

# Newsletter

Term 5 | May 2025



## A Message from the Head

I am continually impressed by the dedication and resilience shown by our students and staff. This term has brought important milestones, particularly for those preparing for exams, and I encourage everyone to stay focused and positive. Leavers' day for both our Year 11 and Year 13s was a great opportunity to celebrate the fun times we have together and to look forward to the exciting future ahead. We wish you all well - you've put in the 'hard yards', and now is the time to achieve your goals.



Amongst the many things to motivate us next term, we have Sports Day, our Duke of Edinburgh expedition, Work Experience Week, 6th Form Pathways day and Curriculum Enrichment Week. Some really important team building experiences. We can't wait! In the meantime – enjoy the break, and use it to re-focus for what will be our final term of a brilliant year!

Mrs D Elliott  
Headteacher

## A Message from the Local Partnership Body

Our Governing body is a group of committed partners who bring different skills and experience to support and challenge our school. We have a programme of training and initiatives to support this work and all commit to continued learning. We also want to celebrate the achievements of our local partners who have undertaken continuing education, and the insights this gives to our understanding of the experiences of our students. Many congratulations to our Chair of LPB, Sue Renny!

### Continuing Education – Sue Renny

One of the things I find myself saying frequently at work is “every day's a school day”. Despite having left full time education many years ago, I have always tried to stay curious and remain open to learning. In work, that can be practical knowledge and skills, and in life, that can be the opportunity to deal with different personal experiences, both positive and challenging. Sometimes the thing you learn about is yourself, what you enjoy or find rewarding.

I have had a range of office-based jobs but I've always looked for the events, courses and professional qualifications that have aligned to my role and my interests. This gives you the chance to meet new people, experience a different environment which can trigger creative thinking and problem solving, and stop things getting boring!

I currently work in Procurement, (sourcing goods and services for businesses) which I often describe as 'advanced shopping'. Recently I had the opportunity to sign up for a Master's degree in my spare time. This involved writing some essays on different topics and then for my dissertation (a really, really, long essay!) I completed a piece of original research on promoting sustainable procurement practices by interviewing a group of procurement professionals.

I really enjoyed meeting up with a range of people on my course, we were all in similar jobs but from different industries and even countries. I set up a What's App group so we could keep in touch and support each other. We met up again in person for graduation and it was great to celebrate our achievements together.

Not only does this gives me another professional qualification for my CV and it will support me in moving my career towards my personal interest in the environment and sustainability, also the sense of pride and achievement never gets old (plus I get to put more cool letters after my name). Change is the only constant in work and life, so embrace it!



Sue Renny (bottom right)  
with friends.

Sue Renny, MSc, MA, LLB (Hons)  
Chair of Local Partnership Board

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## Message for Year 13

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do” is a proverb meaning that people need to adapt to their new situations. As we all near the end of our time as a community in Nailsea Sixth Form and go on to find whichever path is fit for us, this should be kept in mind. No job or apprenticeship is quite like the school environment, and university is far different as well. But I’ve grown with you, and I’ve seen you conquer work experience, mock job interviews, driving tests and exams. I’m confident that you will also conquer anything else that life throws in your way. So, I wish you well, and remember “When you roam, wherever you roam to, do as the Romans do.” Veni vidi vici - Go. See. And conquer.

Bobby B  
Head Prefect



## Message for Sixth Form staff

On behalf of Year 13, I would love to thank every tutor and teacher for all of the incredible support and encouragement that you given us all, for these last two years, and throughout our lower school journeys. It has always meant so much to know there are people in your corner, consistently wanting nothing but the best and believing in you, especially when it is hard to do so on your own. Every one of us can recognise that we wouldn’t be where we’ve managed to be today if it wasn’t for this. Guidance in and out of the classroom has held all of us up and kept us going forwards, so for that we are grateful and will miss everyone who has helped us throughout our Sixth Form journey.

Eva L  
Head Prefect



## Gabblers of the Year - Most Improved

I couldn't recommend the Gabblers experience any more for the Year 11 students joining Year 12 next academic year. The Gabblers Club consists of six dinners, three of which where you "gabble" for four minutes on a given title. To be honest, when I signed up, I had no clue what I had let myself in for and as a result my first speech was far from perfect. A friend of mine compared me to a deer in the headlights when I stood up and spoke! However, through the coming dinners I became more confident and spoke in front of almost 300 people at the Grand Final, taking home the award for Most Improved Gabbler. The whole experience has been amazing, improving my confidence and general public speaking skills which will support my journey into medicine.

