



19th December 2025

Dear Parents/carers

A week full of festive activities has brought the final week of 2025 to a close. The week kicked off with Mrs Irwin, appointed Head of Music last year, overseeing the first Christmas concert of her tenure. The evening was a resounding success with a real mix of musical genres, types of performances and the ages of the students involved. Personally, one real highlight was the first performance of the new Samba Band. We all know that such events cannot happen with the dedication of staff, students and the support of parents. It was a lovely evening reflecting just how well the school works together towards common goals.

On Tuesday the 6th form fundraising team were involved in their Santa Fun Run, raising money for Children's Hospice South West. The entire event was student led and I hope you managed to see the photos on our social media accounts. The running total raised is currently £1400 – a great achievement. 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.

Wednesday saw our in-house catering team prepare and serve over 400 Christmas lunches to students and staff. For someone who twitches slightly at the thought of cooking for 4, I can't really imagine the efforts and planning that went into making the event such a success. I know, for many students, this is a really important and memorable part of the end of term 2.

This morning staff will be gathering around the Media Steps to greet students as they enter by singing Christmas carols. It's become a bit of a Christmas tradition for us and although the quality of the singing certainly may vary across the staff body the sentiment, of wanting to wish our students all the best for the break is certainly evident.

This term has been another fantastic one and even after 10 years of being Headteacher I am still amazed, inspired and proud of what our students and staff can achieve. It's been wonderful to spend this Christmas week with them all.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Staffing Update

We wish the following staff all the best for the future as they leave us this week:

- Miss Bateman – Learning Support Assistant
- Miss Bywater – Cover Supervisor
- Mr Oliver – Maths department
- Mr Tinker – Maths department



In addition to this, to support the course they are undertaking as part of their ongoing professional development Mrs Davies and Mr Houghton (English department) will be spending January in another secondary school.

The following staff will be joining us in Term 3

- Miss Parker – English department
- Miss Pham – Maths department
- Mr Swaffin-Smith – Maths department
- Miss Southcombe, Miss Saward and Miss Hodder – officially joining the SEN department

This week we were also delighted to hear about the safe arrival of Ms McKinney's daughter. We wish the family well for her period of maternity leave.

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.

Your Space

Giving you lots of notice to update your diaries, these are the first Your Space events for the new year. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

For Year 7 parents – Coffee morning
January 21st 2026, 9.00-10.30am + evening session 5.15-6.45pm

Dyslexia information evening - strategies to support your child
3 Feb 2026, 5.15-6.45pm

Accessing support over the Christmas break

Christmas can be a challenging time for some families and individuals. Recent events in Weston-Super-Mare have also been shocking and people will react to this news in different ways. Please see the attachments giving an overview of where you can access support and our Trust directory of Christmas Holiday Support.

Start of Term 3

All students will be welcomed back to the start of Term 3 on Monday January 5th with, a usual, 8:30am start. This will be a week 2.

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Finally... there was one other festive event this week; Miss Creswick's lunchtime lecture on Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'. Watching this, just like 'It's A Wonderful Life' discussed last week, is another one on my annual to do list – with my favourite being the 1951 Alastair Sim version. There is no doubt that Dickens shaped the idea of our modern Christmas focusing on the importance of generosity and reconciliation. The novella isn't just a Christmas tale – Dickens wrote a mirror for society and that mirror still works; generosity changes everything, connections are vital, reflection leads to transformation and empathy is a superpower. The true spirit of Christmas is timeless; it's not one day, but a way of living. Whether we are stuck in our own Scrooge-like tendencies or grappling with today's challenges 'A Christmas Carol' reminds us that change is still possible. So, if you take some time to re-read or watch one version over the break please do ask yourself *What am I hoarding? What connections am I neglecting? What changes can I make today?* And in the words of Tiny Tim: 'God bless us, every one!'

Thank you for your ongoing support this year in keeping Nailsea such an exceptional place to learn. Your best wishes, support and positivity are very much appreciated.

See you in 2026!



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

