



5th December 2025

Dear Parents/carers

As I am typing this the Griffin House Charity Day is just getting underway culminating in 'The Masked Singer' competition that will take place at lunchtime today. I have been asked to be one of the judges so as well as having to keep an eye out for the clues, I will also get to hear some of the staff's singing voices. Verdicts to follow in due course! Mrs Jones, one of the Griffin tutors, has done a great job in organising this part of the fundraising and I know that anticipation levels are high. Sitting behind the excitement, of course, is money being raised for a very worthwhile cause, Motor Neurone Disease, [Griffin House Just Giving](#). Two of our core school values are kindness and community and these charity events demonstrate these in abundance. Thank you, in advance, for all the staff, students and families that are supporting Griffin House today.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Winter House Matches

The Winter House Matches take place during the morning of the 9th and 10th December. This is one of three annual house sports events in which all students sign up via their tutor to take part. There are a variety of activities to choose from to suit everyone including Netball, Basketball, Football, Curling and Team challenges.

The winter house matches are organised by Year 13 PE students as part of their coursework

House Reward Event – Friday 12th December

The next rewards event is happening on the 12th December - over 400 students have been invited to enjoy a Christmas movie with their peers. The deadline to RSVP is Monday 8th December. Congratulations to everyone who has earned a place, competition was fierce.

Student Vandalism

Sadly, it has been noted over the last week that some areas of the school (both within classrooms and in social places) are being deliberately vandalised. Examples include graffiti in classrooms and students adding glitter to glue and then smearing this over the walls. When visitors come to our school they always comment on the fantastic building and facilities we have here and it is hugely disappointing that a very small minority of students feel the need to take such anti-social action. As you would expect, if and when any student has been identified as being responsible, an appropriate sanction will be imposed.

Added to this a number of students have taken to forming mud slides on the grass banks, covering themselves in mud which is then tramped around the building. These students will be easily identifiable by parents due to the amount of mud on their clothing. If parents could support the school by discouraging this activity it would be helpful.

We would really appreciate you discussing these situations with your child at home and I hope there are no repeats of such behaviour.



Students not in lessons

As a polite reminder when students are in school, they are expected to attend their timetabled lessons unless they have a pre-arranged appointment with a member of staff or external visitor. Students cannot not attend lessons and take themselves to an area of their choosing. When students do not attend lessons, our safeguarding protocols are enacted, and this week much staff time and energy has been spent looking for a small but repeated number of students who have simply chosen not to attend lessons. We understand that as we come to the end of term 2 students are tired, but it is a basic expectation that everyone follows the timetable they have been issued. This will mean that we know students are safe. In line with our procedures if a student does truant a lesson parents will be contacted and a detention will be imposed.

Attendance

Attendance to school is vitally important for your child's success. At Nailsea School we are working hard to increase attendance to improve the successes of our community.

Why good attendance is important:

- 90% attendance means a student misses half a day every week. Over five years, this results in half a school year missed
- In one school year, attendance at 90% results in four whole school weeks of school missed
- Research shows that 17 missed school days in a year will result in at least one whole GCSE grade drop in achievement

Understanding illness:

As parents or carers it can be hard deciding if your child should stay off school or not due to their current state of health, and therefore we want to write to you to help clarify our expectations.

Conditions that require time off from school:

- Sickness or diarrhoea - do not return to school until 48hrs after the last episode
- Chickenpox - do not return until the scabs have crusted over (usually five days)
- Impetigo - children can return to school 48hrs after they start using cream or antibiotics prescribed by a pharmacist or GP
- Scarlet Fever - children can return to school 24 hours after they start antibiotics
- Fever - a high temperature of 38C or more
- Influenza (flu) - until recovered

Conditions that do not require time off from school:

- Coughs and colds - encourage your child to dispose of used tissues and wash their hands
- Conjunctivitis - no reason to stay away, seek advice from GP or Pharmacist
- Head lice - treatments available over the counter and inform the school that your child has been treated
- Sore throat - no need to stay off school



Only school can authorise an absence. Students should not contact home directly to be collected if unwell and if they do, then it is classed as unauthorised. We have a process within school to determine whether a child is well enough to remain in school.

Parents/carers need to contact the school if their child is unwell so that we can inform staff of their absence. There may be occasions when medical evidence is needed to support an extended period of absence or frequent absences.

Absence requests should be completed and returned to school <https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Student-Absence-Request-Form-WLT-2024.pdf>

Top tips:

- Medical appointments should be made outside of the school day, wherever possible
- If a medical appointment must be during the school day, please arrange the appointment after 2pm to ensure that your child gets their PM attendance mark and does not miss a large part of the day
- Please provide medical evidence in order to get the absence authorised

More information around attendance can be found on our website:

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/attendance-punctuality/>

Ignite Programme

Planning is well underway for next summer's Enrichment Week. There will be wide a range of activities planned and a new design to the timetable. Prices for these activities will range from free to around £1000 depending on your choice of activities. We thought it worth mentioning now as deposits for trips and payment will be due in January. In the meantime, the exciting programme is being finalised and will be with parents shortly.

Parking, Pick up and Drop Off

You will have seen my plea in last week's letter about parking on Mizzymead Road and surrounding roads and in particular the situation at drop off and pick up times.