Hector S  
Gabblers 2025



## Somerset U19 Football Champions

What an unbelievable achievement! Winning the Somerset Cup with some of the best friends we have made along the way, the perfect to ending an incredible two years. A special shout-out to Mr Davidson who has been a fantastic coach but also an amazing teacher and mentor to us all, and we're sure we wouldn't have won this trophy without him at the helm. As Captains, we'd like to thank all the players for their impressive work ethic on the pitch which contributed to this achievement, which was fully deserved. We took it right to the wire and without that grit and determination to get over the line we wouldn't have done it, so well done lads. An incredible two years which has ended in the best possible way. We're all extremely grateful.

Harrison F and Mike V  
Captains





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## Year 13 Leavers' Week

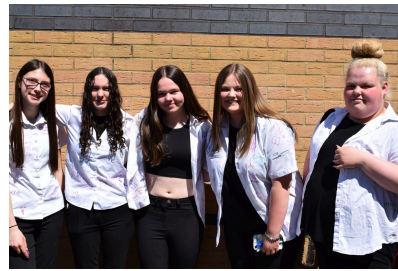




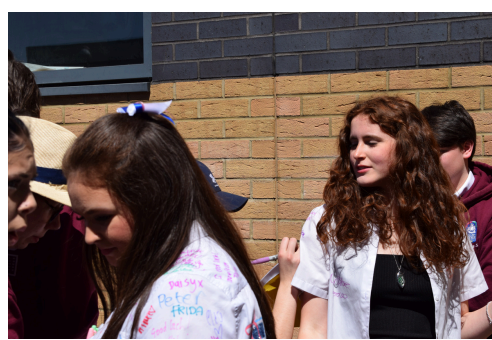
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## Year 11 Leavers





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Year 13 - Head Prefects



Year 11 - House Captains

## Student Council Round-Up 2025

The Head Prefects and House Captains have worked hard this year to raise awareness of the importance of kindness and community. This campaign began in March with Bobby and Eva, Head Prefects, planning and delivering an assembly on anti-racism. A tutor group competition to design anti-racism posters for the school building followed, with excellent entries from all Houses that reflected the important messages in Bobby's and Eva's assembly.

House Captains selected the winning three posters, which are being held up in the photograph. Furthermore, Student Council also requested a Quiet Zone for students which ran during lunchtimes in Term 3, with the Sixth Form Prefects and House Captains supervising. The money raised from our fund-raising this year has gone towards new board games for the Library and resources for The Hub which further demonstrates the Student Council's focus on kindness and community.

Student Council 2025 has made a real impact to the lives of students and we would like to thank them for all their hard work, dedication and commitment this year. We wish them the very best on their journey Post-16.

Miss G Britton

Student Council Co-ordinator



## HOUSE CUP CHALLENGE

This term's House Cup Challenge was devised by Unicorn, based on a game played on Taskmaster. The first team member was secretly given a picture to trace on their team mates back, this was repeated along the line, without any communication until it reached the final person.

The final person in the line then used pen and paper to draw what they felt on their back – with hilarious outcomes! The most accurate picture was the winner, with some very close results – Unicorn came first!

Well done to everyone that took part and supported.





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## English

During Term 4 and 5, our English classrooms have been alive with the wit, wonder and drama of William Shakespeare. Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 have journeyed through enchanted woods, feuding families, and fateful castles to discover why the bard's stories have stood the test of time.

Year 7 have been exploring the magical mayhem of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play brimming with mischief, mistaken identities and fairy enchantments. From the mischievous antics of Puck to the comical chaos of the play-within-a-play, students have enjoyed the humour and imagination that make this comedy a timeless favourite.

In Year 8, students have delved into the emotional rollercoaster of Shakespeare's most famous love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, considering how themes of fate, family loyalty and conflict still resonate today. They've analysed the lyrical language of love and debated the tragic choices that lead "a pair of star-cross'd lovers" to their tragic end. It's been a rich exploration of how Shakespeare captures the highs and lows of being young and in love in a world of conflict.

