciting adventure and look forward to watching his continued growth and achievements on the England Squad.

Mrs S Vass
Head of Griffin House

Olivia's Big Break in 'Young Sherlock'

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that Olivia from Griffin House recently got a taste of working on the small screen, rubbing shoulders with some big screen stars! Olivia will appear in the highly anticipated Young Sherlock, an upcoming Prime production set to air this Spring.

The experience has left a lasting impression on Olivia. She had the unique opportunity to meet acclaimed actors Colin Firth and Hero Fiennes Tiffin. Being on a fully functioning set, surrounded by cameras, crew, actors, and even real horses, has sparked her ambition to pursue acting herself.

While the work was intense, Olivia had a great time in her fitting sessions, where she was transformed into an authentic Victorian character. She especially enjoyed moments like eating curry in the Green Room and making new friendships, connections and memories that she will keep for years to come.

We can't wait to see Olivia in Young Sherlock this Spring and look forward to watching her future performances. It's clear that the stage is just the beginning for this talented young star!

Mrs S Vass
Head of Griffin House



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Anime/Manga Style Art

Year 7 students Nathan H and Toby Y have been producing some amazing art to be displayed in the library showcasing short stories inspired by the style of manga and anime. They have produced three parts already which have drawn the attention of students of all ages throughout the school, Sixth Form students and teachers. It has even inspired other students to start drawing and producing artwork as well, so watch this space for further episodes. A huge congratulations to Nathan and Toby for their amazing achievement.



World Book Day

This year Nailsea School celebrated World Book Day on 6th March 2025 with a treasure trail around the school where students had to find book covers, head back to the library solve a word scramble to find a popular book title as part of the House Challenge.



It's not just on 6th March that we celebrated World Book Day, from Monday 3rd through to Friday 14th March during English guided Reading lessons students from Year 7, 8 and 9 undertook a special World Book lesson where they watched videos about what the World Book Day authors wanted to read in 2025 and recommendations from Benjamin Dean, author of, 'This Story is a Lie'. Each student received a World book day voucher and book of their choice. The most popular choice was, 'This Story is a Lie,' with 'The Fart that Broke World Book Day' coming in a close second!



Mrs A Conner
Librarian

Film and Media Update

Year 10 Media have started their new unit of Video Games and have been studying Lara Croft Go, a mobile app game that features Lara Croft from the Tomb Raider franchise. They have been learning about cell-shading and isometric views which were used in the game's design.

Year 11 Media have been learning about the Film industry and are about to compare the marketing of Daniel Blake with Black Widow. This unit focuses on the differences between independent film and Hollywood films and students have learnt industry terms such as monopoly, oligopoly and conglomerate. They have also learnt about the film genre of social realism. Some students have been engaging in the Friday Aim Higher lunch time sessions looking at social media and representations of female characters in games.

Year 11 Film have finished their course which ended with tracking the history of film technology from the 1800s to 2018. They are now beginning their revision into all of the films studied by making connections between them – for example which character changes the most. Some students have been engaging in the Thursday Aim Higher sessions looking at editing and film form.

Video games, in particular Horizon Forbidden West have been the area of study for Year 12 media. They are about to study Postmodernism and will be soon enjoying the simulacra of a Terry's chocolate orange!

Year 13 Media students have studied music videos, in particular Ghost Town by The Specials and Lil Nas X's Old Town Road. There has been much discussion on what extent Old Town Road can be considered country – a surprise guest in the form of Mr Pate, Head of Music, really helped to refine our discussions.

Year 13 Film students have been studying Memento by Christopher Nolan. This is for the Experimental element of the exam and students have been exploring the narrative of the film - making their brains hurt!

Miss G Britton
Head of Department

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★ Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 7

- Ms Thompson in Humanities is really impressed with Charlie R, for your amazing climate change poster!
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise is really impressed with Felix W, for having a fantastic attitude to your lessons and being so kind, polite and welcoming to me as your new teacher.
- Mrs Davies in English is really impressed with Fraiser M, for doing well in his assessment despite a wide range of obstacles this week.
- Dr Lloyd in Drama is awarding 'star status' to Freya G, for always doing their very best and approaching everything with enthusiasm.
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with her Year 7 classes, for great focus and progress made in the most recent two activity blocks.
- Miss Holmwood in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Kai J, for always aiming high and asking interesting questions
- Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Ruby O, for a fantastic performance at Live Friday.
- Mrs Young in MFL gives a big shout out to Tori L, for being an extremely enthusiastic and outstanding language learner.

