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A Message from the Head

The first term of the academic year has been a whirlwind of progress and a true pleasure to witness. Our students have returned with a renewed sense of purpose, tackling their learning with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. This powerful start demonstrates their commitment to becoming the successful and confident learners of tomorrow and sets a brilliant tone for the rest of the year.

We have been delighted to welcome Year 7s and see their successful and cheerful transition into our community. We are immensely proud of how they have moved past any first-day nerves to become confident, comfortable, and active members of Team Nailsea, navigating the school and adjusting to new routines with remarkable ease. This was particularly evident during our Open Evening, where over 50 Year 7s joined their older peers to showcase the school to a record number of visitors, proudly sharing their learning experiences.

The energy and ability of our Year 8 and 9 students have been truly on display this term. They are not only excelling academically but also bringing a fantastic spirit to a wide range of extracurricular activities. The buzz in our classrooms has drawn praise from recent visitors, including Year 6 families on tours and our School Improvement Partners, who were thoroughly impressed by the high-quality teaching and learning on display.

The Year 10 have made an exceptional start to their GCSE courses embracing the intensity of the challenge ahead. The shift in pace and expectations have been met with incredible focus and collaboration. Our staff are working side-by-side with students, helping them build the routines and skills that will see them thrive.

Year 11 parents attended our 'Prep for Success' event, where we discussed managing workload, effective revision strategies, mock exams, and the importance of attendance. Targeted meetings have also taken place with Year 11 families where students might benefit from extra discussion and clarity of the expectations for the year. Passport to Prom was launched with Year 11s encouraging them to aim high and meet their goals and it is impressive to see how positively students have responded. Period 6 attendance has been at a record high with students taking advantage of the resources and support available to them.

Our Sixth Formers have thrown themselves into the start of year with incredible purpose and it's been inspiring to witness. From challenging themselves on Gold DofE qualifying expeditions to meticulously planning their next steps at university and apprenticeship fairs, every experience is sharpening their skills and shaping their ambitions. Their dedication is consistently on display, particularly during tutor monitoring evenings and study sessions where they fully engage in planning their paths to success. This isn't just about preparing for a destination; it's about the incredible independence and progress they are making along the way.

Our aim is always to provide a safe, supportive and positive environment where our students can be part of a community that cheerleads one another, is kind and supportive, helping students develop into responsible, reflective, resilient, and compassionate young adults.

Wishing all our families a relaxing half-term break!

Mrs Elliott Headteacher

Local Partnership Board

As the first term of our new school year comes to a close, we are delighted to see the school busy with extracurricular activities, trips, and initiatives around the House system. We welcome all our new Year 7 families and hope students are settling in well to their new setting, ready to get the most out of the many opportunities on offer at Nailsea School.

It was wonderful to see the success of our Open Evening, welcoming so many prospective students and their families, and to see the fantastic reactions to our school from comments on the night and on social media. We were very proud to see how many students volunteered to showcase the school on the evening.

We have been continuing to meet for our Local Partnership meetings, working within the governing structure of the Wessex Learning Trust, choosing our strategic priorities around the School Improvement Plan.

Thank you to all our families for supporting our school. Thanks very much to everyone on our PTA working to help fund extra resources for our students, which has enabled enrichment activities such as the recent VR experiences for our Year 11 History students. We hope everyone will enjoy an opportunity to rest and recharge over half term.



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Welcome to Term 1

As we settle into the new academic year, I am delighted with how quickly our Year 12 students have adapted to Sixth Form life, impressing staff with their positive attitude and commitment to learning. Their enthusiasm sets a strong foundation for future success.

Year 13 students have returned with focus and determination, diving straight into key deadlines for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), personal statements and covering letters, and preparation for upcoming mock exams.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents and carers who attended our information and tutor evenings this term. Your ongoing partnership is invaluable as we work together to support student progress and personal development.

Mr D Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

Aspirational Learners



This term our Year 12 assemblies have featured inspiring sessions from Access to Bristol and an admissions tutor from Cambridge University, offering valuable insights into university application processes and academic life. These assemblies reflect our commitment to raising aspirations and broadening opportunities for all of our students. We also launched our Aim Higher programme, encouraging students to engage in critical thinking tasks across their chosen subject areas. This initiative enables students to showcase their passion and extend learning beyond the curriculum, supporting their preparation for competitive Post-18 destinations.

Independent Thinkers



Over 100 students visited the National University and Apprenticeship Fair at Ashton Gate Stadium to explore their Post-18 options this term. Initially they first engaged with a variety of university and company stalls spread around the stadium, gaining first hand insights into higher education and employment opportunities. Later students attended informative lectures covering university life, the importance of personal statements, and the benefits of apprenticeships as viable career routes. This experience is an essential part of our Pathways Programme to ensure our students are well-prepared to start making informed decisions about their futures and understand the steps required to achieve their goals.

Community Ambassadors



Our Sixth Form Prefect Team played a vital role in supporting the whole-school Open Evening. Head Prefects, Edith and Peter, delivered an inspiring speech to prospective parents, sharing their personal journeys through Nailsea School. Senior Prefects warmly welcomed parents and carers, helping to ensure the event ran smoothly. Beyond this, they are also volunteering to assist duty staff during lunchtimes in the canteen, fostering a positive and supportive environment for our lower school pupils. Their dedication to the role continues to impress and create positive change within our community.

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Donkey Visit

Safeguarding Officer Miss Tudor and Family Support worker Mrs Moran took some students to Brown Rock Farm for a 'Donkey Wellbeing' session'. Brown Rock Farm is a community space where everyone is made to feel welcome. The farm is based in Tickenham village with beautiful mature woodland, open fields and a wooden roundhouse.

The session included grooming the donkeys, cleaning their hooves, feeding the sheep and a tour in a buggy around the farm and up into the woods. There is another session next week when the students will have an opportunity to work with the horses and trek the donkeys up into the woods.

The students were taught about the behaviour and emotions of the donkeys/horses and how by understanding them we can reflect on our own coping mechanism towards stress and emotional issues.