Meanwhile, Year 10 are in the middle of embracing the dark and chilling world of *Macbeth*. With witches, prophecies and creeping guilt, the students are tackling the big questions surrounding ambition, power and moral consequence. We've begun to track *Macbeth's* descent from hero to tyrant, and examined the role of Lady *Macbeth* in her pursuit of power. The play will draw to its grim conclusion next term and we'll see how *Macbeth's* world unravels – "a walking shadow... signifying nothing."

This term, Year 9 have taken a different course and have studied non-fiction texts from across the ages, exploring how context informs and shapes a writer's choices when creating a text. But Year 9 won't miss out on all the drama. In the coming weeks, they turn their attention to a modern play – *A View from the Bridge* – and will consider how the classical tragic form has been recrafted for a modern time.

English Department



## Film and Media

Year 10 Media continue to study video games, but are now looking at the mobile game 'Black Pink the Game'. Many of them are unfamiliar with the K-Pop band, so this has been enlightening for them. In a recent lesson, they debated whether the game was manipulating and exploiting its young audience via its freemium model.

Year 11 Media, Year 11 Film, Year 13 Media and Year 13 Film have been busy revising in lesson, and students should be commended on their commitment and dedication to revision. We have been making links between the texts as part of our revision, for example Film students began a recent lesson trying to decide which film setting they would most like to live in – Tsotsi's shack from the South African film *Tsotsi*, the slums from the film *Slumdog Millionaire* or the tower block from the London-based film *Attack the Block*. Which one would you choose? They decided that the block, with its alien invasion would be the most fun to live in! Media students compared representations of the 1950s in the OMO advert and the Galaxy chocolate advert. We decided that the nostalgic, romantic 1950s of the Amalfi coast in Galaxy was far more desirable than the 1950s Britain, pegging out the washing image of OMO.

Year 12 students have explored Crime Dramas this term, in particular the archetypical 'Nordic Noir *The Killing*'. Students have enjoyed studying the representation of gender in these types of TV shows. Next they will be looking at 'No Offence', a Channel 4 Paul Abbotts TV show which subverts lots of the conventions they have been studying.

Miss Britton  
Head of Dept



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## Geography

At the end of March pupils in Year 8 took part in some Geography fieldwork to investigate how a river changes as it flows downstream. This built on pupils' knowledge of river processes and landforms from the Watery World topic they had studied earlier in Year 8. As well as bringing a topic to life through real work experiences, pupils were given the opportunity to gain practical fieldwork skills to collect primary data to prove a hypothesis. In particular the fieldwork aimed to collect evidence to test the Bradshaw Model that states that a river gets wider, deeper and faster as it flows downstream.

We chose the River Holford in Somerset as it is a relatively small and safe river, that has good access points along a public footpath. We were therefore able to get into the river to measure the width, depth and speed, using our fieldwork equipment and working as a team. One highlight was using a dog biscuit to measure the speed of the river at each site. Pupils dropped the dog biscuit in upstream and timed how long it took to float 3 metres downstream. Pupils enjoyed exploring the landscape next to the river, enjoying the natural scenery, discovering wildlife and just taking in everything this part of the Quantocks (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) has to offer.

Since the fieldwork pupils have returned to the classroom to look at the data they collected and come to conclusions. We found that our photographs showed a clear change from the 'upper course' of the river with steep sided wooded valleys and a narrow stream, to the 'middle course' with a wider valley floor and a meandering wide river. However, our graphs showing the cross sections proves that the river does not change uniformly as it flows downstream, with some areas being deeper than others dependent on the physical geography of that particular area.

We hope that Year 8 pupils had an educational and enriching day out in the field. We are proud of how they coped with challenges brought about by being out in nature all day and how they worked in their groups to collect their data.

Mrs Bicknell  
Geography Teacher





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## Unicorn Charity Week

At the end of Term 4, Unicorn House embarked on their Charity Week keen to raise money for Cancer Research UK and also Wellspring Counselling, a local Nailsea based charity that provides affordable, professional counselling for young people age 11-18 and adults in North Somerset.

