

Newsletter

Term 6 | July 2025



A Message from the Head

And so the 2024/25 academic year comes to a close - with each year group having taken on new challenges and about to 'step up' into that next phase of their time here at Nailsea.

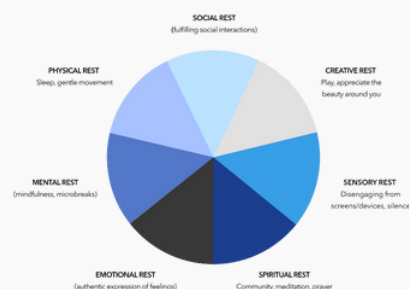
Some will be moving into their chosen paths in Year 10 and 12, and we will all be getting ready to welcome our new cohort - leading by example and making sure that our new Year 7s very quickly feel part of the team.

The year culminated in the final assembly yesterday where each House demonstrated their ethos and identity. Although all 4 houses are unique the relaunch has brought each House closer together, as they share the common goal of community - our House, our team - our school family.

Over the year we have had happy times, successes, near misses and challenges, we've worked hard and now for many of us, is the time to rest and recuperate. It's widely recognised that there are seven types of rest - physical, emotional, social, creative, sensory, spiritual & mental. Learning to rest is an important life skill - so this summer break have fun, be brave, learn new things, be kind, challenge yourself, be creative and importantly take time to learn how to rest!

Wishing all of Team Nailsea a happy summer and I look forward to seeing you fully refreshed and raring to go in September!

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. For the last newsletter of the school year, we would like to introduce Joanna Butler.

Dr Jo Edwards
Local Partnership Board



Joanna Butler

As a parent with a strong connection to Nailsea School, I'm delighted to have joined the governing body. My daughter is already enjoying life here and my son is approaching secondary school age, so I'm genuinely invested in helping the school flourish. My career in supply-chain leadership has honed my ability to spot issues early, drive continuous improvement, and unite teams around shared goals. As a qualified nutritional therapist and mental-health first aider, I'll champion practical, evidence-based approaches to student and staff wellbeing. I look forward to strengthening the school's culture and supporting every student's success.

You can find out more about our Local Partnership Board as a whole, on the school website, www.nailseaschool.com/our-team/our-governors/

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A Note from Mr Truan...

As we reflect on a memorable term and the conclusion of another academic year, I take immense pride in the remarkable progress our Sixth Form students have achieved, both academically and personally, as they have navigated challenges on their path to success.

Our recent Pathways Day was a resounding success, featuring over 50 organisations that provided tailored sessions for students keen to explore diverse career opportunities. This event was complemented by students securing valuable work experience in highly aspirational placements, which will serve as compelling evidence of their remarkable journeys in their personal statements and cover letters.

Our ongoing VESPA programme has been instrumental in equipping students with the tools required to excel in their end of year outcomes and confidently navigate their way through Year 13 and beyond.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce the selection of our new Head Prefects, Edith and Peter, who will continue the fantastic work of our current student leadership team, fostering a spirit of ambition and community within our school. I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, allowing us to return refreshed and rejuvenated for another year filled with exciting opportunities ahead.

Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

Aspirational Learners

Pathways Day

Nailsea School Sixth form hosted a 'Pathways' careers event, welcoming universities and companies to guide students on Post-16 options. The sessions covered diverse fields, from law to creative arts, and aimed to develop transferable skills while helping students explore future paths. Students valued the hands-on experiences and felt more confident in their choices, with one noting it helped them decide what suited them best. More details on the following page.

Independent Thinkers

HE+

After two previous meetings that involved essay writing and fast-paced questioning, students on the HE+ programme were invited to the University of Cambridge for a residential.

On day one we enjoyed a sample lecture taken by university professors, ranging from how aeroplanes fly to European Human Rights Law. This was a great opportunity to explore chosen subjects in greater depth. Later the students enjoyed a two-course meal in the beautiful dining hall of Trinity College, before heading off to sleep in the student dorms. The next day students were toured around other colleges, taking in the beautiful gardens and stunning architecture of the city along the way.

A little delayed on the way home, we spent even longer than expected exploring what the city has to offer, before heading home with an M&S meal deal to go!

Edith D

Head Prefect

Community Ambassadors

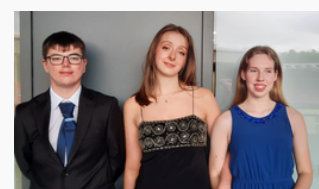
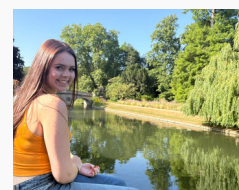
Summer Ball

Following an exciting week of Work Experience, Year 12 and Year 13 students were invited to attend the summer ball at Ashton Gate Stadium. The buffet served burgers, fish and plenty of chips, as well as profiteroles that were very popular.

Ending on Adele's "Someone like you" was a perfect way for Year 13 to come together and say goodbye, this event was thoroughly enjoyed.

Edith D

Head Prefect



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**Year 11
Prom**



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House Challenge - Chess

We saw ten students battle it out to become the Grand Master of Nailsea School in the House Chess competition. Two qualifying rounds took place in the penultimate week of term, with the top four ranking students proceeding to the final on the last day of term. Games were timed, making things extra tricky and tense as not only could players lose by check mate but also by running out of time. The two semi-finals saw Will M of G5 vs Nathan Mc of U2 and Tymofii S of G1 vs Charlie of G6. After two tense games Nathan and Tymofii went on to battle it out for title of Grand Master while Will and Charlie played again in a third place play off. The third place play off went down to the line and ended in a nail-biting check mate with Will M coming out on top. After a strong start and superb qualifying series, Nathan couldn't quite match Tymofii's prowess on the board and it ended with Griffin victorious, and Tymofii S being crowned the 2025 Grand Master chess champion. A huge well done to Griffin who came 1st, 3rd and 4th and a big well done to Unicorn for taking 2nd place. Chess club runs every lunch time in room 123 and a new tournament will take place in the autumn term for any other budding Grand Masters out there!"



Mr R Anstey

Geography Teacher and Chess Club Coordinator

House Challenges Term 6

Some great entries for House Challenges this term, from the most layered and extravagantly coloured cake I have ever seen in our bake-off challenge, (well done Samson), to the most extraordinary unicorn - made of Loo Rolls, that I think anyone has ever witnessed! (impressive stuff Tilda!)