The session was overseen by two lovely ladies, Deb and Alita who imparted their knowledge to the students. It was educational as well as relaxing. The student we took thoroughly enjoyed the session and can't wait to go back next week - neither can Miss Tudor and Mrs Moran! For further information the Brown Rock Farm offer click on their website. HERE

Miss Tudor

Safeguarding Officer & Deputy DSL

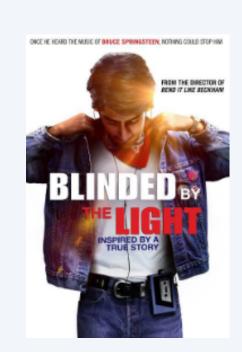
Film and Media

Year 10 and Year 12 students have settled well into their GCSE and A Level courses in Media and Film and have been learning about how meaning is created via codes and conventions. They are being introduced to the key concepts in Media and Film and the texts they will be studying in greater depth across the two years.

Year 10 Film students are being introduced to the Key Elements of Film Form (KEOFF) of cinematography, sound, mise-en-scene and editing. They have created their own story board sequences and have explored how films can make us feel a range of emotions through the director's choice of KEOFF.

Year 11 Media have been learning about Doctor Who and what life was like in the 60s. They have particularly enjoyed the symbolism of the Doctor's teenage grand-daughter being an alien – they agree that sometimes adults see them as unearthly!

Year 13 Media students are engaged in learning about the film industry and the issues with being an independent film-maker. They have looked at the great film 'Blinded by the Light', from the same director who created 'Bend It Like Beckham'.



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English News

It's been wonderful to welcome students back this term and we've had a fantastic start to the year in English lessons! Year 7 have been exploring a range of poetry and in a few weeks' time, they'll be laying their pens aside to explore poetry through a poetry performance that they'll create as a class, bringing the poet's words to life. Year 8 have been delving into the world of 19th Century short stories from writers such as Maupassant and Chopin.

Year 10 have started their English GCSE journey with a two-week unit on analysing poetry and have now moved onto a creative writing unit. In the coming weeks, they'll be studying Leave Taking and we're excited to start this text with them soon. Year 11 have started the year with a non-fiction reading and writing unit where they explore audience and purpose and the crafting on non-fiction forms.

This year we're delighted to have started a new novella with Year 9 – Small Things Like These. The novella explores what it means to show courage and compassion in the face of injustice, and we follow the main character as he learns to never turn a blind eye to the wrong in the world. The novella builds to a captivating ending, and we can't wait to explore this with Year 9!

It's important for us to say a massive thank you to the PTA for helping us purchase a new set of books for this unit. Without their support, we wouldn't have been able to study this new text. We're grateful for everything they do to help us continue to improve our curriculum. Thank you!

Ms Jacobs Head of Faculty

Reading Week - Key Stage 3

Regular reading for pleasure brings so many benefits: improved academic achievement, stronger literacy skills, and better mental health. To encourage our students to read regularly and widely, we are holding Reading Week for Key Stage 3 during the week beginning Monday 17th November. Throughout the week, every student will have 20 minutes each day during lesson time dedicated to reading their chosen book. We encourage students to view Reading Week as an opportunity to read more not just in school but at home as well. The library is open at break, lunch and after school as a comfortable reading space. Please encourage your child to read at home during Reading Week especially by asking them for updates on their book and maybe reading alongside them.

After Reading Week, students will have until the 1st of December to finish their chosen book by continuing to read in school and at home. Once they tell either their tutor or our school librarian about their finished book, they will be awarded 10 'Book Finisher' house points.

We hope that Reading Week will be a boost in helping students develop regular reading habits at home. We recommend at least 15 minutes of reading per day to relax and unwind away from screens.

You can visit our library website for up-to-date reading recommendations to inspire your child including our list of 50 recommended reads for Key Stage 3 generously funded by our PTA.



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Technology – Building Skills for the Future

This term has seen an exciting development within the curriculum as Technology has joined forces with Science to form the new Science and Technology Faculty. This merger has created opportunities to build a curriculum that not only strengthens academic learning but also gives students the chance to develop practical, hands-on skills that they will carry with them into the future.

At Key Stage 3, our focus in Technology is on helping students to build up a toolkit of skills for life. These skills are both practical and transferable, ranging from problem-solving and creativity to resilience, independence, and innovation. By learning how to plan, measure, design, and work with different tools and materials, students are laying the foundations to become the engineers, designers, and creators of tomorrow.

A key feature of the Technology curriculum is its emphasis on practical, workshop-based learning. This term, students have been getting to know different types of wood and exploring their properties and uses. They have been practising the essential skills of measuring, marking, cutting, and sanding — processes that require precision, patience, and attention to detail. These activities not only give students confidence in handling tools but also encourage them to take pride in producing high-quality work

Beyond technical ability, our aim is to show students how these experiences connect to the wider world. By engaging with projects that emphasise sustainability, such as upcycling and reusing materials, students begin to appreciate the importance of resourcefulness and environmental responsibility. In doing so, they are learning lessons that go far beyond the classroom, preparing them for the challenges of modern life and the workplace.

The merger with Science is also allowing us to think more creatively about how these two subjects can work hand in hand. By drawing connections between scientific knowledge and technological application, we are aiming to provide students with a more integrated understanding of how theory translates into practice. Whether it is understanding the properties of materials or applying scientific principles to solve design challenges, the Science and Technology Faculty is committed to helping students see the bigger picture.

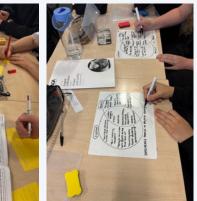
We are very proud of the progress students have made so far this term, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they develop both confidence and capability in new areas. We look forward to sharing further updates in later newsletters as the year continues.

Miss Creswick

Assistant Headteacher | Teaching & Learning







Year 11 - Revising, Revising, Revising!

dedication is going to lead to you aiming high!

We have been so impressed with the positive attitudes, engagement and focus of Year 11 students during their ETT sessions this term, where they have been learning effective revision strategies. Students have been practising their upload, process and download strategies, and continuing this independent study outside of school, in preparation for their next session to gain more house points! Exceptional work Year 11 – we know that your continued hard work and

Super turn out to Period 6 revision sessions

Year 11 students have grasped every opportunity to engage in additional revision sessions with their teachers, either at lunchtime or after school. They have been 'locked in', engaged in active revision and making every minute of the session count in their revision towards their up-coming mocks.

1,076 P6 sessions attended in 3 weeks – what an impressive start Year 11!

