



25th April 2025

Dear Parents/carers

Term 5 has started at pace!

Despite the shorter week Year 11 3D Art students will be finishing their practical exam today and should be proud that their GCSE season is now underway. Next week the Fine Art students and the Photographers will complete their components, as well as Spanish and French students completing their speaking component. We wish everyone well in their final preparations for these exams. Staff have continued to be impressed with the focus and determination of students over recent months – these exams are now a chance to show what they can do and how hard they have worked.

Looking to other events that are taking place next week, I would like to wish our U18 Priority Academy Football team the best of luck for their cup final fixture taking place on Monday. The fixture will take place at Portishead Football Club, kicking off at 7:30pm. I will be there offering my support, and I am sure Mr Davidson and the team would really appreciate any additional support if people have the time to attend.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

North Somerset Council letter - Council of Sanctuary Proposal

Please find attached a letter from North Somerset Council, that I have been asked to share. This provides key information and support contacts, regarding the Council of Sanctuary Proposal.

North Somerset Engagement Competition

Also attached, is an overview of a competition being held by the council seeking views from young people on what it is like to live in North Somerset.

Visit by North Somerset Counsellors

Next Friday we are welcoming a group of 5 representatives from North Somerset Council to our Resource Base. As parents may be aware Nailsea was the first school to work with the authority to create this provision and the group are keen to see how such an approach can be replicated in other schools in the authority. Thanks, in advance, to the staff involved in hosting the visit.



Griffin House Charity Week

Next week Griffin is raising funds for MND. Students and staff will collectively be walking 500 miles in 5 days around the sports field. A funding page will be set up for families to support.

Griffin House will also be hosting ***Come to the Fair*** during Friday lunch time. This will be a collection of fairground games such as a coconut shy, a raffle, hook a duck and so on. Of course, the necessary cake sale will also be taking place. Lots of cakes, lots of prizes, lots of fun.

Other activities will take place during the week including movie lunch times and staff football match and the week will end with a non school uniform day on Friday 2nd May.

It would be greatly appreciated if students could bring in their pennies next week for the cakes and raffles and games in support of the charity.

Parenting Village

The next Parenting Village session takes place next Thursday (01/05/25) at Nailsea Children's Centre, Pound Ln, Nailsea BS48 2NP.

The drop-in is a relaxed and friendly place where parents can pop in and find a listening ear, advice, support, and resources about anything parenting. They can signpost to other services and can recommend any parenting programmes which might help to support families with challenges they might be experiencing. SEND support and advice and Opportunity North Somerset (employment advice for young people) will also be available.

See attached flyer for more information.

CYP Social Prescribing

North Somerset Children and Young People service is offering support to families on a range of issues covering stress and mild anxiety, loneliness/social isolation/sadness, peer difficulties, low confidence/low self-esteem, physical health and weight, developing resilience, worry management, COVID-19 recovery, community engagement, family relationships.

Please see attached flyer for more information.

Shorts

School Togs have asked us to advise parents the delivery of shorts from their supplier has been delayed. They estimate they will be ready to take orders from 7th May. There will be a discounted launch price for the month of May for those families choosing to take up the shorts option.



PTA Extraordinary General Meeting

All parents are invited to attend this meeting which will take place on Tuesday 29th April at 7pm. This will take place in the Conference Room with attendees entering the building through the Community Entrance.

Finally...although this term has coincided with a very welcome change in the weather, and despite only being a shorter week, for many reasons It has been an incredibly challenging start to Term 5. There are many things, as Head teacher, that I can influence and control. There are, unfortunately, far more things that I cannot. I also need to ensure that school procedures and practices are adhered to so that there is consistency and routine for the young people in our care, a key element of preparing for life beyond school.

Decisions taken by external/third parties have, this week, had a significant impact on the perceived relationships between home and school. I say 'perceived' as I am saddened that some of the correspondence staff have received this week has been incredibly rude. Communication from me will always be open and transparent and the suggestion that I am choosing not to support families is one that I find upsetting. I, too, am angry that decisions taken by an external group have resulted in clear levels of hostility from home towards school – the very antithesis of the way I have behaved since taking up the Headship. Please be assured that I will continue to do all I can, within the remit and parameters I can operate in, to ensure Nailsea families are given the best experiences possible. I have often signed off this weekly letter with the words 'Take care and Be Kind' – a sentiment I would ask everyone of us to be mindful of, especially as a result of experiences this week.

Have a good weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