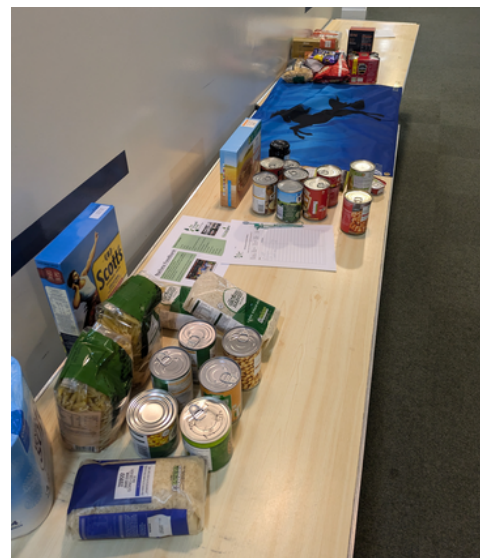
The aim: every student takes part, every tutor group comes up with a fundraiser and the whole House does something together. We had a bake sale, penalty shoot out against Mr Howard, teacher Olympics, online quizzes, charity teacher football match and a very successful raffle. It was also very touching to see U6 do their traditional foodbank stall, ensuring we remember all those in our communities who are struggling with the cost of living rises. As a whole House we also took part in a sponsored cycle ride together (pictured), asking students to cycle for 15 minute slots throughout the week. This was done with a fantastic spirit and many staff commented on how well-behaved the students were. Finally, we always want to support our entrepreneurs in the House and they came up trumps again. Whether it was selling bath bombs, friendship bracelets or origami creations, the students put the effort in for charity. Great to see!

We were fortunate to have the Wellspring Director, Wendy Griffin, come in for a few days during the week to support some of our events. She commented: 'Thank you so much for all the hard work and fundraising efforts last week. Wellspring always needs to find income streams to sustain what we do. There was a lovely atmosphere in school and I hope your students found it rewarding.'

All in all, we achieved our target. Every student, every tutor group, the whole House together. Our secondary target was to raise as much as we could for some good causes. We did that too, raising £2089 in total.

As Head of House, I am very proud of our students in Unicorn. They demonstrated our House values of respect, community and tenacity throughout the week, as they do every week. I love Charity Week. It wipes me out, but I love it!

Mr J Howard  
Head of Unicorn House





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## French

### Year 7 – Là où j'habite

Year 7 French students are learning how to describe where they live. They explore types of housing, rooms in the house, and places in their local area. Students learn how to say what there is or isn't in their town, describe their ideal home, and talk about what they do in their local area. They also begin to give opinions and reasons, helping to build confidence in expressing themselves in French.



### Year 8 – Quel talent

Year 8 French students are focusing on talents and ambition. They learn to talk about what they can do, their skills, and their future dreams. This includes using modal verbs to say what they are able to do and discussing personal qualities and achievements. Students explore the world of fame and entertainment, all while building their ability to express themselves using a range of present and near-future tenses.



### Year 9 – Moi dans le monde

Year 9 French students are discussing global issues and their place in the world. They learn how to talk about important topics such as the environment, poverty, and fairness, and explore what they do or could do to help. This topic encourages students to express opinions about the world around them and consider how their actions can make a difference, using the present, conditional, and future tenses.



### Year 10 – Numéro vacances

Year 10 French students are learning how to talk about holidays, both past, conditional and future. They describe where they normally go on holiday, where they have been in the past, and where they would like to go in the future. Students build their narrative skills by using the perfect and conditional tenses, learning to describe experiences in detail, give opinions, and compare different destinations.



### Year 11 – Révision

Year 11 French students are busy revising all the key themes from the GCSE course, with a particular focus on exam technique and speaking confidence. Having recently completed their GCSE speaking exams, they are now preparing for the reading, listening, and writing papers. This term is all about consolidating knowledge, refining accuracy, and building confidence across all four skills.



### Wessex Translation Bee

Finally, at the end of last term, our students competed in Round 2 of the Wessex Translation Bee, going up against other schools in the Trust. We are delighted to announce that Barney W (Yr7 French), Freya M, Eloise S and Doran O'D (Yr7 Spanish), Eloise T and Cam L (Yr8 French), Niah M, Success A, and Evangeline P (Yr8 Spanish), Antoni K (Yr9 French) and Ada R (Yr9 Spanish) have all made it through to the final round! Their hard work, determination, and linguistic flair have been impressive, and we're excited to take them to Bath Spa for the final at the start of Term 6.



Check back next term to find out what our Spanish students will be up to in Term 6!

