



23rd October 2025

Dear Parents/carers

As the school is closed to students tomorrow for our 3rd INSET day my weekly letter, and my last of the term, arrives with you a day earlier than usual.

As I mentioned to you earlier in the term, we were incredibly proud of the achievements of our students as they picked up their GCSE and A Level/Level 3 Results in the summer. This has been confirmed - and all the hard work of students, staff and the support of families validated - with the publication of the Department of Education's performance tables last week. The published data for Nailsea, at both GCSE and A Level, shows that students have achieved well above the national AND North Somerset average in the key measures. Further details can be found here [Analyse School Performance \(ASP\) - GOV.UK](#)

The reason for highlighting the successes of our students is because it IS something to shout about. The outcomes that students are achieving here is, I believe, a powerful and very positive story for our school and the wider community. Sharing this news with you is a way of thanking you as parents and carers for your support and celebrating the work put in by you and by our staff.

Running a school is both a great privilege and great responsibility and I am determined to continue the excellent progress that has been made. As a staff we also remain humble by virtue of the fact that we know that the improvement journey never ends. There are always things that we can do better and improve upon. There are things that we do not always get right. However, we will not apologise for having the highest of expectations, both in and out of the classroom and we have seen just how well our students respond. I speak for all of our staff as we all know that improving the life chances of our young people is the core of our work. Our aim is to continue to deliver excellent outcomes so that our students, your children, will have a strong foundation when they leave us and take their next steps, whatever they may be. Thank you, again, for your support

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Year 7 Poetry Performance

Yesterday afternoon I had the privilege of attending the year 7 Poetry performance. This is the 5th year that this event has brought the first term of English teaching to an end and every year the standard gets better. Students in year 7 have been working closely with their English teacher selecting and perfecting their interpretations of their chosen poem. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Truscott had their title to defend, but the winning performance was that of 7B ably directed by Mrs Jones. I know that parents who stayed to watch the performances at the end of the school day thoroughly enjoyed their experiences.



PE fixtures

For fixtures that take place after school the PE department place a team sheet in the Health Office window the week prior to the fixture containing all the information for when, where the fixture is taking place and what approximate time this will end. To develop life skills students are responsible for communicating this information to home to ensure it is ok for them to play. They then let the PE teacher know and their name is ticked off on the team sheet.

Prior to departing on any fixture off site we leave a team sheet of students in reception should any parents or carers request information. We also have remote access to Bromcom to be able to contact home in the event of any significant delay to the fixture should students not have a phone and be able to contact home themselves. Similarly, when leaving fixtures we give students an ETA for the return so they can update parents/carers should they wish. If a fixture takes place during the school day a request form for permission to participate is sent home for completion due to students missing lesson time.

Staffing Update

We welcome back Ms Hancock Martin, Art teacher and Assistant Head of Phoenix House, from her period of maternity leave tomorrow. It will be great to see her. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hobbs for her work in covering the Art and Photography classes over the last four terms. We wish her well in her next venture.

Year 11 and 13 winter exams

Students in year 11 have been continuing to impress in their Extended Tutor Time sessions completing 'Upload, Process, Download' revision activities ahead of their winter mock exams. Languages speaking exams begin for students on our return with the main subject exams taking place in the sports hall in the week commencing 10th November.

Year 13 students also start their mock exam period in the week commencing 10th November.

As a reminder all revision materials can be accessed on our website here [Revision – Nailsea School](#)

These assessments serve as a great 'stepping stone' for students, providing them with a unique opportunity to fine-tune their exam strategies, identify areas of improvement and build resilience. As parents we would ask you to re-enforce the message that these assessments are a challenge but are also hugely valuable. They can help students to practise effective revision strategies, to improve their knowledge, to familiarise themselves with pressure, and act as a guide moving forward.

Finally... as reminder students will be returning at the usual time of 8:30am on Monday 3rd November. This will be a week one. We look forward to welcoming students back in term 2. Wishing you all the best for a relaxing break.



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