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Going for Gold!

10 students undertook their Gold Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition in the Brecon Beacons from the 10th to the 13th September. This was the first time the gold award has run through Nailsea School in six years, and it was a testament to the students' commitment to the award that we had not one but two teams.

Despite at times incredibly challenging conditions with rain and wind that was nothing short of biblical, all students were a credit to the school in the way that they responded. Routes needed to be adjusted each day to avoid the highest terrain due to the imminent threat of thunder and lightning. This resulted in groups being required to complete their walks without detailed route cards, and on two days additional distance was required to go around the peaks and reach their destination.

The groups started their first day in Crickhowell and navigated northwest to finish at Llangors Lake – the largest natural lake in Wales. On day 2 groups travelled south towards Talybont on Usk following stretches of the Taff trail the weather briefly cleared after lunch for both groups to observe beautiful views across the Talybont reservoir before heavy rainfall returned in the afternoon and their arrival at Dolygaer. The evening tested all students' resilience as the rain rarely subsided forcing all students to cook in cold and wet conditions. Day 3 began with an uphill walk north east to take a track that passed between the peaks of Fan y Big and Pen y Fan. With mist and rain limiting visibility, the groups did remarkably well to keep high levels of moral and were rewarded with weather clearing and a stretch of sunshine on arrival at their final campsite just outside of Brecon. The final day of their walk involved an early start with both groups snaking along the old Roman Road southwest towards the small village of Ystradfelldte, famed for its beautiful waterfalls.

Despite reaching the finish with some sore and aching body parts, all students had a smile on their face and should feel an immense sense of pride at what they achieved with their assessors noting their independence and competent navigating. It was a privilege to support them over the four days of their expedition, and I would like to thank Ms Summers and Mrs O'Reilly who joined me on expedition as well as the parents who transported and encouraged students to fulfil this opportunity. Hopefully it won't be another six years until our next Gold expedition!





Mrs Wells **Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**



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Year 11 History Students Step into the Trenches with VR Technology

This term, our Year 11 History students had the extraordinary opportunity to experience life on the Western Front during World War I—thanks to a generous donation from our PTA, which funded a cutting-edge VR Headset workshop.

Led by the engaging and knowledgeable Sergeant Richie, dressed in full authentic WWI uniform, students were transported back in time to explore the harsh realities of trench warfare. The workshop was designed to support their GCSE History course, which focuses on medicine in the trenches during the First World War.

One of the highlights of the session was the chance to see a Thomas splint up close—a revolutionary medical device that dramatically improved survival rates for soldiers with leg injuries. Students learned how this innovation reduced mortality from compound fractures and was a turning point in battlefield medicine.

Using the VR headsets, students were immersed in a realistic trench environment, gaining a visceral understanding of the conditions soldiers endured. The experience focused on the medical aspects of trench life, guiding students through key locations such as:

- The Parapet and Fire Step essential defensive features of the trench where soldiers would position themselves to fire at the enemy.
- Regimental Aid Post the first point of medical care, often located close to the front lines.
- Casualty Clearing Station a more advanced medical facility where wounded soldiers were assessed and treated before being moved further back or returned to duty.

Sergeant Richie's vivid storytelling and interactive demonstrations brought history to life, helping students visualise the structure and function of a WWI trench system. His explanations of the medical chain of evacuation—from battlefield to hospital—deepened students' understanding of the challenges faced by medics and the evolution of wartime healthcare.

This immersive experience was not only engaging but academically invaluable. It provided students with a deeper contextual understanding of the Western Front, enriching their knowledge and supporting their exam preparation in a memorable and meaningful way.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTA for making this workshop possible. It's experiences like these that truly enhance learning and inspire a lifelong interest in history.

Mrs Nicholson Head of Dept









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Health & Social Care

As a Year 13 Health and Social care class we are taught every day about the amazing work health and social care professionals do and how their jobs severely impact on individual's lives – however our visit to the Children's Hospice South West - Charlton House exemplified this on a whole other level.

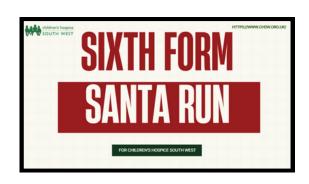
When individuals think about a hospice, typically many families and individuals may think of it as a place of sadness and that it's only for the time when someone's life has come to an end. We learned on our trip that a hospice isn't just for that, that it's a wonderful place for families to spend time together, experience memories and have private time as a family without worrying about meals, washing clothes and general day to day tasks.

We were shown the astonishing way in which the hospice caters to every individual who walks through the door in supporting them with whatever needs they have, whether that be providing short-term care by providing support for families and the individuals in having a break; or being able to spend time together as a family in a space where families can make those last family memories in which they'll treasure forever. They provide everything for the families, so they have no worries while they stay there, all they must do is decide what they'd like to do together for the day. Whether that be to go in the hydro pool or to be able to have fun all together as a family in a safe way for everyone to enjoy, or through watching a film together which might not have always been possible without the 24hr care provided by the staff at Charlton House. This hospice shows the beauty that can be made during a dark time. The support they provide families and how they all respect everyone wishes is truly magical. They cater for all religions, all requests and every wish a child has. Whether that be a trip to space, they make that happen, a birthday being moved forward they make that happen, or a last Christmas together they make that happen, no matter the month.

The sheer courage and strength the nurses and carers within Charlton House show every day by putting on a smile and providing the care they provide is truly inspirational. The level of care they provide is remarkable, the way these individuals give their lives to helping children have the best out of what little life they may have or to make someone's last moments personal and special to them is truly beautiful. We were shown how the staff working in hospices are truly unsung heroes. This should purely be about the beauty and support they provide within a hospice and celebrating this.

However, every hospice that Children's Hospice South West provides costs around £4.6million to run at each setting and the government only fund 11% of this meaning the other money must come from donations and fundraising. As a Sixth Form we were in awe of the care provided at the hospice and have decided as an Year 13 health and Social Care class are going to fundraise to help keep their settings able to run and provide crucial care and support for those families in need. We have decided to do a Santa Fun Run in December where the whole of Sixth Form will take place in keeping moving for a whole extended tutor time for 40 minutes while wearing something festive. We hope people don't take themselves too seriously in the dress up process as they should expect to see some full-on Santa outfits, but anything festive will be appreciated. There will be more information to come on this in the next coming weeks. We hope this will raise a lot of money for the children and we hope this will help fund for the amazing care in which these settings provide. Read all about the amazing care they provide HERE

"You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die" – Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the hospice movement.





