



12th December 2025

Dear Parents/carers

As you may have seen from our social media accounts 'The Masked Singer' event last Friday was an enormous success and I hope those that attended enjoyed the experience as much as I did as a judge. Today further charitable endeavours are being undertaken by some 6th form students, raising money for Children's Hospice South West through our Christmas Jumper Day, ahead of their Santa Fun Run taking place next Tuesday. As a reminder, if you feel you can support this very worthwhile cause, please find the link here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/thswa-raising-money-for-childrens-hospice-south-west> It would be fantastic for the group to hit their target. Thanks, in advance, for your support.

The week will conclude with over 400 students across years 7-11 being invited to the 'Magical Moments' Rewards Event watching a festive film of their choice. It's fantastic to see the efforts of students being maintained despite the cold, the dark and the coughs and colds being shared. Another example of how being a part of #TeamNailsea is really a privilege.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Christmas Concert, Monday 15th December

We look forward to welcoming families to our festive concert that starts at 7pm on Monday. I know that Mrs Irwin's first two terms in her role as Head of Music have certainly been busy ones, but given the amazing feedback received after the year 7 Christmas Singing Competition earlier this term, I am sure the evening will certainly be one to get us all in the festive spirit.

Year 11 and 13 mock results

Students will receive their results, replicating the experience they will have in the summer, on Tuesday in extended tutor time. As has been said to students, the mock exam period is an opportunity to gauge what the focus needs to be for the remaining few months and this should be seen as a part of the learning process. Mock exam results are never intended to be 'the finished article'. Staff have already been spending faculty meeting time over the last two weeks of term, making detailed lesson by lesson plans for their teaching groups until the start of the exam period. This will ensure that not only content is covered and completed, but also that the teaching is responding specifically to the target areas identified in the mocks.

Students, and staff, deserve a well-earned break over the two week holiday. This will enable all to return in January with a clear focus on the final stretch. As was shown with the results achieved by students in August, what is happening within and outside classrooms here at Nailsea, directed by our teaching staff, is clearly paying dividends. I would ask that parents and students continue to trust and work with the staff here so that students can gain grades that will open future doors.



Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17th December

Almost 400 students have signed up for the annual Christmas lunch that will take place on Wednesday next week. Given the large numbers involved, students in years 7 and 8 who have bought the lunch will leave lessons at the start of period 4. Students in years 9, 10, 11 and 6th form will have their lunch at the usual time. As the Christmas lunch will be being served in the main canteen, there will be a limited offering of other lunch options in both the Media Café and the Juice Bar.

Lunchtime Lecture – Thursday 18th December - Auditorium

The second of our lunchtime lecture programme will take place on Thursday with Miss Creswick revisiting the plot and unpicking the themes and motifs of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' – another festive treat. As this is one key text studied in the GCSE English Literature course, any year 11 students that attend will be rewarded with house points.

Sixth Form applications

Reminder: Applications for Sixth Form close on Friday 9 January at 5pm. Please ensure your child's application form is completed as soon as possible.

If your child would like to apply but has not yet registered their interest, please ask them to speak to Mr Jones or Mr Truan. An application form will then be sent to their school email address.

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

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.

Last Day of Term 2 – Friday 19th December

As a reminder term 2 will end on Friday 19th December at 12:20pm. Students will attend tutor time and lessons 1, 2 as usual. Students will then return to their tutor group for period 3 before being free to leave at 12:20pm for the Christmas holiday. As a result of these timings there will be no lunch service provided. Snacks will still be available at breaktime. Students who are eligible for free school meals will be able to access the full amount at breaktime.



Finally... for those that celebrate Christmas I am sure we all have certain traditions and rituals that take place over the festive period. For me, this weekend, I am ticking one off the list by going to see 'It's A Wonderful Life' at the cinema on Sunday afternoon. I love a matinee performance and Christmas would not be Christmas without spending a couple of hours with George Bailey and Clarence. However, as many a pub quizzer will know, on the release in 1946, the film was heavily criticised and the director, Frank Capra, was still defending it when being interviewed in 1974. For me the key scene - it gets me every time - is when George (James Stewart) breaks down while drinking in a bar in Bedford Falls. He considers himself a failure after making sacrifice after sacrifice and lost all of his sense of self-worth. In a time of 'stiff upper lips', Stewart's performance was vulnerable, emotionally honest and heart wrenching. The tears, it has become known, were real and Stewart later spoke of how his emotions were both genuine and unplanned, transcending the stigmas of the day where emotional problems were viewed as shameful or insignificant. For me this film is a classic, highlighting that even small actions have big impacts and offering a powerful, uplifting reminder about how precious life is. Relevant as much today as on the release in 1946, if not more so. One on my Christmas list forever.

Enjoy your weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

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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