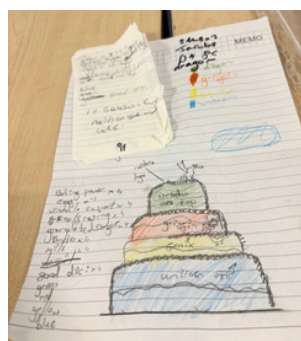
The Spelling Bee was a tightly fought competition and attracted a warm crowd of supporters as the Houses went head to head.

Meanwhile the 'Welcome to Nailsea Challenge' attracted record entries, and some of the most thoughtful responses from our students who wrote reassuring words of kindness to our new Year 6's.

Dragon House Challenge saw teachers battling it out - in what can only be described as 'old school' PE activities.

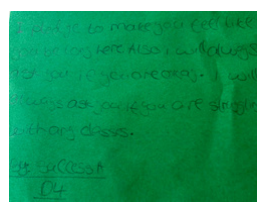
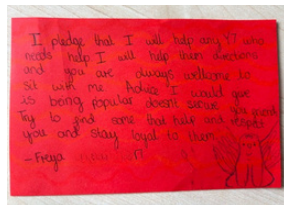
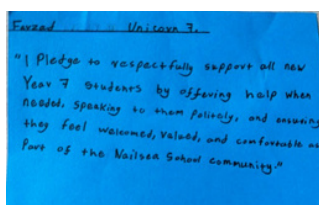
Sports day saw a sea of colour, and some beautifully crafted banners, flags and painted faces. We enjoyed sunshine, ice creams and a gentle breeze for the afternoon which was ably compered by Mr Taylor. The last race of the day was the staff relay - great sportsmanship...and a touch of competitiveness too, brought the afternoon to a close.

Great effort from all teams involved!



Mrs F Davies

Enrichment & Extension Coordinator



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Drama Update

It has been an exciting year of growth and development for Drama at our school. We are thrilled with how positively students have embraced the subject, which is clearly reflected in the increased uptake for GCSE Drama.

Throughout the year, students across all year groups have been building their skills and deepening their appreciation of the dramatic arts. Year 7 students began their journey by exploring the Basic Skills of drama, focusing on characterisation, storytelling, and enhancing their imagination, interaction, and communication. Year 8 continued this progression, applying their foundational knowledge to explore more advanced techniques and distinctive theatre styles such as Greek Theatre, Chorus Work, Physical Comedy, and scripted performance—with a particular emphasis on social themes.

Our Year 9 cohort has been engaging with content designed to prepare them for GCSE-level study, delving into scripted texts from a variety of social, historical, cultural, and political contexts. They have also developed their understanding of Physical Theatre and Devising, laying a strong foundation for the challenges and creativity of the GCSE course.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we are excited to continue nurturing our students' passion for Drama and supporting their progress every step of the way.

Dr J Lloyd

Head of Department - Drama

English Update

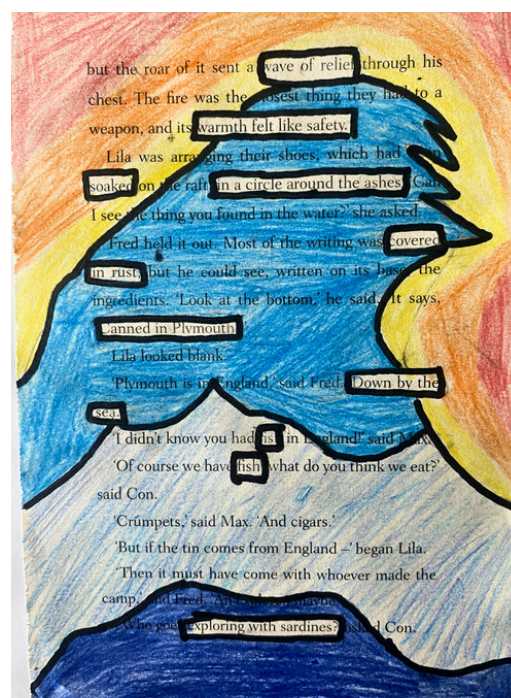
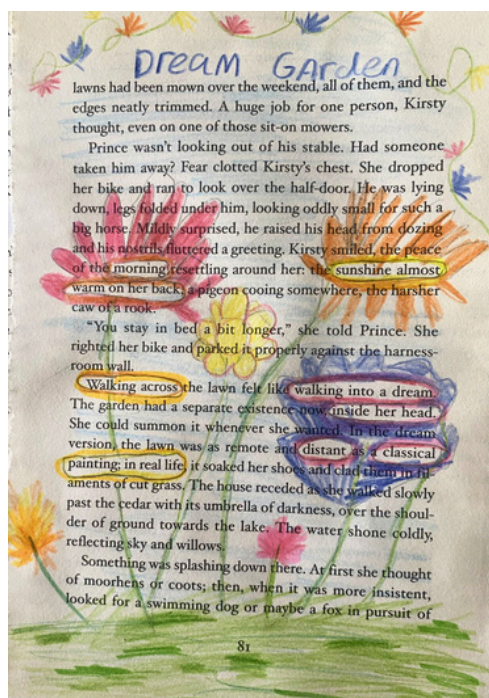
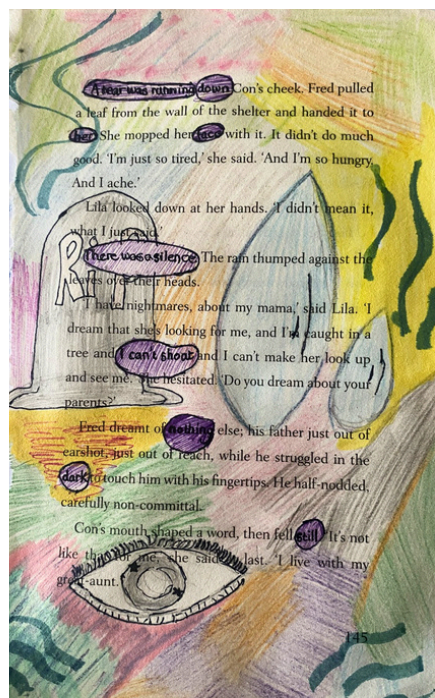
Term 6 has brought a lot of exciting opportunities for students in English. This term Year 7s are exploring Myths and Legends, Year 8 are delving into poetry focusing on the theme of place, Year 9s are studying the Arthur Miller classic *A View from the Bridge*, and Year 10 are finishing their study of *Macbeth*.