YEAR 8

- Mrs Davies in English is awarding 'star status' to Alfie S, for incredible work on his 'Romeo and Juliet' descriptive writing.
- Ms Jacobs in English is awarding 'star status' to all of 8A, for the fantastic work they did last term with their opinion article writing. Amazing job!
- Mrs Gardiner in Health is really impressed with her Year 8 PE class, for their excellent Bollywood dance routine
- Miss Rigby in Maths gives a big shout out to James W, for working hard and aiming higher.
- Dr Lloyd in Drama is awarding 'star status' to Josh C, for always persevering and showing consistently strong knowledge and understanding.
- Mr Pate in Music is giving star-status to Maisie J, for great work playing the Blues
- Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Orlando G-B, for having an outstanding attitude in PE lessons.
- Mr Bennetts in MFL gives a big shout out to Seth W, for always pushing himself in Spanish lessons.
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Sunny DB, for his positivity and enthusiastic attitude to his work.

YEAR 9

- Mr Graffagnino in Health gives a big shout out to Abigail H, for always giving 100% irrespective of what challenges they face
- Dr Lloyd in Drama is really impressed with Amelie B, for being a constant driving force in group work and showing impressive skill and knowledge.
- Mrs Nicholson in Humanities is really impressed with Florence H, for her focus, commitment and progress she has made this year.
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL gives a big shout out to Harry C, for being an extremely enthusiastic and outstanding language learner.
- Mrs Moran and Miss Tudor in the Pastoral team are awarding 'star status' to Harry D, For helping us at breakfast club twice a week.

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★ Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 9 CONTINUED

- Miss Ford in English is giving star-status to Hula B, For excellent improvements in her English writing.
- Miss Holmwood in Maths is really impressed with Logan M, For great ambition and always aiming high!
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise is giving star-status to Phoebe H, for your excellent sewing skills in textiles and for sharing those skills with ours.
- Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Trinity W-M, for great lyric writing and piano playing.

YEAR 10

- Mrs Nicholson in Humanities wants to nominate Ayla G, for her outstanding consistency and hard work over the course of this year.
- Mrs Ruddy in English gives a big shout out to Bella S, for her consistent hard work and effort. Brilliant stuff!
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Evert C, for being an excellent role-model to others by demonstrating constant enthusiasm for Spanish
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Logan H, for being a fully-committed learner and all around creative superstar in 3D Art and Photography.
- Mr Pate in Music wants to nominate Sam D, for an amazing piano medley performance during Live Friday.
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to the Year 10 Netball squad, for their performance in the recent district tournament. Outstanding!
- Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Viktor V, for his hard work and dedication to his IT NEA.

YEAR 11

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with Andrii M, for being able to apply Photoshop editing skills with such subtlety and precision. Amazing creations and visualisations are happening!
- Miss Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Esther V, for great independent revision!
- Mrs Wells in Health is awarding 'star status' to Frida, Megan, Eden and Olivia, for leading the Zumba dance fitness lesson.
- Mrs Jones in English is really impressed with Jess P, for the excellent effort she is putting into her revision!
- Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Jose I-B, for being so helpful playing the drums on others' ensemble performances.
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Sam A, for all of the hard work, effort and planning you put into your NEA2. I am so proud of your work ethic and thank you for engaging so well with me as your new teacher!
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is nominating Sophie G, for her focus, commitment and progress she has made this year.
- Mr Howard in Humanities is really impressed with Sophie S, for sustained high standards of work, personal study and a genuine love for learning. Very inspiring to see!
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Year 11 GCSE and OCR PE groups, for their application and focus during their recent moderations.

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★ Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 12

- Mr Jones in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to James R, for probing deeper into the news behind political stories.
- Mr Truan in Health is awarding 'star status' to Jorja F, for always working to the best of her ability and achieving excellent outcomes.
- Ms Jacobs in English is giving star-status to Katie C, for a spectacular evaluative response on the topic of Language and Gender.
- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Leanne C, for producing high quality, detailed French homework.
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is nominating Thomas F, for being such a contextual and analytical thinker, enabling truly insightful artwork.
- Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is really impressed with Year 12 IT group, for their hard work and focus with their Unit 1 exam.

YEAR 13

- Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Dan G, for outstanding efforts and focus with coursework.
- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Georgia L, for impressively accurate Spanish written work.
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with Lizzie C, for showing such positivity and drive in lessons and in your approach to the concluding stages of your Art A Level.
- Mr Howard in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Mollie P, for a great attitude throughout this year.
- Mrs Cooper in English is awarding 'star status' to Will D, for incredible dedication to your studies.

KEY DATES TERM 5

Please note that whilst we try to remain as accurate as possible – all dates are subject to change.

Day	Date	Month	Activity	Who
Monday	21st	Apr	Easter Holiday (Bank Holiday)	
Tuesday	22nd	Apr	Term 5 Starts	
Thursday	1st	May	Subject Evening	Year 12
Friday	2nd	May	House Fundraising Day	Griffin
Monday	5th	May	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday	6th	May	Sixth Form Leavers Week	Year 13
Friday	9th	May	Sixth Form Leavers Day	Year 13
Thursday	15th	May	D of E Silver practice weekend (15th-17th)	
Friday	23rd	May	Last day of Term	

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