Hope E
Year 13 Student

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Art Update

Key Stage 3 artists have hit the ground running this term with an abundance of creative energy. Year 7s have been exploring the potential of materials - layering and refining crayons, inks, tempera, and graphite to great effect. Meanwhile, Year 8 artists have been learning about the structure of cylinders, adapting these into an array of objects, including some very delicious-looking drawings of Jammie Dodgers. Not to be outdone, our Year 9s have been considering how artists and illustrators exploit connotation and personification in their work.

It's always a highlight of the new academic year to welcome our new Year 10s to their Art & Design GCSEs. The Fine Artists have been drawing dynamically, taking on the challenge of transforming a mundane subject, bread, into something visually magnificent. Their impressive renderings of 'dancing bread' suggest that we have a group of seriously talented young artists on our hands. Meanwhile, the Year 10 photographers have made an equally strong start, learning how to create focal points and emphasis within their compositions. A recent homework task challenged students to photograph the colour yellow as the dominant feature, and the results were outstanding. A brilliant start, Year 10 -keep up the great work!

Finally, our Year 11–13 artists and photographers recently had the opportunity to visit Tate Britain in London. We were fortunate to experience the highly regarded exhibition 'Walk the House' by Do Ho Suh. His work explores the notion of home, inviting audiences to encounter buildings and spaces spanning multiple time periods and cultures.

For Suh, 'home' is not a fixed place or simple idea, it evolves over time and is continually redefined as we move through the world. Our students were able to travel through fabric reconstructions of rooms, stand alongside a paper model of a hanok (a traditional Korean house dating back to the Joseon Dynasty, 1392–1910), and watch a video that posed the question: What would a home equidistant from Seoul, London, and New York look like? A truly inspiring exhibition, which will surely fuel some thoughtful and visually striking coursework responses.



































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Drama News

It has been a real pleasure to witness students immersing themselves in the study of Drama this term. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and willingness to take risks in performance have brought great energy to lessons, and it is clear that they are developing both confidence and key skills as they engage with the subject in exciting and imaginative ways.

In Year 7, students have been introduced to the essential building blocks of Drama. A key focus has been on the use of Still Image, helping them to develop discipline, concentration, and clarity in their work. Their performances have stemmed from prompts such as "I'm looking forward to school because...", "Problem in the Canteen", and the classic tale of The Trojan Horse.

Year 8 students are currently exploring the contrasting styles of naturalism and non-naturalism. They are learning to recognise the differences between these approaches, experimenting with performance choices, and beginning to understand how style impacts meaning for an audience.

Year 9 students have shifted their focus to Physical Theatre. They are working practically with the techniques of Frantic Assembly, particularly in relation to The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. This has given them the opportunity to develop physical storytelling skills, ensemble awareness, and creativity through movement.

This year marks the reintroduction of Drama to the GCSE curriculum, and it has been a pleasure to see our thirty-two students embracing the subject with commitment and creativity. They are already developing as a cohesive ensemble, engaging with a variety of theatrical styles and approaches, and experimenting with ideas through different group collaborations.



This initial phase of exploration will provide a strong foundation as they move towards the focused process of devising for their first practical examination later in the academic year. It was also a delight to showcase Drama during the recent Open Evening. The positive feedback from prospective students and parents highlighted the rich variety of the subject, including performance, text-based study, practitioner work, and technical theatre production.

In addition to curriculum lessons, there are now a number of Drama clubs on offer: Theatre Explorers (Tuesdays, 3–4pm), Rehearsal Recess (Wednesdays at lunchtime), and Theatre Think Tank (Thursdays, 3–4pm). These clubs provide fantastic opportunities for students to extend their skills, collaborate, and explore new ideas.

With such a strong start to the year, we look forward to watching Drama continue to grow and to seeing the positive impact it has on our students.

Dr Lloyd **Head of Dept.**

Your Space Events

We had a Welcome Coffee Morning for Year 7 parents and carers that was very well attended. People had a chance to meet other parents, and ask questions. One of the topics of conversation was with regards to the MCAS app so in response on Tuesday 14th October we held a Drop-In support session 3-6pm for parents and carers, which was a great success.

Signposting

Look out for the monthly family & SEND support: North Somerset Parenting Village Coffee mornings. An opportunity to meet other parents, coffee and cake, quick access to SEND + Family Support Staff in-person. They meet regularly across North Somerset more details can be found <u>HERE</u>

Also NSPCWT North Somerset Parents & Carers Working Together - are a useful organisation that run many events locally – their diary is found. they will be hosting a Male Parent Carers group at Nailsea School 6-8pm on 5th November and 9th December (Christmas drinks). HERE



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Business Studies

This term, our GCSE and OCR Business Studies students have been diving deep into the dynamic world of business and enterprise.

GCSE Business Studies students have been exploring key topics such as marketing, human resources, and business in the real world. They've developed their understanding of how real-world businesses function, from setting objectives and managing finances to responding to external factors like competition and economic change. A recent highlight has been analysing case studies of well-known companies, helping students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life scenarios.

Meanwhile, Year 12 Business Studies students have been engaging in more in-depth analysis of financial planning and how businesses operate in different sectors. Students have shown great enthusiasm and critical thinking, particularly during group discussions and problem-solving tasks. Their growing ability to link classroom learning to current events and real business examples has been impressive.

We're proud of the progress they've made and look forward to seeing their continued development as future entrepreneurs, analysts, and leaders in the business world.

Mrs R Gardiner Head of Dept.



Criminology

It's been a fantastic start to the year for our A Level Criminology students! Both Year 12 and Year 13 have shown real enthusiasm, curiosity, and dedication as they've begun exploring the fascinating world of crime, criminal behaviour, and the justice system.

Our Year 12 Criminology students have been working on Unit 1, exploring the different types of crime that occur in society and investigating the factors that influence public perception of these crimes. Students have delved into real-world case studies, including the infamous Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme, to understand the complexities of white-collar crime and its impact on victims and communities.