During Curriculum Enrichment Week, there were also a range of activities for students to explore, from a trip to Harry Potter World, to learning choreography for the musical *Wicked*, to creating their own blackout poetry, students were able to enjoy a range of activities that went beyond our regular curriculum, and it was fantastic to explore the subject in a myriad of creative ways.

It's been another wonderful year!

Ms CB Jacobs

Head of Faculty - Languages



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UKMT Maths Challenges

Congratulations to all students that took part in Maths Challenges across the year.

A big shout out to Cam L in Year 8 who qualified for and participated in the Junior Olympiad.

Mrs J Groves
Maths Teacher

Year 10 Student is a Published Poet

Students were given the opportunity in our extra-curricular 'Creative Writing Club' run by the English department, to enter a poetry competition called 'Empowerment'.

Congratulations to Kathryn who received news that her poem will be published in an anthology this August.

Ms F Ford
Creative Writing Club Co-ordinator & English Teacher



Basketball Success

Congratulations to Sophie W in Year 11 who was selected to play for her region in the Basketball England National Tournament. She is currently in the top 12 girls for her age group which is an amazing achievement and thoroughly deserved. We continue to wish her well and get updates on how she progresses this year.

Miss J Wild
Head of Faculty



Rowing Success

Congratulations to Tilly F in Year 10 from Griffin House who captained crew to 3rd position in the Swanage Regatta at the start of June. Tilly rows for the Portishead Pilot Gig - she accepted the medals on behalf of her crew. Great effort Tilly!

Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher

Girls Football

Congratulations to Olivia C in Year 8 who following a successful first season at Forest Green Rovers U14 girls Regional Talent Centre, has been offered the opportunity to continue with the squad into next season without the need to retriial.

We wish her the best of luck with this next season.



Mrs N Wells
PE Teacher

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Our Triwizard Tournament Adventure at Warner Bros. Studios

During CEW, our lucky students stepped through the magical gates of Warner Bros. Studios for a memorable experience at The Making of Harry Potter, and what an unforgettable day it was! As the coach pulled into Leavesden Studios, the excitement was already crackling in the air – as if someone had waved a wand and cast Expecto Excitementum! But this wasn't just any studio tour. This was the Triwizard Tournament Special, and from the very first moment, we knew we were in for something extraordinary.

The spirit of international magical cooperation was alive and well as we were welcomed with a dazzling performance from the ladies of Beauxbatons Academy of Magic. Not to be outdone, the Durmstrang Institute Quidditch team made a dramatic entrance – all fire and foot-stomping swagger, twirling staffs and looking as though Viktor Krum himself might be leading the way. It felt like we'd stepped straight into the pages of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

With the Triwizard Tournament in full swing, our students were invited to try their hand at some magical challenges. First up? Broomstick flying lessons, led by experts who might as well have graduated from Madam Hooch's very own flying school. With safety harnesses securely fastened (we're still working on getting our Hogwarts flying licenses), our brave young wizards soared into the air, wind rushing past them as they posed like Seeker champions chasing after a glimmering Golden Snitch. For a few magical moments, they were part of the Quidditch World Cup, imagining the roar of the crowd, the beat of the Bludgers, and the gleam of the Cup within reach.

Next, it was off to board the Hogwarts Express itself on Platform 9¾. Stepping onto the iconic scarlet train was like stepping back in time to Harry's very first journey to Hogwarts. Students explored the carriages, imagining secret meetings of Dumbledore's Army, whispered conversations with Luna Lovegood, and perhaps a passing visit from the trolley witch offering pumpkin pasties and chocolate frogs.

Of course, no visit would be complete without a stroll through the eerily realistic Forbidden Forest. Under the dim, enchanted lights, our students hesitantly made their way beneath towering trees and creeping vines, keeping their eyes peeled for spiders that could give Aragog a run for his money. The fog curled around their ankles, and the rustle of movement made more than one student cling to their friends for safety. Thestrals peered from the shadows, reminding us all of the darker, more haunting beauty of the wizarding world – and how even in fear, there can be awe and understanding.

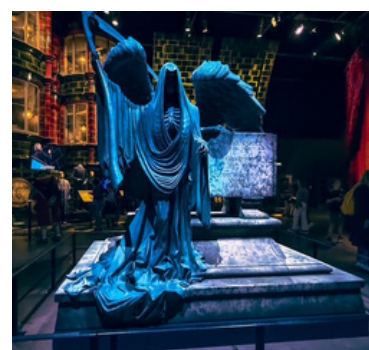
Throughout the tour, we were reminded not only of the magical storylines we know and love but also of the immense creativity, talent, and dedication that brought J.K. Rowling's world to life. From seeing the towering gates of Hogwarts to wandering down Diagon Alley with its crooked shop fronts and glowing wand displays, students were able to witness the magic behind the magic. The tiny details – from potion bottles in Snape's dungeon to the thousands of labelled wand boxes in Ollivanders – brought home the idea that storytelling is in the details, and that every great story is built one brick, one prop, one spell at a time.

Before heading home, students stocked up on souvenirs – chocolate frogs leapt into bags, house scarves were proudly donned, and one or two wands may have chosen their wizards (though we're still waiting to see any spontaneous spellwork in the classroom).

The trip was not only a celebration of all things Potter, but also a tribute to teamwork, enthusiasm, and adventure. Whether you're a die-hard Gryffindor, a fiercely loyal Hufflepuff, an inquisitive Ravenclaw, or a cunning Slytherin, the day held something for everyone – bravery, friendship, learning, and even a touch of mischief.

Until next year, Mischief Managed!

