



23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Many thanks to all families from year 9 that attended our Guided Choices event yesterday evening. It was great to see such purposeful conversations being had as the next cohort of students decided on their year 10 option subjects. Thank you to all the parents that stopped to say how useful and informative the evening was. As a reminder, the deadline for the forms to be returned is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm. If any student or parent/carer has any follow up questions or queries please do contact Ms Dee.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

## **Re-set and Refresh**

We have now come to the end of the first week of our Timeout system at breaktime and lunchtime. As you may remember from last week's letter students are sent here if they are running inside the building, shouting/swearing or seen pushing/shoving/placing hands on other students. The aim is to ensure that break and lunch times are calm whilst also providing those important opportunities of seeing friends.

Students have also responded positively to the additional benches purchased for the atrium. To continue to respond to the increased number of students in school, we are planning to purchase a further ten and they should be in place by the end of this term.

Signage in toilet areas, reminding students that these should not be a place for loitering, has also had a positive impact. These changes were made in direct response from student voice who commented that students who were gathering there were often preventing others from using the facilities.

In another response to student voice comments and looking ahead to the changes in government legislation in relation to school uniform, we have also received samples of a new polo shirt that could be introduced. These will be shared with School Captains and Student Council ahead of a wider consultation in the next few weeks. We will then share the plans of how Nailsea will be compliant with the new legislation. Further updates will follow in due course.

Next week we are having a renewed focus on corridor etiquette to ease movement around the building in a safe way. Teaching staff are regularly stood at the doorways welcoming students and sending students on their way at the start and end of lessons. Whilst there, and when staff are moving around the site the following expectations are being relaunched and re-enforced:

- Students keep left when walking down corridors. No more than two students/a pair walk side by side in the corridors to enable ease of movement in both directions.
- Students keep left when using stairwells. On stairwells, students should ascend and descend the stairs in single file to ensure this can be done safely and swiftly.



These messages will be shared with students in tutor time next week and it is envisaged that this practice is fully embedded by the end of this term.

### **INSET DAY - 13<sup>TH</sup> February**

As a reminder school staff are involved in the Wessex Learning Trust INSET day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Term 3 will finish for students on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm. Term 4 begins on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February which will be a week 2.

### **Music Centres**

If your child would be interested in developing their music skills and gain experience playing in a band, orchestra or ensemble then please see the attached about our local music centre for information about how to get involved.

### **Phoenix House Charity Week**

Phoenix Charity Week takes place in the penultimate week of term from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Information has already been sent home about this as a reminder please see the attached. There will be a non-school uniform day on the Friday, raffle tickets available to purchase via the Store on your MCAS account and we kindly ask that students who wish to take part in the tuck shop or cake sale bring cash to school on the 4th and 5th February. Thank you as always for your support.

**Finally...** please find attached a letter from Gavin Ball, Chief Executive of the Wessex Learning Trust, who announced his retirement this week. We are deeply grateful for Gavin's 36 years of service to education, including 28 years in senior leadership; his career is a testament to the dedication required to navigate both the rewards and challenges of the teaching profession.

Have a lovely weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