Mr E Bennetts  
Head of Department







## Griffin - Charity Car Wash

I feel incredibly fortunate and honoured to say that I am a member of staff at Nailsea School. Having supervised Griffin 2 carry out their fundraising efforts raising money for their chosen charity MNDa through washing staff cars, I have not only felt fortunate but also feel humbled and proud to be their tutor.

Each lunchtime teams of students have given up their time to wash cars and do their own little bit for charitable causes. Blessed with fortunate weather the team washed 21 cars over the course of 4 days raising in excess of £100 for the House charity. Although at first some were admittedly a bit reluctant because of how they might be judged by their peers, by the end of the week we even had students offering to do additional sessions or from other Houses offering their support.

A big thanks to the all staff who helped to ensure their event was a success and a huge well done to all students below who took part:

Fraser A, Barnaby B, Jacob B, Wing C, Grace C, Dexter C, Ryan C, Don E, Tilly F, Alfie G, Keeley H, Onur I, Megan K, Ethan M, Leyla M, Niah M, Sofia M, Callum O, Max R, Elsie S, Louis W, Eloise W, Mason W, Evan W, Ilaria N, Lily H,

There is still time to donate using the link below [HERE](#)

Mrs Wells  
G2 Tutor and PE Teacher

## Captain at Twickenham

Congratulations to Phoebe W who was captain of her Rugby 7s team at the hallowed Twickenham ground - the home of English rugby.

Unfortunately, the Year 10 student got studded in the face during her first game, but she showed absolute grit by getting back into the game (once the bleeding stopped!). Her team made it through to the finals which was played at half time of the men's Army v Navy game.

The crowd was a whopping 48,997 people strong. The team and Phoebe did incredibly well and played fantastic rugby with her team coming 2nd out of the 6 girls' teams who participated.

Great work Phoebe!





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## Football Success

Congratulations to the Year 7 students who play for Nailsea Junior Football Club in their success of winning the Woodspring KO cup to add to the Woodspring league title already picked up earlier in the year!

Mr B Watts Chair of NJFC said of the team...

*"A truly amazing squad built on teamwork and enjoyment of playing sport!"*

Captains Freddie W, and William S, got to lift the cup in front of over 200 people and it was extra special in front of all friends and families!



## The Nailsea Juniors Under 12's United Squad ( Nailsea School Year 7)

Included: GK Jimmy O, GK Tommie B, Freddie W, Nathan O, Sam C, Toby T W, Joshua W, Barney W, William S, Matthew R, Alfie G, Jack C, Joshua M, Ellis W

## Swimming Success

Further to the update in our last newsletter Year 8 Griffin student Elsie S has continued to have success in the pool. Following results in recent competitions she has been placed in the top 10 nationally for her 100m and 200m Butterfly and will be travelling to Sheffield in the summer to compete in the English Nationals meeting.

We all wish Elsie the very best of luck.

## Ten Tors!

Well done to the Nailsea School students that took part in this year's Ten Tors Challenge. The two groups of students from Nailsea Scouts managed the 35mile Ten Tors Challenge across Dartmoor earlier in the term.

The Ten Tors Challenge is attempted by 2,400 teenagers in 400 teams of six. The teams navigate routes of 35, 45 or 55 miles (depending on age) over the Northern half of Dartmoor, visiting ten nominated tors / check points in under two days.

Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need to complete their route and stay out overnight safely, they must navigate their way and meet the strict time frame set by the British army.

Congratulations to everyone that took part – it's a huge challenge and we are very proud of your achievement.



Ten Nailsea School students took part in the Ten Tors - accompanied by a friend.





## ★ Nailsea School Stars

### YEAR 7

- Mrs Wisby in English gives a big shout out to Baxter J, for putting in lots of effort and making great progress studying AMSND - Well done!!!
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Felix W, for being an absolute super hero, always smiling, answering questions and working his hardest.
- Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Felix W, for showing resilience and determination, and making excellent progress in science.
- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Jimmy O, for a consistently excellent attitude to learning and great contributions in French lessons.
- Mrs Jackson in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Luke C, for showing resilience and excelling in his Unit 2 test. Well done.
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Nathan M, for being so well organised with your food practical ingredients.