Miss L. Creswick
Assistant Headteacher



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Disneyland Trip - Enrichment Week

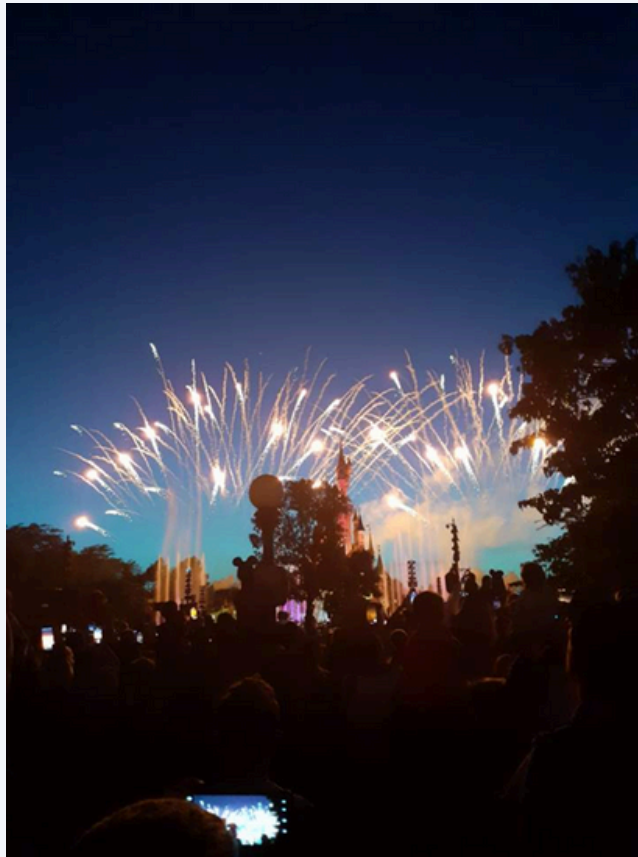
Our trip to Disneyland Paris was packed with excitement, laughter and magical memories – and it's safe to say our students had the time of their lives! Even with the super early start, everyone was in great spirits. Teachers were very impressed with how well-behaved and upbeat everyone was, even before the sun came up!

Students had a great time experiencing both Disneyland and Disneyland Studios, the highlights being Hyperspace Mountain, Tower of Terror and Big Thunder Mountain – where they managed to convince the staff to come with them more than once!

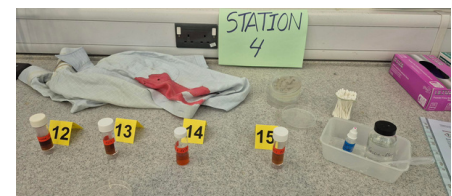
Of course the food was just as fun. Mickey shaped pizzas were enjoyed by most along with pretzels, waffles and ice cream. One of the main highlights came at the end of the first day in the park. As the lights dimmed, everyone gathered in front of the castle for the fireworks and light show.

We came home tired but buzzing with stories and memories that we'll be talking about for years. Thank you to everyone that made the trip possible – and to our amazing students for making it unforgettable!

Mrs K Nicholson
Head of Dept - History



CEW 2025 in Pictures



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London Trip

This year's Curriculum Enrichment Week we took 60 students and 7 staff to London for over 3 days in the middle of some glorious weather.

Day 1 saw us start our trip with lunch in the gardens of the Houses of Parliament with our local MP Sadiq Khan, organised by Mr Boyce. It was so kind of him to join us just before he was due to be on live TV, and it really set the tone for some great experiences. From there we walked through St. James' Park stopping for a quick game of cricket and some excellent photo challenges led by Miss Cartwright. Onwards to Buckingham Palace for some selfies and then onto Pizza Express for dinner.

After our first night in the hostel, a reality check for some for sure, there was no time to waste. A River Cruise, followed by a spectacular trip up the London Eye saw Mrs Cole's pink group win best photo! The students came down so excited, with many students overcoming personal fears in going up. Next up was the Science Museum followed by a hearty meal at Byron Burger. The students loved the food here and the service was impeccable. A short walk after and we arrived at the highlight for many, our evening stage event, The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre. What a show, and for many their first. It's a privilege to give our students these kinds of experiences, which I'm sure they will remember for years to come. Even after all this there was still time for Mr Martinson to try and get all his group into a phone box on The Strand. I thought we had taken 60 kids, but maybe I miscounted... The students so appreciated his energy, humour and kindness throughout the trip.

After a short sleep and an early breakfast, it was already time to pack and think about returning. We made our way across London to Madame Tussaud's, where the students loved every minute, taking selfies with the likes of Dua Lipa, Elton John and Taylor Swift. But the star of the show for me had to be Chewbacca! After this we headed to our final stop of the trip, the Natural History Museum where we said our farewell's and reflected on a busy but memorable trip.

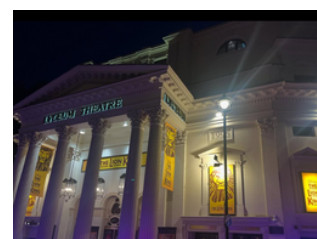
I'd like to thank the staff Mr Boyce, Mr Martinson, Miss Tudor, Ms Hewson, Mrs Cole and Miss Cartwright. Their experience, humour and energy ensured students could make the most of their time away.

I'd like to thank the parents who made the process as smooth as possible, filling in meal choices and sending their children equipped and ready for the trip. Your comments and emails afterwards have been immensely positive and kind.

I'd like to thank the students as well. Taking 60 young people to London can be a daunting thought, but the students were fantastic. Staff at various venues commented on their kindness, thoughtfulness and respect for the places they were in. I even witnessed some of our students telling other students from another school not to mess with the displays in Madame Tussaud's. I couldn't have been prouder. These experiences aren't about grades. They are about widening horizons and giving students opportunities to step outside their comfort zones. The students took this to heart and made the school, and their parents proud.

Mr J Howard

RE Teacher | Head of Unicorn House



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From 'Grey to Green' – Green Fingers in The Courtyard

As part of this year's Curriculum Enrichment Week, pupils in Years 7-9 took part in a carousel of Green Fingers workshops. The sessions included:

- 1. British Wildlife (learning about trees, birds and other animals through quizzes and games)
- 2. Habitat Mapping (exploring the DEN and mapping the different habitats)
- 3. Grey to Green (improving the biodiversity and appearance of The Courtyard)

Nailsea School is lucky to have a large south-facing courtyard that backs onto the school field. During an audit of the biodiversity of the school site it was noted that this area has lots of potential but until recently only had one raised bed with a tree and weeds growing in it.

Tutor groups completed a survey about how they would like to see the area improved, with suggestions of adding planters, bird boxes and bug hotels, water features etc. The makeover of The Courtyard area will be a long term project, but we started by cutting back the overhanging wisteria and pruning the roses on the existing pergola. Using some funding from the Nailsea Horticultural Society we add flowers such as lavender, salvia and yellow daisies to the central raised bed.