Our Year 13 students have been equally busy as they prepare for their next Controlled Assessment. This term, their focus has been on offender profiling, and the techniques used by crime scene analysts and forensic scientists to solve complex cases. Students have explored a range of fascinating case studies, examining how scientific evidence and behavioural profiling contribute to criminal investigations.

Both year groups have shown real enthusiasm and commitment to their studies - a great start to the academic year!

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Music Term 1

It gives me great pleasure to write the first Music Department update as the new head of Music at Nailsea. We are now a four strong department with myself (Ms Irwin), Mrs Case, Mrs Winter and Mrs Macleod. We have been so impressed with pupils at the start of the year. We are adapting to some changes in the Music Department with pupils working across three different rooms to enable us to use a variety of equipment and to focus on performing, composing and listening work alongside music technology.

Curriculum

Year 7 have made a great start to music with some fantastic singing and pentatonic composition. It has been lovely to see them finding their musical voices. Some Year 8 classes are songwriting and learning how to write a great chord progression and melody, learning from great song writers.

Whilst others have started the year getting to grips with our new Bandlab software and are composing EDM tracks. There have been some excellent drum tracks already! Year 9 are composing, performing and developing their listening skills this term. Some are straight into Hip hop composition on Bandlab, others are working on their band skills as guitarists and drummers whilst others are learning about Stravinsky's ballet, the Rite of Spring and exploring the big question 'what makes it sound like that?'.

At Key Stage 4 Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE course and have been combining listening and theory work with improvising and composing. Year 11 are deep into practice for their performance unit and have just held practice performances in class. Well done to them all!

Extracurricular

Instrument lessons have started up again with pupils learning everything from guitar to trumpet. We still have spaces and are particularly on the hunt for some saxophone, clarinet and trombone players. Do see the letter that went home a few weeks ago or get in touch.

We have a wonderful group of singers from Year 7 and 8 who are singing 'This is Me' and trying out some Billie Eilish. Jazz Band are back up and running, warming up with the Nailsea classic 'Hit the Road Jack'. Band Jam are rocking and Music Tech club are tech-ing! Our older singers from Year 9-13 are discovering some glorious harmonies. We still need some lower voices to join our Barbershop group on Friday lunchtimes, do come along. Samba Band launched this week bringing the noise, energy and rhythms of Rio to Nailsea. Get ready! All pupils are very welcome to any of our groups.



Concerts

We have several opportunities to invite you along to:

Year 11 concert – Wednesday 26th November (tbc) Come along and hear our fantastic Year 11 pupils perform as part of their performing arts course.

Year 7 Christmas singing extravaganza – Tuesday 2nd December

Who will come out on top in this friendly competition? Come and sing along!

Nailsea School Christmas concert – Monday 15th December

Come and get into the Christmas spirit with performances from our choirs, bands and soloists
More information to follow!

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Maths

Year 7

It has been great to see Year 7 students tackling their problem-solving starters and thinking about the number work in the first unit of work. Unit 1 is full of deeper thinking activities linked to adding, subtracting, place value and decimals and will move onto the topics requiring similar thinking e.g., perimeter, median and interquartile range.

Year 8

Year 8 students have been working on the surface area and volume unit. Their circle and other area knowledge have been put to good use in A party for the King task, where students needed to be creative in minimising waste when designing a tray for their cakes. The painted cubes investigation also got them linking topics, spotting patterns and justifying their findings.

Year 9

Having started the GCSE syllabus, the Year 9 students have combined their indices and decimal knowledge to understand how numbers can be written in standard form. This allows students to be able to work with very large and small numbers. It is great to see students combining subject knowledge from various topics to work at a higher order of mathematical thinking and application.

Year 10

Year 10 students continue to build on their subject knowledge by studying topics within the space and shape or probability sections of work. The recap starters and homework have also required them to revisit previous topics that they have studied. We are always thinking of ways for them to extend their knowledge within a topic e.g. looking at more complex shapes, probability problems that require algebra or working backwards from an answer to calculate a missing value.

Year 11

It has been amazing to see the number of Year 11 students that have been attending the afterschool Period 6 maths sessions. During these sessions students are working on homework recap topics and the topics that are coming up in their maths mock exam early on in Term 2, the atmosphere is relaxed, and students are working well with their peers. The new content in lessons is moving towards the more demanding topics. Rearranging formulae, simultaneous equations and circle theorems are currently amongst these topics and students appear to be rising to the challenge and persevering when things are not so straight forward to understand.

Year 12

Year 12 Mathematicians have been building on their quadratic and algebra skills to be able to apply this knowledge at a higher level and include these topics within new content. All lessons require a lot of work to be completed outside of the classroom to master the application of the knowledge and mathematical methods. Developing this independent way of working is key to being successful at A- level. The Year 12 Further mathematicians are currently studying Matrices and its application to solving simultaneous equations and transforming shapes.

Year 13

Year 13 maths students are building on their topic knowledge from Year 12. A test to review areas of weakness from their end of Year 12 assessments has been a focus along with core maths topics such as series, graph functions and vectors. The further mathematicians have just moved on to a Mechanics topic which, alongside their algorithms work in Decision has been a breath of fresh air after the initial A2 complex number work with its different applications of de Moivre's theorem.

Well done to the students completing the senior maths UKMT Challenge. In additional a special shout out to Frida, Sam, Mae and Sophie S who did so well in the UKMT Competition for Girls, and Esme who sat a gruelling two and a half hour UKMT Girls Olympiad paper. Fantastic effort.

Keep going and don't forget the weekly after school support sessions for all year groups: Tuesday – Year 11 and 7/8 Wednesday – Year 12/13 Thursday – Year 9/10

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Sustainable Travel and Autumn Activities in the DEN

As part of our aim to become a more sustainable school we have been focusing this term on how pupils and staff travel to school. Tutor groups have been asked to complete a survey to see if most people drive, walk, cycle etc and to see if they have suggestions for improvements that can be made to make sustainable travel an easy option. For example, staff have suggested setting a car-share system to reduce the number of people driving to work and the negative impact this has on the environment. On 2nd October we hosted representatives from the local council who gave out information about local bus and cycle networks and gave out free bus passes. Pupils also had their bikes checked and repaired by 'Dr. Bike' to help encourage 'active travel' to school. We hope to offer a level 3 'Bikeability' course during our Curriculum Enrichment Week in the summer.