We have again received a distressed call from a local resident concerned that parents waiting at pick up times are choosing to park on corners, block driveways, double park and are generally creating an unsafe environment for pedestrians. This caller mentioned that when the inevitable accident happens the emergency vehicles will not be able to get through to attend. Having witnessed too many near misses myself, I can only plead that parents please consider the best place to wait for students at pick up time to ensure everyone is safe.

Thanks in advance for considering the safety of all pedestrians and road users at the start and end of the school day.

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott info@nailseaschool.com | www.nailseaschool.com
Nailsea School | Mizzymead Road | Nailsea | BS48 2HN | 01275 852251



Wessex Learning Trust. Head Office: Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ.
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Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 12th December

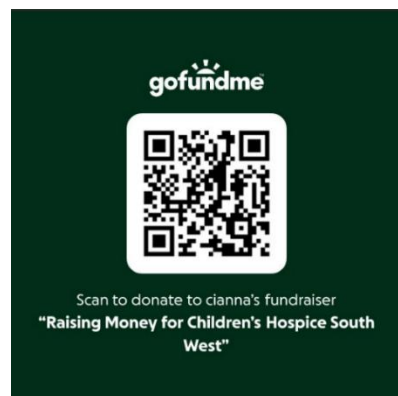
In previous letters I have mentioned the Sixth Form Fundraiser for the Children's Hospice at Charlton Farm.

To add to their fundraising, there will be a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12th December.

Donations can be made through MCAS or the donation page

<https://gofund.me/44bedc86e>

For more information about the Children's Hospice South West please see www.chsw.org.uk



Sixth Form Applications

Year 11 students who have expressed an interest in applying to our Sixth Form will have received an invitation to complete their application form. This invitation has been sent to the student's school email address.

Please note that the Applicaa platform requires internal students to apply using their school email account, which means parents are unable to submit the application on their child's behalf.

Christmas Concert – Monday 15th December

🎄🎁 Join us for a wonderful Christmas concert on Monday 15th December at 7pm - tickets at £5 are available now on My Child at School 🎄🎁

The music department are presenting a mixture of singing, classical and contemporary performances from students across all year groups. Everyone is welcome.

Exam Certificate collection – 4pm- 6pm on Thursday 18th December

A message from our Exams Team:

Students who picked up their GCSE and Level 3 results in August have the opportunity to come and collect the official certificates sent by the exam board before the Christmas break.

Exam certificates are valuable as they are your only proof of your achievements and they are expensive to replace. Each certificate costs around £60.00 to replace and are only available from the Exam Boards, not from the School Exams Office. With this in mind, we ask you to collect your certificates and sign for them as proof that they have been received. As we require a signature, we cannot post them to you. In order to protect your certificates, it is advisable for you to photocopy them and keep them somewhere safe where they will not get lost. Please come to the school reception on the above date where you will then be asked to sign for them. If you would prefer a family member to collect your certificates on your behalf, please complete the form downloadable from the website [Microsoft Word - Certificate Collection 2023](#) Your nominated person must bring this signed form with them if they wish to collect.



Flying Start KS3 STEM Challenge

The Technology department are excited to announce that we have signed up to take part in the Flying Start Challenge 2026. The event is open to all Key Stage 3

students with the first after school session starting on 6 January at 3.30 – 4.30. There will be a short meeting on Monday 15 Dec for students wishing to take part.



The Flying Start Challenge is backed by leading STEM organisations who provide volunteers, material and resources, that aim to inspire the next generation into a STEM career.

The challenge begins with in school sessions delivered by volunteers. These sessions introduce students to the Flying Start Challenge, teaching them fundamental engineering skills, the basic theory of flight, and the process of designing, manufacturing and testing a product.

Students, in teams of 4, apply the knowledge gained from their theory sessions to design, build and test hand launched gliders made from wood and recycled materials within a fixed budget, with the goal to make them fly as far as possible and as straight as possible. This is all supported by the same volunteers and materials provided by the sponsors.

At the end of the in-school sessions, a fly-off is held to determine the best team from each school. The winning team from each school in each region compete in a Regional Final. The top three teams from each region progress to the Grand Final, another full day of activities including engineering challenges, the opportunity to talk with VIP guests from the sponsor organisations, and of course a fly-off to compete for the win of the Flying Start Challenge!

Last Day of Term 2

In order to provide as much notice as possible, term 2 will end on Friday 19th December at 12:20pm. Students will attend tutor time and lessons 1, 2 and 3 as usual. Students will be free to leave at the end of lesson 3 for the Christmas holiday. As a result of these timings there will be no lunch service provided. Snacks will still be available at breaktime. If those students in receipt of free school meals notify their tutor, a lunch will be provided for the students to take home.

For students who are transported by North Somerset we have been made aware that these journeys can only take place at the usual time of 3pm. If the parents of the students concerned, on this one occasion, come to collect their children this will mean they will be able to leave for the Christmas break with their peers. If not, these students will be the only children on site for the remaining two and a half hours of the day. If you haven't already we would appreciate you notifying the school by contacting Annette Watts (AWatts@nailseaschool.com) to confirm your arrangements.



Finally... thank you to all the students and families that attended the Year 10 Subject Parents' Evening last night. These events are always important ones where positive connections between home and school can really support students to exceed their own expectations. Teaching a year 10 group myself, it is always a real privilege to be able to talk about the efforts that have been noted since students embarked on their GCSE studies in September. However, as always, these are not the only times parents should get in touch if they feel the need. If there is anything that you see as a concern or worry, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us here at the school.

Enjoy your weekend



Dee Elliott,
Head teacher