Due to a limited budget we decided to make our own planters, rather than buying them ready made. We bought the wood from the local company, Fountain Timber, who also kindly donated four pallets that we painted in the four house colours. The plan is for the pallets to be turned into wall-hung planters to create a 'green wall' for growing strawberries and other small plants.

Another local community group, The Nailsea Shedders, helped to design the planters, pre-cut the wood to size and then pre-drill the holes. This meant that pupils were able to quickly assemble two planters in one morning under their expert supervision. Students enjoyed using the power tools and seeing the planters take shape. The 2 planters have now been painted yellow (Phoenix House) and blue (Unicorn House) and are being filled with compost and plants. We hope to make the remaining two more planters next year for Griffin and Dragon house when more funds can be raised to cover the cost of the timber.

We hope that pupils enjoyed their time learning outside and getting their hands dirty doing the practical tasks. With students being involved in the making and planting of this area it will give them more 'ownership' of the space and a realisation of the effort that goes into making outdoor spaces attractive to both people and wildlife. We couldn't have done this project without the support from the local community groups, as well as internal funding from Phoenix and Unicorn House. Thank you for helping to make 'The Courtyard' a greener space!

Mrs Bicknell

Eco Coordinator | Geography Teacher



Step 1. Create the base of the planter | Step 2. Attach the sides to supporting posts | Step 3. Screw in the decking boards | Step 4. Line and plant the finished planter

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Personal Development Curriculum

Year 7

This term, Year 7 explored the foundations of a fair society, including democracy, the rule of law, and individual freedoms. They also took part in a finance session introducing key money management skills.

Year 8

Year 8 focused on democracy and political participation, forming their own political parties and presenting campaign ideas to deepen their understanding of elections and civic responsibility.

Year 9

Year 9 developed financial awareness by learning how to be smart and ethical consumers. They explored budgeting, advertising, and sustainability, and ended the term by designing their own educational money-themed games.

Year 10

This term, Year 10 focused on health and wellbeing. They examined how media influences health choices, created meal and fitness plans on a budget, and reflected on holistic wellbeing—mind, body, and spirit.

PSHE Lessons

This term in PSHE lessons, students across Years 7 to 9 have been applying their learning through exciting, computer-based Citizenship projects.

Year 7

Year 7 created and presented their own School Debate Shows, exploring key issues around fairness, rights, and responsibilities in a school setting.

Year 8

Year 8 designed Justice System Awareness Campaigns to educate others about youth crime, positive choices, and how the legal system supports rehabilitation.

Year 9

Year 9 stepped into the shoes of future MPs by creating their own Election Campaigns, reflecting on real-world issues, personal values, and how parliamentary democracy works.



Supporting Wellbeing Over the Summer Holidays

As we approach the summer holidays, we know that while many students look forward to the break, for some it can bring challenges around routine, social connection, and mental wellbeing. Below are some helpful links for parents and carers who wish to explore the topic further.

- www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/self-care-support-over-the-summer-holidays/
- <https://bestforyou.org.uk/summer-holiday-wellbeing-tips/>
- www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/campaigns/mental-health-at-work-commitment/resources/supporting-parents-during-school-holidays/
- www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/5-tips-maintaining-good-mental-health-during-summer

As we reach the end of the academic year, I'd like to sincerely thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support of the ABSolute curriculum and their children's personal development.

Mr. J Boyce
ABSolute Curriculum Coordinator

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Geography Summer of Fieldwork

Year 7

Year 7s have been investigating whether Nailsea is a clone town or home town as part of their People and Place topic. During Term 6 our students have been completing fieldwork on the high street and, using a quantitative fieldwork technique, they have been counting the number of chain and independent stores. We have then analysed this data, and using a formula from the New Economics Foundation to work out if Nailsea is unique (home town) or like other towns in our countries (clone town).

Year 8

Year 8s have been investigating why natural places are important to us, in their Threatened Environments topic. As such they have been completing fieldwork in the Den area of our school and studying different environments, (pond, meadow and woodland) to determine their environmental quality. Using an environmental quality assessment, students have determined which environments mean more to us, and why our answers to this question can be so different.

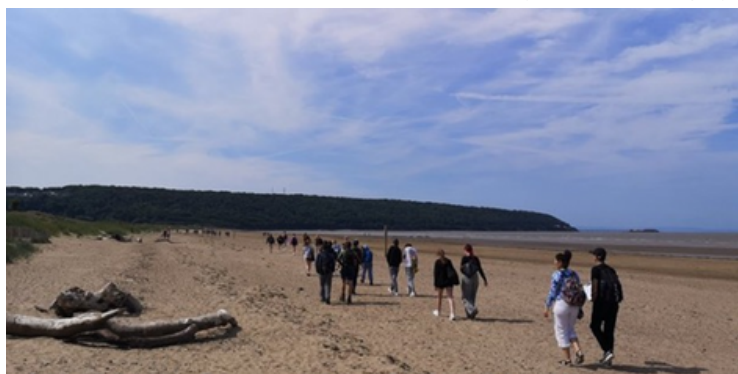
Year 9 Fieldwork

Year 9s have also been investigating Nailsea High Street, this time assessing whether the High Street is dying? We are collecting fieldwork along with the other Wessex Learning Trust schools to determine how thriving our High Street is. Students have been collecting data on the number of vacant shops, the footfall, and completing an environmental quality assessment. We can then compare our results to Cheddar and Street to see how our high streets compare.

Year 10 Fieldwork

Year 10 students have completed fieldwork for their GCSE on coastal processes and management at Sandbay. We were incredibly lucky to have two days of sunny weather. Students completed bi polars of sea defences, as well as completing CISAs on cliff stability, and land use survey. This data will be analysed back in class to determine how effective coastal management is, as well as how stable the cliffs are at Sand Bay. Students will use this data to answer fieldwork questions in their mock and June exams.

Mrs K Thompson
Head of Department - Geography



ATTACK OF THE CLONE TOWNS



One of the consequences of globalisation is the domination of chain stores on local high streets which are driving out small, often family owned shops in towns across the UK, a survey has suggested.

According to research conducted by the New Economics Foundation, 40% of the nation's high streets have become "clone towns".