Our work in the DEN nature area has continued this term with pupils planting layers of daffodils, tulips and crocuses to create a 'bulb lasagne' which will hopefully bring some colour to the plant pots in spring, with the addition of some violas on top to provide interest during the winter. The apples from the school orchard have been harvested and enjoyed as a healthy snack by staff and pupils. In the DEN club we have dusted off an old apple press and hope to make apple juice with it next week.

We have been delighted by lots of new pupils coming to get involved with activities in the DEN or just enjoying being outside in nature. We meet in the atrium near to reception on a Thursday lunchbreak and walk to the DEN together.

















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Update from MFL

Each term the MFL team will write about what's happening in either French or in Spanish lessons, alternating the language for each Newsletter - this term, they'll be looking at what's happening with our French students.

Year 7 – The Basics

Year 7 French students are learning all the essentials this term to get them started. How to greet someone appropriately in the target language, the French alphabet, numbers and saying their age and birthday. They will also learn colours and classroom objects. Be sure to test your students at home to see if they can teach you these things!

Year 8 - Are you connected?

Year 8 French linguists unpick everything about social media this term. They learn to describe TV programmes, films, reading and the internet. They will also learn how to use the past tense to describe actions that have already taken place in French. (Tenses focus more heavily at GCSE level!)

Year 9 - Savonville

We delve deeply into all things teenage related, through the eye of their invented 'Soapland' character, learning how to say what we like to do on social media. We take time to explore giving opinions whilst arranging to go out using the future tense, as well as plan a demonstration for a worthy cause. Finally, we look at a murder mystery in Savonville to reinforce the use of the perfect tense.

Next term we will share the details of what our Key Stage 3 Spanish students have been learning in Term 2.

Mr Bennetts Head of Dept

Spotlight on Sport

Since the start of term, students have demonstrated exceptional standards and an unwavering determination to improve in their PE lessons, showing real commitment and enthusiasm in every lesson. Their positive attitude and willingness to push themselves has been truly commendable. It's also been fantastic to see such high numbers attending extra-curricular PE clubs, reflecting a growing passion for sport and physical activity across the school across the years both after school and at lunch time. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated PE and wider staff team including this year a Year 11 student Saule S who is supporting Year 7's in netball. Their energy and expertise drive these successes, enabling a broader range of clubs to run this term. Your collective efforts have made a real difference to student engagement and opportunity.

In addition to the successes happening in school there are several personal achievements. We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Rudi B in hockey. Through dedication, discipline, and a passion for the sport, he has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill on the field, representing our school with pride and determination. Rudi has not only excelled in school competitions but has also shown remarkable promise at higher levels and mentoring other performers, earning recognition shown below from coaches and selectors alike.

"He has been recognised for his outstanding potential in hockey and fantastic character that makes us want him to be part of what is a highly competitive squad to get into." With his strong work ethic and natural talent, there is no doubt that he has the potential to go even further in the sport. We look forward to seeing what the future holds and will continue to support Rudi every step of the way. Congratulations on this well-deserved success!

Huge congratulations to Year 11 Griffin student Tilly F (pictured) who represented Bristol Rowing Club in the Thames Great River Race on Saturday 20th September. Despite at times very challenging conditions, Tilly and her team completed the 21.6mile race in a time of 3 hours and 13 minutes placing the team 4th and within 30 minutes of the fastest boat. What a fantastic achievement Tilly – Well done!

Mrs Wild & Mrs Wells Head of Faculty & PE Teacher



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Eloise's Equestrian Excellence

Congratulations to Year 10 Griffin student Eloise W who competed at Bicton arena in the Regional championship with her team placing 6th and Eloise placing 4th individually.

Furthermore, she has also qualified for the British dressage My Quest Under 21 semi-finals in October and received the Senior Presidents Challenge Trophy for progress at her Pony Club in recognition for all her hard work.

We can't wait to hear how she gets on! Good Luck Eloise and well done!



Girls Football

The Under 15 girls football team, made up of players in Years 9 and 10 got underway in the ESFA National Cup competition with a fixture against Kings Oak Academy. The match was some of the highest standard of girls football I have witness in my career.

A tight opening saw the deadlock broken when Trinity M opened the scoring with an expertly worked team goal. It started with Liv C passing the ball back to Emily P in goal who confidently passed the ball out Amelia M who on the turn played the ball over the top for Trinity to run on to and half volley past the opposition goalkeeper. Excellent teamwork!

The first half remained close with Nailsea's defence needing to make a number of important tackles in and around the penalty box to prevent Kings Oak from equalising. In the closing minutes of the first half Xanthe S was able to capitalise on some miscommunication between the opposition defence and confidently double Nailsea's lead.

Half time saw a number of changes from both teams, with Kings Oak making a tactical change of formation that resulted in them scoring shortly after kick off. The physicality of the Kings Oak midfield saw them dominate the second half and they were awarded a penalty with 15 minutes remaining. Meadow H in goal expertly blocked the shot with a fine single handed save and pushed the ball wide for a corner. Unfortunately Nailsea were unable to fully clear the corner and a long range effort from the edge of the 18 yard box saw the opposition equalise.

The remaining 10 minutes were close, and the game looked like it was going to extra time, before an excellent individual goal from the Kings Oak player of the match. Well done to the whole team who battled for the full match.

Squad: Emily P, Meadow H, Martha C, Ruby W, Tia F, Em W, Molly P, Olivia C, Amelia M, Alessia C, Joy S, Ava M, Eloise T, Xanthe S, Trinity M.

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KS3 Geography Update.

Year 7

We have welcomed our new year 7s to Geography and have been impressed with their excellent fieldwork skills! We have started this term studying the enquiry process and students have been collecting primary data during fieldwork at school and at home by completing traffic counts and environmental surveys, as well as analysing secondary data. This is allowing them to answer the big question: Is Nailsea a good place to live?

Year 8

Year 8 Geographers have been enjoying learning about the Middle East. They have been studying the physical and human characteristics of this region, as well as the natural resources it contains and the links this area has to the UK. After the biome lesson, students completed homework showing adaptations that animals and vegetation have in order to survive and flourish here.