### YEAR 8

- Mrs. Jackson in Maths is really impressed with Cam L, for always working so hard in class and going above and beyond the work given, completing extensions, and helping others in the class! Great job!
- Mrs Wells in Health is awarding 'star status' to Elsie S, Niah M and Grace C, for competing in a regional swimming competition in May
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Mason W, for being really helpful in food lately, thank you.
- Miss Timmins in Humanities gives a big shout out to Millie F, for always being keen to share ideas, high quality work and pushing herself on the recent Rivers trip. Well done Millie!
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL gives a big shout out to Paolo S, for being a positive role model in his enthusiastic participation in lessons

### YEAR 9

- Mrs Young in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Annie J, for always working so hard in class and going above and beyond the work given, completing extensions, and helping others in the class! Great job!
- Ms Cowling in English is really impressed with Billy B, for always working really hard and getting involved in class discussion
- Mr Howard in Humanities is really impressed with Elliott M, for showing a real passion and clear evaluative skills across all assessments this year. Well done!
- Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Ethan P & Eddie A, for making a conscious effort to push themselves with Aim Higher and Extension Tasks.
- Mrs Morgan in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Joseph M, for offering your break time to help the food department so that others can continue to do practical work.
- Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Rosemary S, for showing a huge improvement in class and completing an exceptional assessed piece of work on migration across the Mexico - USA border.
- Miss Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Trinity M, for working so hard and doing so well on her assessment!



## YEAR 10

- Mr Bennetts in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Effie S, for her excellent performance in her speaking assessment
- Miss Rigby in Maths is giving star-status to Jamie S, for doing fantastic work outside of lessons and making huge improvements!
- Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Jayden W, for always working so diligently every lesson
- Mrs Macleod and Mr Truan in Health is really impressed with Luke S, for his exceptional commitment to completing his NEA, staying for countless hours to improve his work.
- Mr Howard in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Moses A, for incredible standards of work and homework from day one. Well done!
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Tom C, for demonstrating such creativity and skill in both 3D Art and Photography lessons

## YEAR 11

- Miss McKinney in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Charlotte D, for working hard and putting the effort into her exam studies.
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Flo SF, for being so ambitious and intuitive with your clay modelling
- Mrs Macleod and Mr Truan in Health gives a big shout out to Flo SF, for stepping up her revision for HSC, increasing her grade significantly and applying all of the exam technique to her mock - well done
- Miss Herring in Science is really impressed with Frida C & Esme S, for consistent efforts and great work preparing for exams.
- Mr Anstey in Humanities gives a big shout out to Isaac M, for consistently attending Period 6 Geography ALL YEAR.
- Mrs Groves in Maths is nominating Joe B, for consistently striving to work to his full potential
- Mr Howard in Humanities is really impressed with Lucy P, For going the extra mile with practice papers and exam questions in preparation for summer exams
- Ms Jacobs in English gives a big shout out to Nathan B, for an excellent recent essay on An Inspector Calls. Well done!
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Sienna B, for listening to and asking upon important feedback regarding speaking and writing skills

## YEAR 12

- Mr Bennetts in MFL gives a big shout out to Billy G, for learning even more languages outside of school
- Mrs Macleod in Health wants to nominate Connie H, for aspiring high with exceptional HSC work placements all year
- Miss McKinney in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Eliza Lee, for her dedication and hard work in Art Textiles!
- Mrs Wells in Health wants to nominate Ella B, Jack R and Matt L, for making a great start in coaching the Year 7 students skills, for their Level 3 Coaching Unit
- Miss Creswick and Mr Jones in English say "you are a star Freya N", for working hard and putting in a lot of effort outside of the classroom #AimHigh
- Miss Herring & Mrs Barron-Smith in Science are giving star-status to Hector S, for his determination to make excellent progress in Biology.
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with Lily M, for fully engaging with all lesson activities and expanding the depth of exploration in your artistic practice. Keep up the great work.
- Mrs Coates in Maths gives a big shout out to Rob M, for working to a high standard in his maths lessons.

## YEAR 13

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with all the Year 13 Artists and Photographers! for working so diligently and creatively as you near your final exams.
- Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to all the Year 13 IT students, for completing your coursework to an excellent standard!
- Mrs Ruddy & Mrs Cooper in English give a big shout out to Mollie P, for the clear focus & dedication she has paid to her English studies.
- Mrs Groves in Maths is really impressed with Sammy N, for being a model student.