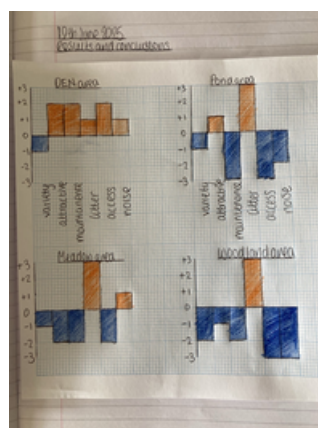
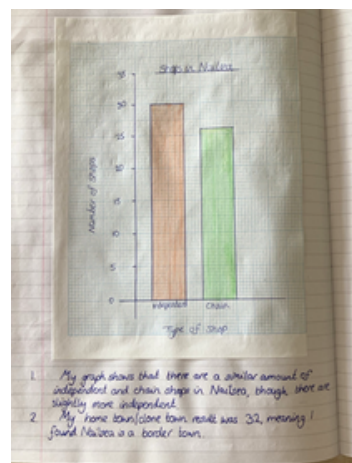
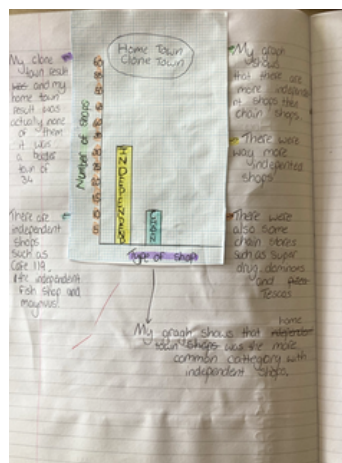
This means that "the individuality of high street shops has been replaced by a monochrome strip of global and national chains" and that many towns have become "somewhere that could easily be mistaken for dozens of bland town centres across the country".

A further 26% of towns were on the border of becoming clones, while just 33% were identified in the survey as "home towns" - where a town has "retained its individual character and is instantly recognisable and distinctive to the people who live there, as well as to those who visit".

The creep of huge retail companies on to town centres across the UK does have its benefits. Some people enjoy the choice of goods and competitive prices offered by chain stores.



How has the data in this news article been collected?



An annotated photograph of the meadow area



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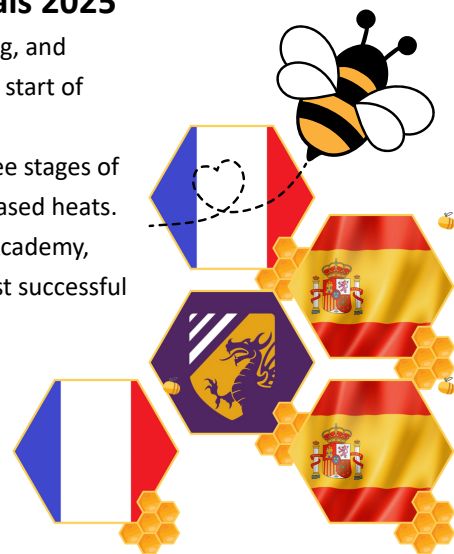
Celebrating Success at the Wessex Learning Trust Translation Bee Finals 2025

This year's Wessex Learning Trust Translation Bee has been an exciting journey of language, learning, and linguistic talent, and it all came to a thrilling conclusion with the finals at Bath Spa University at the start of Term 6.

The Translation Bee is a high-speed translation competition run across the academic year, with three stages of increasing difficulty. In the autumn term, pupils tackled 40 key words and phrases in their school-based heats. The top linguists then progressed to the Cheddar Valley round in the spring term, hosted at Kings Academy, where they competed against peers from across the Trust using a new bank of 30 phrases. The most successful pupils from each year group and language made it through to the final stage.

Our finalists this year were:

- Year 7 French: Barney W
- Year 7 Spanish: Freya M, Eloise S, Doran O'D
- Year 8 French: Eloise T, Cam L
- Year 8 Spanish: Niah M, Success A, Evangeline P
- Year 9 French: Antoni K
- Year 9 Spanish: Ada R



These students impressed at every stage of the competition with their commitment, accuracy, and confidence under pressure. At the Bath Spa finals, each pupil had one minute to translate as many words as possible from English into their chosen language, using perfect pronunciation and intonation. It's a true test of memory, fluency and focus.

The finals day was more than just a competition. Pupils were treated to a tour of the university and took part in engaging enrichment sessions led by Bath Spa's PGCE trainees, gaining an inspiring glimpse into life as a language learner beyond school. The university's MFL lecturer praised all pupils for their impressive performance and outstanding pronunciation.

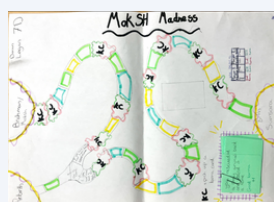
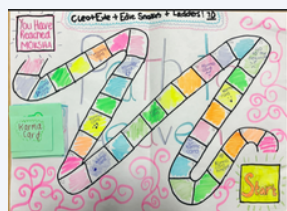
We are thrilled to announce that two Nailsea School students emerged as winners in their categories:

- 🏆 Eloise T (Year 8 French)
- 🏆 Doran O'D (Year 7 Spanish)

A huge congratulations to them both and to every student who took part. The Translation Bee is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to deepen their vocabulary, sharpen their pronunciation, and grow in confidence when speaking in French or Spanish. We are immensely proud of all our competitors, and grateful to Bath Spa University and our Trust schools for making the event such a success.

Roll on next year's Bee!

Mr E Bennetts
Head of Department - MFL



Karma Chameleons: Year 7 Religious Studies

This term, our Year 7 RS students have been exploring key concepts in Hinduism through a creative and engaging project. As part of their learning, pupils have designed and created their own Karma board games to demonstrate their understanding of Samsara – the cycle of life, death, and rebirth – and the role of karma in shaping a soul's journey. Through these imaginative games, pupils illustrated how actions in one life influence future rebirths, and how the ultimate goal for Hindus is to achieve Moksha – the liberation of the atman (soul) and its reunion with Brahman, bringing an end to the cycle of Samsara.

We've been impressed by the depth of understanding, creativity, and enthusiasm shown. Well done, Year 7!

Mr J Boyce
Teacher of Religious Studies

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Work Experience

Alexa, Ella, Jess & Eloise spent 3 days working alongside Mrs Davies for their work experience. The Year 12 students are interested in careers in media, photography and journalism, as part of the opportunity the students interviewed staff and students to write the following articles.

Local Students Feather their Nest at Squarebird

Sixth Form students and Year 10 students at Nailsea School visited Squarebird as a part of their work experience into the marketing and design agency sector.