Year 9

Our Year 9 students have been learning all about the earth's structure and the plate boundaries which produce earthquakes and volcanoes. For homework we were blown away by the quality of some of the models that students produced showing the earth's internal layers which help us understand why earthquakes and volcanoes occur at different types of plate boundaries. We also enjoyed helping the students eat their cake models afterwards! A fantastic effort this year.

Antarctic Flag

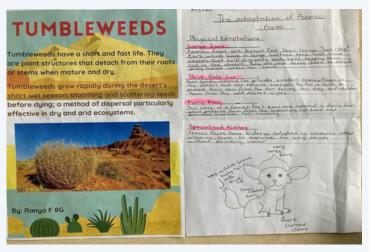
We have already received lots of fantastic Antarctic flags for our annual Antarctic flag competition. This is a competition run by the UK Polar Network. Our winning flag gets sent to Antarctica and we receive a photograph back of it with one of the research scientists out there. We can't wait to share the winners with you next term!

Mrs Thompson Head of Dept













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House Challenges Term 1

The competition got off to a creative start with our Noticeable Noticeboards, each Tutor Group was invited to decorate their tutor noticeboards, encompassing House identity, creativity, inclusivity and style.

Meanwhile, the MFL team helped us celebrate the European Day of Languages with a Scavenger Hunt, which was great fun and a brilliant way to see so many of our Year 7 students getting to grips with finding their way around school!

The final House Challenge of the term was organised by Phoenix House and was the hilarious Balloon Stack Cup Race! In this Challenges teams of staff and students have to blow up a balloon inside a cup to move it without using their hands. Each team had four cups in a line that they had to stack, using this tricky method, ending in hilarious results. There was a host of supporters on hand to cheer their teams along!

Phoenix were the winners, Dragon House were 2^{nd} with 3^{rd} place to Unicorn House, and $4^{th for}$ Griffin House.

Mrs F Davies

Extended SLT | Extension & Enrichment





















Next Term:

House Challenges - we have two Arts Challenges next term, including a team effort the first one to create the longest paperchain and the second to design a bauble with the theme of 'peace'. Our Sixth Form sports students will be organising the Sports Challenge and we are excited to have a repeat of last years very exciting Spelling Bee. Finally Griffin House will be hosting the first Charity Week of the year - we look forward to

seeing what creative genius ideas they chose for their fundraisers!

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Welcome Back to Science

STEM Club with Mr Bradley takes place week 2 Tuesday after school, offering hands-on projects and experiments for keen science enthusiasts.

Period 6 on Mondays for Year 11 provides an opportunity for students to get extra support with specific calculations and core knowledge recap as they prepare for their mocks.

Year 7:

Year 7 students built essential lab skills in preparation for their first deep dive into cell biology. These foundational techniques set the stage for their continued science education.

Year 8:

Year 8 delved into photosynthesis, respiration, and particle theory. They learned how plants convert light into glucose and explored the many forms respiration can take. This work gave them insight into the energy dynamics that sustain life.

Year 9:

Year 9 focused on atomic structure, cell fundamentals, and forces, making a strong start on their GCSE syllabus and laying the groundwork ready for next term.

Year 10:

This term, in Biology, Year 10 studied the cell cycle, mitosis, and cancer. They learned how cells grow, divide, and what happens when these processes are disrupted, gaining insight into cell biology and its role in diseases.

In Chemistry, students have been learning about the periodic table, its development, trends and key groups before exploring the application of this in the lab.

In Physics, students have been building on their knowledge of energy and how it is stored in different situations. They have begun using their Maths skills to predict how objects will behave using the law of conservation of energy.

Year 11:

Year 11 students explored homeostasis and its applications to diseases like diabetes. By studying how the body maintains stable internal conditions, they gained a deeper understanding of how imbalances can lead to health issues, providing context to conditions like diabetes.

In Chemistry Year 11's have been busy learning about and performing electrolysis in the lab to split chemicals using electricity and test the products.

In Physics, students have been building on their knowledge of atomic structure in their lessons by learning about the process of nuclear radiation. They will have been describing the different types of radiation and what changes a nucleus undergoes when ionising radiation is emitted.

Year 12:

Year 12 Biologists were busy with practicals on osmosis and membrane permeability, investigating how substances move through cells—a key concept for understanding cell-environment interactions.

Year 12 Chemists have been reviewing GCSE content on core concepts, in addition to learning new ways to think about electrons and how to assign oxidation numbers to elements in compounds.

Year 12 Physicists have begun exploring the building blocks of the universe in Physics, answering questions such as "What on Earth is a Quark?". On the other side of the course students began developing their mathematical and problem-solving skills to predict the motion of object in mechanics.

Year 13:

Year 13 worked on thin-layer chromatography to analyse plant pigments and we're about to explore how weedkillers impact the rate of photosynthesis.

Year 13 Chemists have been in the lab with Mr Early conducting chemical tests to distinguish unknown compounds from one another!

Year 13 Physicists are have been learning about magnetic fields and how they affect the world around us, they are applying complex formula and experimentally determining the magnetic flux density between two magnets. They have also been continuing their studies on simple harmonic motion.

It's been a productive term with each year group engaging deeply with a range of scientific topics and spending time in the lab with hands-on activities.

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Introducing our Safeguarding Team



Mrs G Broom Safeguarding Governor



Mr D Graffagnino Safeguarding Lead



Miss R Tudor Deputy Safeguarding



Mr Truan **Head of Sixth Form**



Mr C Miles **Head of Dragon**



Mrs S Vass **Head of Griffin**



Mrs S Wisby **Head of Phoenix**



Mr J Reid **Head of Unicorn**



Mrs A Moran **Parent Family Support** Officer



Miss M Petrie **Pastoral Mentor**



Mrs C Mailey **Pastoral Mentor**



NEED HELP? JUST LOOK FOR THE GREEN LANYARDS WORN BY OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM STAY

SAFE



Mrs N Macleod Sixth Form Head of Year



Miss G Britton Sixth Form Head of Year Sixth Form Head of Year



Mrs R Gardiner

If you are concerned in any way about a student's welfare or safety you MUST speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team. (It doesn't have to be your Head of House).

If the concern is not urgent you can contact the team by emailing: safeguardingteam@nailseaschool.com







Nailsea School Stars



YEAR 7

- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Abi W for taking on board feedback and instantly putting it into action with amazing outcomes on the netball court.
- Miss Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Adam L for always putting his hand up to answer tricky questions.
- Dr Pierpoint in Science is awarding 'star status' to Alice L for fantastic contributions in science
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Aoife Mc. for excelling in classwork in 7X3
- Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Dougie B for Leading by example in PE
- Mrs Evans in Drama gives a big shout out to Finley H for making an excellent start to Drama great contributions to
 group work and warm up exercises. Well done, Finley!
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is nominating Finley H for an awesome start in French this year!
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Flossie L for excelling in classwork in 7X2
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Jago K, Eilidh R, Lily T, Frey E, Jess M, Kerensa S for a great write up
 of their geography fieldwork
- Mrs Jones in English is awarding 'star status' to Judah A for always giving such fantastic contributions to our lessons.
- Ms Irwin in Music is giving star-status to Kitto A for your excellent work in class and top drumming at Band Jam.
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Maisy S. for excelling in classwork in 7X5
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Year 7 Netball team for their amazing result in their first match 18-0
 win

YEAR 8

- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Ellis W for great enthusiasm and contributions in Spanish lessons.
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Eloise S for excelling in classwork in 8X4
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Ember K. for excelling in classwork in 8X1
- Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Grace R for fantastic contributions in science lessons
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with her Year 8x PE class for their amazing gymnastics sequences
- Ms Irwin in Music is awarding 'star status' to Zach B for all your hard work in music lesson, your skills are really developing!
- Dr Lloyd in Drama gives a big shout out to Zach L for putting so much effort, focus, and intelligence into Drama this term!
 An instinctive talent and enthusiasm for the subject is being shown.
- Miss Timmins in Humanities gives a big shout out to Zach L for a great start to Year 8 Geography. Excellent focus, class contributions and influence on others!
- Mrs Wheeler in IT is really impressed with Zahide K for an excellent start to Year 8 IT

YEAR 9

- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is nominating Daisey A for persevering and trying her best in French this year so far!
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Dolcie L for her performance in badminton at the start of the year. Amazing variation of shots used and positioning on the court. Well done super star.
- Mrs Wheeler in IT wants to nominate Evie C-S for always giving excellent contributions to lessons
- Miss Herring in Science is awarding 'star status' to Joey D, Ruby H and Phoebe W for excellent scores in the year 9
 science test
- Mr Moran in IT wants to nominate Kira L, Misha M, Maddy H and Arabella G for excelling in classwork in 9X4
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is really impressed with Ruby H for an excellent result in her knowledge assessment







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Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 9 CONTINUED



- Mrs Evans in Drama is giving star-status to Tilda E for always coming to Drama with a hard wroking and focused attitude.
- Miss Rigby in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Tommy L for working so hard and making excellent progress.

YEAR 10

- Mrs Wheeler in IT gives a big shout out to Charlie F for his perseverance and diligence with his programming tasks
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is giving star-status to Dylan S for always trying his best and being resilient.
- Mrs Gardiner in Social Science is giving star-status to Emilia G for excellent effort and amazing start to Business studies
- Miss Creswick in English says you are a star George Bohin for amazing effort and progress so far this year. Well done!
- Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Khamari W for a great start to Year 10 Biology
- Dr Lloyd in Drama is giving star-status to Lu B for being a total drama star!
- Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Oscar Haslett for a great start to Year 10 Geography. Excellent focus in class and superb effort with homework.
- Miss Rigby in Maths is nominating Stephen J for always aiming higher.
- Mr Miles in Health is really impressed with Trinity W-M for a fantastic start in GCSE PE.
- Ms Irwin in Music wants to nominate Will T, Sam C and Max H for all their excellent rehearsing at lunchtimes.

YEAR 11

- Miss Mckinney in Design Technology is really impressed with you Amelie G and Phoebe T for your amazing effort in Textiles - always willing to aim high, being very organised and bringing huge amounts of enthusiasm to the subject!
- Mrs Wheeler in IT is really impressed with Archie T for a focused and dedicated start to Year 11 in IT
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is nominating Aurelia E M for making such an impressive start with your 3D Art coursework, and for having such a great attitude to learning.
- Ms Jacobs in English gives a big shout out to Eila J for her absolute focus this year. Well done!
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is awarding 'star status' to Jasmine W for persevering and being super-organised
- Mrs Macleod in Social Science gives a big shout out to Luke S for exceptional HSC coursework! Well done.
- Ms Irwin in Music is really impressed with Marvin A for the improvements he has made as a performer this term.
- Mrs Barron-Smith in Science is awarding 'star status' to Phoebe W for fantastic start to Year 11 Science. Well done!
- Mrs Wells in Health is awarding 'star status' to Tilly F for her rowing success
- Mr Oliver in Maths is nominating Tilly F for her high focus and excellent progress in Maths.
- Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Tymofii S for showing huge improvement in geography.
- Mrs Wheeler in IT is giving star-status to Zac P for a renewed focus in Year 11

YEAR 12

• Ms Davies in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Andrii M for your approach to learning, application of Photoshop skills, and being so helpful in lessons



- Ms Irwin in Music gives a big shout out to Chloe E and Emily E for your support and enthusiasm at Jazz Band
- Mrs Groves in Maths gives a big shout out to Esme S for making a great start to Year 12 and for her recent completion of the Maths Olympiad for Girls
- Mrs Barron-Smith in Science gives a big shout out to Izzy M for an outstanding start to A Level Biology and Chemistry
- Ms Ford in English is giving star-status to Kara Cole for her excellent contributions in discussions about the Gothic.
- Mrs Gardiner in Social Science is really impressed with Luisa E-M for incredible work ethic in a new subject
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Olga K for helping out in year 7 classes before her volunteering session started!







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Nailsea School Stars

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YEAR 13

- Miss Creswick in English says you are a star Alba C for incredible engagement with 'The Tempest'
- Miss Cartwright in Social Science gives a big shout out to Ella C for continued perseverance and excellence in controlled assessment notes.
- Mrs Groves in Maths is giving star-status to Jacob W for his continued hard work and his recent participation in the UKMT!



- Mrs Barron-Smith in Science is giving Lydia P for fantastic effort throughout year 12 and now 13!
- Ms Irwin in Music was so impressed with Oliver V for your playing at Open Evening
- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is giving star-status to Vicky M for making what is possibly the largest paper airplane in the world as a part of your Art coursework!









