



30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Thank you to the parents and students that attended the Yr 11 Subject Evening last night. With exams starting on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 11 school weeks away, it is a very important time to be having those specific subject based conversations. Year 11 parents will have received a more detailed letter regarding planned arrangements for the year group as we move to the exam period. Students have returned following Christmas with refreshed energy and motivation to work hard in their lessons and start consolidating their learning in revision. We are really proud of their attitudes, attendance and engagement in intervention sessions and Period 6, and know that their hard work now will really pay off nearer the exams.

As has been referenced before, we also know that one of the most important indicators of how well your child will do in their final exams is their attendance to school. Research and data consistently tells us that when students are in front of their teachers, they make better progress. Further details related to our attendance procedures can be found within this week's letter. We will continue to drive excellent attendance for the remainder of the year for all students and we appreciate your support in working with us to help your children maximise their progress.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

## **Wessex Learning Trust Catering Survey**

Please find attached a reminder about the opportunity for parents and students to complete a catering survey being conducted across all schools in the Trust. This closes on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February

## **Use of First Aid**

As a reminder, only school can authorise an absence. Students should not contact home directly to be collected if unwell. If this does happen this will be classed as an unauthorised absence. We would ask that if students are feeling unwell they follow the process within school to determine whether a child is well enough to remain on site. Thank you for your support.

## **Year 8 HPV vaccinations**

HPV vaccinations for Year 8 take place in school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please complete the form if you wish to give permission for your child to receive the vaccination. The closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> March. The consent link is <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/hpv/2025/consent?v=2>

## **WhatsApp community for parents/carers in North Somerset**

Families who are struggling with mainstream education and whose children are finding it difficult to be in school might find this new group useful. It's for all the "E"s (EBSA, EHCP, EHE, EOTAS), offering a place to be heard, to ask questions, and direction to other useful groups and resources

Access via this link to find out more [North Somerset Education Offstream Community](#)



## Conduct on First Bus services X7 and X9

I have previously shared with you some of the feedback we've received from the public about student behaviour on the buses. Last week we were visited by an employee from First Bus who has responsibility for safety at a level where he investigates accidents and incidents. There have been numerous complaints from the public to First Bus about the behaviour of students in Nailsea School uniform. Reported behaviour includes swearing, vaping, abusive language to the driver, putting bags on spare seats refusing to let other passengers sit down, crowding seats and moving around on the top deck, even dancing at one point while the bus was in motion. Apart from being antisocial this behaviour is dangerous and if students are identified we will take action in line with our behaviour policy.

The most alarming information reported was the behaviour of students at the bus stop as the bus approaches; pushing and shoving one another, some standing in the road, lots balancing on the edge of the kerb in an attempt to get on the bus first. These vehicles weigh 14 ton and, as explained by the First Bus employee, there is a large blind spot at the front of the bus. There have been fatalities in the past when, as the bus pulls in, the driver hasn't seen people. There have also been UK deaths from the wing mirror hitting the heads of passengers. Please discuss this information with your child along with our joint parental and school expectations of responsible behaviour.

## Understanding Absence Follow Up

As a school, we need to ensure that parents know the way to report a student absence and the follow-up that will take place following the child's absence.

## Reporting a Student Absence

This information can also be found on the school website: If students are absent from school, it is essential that parents/carers report their child's absence:

Years 7 to 11 Student Absence Line	01275 852251
Sixth Form Absence Line	01275 852251 (Option 1)

Parents must contact the school for every day their child is absent.

If you have any medical evidence you wish to provide to authorise an absence, please provide this and send by email to **info@nailseaschool.com**

## Medical Appointments

If your child has an unavoidable appointment during the school day, please email in the letter or appointment card to **info@nailseaschool.com**. Where possible, we would ask that appointments be made out of school hours so your child's learning is not disrupted, especially during assessment periods. Non-essential appointments will be unauthorised.



## Absence Follow-Up

Absence Requests during term time will not be authorised, except in exceptional circumstances and if permission is sought in advance. If you would like to request an absence for your child, please complete the form below:

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Student-Absence-Request-Form-WLT-2024.pdf>

## Holidays and Avoidable Absences in Term Time

We believe that in order for a pupil to fully benefit from their education, good attendance is crucial. It is the policy of our school to celebrate achievement and full attendance is a critical factor to a productive and successful school career. As of September 2013, an amendment to the Education (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2006 came in to force and greater clarity was introduced to the issue of schools authorising absence requests. These changes reinforced the Government's view that every minute of every school day is vital and that pupils should only be granted authorised absences by the school in 'exceptional circumstances'.

A family holiday is not normally considered by the Government to be an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore will not be authorised by this school.

We must take this opportunity to remind you, that should you choose to take your child out of school without the authorisation of the school, then Parental Responsibility Measures could be instigated. This could mean receiving any of the following;

- A Penalty Notice
- A summons to the Magistrate Court which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment for up to 3 months.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority if a pupil has a number of unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences can be acquired when;

- 1) Leave has been requested, but the circumstances are such that the school is unable to authorise the leave and it is taken anyway.
- 2) Leave is not requested and/or the school has grounds to believe that the child has been taken out of school for an avoidable reason (example – a family holiday). Only the Headteacher can authorise an absence. This year there have been occasions when schools have been notified that the pupil is sick, but the school later discovers and reasonably believes that the reason given for the absence is not genuine.
- 3) A child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed.

This school will be notifying the Local Authority in all of the circumstances listed above.



Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. From 19th August 2024, following changes to secondary legislation, the amount charged in a penalty notice was increased.

The first penalty notice issued will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

We understand the disappointment that the refusal of a leave request may cause and we apologise, but as you can appreciate this policy represents the school's responsibility and commitment towards providing your child's education and supporting their future life opportunities. We hope you will support us by ensuring that your son/daughter obtains the maximum benefit from their time at school by attending punctually for the 190 days each year that the law requires (unless prevented from doing so by an unavoidable circumstances). Thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

### **Phoenix House Charity Week**

Phoenix Charity Week takes place next week. 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.

### **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.

**Finally...** I am sure you will join me in wishing the students and staff on the ski trip a safe journey as they will be absent next week. Particular thanks to Mr Taylor and Miss Herring who have led on the organisation of the trip. I look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return.

Have a lovely weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