Heather Church, Project Manager at Squarebird, was asked what working at Squarebird entails. In reply, Heather spoke about the varied, global companies that they produce web designs for, such as Thatcher's and a university in Japan, commenting that the company puts an emphasis on how Squarebird takes time to deeply understand their clients' wants and needs.

With the main office being located in Nailsea, Heather spoke about the Nailsea community "The Nailsea and Bristol community is important to us". When asked "why did you agree to work with Nailsea School students?" Heather told us that each year, Squarebird take on students for Work Experience, however because of its ten-year anniversary, Squarebird wanted to take on 10 students for work experience, linking to Squarebird's company values by helping the local community. "We would be happy to help the local talent" said Heather. In the work experience, Heather told us that students get a one to one conversation with experts which then opens student's eyes to new experiences and if this is the field they want to go into.

Two Nailsea School students: Eleanor and Erin, both have an interest in web design and are currently completing work experience with Squarebird which they are finding "interesting and useful" due to the detailed conversations with staff members.

In addition, Nick Bird (one of the founders of Squarebird, alongside his brother Jon) spoke to us about his prior experiences working with premium brands like BMW, which inspired him to start his own company with Jon, who was working in a management consulting firm. Nick comments that the beginning of Squarebird was initially challenging as they started with no clients and were "working till 3'oclock in the morning" due to him working alongside his regular job. However, before long Squarebird grew from only a few clients to many, with them now having clients all over the world.

Jess E + Eloise B
Year 12 Nailsea School & Sixth Form

Pathways Day

Nailsea School Sixth Form had the privilege to welcome individuals from a number of universities and companies to enlighten students about potential career options. With these 'Pathways' sessions, students got the chance to gain an insight into any potential next steps that they may wish to pursue.

The 'Pathways' sessions were introduced, not only decide what career fields or university courses students might enjoy, but also help to develop transferable skills through engaging the students. The students were provided with wider knowledge on transferable skills that they could implement in any future interviews that they will undergo in the foreseeable future. The subjects on offer ranged from law to creative arts allowing all students to feel included in their interests.

After asking the students that attended what they liked about the sessions, one student replied that "It helped me to decide what is the best fit for me," differentiating between potential options they do and do not want to pursue. Another student enjoyed the "hands on experience in some of the sessions," such as: "the hair and prosthetics session." because "this allowed me to fully dive into what the course could look like for me." The students enthusiastically agreed they would "definitely" attend these sessions again given the opportunity.

With students feeling the pressure to decide their future, the sessions have helped to take some of the weight off their shoulders and reassure them that they can change their mind about what careers they would like to go into. Parents' have also expressed their encouragement for the decisions their children have made from their experiences.

The day was a beneficial factor in helping students feel confident in taking the next steps of their future. Nailsea School has been incredibly grateful for the encouragement and help offered to their students and hope to continue this enrichment day for future generations of students.

Alexa G + Ella C
Year 12 Nailsea School & Sixth Form

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Duke of Edinburgh Awards

It has been another busy year of developing skills, physical activity and volunteering alongside completing expeditions for an unprecedented 140 students across Years 9, 10 and 12 who are undertaking their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. It has been fantastic checking the D of E app and seeing the progress pupils are making towards their independent sections as well as supporting and preparing students with their training for their expeditions.



Bronze

92 Students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training and expedition during curriculum enrichment week in a change to the model that we have followed in previous years to accommodate the growing numbers seeking the opportunity the award offers. From Monday to Wednesday students were based in school and around the local area developing their map reading, route planning, first aid and team building skills. They then had to put the skills they had developed to the test with their qualifying walk. All students met in Burrington Combe on Thursday morning and either travelled West over Black Down or South via Cheddar Gorge to Petruth Paddocks where they camped overnight. Staff from JC adventures who support expeditions commented on how professionally and accomplished groups navigated their routes and coped with the warm temperatures. Pupils conducted themselves impeccably overnight and packed away the campsite in record time on Friday morning to set off before the high temperatures took hold. The positivity and support that groups showed each other throughout the five days was wonderful to observe and students should be very proud of what they were able to achieve individually and as a group.



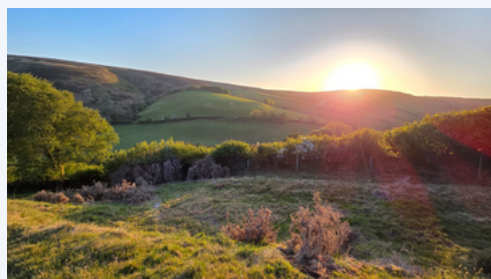
Silver

Our Silver students completed their practice expedition from the 15th –17th May in glorious sunshine on Exmoor. The groups set off from Wheddon Cross and the weather conditions remained fabulous (if a little warm for some pupils) for the duration of their three days and many students were delighted to reach the finishing point (and ice cream shop) in Lynmouth on the Saturday afternoon. Students shared highlights of paddling their feet in Badgeworthy Water that passes through Cloud Farm their campsite for night two whilst others discussed a rare cuckoo and adder sighting before being greeted by new-born calves at Westermill Campsite on day one as their personal highlights. Mr Payne – who tail walked the entire route over the three days captured the beautiful picture below on the second evening looking out over Lorna Doone Valley.

The four Silver groups undertook their qualifying expedition from the 3rd – 5th July on Dartmoor.

The groups' route took them from South Brent to Haytor Rocks notably stopping off at Dartmeet, Bellever, Postbridge and Hound Tor en route. This marks the third year Nailsea have successfully run the Silver award 'in house,' and their external assessors who join only to assess the groups competence on expedition, noted the abilities and resilience as well as aptitude with navigation that the groups this year displayed particularly on the final day when the weather gods chose to throw a typical Dartmoor day of rain and low visibility making navigating particularly challenging. However, following five days of glorious weather on both their practice and qualifying expeditions up until this point it felt only right that students had one last challenge to finish! Well done to all students on being the most positive and supportive Silver cohort in my time leading the award.

CONTINUED...



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Duke of Edinburgh Awards - Continued Gold



The Gold Duke of Edinburgh award has returned to Nailsea this year with two groups who undertook their practice expedition on Dartmoor at the start of July in challengingly warm conditions. Working in preparation for their four day & three night qualifying expedition in September to the Brecon Beacons. Alongside their expedition and the three independent sections that students complete at the Bronze and Silver level of the award, students at Gold also have to seek and arrange their own five day residential. Students in this cohort have sought a wide and varied range of activities for this section, including bushcraft and wilderness skills in Yorkshire; woodland conservation and management in Kent; Army cadet training in Surry and some pupils will even be travelling overseas during the summer to complete animal conservation in Sri Lanka and adventurous activities in the French Alps.



Well done to all students involved for the commitment they have shown to the awards and also to parents for their support in helping students to achieve the awards.

Mrs N Wells
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator | PE Teacher

Library News

Pride Month 2025

Nailsea School Library celebrated Pride Month with a fantastic selection of fiction books including firm favourites such as the popular Alice Oseman series 'Heartstopper', now a Netflix series, Casey McQuiston's Red, White and Royal Blue which has also been made into an Amazon movie and the popular book and audiobook Only on the Weekends by Dean Atta.

New LGBTQ books were introduced such as; 'The Girls I've been Before' by Tess Sharpe and 'Here's to Us' by Becky Albetalli and Adam Silvera, who also wrote 'They Both Die at the End'.



Book Recommendation

'All That's Left in the World' by Erik J. Brown

A disastrous event wipes out most of the earth's population and we find the two main characters alone, together in the woods.

A dystopian novel where survival is important and they must help each other. A dangerous journey awaits them both...

This book was recommended by Year 9 students

Mrs A. Conner
Librarian



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North Somerset Athletics

On Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th June we took 4 teams of students in Year 7-10 to Yate Outdoor Athletics track to compete in the North Somerset Athletics competition. Students who took part were superb ambassadors for the school, displaying gritty determination and a competitive spirit to produce some fantastic individual and team displays. Some notable performances were:

Year 7

- Boys Team – Noah B, Jake G, Reuben H, Noah J, Nathan O, Milo P - 1st Place School
- Boys relay team- Noah J, Milo P, Reuben H, Nathan O – 1st place overall
- Milo P – Long Jump 1st place overall
- Tilly J - Javelin 2nd place overall
- Nathan O – 200m 2nd place overall
- Noah J – High Jump 3rd place overall
- Noah J – Shot Putt 3rd place overall
- Reuben H – Discus 3rd place overall

Year 8

- Fedir K – High jump 1st place overall
- Elijah H – Shot Putt 2nd place overall
- Phoebe P - 300m 3rd place overall and new school record 47.79s
- Grace C - 200m 3rd place overall
- Olivia C - 800m – 3rd place overall
- Eloise T - High Jump and Discus - 3rd place overall
- Girls relay team (Grace C, Eloise T, Freya G and Phoebe P) - 3rd place overall

Year 9

- Year 9 girls relay team (Tia F, Aurelia S, Em W, Ava W) - 1st place overall
- Aurelia S – 200m 1st place overall
- Ava T – 800m 3rd place overall
- Tia F – 300m 3rd place overall

Overall Team Positions

- Year 7 Girls - 9th
- Year 8 Girls - 6th
- Year 9 Girls - 2nd
- Year 7 Boys - 1st
- Year 8 Boys - 7th
- Year 9 Boys - 5th
- Year 10 Boys - 5th

With these scores combined, Nailsea were placed 6th in the district. Well done to all students who took part.

Mrs Wells and Mr Taylor
PE Department

Year 9 Rounders

Two teams from year 9 travelled to Clevedon for their end of season rounders tournament where they took on teams from St.Kaths, Backwell, Priory, Sidcot and Clevedon. Both teams performed superbly and had some incredibly close games with fantastic fielding and some strong batting and finished 3rd and 5th respectively. The impressive depth of both squads was evident with the number of different students who received player of the match votes from the opposition schools well done to Ruby W, Annie J, Meadow H, Eleni I, Molly P, Em W, Martha C, Hula B and Tia F who were all nominated by the opposition.



Full squad: Hula B, Martha C, Alessia C, Tia F, Meadow H, Eleni I, Annie J, Nicola M, Sofia N, Joy S, Xanthe S, Ruby W, Em W and from Year 8 Teal H and Emily K

Mrs Wells
PE Teacher

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Fashion Show 2025

This year's Fashion show was a phenomenal sequence of talent, fair and inspiration. Students from across the year groups designed a number of garments and accessories, which were exhibited by some equally talented student models.

Themes exhibited included, 'Under The Sea', 'Drape & Toile', 'Festival', 'Growth & Decay' and 'Maximalist'. The creations ranged from evening wear to casual wear, the avant guard to the everyday – there really was something for everyone, and the audience loved it!

At the event, the audience judged the best pieces and the award for the Best Nailsea Fashion Show entry went to Eloise T.

Congratulations Eloise! And well done to all the students and the organisers.



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★ Nailsea School Stars



YEAR 7

- Dr Lloyd in Drama is really impressed with Barney W for grasping every opportunity throughout the year to display knowledge and ability.
- Mrs Wells in Health is giving star-status to Erin P, Eloise S and Molly H for showing an excellent commitment to all lessons and getting involved with extra curricular clubs. Well done!
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Chloe L for her constant hard work in Spanish.



YEAR 8

- Dr Lloyd in Drama gives a big shout out to Arabella G for excellent
- Mrs Davies in English is awarding 'star status' to Harry W Producing incredible written work for his Shakespeare assessment in term 5.
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL gives a big shout out to Olivia H for being a role model through her enthusiasm for learning French



YEAR 9

- Dr Lloyd in Drama is awarding 'star status' to Lu B for giving 100% and contributing thoughtfully and intelligently towards Devising.
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Lola L for always trying hard in the subject and for her superb result in the year 9 test.
- Mrs Davies in Humanities is really impressed with Rayfe H for brilliant answers and subject application within both History and Geography during term 5.
- Mrs Sutherland in Maths is really impressed with Hula B for her resilience and determination in maths
- Mr Pallier in MFL gives a big shout out to Rosie T for consistently good contributions in French lessons and a fantastic result in the recent assessment.



YEAR 10

- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Amelia J for always trying her hardest and working so hard for her mock examinations.
- Mrs Sutherland in Maths gives a big shout out to Louis W for the strong start and his engagement in lessons
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is giving star-status to Jasmine W for overcoming challenges and her commitment to working hard in this subject



YEAR 12

- Mrs Wells in Health gives a big shout out to Eliza L and Maisie M for lending their waterproof coats on DofE to students who did not have any.
- Mrs Sutherland in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Yasmin H for outstanding work ethic and improvements.



ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED