

Newsletter



Term 3 | February 2026

A Message from the Head



Term 3 has been a pacey start to 2026, starting with record breaking numbers of applications to our Sixth Form for the 2026 intake, followed by Guided Choices evening when Year 9s are helped to decide their future qualifications. Year 7, 8 & 9 had the opportunity to sign up to our IGNITE programme, hopefully something to look forward to in the warmer months. The programme will be an ideal way to stretch social skills, step out of our comfort zones, try something new or hone a skill.

Over one hundred of our Year 9 students have signed up to this year's Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme at Bronze level. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are a great qualification for our students to take part in. Varying aspects - the volunteering making a commitment to the community and to themselves is a hugely worthy ambition, as is the team work and navigation involved in the expedition. We look forward to watching how the programme develops these individuals.

Year 12 Geography students braced the cold and the wet on their annual visit to explore the towns and coastline of Devon, a beneficial - if not a little damp, trip. Some of our Year 10s were fortunate enough to attend a ski trip while some of our Sixth form team are on the slopes as I type!

Phoenix House raised an incredible amount of money for their selected charities. Well done to them and a big thank you to you for your incredible support.

At the end of the term, the whole school took part in Safer Internet Day with a range of challenges set around the school. We look forward to hearing more in next term's assembly where we drill down on how we can further protect ourselves online.

It's been a busy and productive term – and Term 4 promises more of the same - but hopefully much better weather.

Enjoy the break!

Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher

Local Partnership Board Update

This term, it is great to see the energy and dynamism of the school despite the dark weeks of Winter, with a variety of curricular trips underway for students such as the Geography field trip and students from Year 10 having the opportunity to join the skip trip. The Governors were very proud to see the accomplishments, confidence and enthusiasm of our students at a number of community engagements including the Holocaust Memorial Day event organised by Nailsea Town Council.

Our team have been working closely with the school leaders on specific school improvement targets this term, with leaders from the Wessex Learning Trust. Thank you to all the staff who have facilitated the local partners with their work.

We would like to give special thanks to our Nailsea PTA, whose efforts we greatly value, supporting our school and raising our profile within our community. Many thanks to all the parents and carers who get involved to organise events and thank you to everyone in our school community who support their initiatives.

Dr J Edwards



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Welcome Message from our Head Prefects

Sixth Form students have been working hard to give back to our local community, the Year 13 Health and Social Care class have led the way by organising a Sixth Form Santa Run for the Children's Hospice after an inspiring visit to the centre as part of their Health and Social Care studies. This has been matched by the fantastic Year 12 volunteering that has taken place, including peer reading, running lunchtime clubs and working within local primary schools and other organisations.

Presenting at Sixth Form Open Evening gave us an opportunity to pause and reflect on our journey through Post 16 so far. Speaking to incoming Year 11 students reminded us of how much we have grown both academically and personally, and how many memorable moments we've enjoyed, such as the social events, enrichment activities and day to day interactions with our peers. These experiences have shaped us and highlighted just how far we've come.

Edith + Peter
Head Prefects



Aspirational Learners

Year 12 students recently visited the University of Bath as part of their Pathways Programme, where they were able to experience a vibrant university environment and gain valuable insight into university life, from touring accommodation to speaking with current students about their journeys. This has formed a key part of their wider exploration of possible future routes, as students have also been learning about the growing appeal of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. Through discussions, research tasks and tutor-led sessions, they have been evaluating the advantages and challenges of different options, developing the confidence and curiosity needed to make ambitious, well-informed decisions about their next steps



Independent Thinkers

Just before the Christmas break Year 13 students completed their mock examinations, demonstrating great maturity and resilience throughout the process. They have shown how well they can apply the independent study habits developed over the past year, balancing subject-specific revision strategies with broader skills in time management and self-reflection. Teachers have been impressed by the focus and determination shown across the cohort, with many students taking the opportunity to meet with staff and discuss personalised revision strategies. This process has not only strengthened academic confidence but also reinforced the value of persistence, planning and adaptability – essential qualities for success in the final exams and in future study or employment.



Community Ambassadors

An impactful start to the term saw our Year 12 students taking part in vital bleed kit training delivered by Leanne from Bin the Blade. The session was both practical and thought-provoking, equipping students with potentially life-saving skills and deepening their awareness of community safety. Their commitment to making a difference has continued through the launch of our volunteering programme, which sees every student commit to weekly sessions supporting lower school students or members of the wider community. Their enthusiasm and dedication showcase the leadership and community-minded values central to our Sixth Form, and we are immensely proud of the positive impact they are already making through this initiative.



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

It has been a busy term of assessments for students in Years 9, 10 and 11. Our new approach to revision using the Upload, Process, Download method is resulting in significant improvements in student performance. Year 9 completed their Bonhoeffer assessment, and we have been reading some very impressive responses. Year 10 GCSE are working extremely hard and have made an outstanding start to their GCSE studies.

Year 11 have completed their mock exams which has been a very positive experience for all. We look forward to learning the lessons and building on these through the remainder of the year.

Politics

Students of A Level Politics once again this year, led assemblies for all Houses during Parliament Week. This year our focus was on increasing participation in the democratic process. The assembly was interactive, and we were very impressed with the level of participation from students in the audience. Students voted on a number of propositions including whether or not we should lower the voting age to 16 or even lower. Students gave very positive feedback following the assemblies and we are so pleased to have engaged them all in the vital area of Democracy and Participation.

Mr I Jones
Head of Faculty

Criminology

Criminology students worked preparing for their controlled assessments held at the end of Term 2. Year 12 students researched a range of influential campaigns for change—such as Marcus Rashford's End Child Food Poverty and developed their own campaign ideas and materials in preparation for the controlled assessment.

Year 13 students have been completing their in-depth investigations into real-life crime cases, including the Hillsborough disaster and the London Riots. They have been analysing the actions and errors of the key personnel involved in each case.



Miss Cartwright
Head of Dept

English - A Review

In the English Faculty, Term 1 finished with our annual Year 7 Poetry Performance, which saw every Year 7 class bring a poem to life through performance. It was spectacular, to say the least. 7B were crowned the worthy winners on the day and we were delighted to welcome parents in to see these fantastic performances.

In Term 2 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 put their writing skills to the test. Year 7 explored the art of rhetoric by studying a range of speakers from Martin Luther King, Jr to Greta Thunberg. At the end of the unit, they used what they've learnt to craft their own persuasive speeches.

As the nights grow more stormy, Year 8 have been exploring Gothic writing by reading a range of extracts from classic Gothic texts, drawing inspiration to craft their own descriptions. Finally, Year 9 have been reading a range of modern short stories with this unit culminating in students writing their own pieces.

At the beginning of Term 2, Year 10 finished their study of Leave Taking which explored questions of identity and where it is that we belong. Next they turned their attention to their Language GCSE where student have been reading a range of extracts from stories and exploring how writers craft their work. In the lead up to Christmas, Year 11 studied A Christmas Carol.

It's been a great year of learning so far!

Ms Jacobs
Head of Faculty



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Drama, Drama, Drama!

We have continued to see the growing impact of Drama at Nailsea School. Students are becoming increasingly impassioned and emboldened by the subject and the opportunities it gives them to express their creativity.

Since the last update, Year 7 has completed their assessed performance of *The Diamond Robbery*. Students were challenged to implement all the techniques covered in the 'Intro to Drama' unit in a clear, logical, and engaging manner. The work on display was impressive, with many students demonstrating commitment, imagination, and a willingness to push themselves to achieve their very best. Year 7 has now moved on to a scripted unit, exploring the play *The Perfectly Timed Arrival of an Imaginary Friend*. This work encourages students to develop a more detailed and thoughtful approach to characterisation and script interpretation.

Year 8 have been studying the play *DNA*, using the skills they developed in Unit 1 on Naturalism and Stanislavski. Students are applying these foundations to create believable characters, truthful interactions, and nuanced ensemble work as they explore the tensions and moral questions within the text.

Year 9 is coming to the end of their unit on Physical Theatre, using *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* as their core text. They are currently working toward an original performance inspired by the phrase, "Does that mean I can do anything?", and work has shown a bold, imaginative use of movement, ensemble skills, and abstract staging.

As mentioned in our last Newsletter entry, GCSE Drama has returned with a 32 strong cohort in Year 10. Having explored ways of devising, the class has now been separated into their final groups for their assessed Devised piece. We are enjoying seeing ideas develop and group dynamics establish and flourish. The Drama Department was also delighted to be able to showcase some Year 10 work as part of last term's Expressive Arts Showcase.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to gain an insight into the type of work created at GCSE level and how the study of Drama can impact future progress and development.

Here at Nailsea School, we are fortunate to teach young people who are full of enthusiasm and creative flair, and who embrace opportunities to challenge themselves. We look forward to seeing all that students have to offer as we delve into new and ambitious material.

Dr Lloyd
Head of Dept

Film and Media

Year 10 Film students are exploring the 1950s teen drama 'Rebel Without A Cause'. They are learning about how the director communicates meaning via the use of cinematography, sound, mise-en-scene and editing. A particular favourite sequence is Jim's anguished cry of 'you're tearing me apart!'.

Year 11 Media have been learning about the magazine industry, in particular the magazines *Heat* and *Tatler*. They have particularly enjoyed exploring how the magazines represented women. Taylor Swift has once again made an appearance for Year 12 Media students and we've enjoyed exploring different interpretations of her online posts. They've even read a dissertation on how Swift engages her fandom during the marketing for her albums. Their online study continues with considering digital news sources – in particular *The Voice* which is a niche newspaper online and subscription only.

Year 13 Media students have been exploring the 1960s and how masculinity and femininity was represented. Their set text of the *Score* hair cream advert has raised debates around the roles of the genders at this time, with the male protagonist either being the hero or the reward. They have enjoyed learning more about the intertextuality in the advert, exploring the character of James Bond (Sean Connery being the best Bond of course!) and the role of *Carry On* film franchise and *Pulp Fiction* at this time.



Miss Britton
Head of Department

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



DEN - A Look Back at the Year so far

Pupils took advantage of the bumper crop of apples from the school orchard and used the apple press to make some freshly squeezed apple juice. They started by mashing the whole apples into a pulp by passing them through a crusher. The pulp was then scooped into the apple press that had been lined with a thin cheesecloth. After adding blocks of wood to apply pressure on top of the mashed apple a handle was turned to compress the apples until juice started flowing out of the bottom. Pupils said that the apple juice was very sweet and delicious. We look forward to using the apple press again next autumn.



In the run up to Halloween pupils decorated some small pumpkins which were placed by the entrance of the DEN to spook passers by as they came up the main school drive. After Halloween we turned the pumpkins into bird feeders. We did this by 'chopping off their heads', poking sticks through holes in their 'ears' and hanging them up with string. We used roasted pumpkin seeds and other bird seeds as food for the birds to help them through the colder months. Once the pumpkins started to rot we put them in our compost bins to make the process as sustainable as possible. We hope to grow our own pumpkins next year.



Pupils were keen to use the fire pit, so on a sunny day when we could collect dry firewood, we seized our opportunity. Pupils lit the fire themselves using fire sticks to create a spark. We only made a small fire as the lunch break flies by so quickly, but pupils had enough time to enjoy some toasted marshmallows as a reward for their efforts.

Can you help with our bug hotel project?

We are in the process of making a large bug hotel out of old pallets and are looking for more materials to finish it off.

If you have any of the following please contact fbicknell@nailseaschool.com or bring them to the school reception.

- Bamboo canes
- Pine cones
- Logs or bark chippings
- Old bricks, roof tiles or broken pots
- Plywood panels or roof felt



Mrs F Bicknell
Sustainability Curriculum Leader



Quiz Club

Quiz Club runs every Wednesday after school from 3pm - 4pm in Room 44. It's for Year 9 and Year 10 students. Anyone is welcome to join - see Mrs Rigby (Maths Teacher) for more information.

Quiz Club

Quiz Club represented Nailsea School in the first two rounds of the National School's Challenge competition. Going up against four other schools randomly selected from around the UK, the teams faced a University Challenge-style quiz, racing to be the quickest on the buzzer.

In December's first round match, the B team gave a valiant effort right up to the timer, but were unfortunately pipped to the post by their opponents. They competed again in the Plate Competition in January, once again showing excellent effort, focus and respect for the other team.

The A team's first match took a dramatic turn and finished on an incredibly tense tie-breaker. They were victorious, and went on to the second round of the Cup Competition. In January's second match, they scored an exceptional 260 points to 100, and will progress on to the third round.

Huge congratulations to both teams!

Mrs Rigby
Maths Teacher

Newsletter

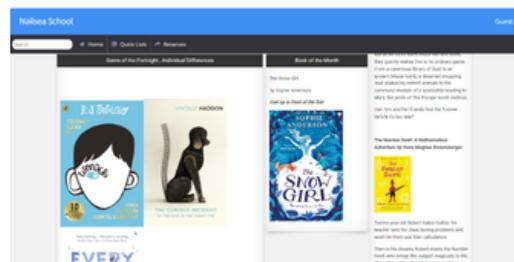
Term 3 | February 2026



Library News

Library Website Launch

We are extremely pleased to launch our library website which showcases some amazing features such as 'the genre of the fortnight' that students in Key Stage 3 (years, 7, 8 and 9) are reading in their reading lessons, 'subject shelf focus', 'book of the month', 'new books in', 'reading websites' and the lists of our 'Nailsea 100 books'. Students can also access the library catalogue remotely as well as check on the school library to reserve and renew their account. Please take a look at the Nailsea School website main page then click on the Library tile or go to <https://library.nailseaschool.com>



Nailsea 100

The Nailsea 100 is a list of recommended reads for students in Key Stages 3 and 4 an upgrade to our previously released our Nailsea 50 for Key Stage 3. A huge thank you to Nailsea School PTA who have kindly donated the funds in order for us to purchase the books. Without their donation we would not have been able to set up this initiative for our students.



Reading Week

Reading Week took place in November where all students from Key Stage 3 read a book of their choice for 10 minutes at the end of Period 4, and for 10 minutes at the beginning of Period 5. We also encouraged them to read for at least 15 minutes every night so they could finish their book. All reading week book finishers gained 10 house points and a finisher sticker. A huge congratulations to everyone who completed their reading book.



Recommended Read: The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson

A special and magical wintry read, perfect for this time of year. The Snow Girl was inspired by the traditional Russian fairytale 'The Snow Maiden'. The main character, Tasha builds a snow girl and her only wish is for her to come to life so she can have a friend to play with and go on adventures together. However, snow has stayed too long in their village and Spring is on the way. Her friend can only survive in the snow. How will this magical story end?

Mrs Conner
Librarian

Musical Notes

The Christmas Concert took place at the end of Term 2 - it was a fantastic evening, and students really brought their talent and Christmas cheer to the event.

The Year 7 Singing Competition was energetic and enthusiastic and several weeks of hard work paid off; the pupils did a fantastic job, and we were very proud of them all. Thank you to all the family and friends who came along, to the judges who gave fantastic feedback and to 2nd placed, 4 and 5 singing 'Gaudete' and the winners 7X1 and 2 with their performance of Sleigh Ride. Well done to everyone involved!

Year 8 have been learning guitar and have finished their EDM pieces on Bandlab.

Year 9 have performed as part of their band project, and are also finishing their Hip-hop tracks complete with vocals. They have also been exploring the world of Brazilian samba. If pupils would like to play more samba they are very welcome to join the school samba band on Thursday afternoons (3-4pm) and Friday lunchtimes.

At KS4, Year 10 have completed their first class performance. Well done to all pupils for this, we know it is nerve wracking! They have been looking at Medieval music and how music in the Western world developed and have been devising compositional ideas.

Year 11 are in the midst of their performance coursework and their concert in Term 2 had some super performances with pupils really delivering their best on the night. Well done!

Music lunchtime and after school clubs are open to new members alongside instrument lessons. All are most welcome to get involved. Also I'd like to take this opportunity pass on the good news that Nailsea School has been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition by our local arts hub, WEMA.



Miss Irwin
Head of Dept

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Spotlight on Sport

We are delighted to share the fantastic growth in student participation in sports clubs and activities. The enthusiasm shown by our students has led to an even greater variety of clubs now available, ensuring there is something for everyone. A heartfelt thank you goes to all staff who have generously given their time to provide such a wide range of opportunities and fixtures. Week after week, the number of students getting involved continues to rise, reflecting the vibrant and active spirit of our school community.

Day	Lunch Time			Outside	Classroom
	Sports Hall	4G	Classroom		
Monday		Recreation sport DG	GCSE PE J/VW Room 118		
Tuesday	Y10 OCR Badminton SAT			Year 7, 8, 9 Netball-J/VW, GD	Key Stage 4 Mixed Hockey NAW
Wednesday	Year 9 Netball J/VW	Recreation sport COM		Year 7, 8, 9, 10 Rugby SAT COM	Girls Football (all years) NAW
Thursday	Year 10,11, Sixth Form Netball-J/VW	Recreation sport PAJ	OCR Catch Up NAW/SAT 155	Girls Rugby TBC JEH	Badminton TBC TH
Friday	Year 8 & 9 Basketball DTR				

Rosslyn Park

We are happy to share the outstanding achievement of our Year 11 rugby teams, as both the boys and girls have successfully secured their places in this year's prestigious Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens. This tournament is the largest school rugby competition in the world, making their selection a remarkable accomplishment.

We look forward to cheering them on as they represent the school on a national stage. Well done to all involved, and best of luck in the tournament!

Year 8 Boys Crowned North Somerset Rugby Champions

Congratulations to the Year 8 boys rugby team, who delivered an outstanding performance to win the North Somerset Schools Rugby Tournament. The team were dominant throughout, winning every match and showcasing superb attacking rugby.

Across the tournament, they amassed an impressive 145 points, while conceding only 15—a remarkable display of discipline, teamwork, and determination. Every player contributed to a memorable day of rugby and a thoroughly deserved title.

Well done to the entire squad on an exceptional achievement!

Squad: Tommie B, Zach B, Sam C, Jack C, Freddie D, Harry F, Alfie G, Reuben H, Noah J, Lennon J, Joe J, Isaac P, Matthew R, William S, Oly S, James W.

Girls Football

The Year 7 girls football team got underway with their first competitive match against Churchill. With a strength and depth in every position we were able to try a few different formations and line ups. The girls were superb in their commitment to maintain possession and win the ball back quickly. This resulted in them opening the scoring before half time. Churchill started the second half strong and took advantage of the more attacking formation we had adopted to score an equaliser with a fine individual effort. The team responded well and re-established the lead after 5 minutes. With a couple of minutes left to play the team capitalised on Churchill pushing for an equaliser and a quick goal kick resulted in a third goal. Final score 3-1 Nailsea with Lily T voted player of the match. The girls are now start their ESFA U13 cup campaign.

Squad: Taylor A, Evie B, Saphie C, Isla D, Millie H, Alice L, Chloe M, Katherine M, Ella N, Lily T, Delphine W.

The Year 8 girls also got underway with their first fixture against Churchill. This squad is made up of a number of players who hadn't played football before starting at Nailsea. The team have shown phenomenal commitment and attended training together every week throughout last season, and this growing in confidence all the time. They put up a strong effort against experienced opposition with Amber and Olivia S both forcing the opposition goalkeeper to make saves in the first half. Deadlock was broken shortly after half time when after an initially excellent block by Tilly, Churchill followed up and scored the rebound. Momentum in favour of the visitors they scored another 2 in quick succession as Nailsea looked to reorganise. However, Nailsea unfortunately lost the game 3-0. Well done for showing such great determination right up to the final whistle. Player of the match was awarded to Tilly J in goal.

Squad: Dottie C, Olivia D, Molly F, Airlie H, Amber H, Molly H, Tilly J, Chloe L, Eloise S, Olivia S.

A big thank you to Emily P and Xanthe S in Year 10 who gave up their time to referee the games so that myself and Miss Devonald could team manage - excellent role models to the younger students. A further well done to Emily who has recently been offered a place on the Robins Foundation Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport to start in September 2027 after she completes her GCSEs. Great effort! After receiving a bye in the first round of the Somerset County Cup, the Under 16 Girls Football Team were drawn against Robert Blake School in Bridgewater for the 2nd round. Missing a number of students, either due to the mock exams or through injury/illness a squad of just 11 made the hour-long journey down the M5. After a tense opening, the deadlock was broken by Trinity with some excellent play down the left. A second goal followed 10 minutes later with a fine individual effort from Xanthe scoring directly from a corner. The girls continued to add to the score line going into half time, 8 goals up. This allowed some positional changes at the break and opportunity to try a different formation for the second half where the girls extended their lead to 11. Goal scorers were Trinity (x5), Maddie (x2), Xanthe (x2), Alessia (x1), Tia (x1). Well done to Trinity for player of the match.

Squad: Alessia C, Isabella C, Tia F, Meadow H, Trinity M, Maddie K, Molly P, Emily P, Xanthe S, Em W, Ruby W

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Technology

It's been a busy and creative start to the year in the Technology Department! Many groups are now well underway with their projects, developing a wide range of practical skills and applying their design ideas in the workshops. Our longer projects which included bird feeders and bug hotels, concluded last term with some really excellent finished pieces. We hope students have been updating you at home about what they've been doing in lessons, and that they are enjoying being back in the workshops, using tools and equipment safely and confidently to bring their ideas to life.

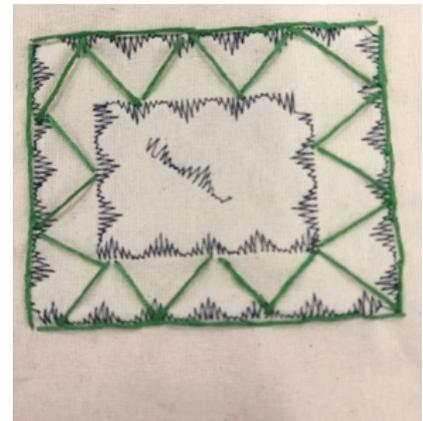
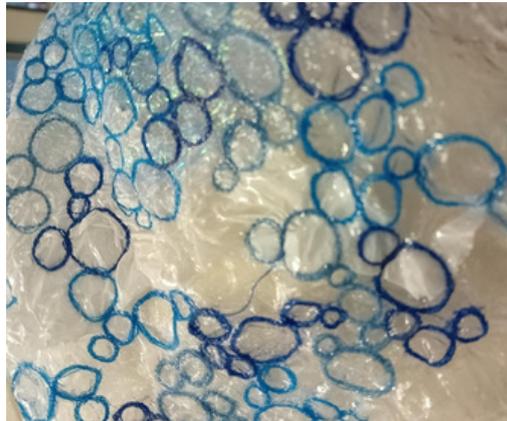


Our KS4 and KS5 Textiles students have been particularly busy and focused - they completed their mock exams and continue to work with real maturity and commitment on their NEA projects. We have been hugely impressed by their effort, independence, and creativity throughout this demanding part of the course.

Finally, a huge thank you to all parents and carers who have been able to contribute towards materials. Your support enables us to plan and deliver a wider range of high-quality, engaging projects across all groups.

We're incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork, and creativity students have shown so far, and we look forward to sharing more of their fantastic work in the next newsletter!

Miss Creswick
SLT | Assistant Headteacher



Textiles

In Year 13 we have been exploring printmaking using techniques such as batik, lino printing and screen printing. Layering different images and colours to produce striking textile designs. We will take these printed fabrics and continue to sew into them decoratively to produce arresting 3-dimensional textile pieces.

Year 11 have been continuing to construct their garments; every colour and fabric is being used! Recently we refined our use of hand embroidery and machine embroidery, comparing which gave us the best results. Soon we will look at bead work and ornamentation in our designs.

Key stage 3 have been perfecting hand sewing skill by making toy monsters. Learning life skills such as cutting fabrics, understanding and using a range of stitches and sewing on buttons. Our monsters are colourful and fun and may have even made excellent Christmas gifts!

Miss Witherow
Textiles Teacher

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Spanish Update

Year 7 – My Life

Year 7 Spanish students learnt all about the topic of My Life this term. You can quiz them by asking them to count from 1-100 in Spanish or as high as possible? They have also learnt how to name and identify the members of their family successfully and describe hair and eye colour eloquently.

Year 8 – Digital World

Year 8 Spanish linguists are unpicking everything about the digital world by being able to say what they do on the computer or their phone. They have learnt to give opinions on different TV and music genres, alongside articulating how they enjoy spending their free time more generally.

Year 9 – Future Plans

We talked about all things career related, learning how to say what job we would like to do in the future and why. We also discussed different job roles in Spanish. We have taken time to explore why it is important to learn a language other than our mother tongue and the different job prospects this can open up for us! We have covered the challenging concept of the conditional tense so we are able to articulate what we would do in the future. The world is our oyster!

Finally, after the roaring success of last year's Bee, it was great to see so many students interested in the Wessex Translation Bee at the end of Term 2. During the competition, students had to translate as many words as they could in 1 minute. The top scorers will be going through to Round 2 at Kings of Wessex in Term 4! We are hoping to defend our KS3 crowns!

Mr Bennetts
Head of Dept

Antarctic Flag Competition

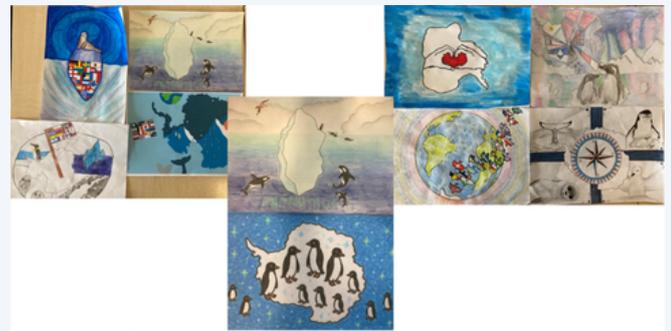
With over 50 entries to the UK Polar Network Antarctic flag competition this year, it was harder than effort to select winners and runners up.

The Geography department was blown away by the standard of entries but after much debate the following winners and runners up were selected. A massive thank you to everyone who entered, we appreciate the time and effort that was taken by you all.

Our winning flags have reached Antarctica and are with Jonathan Hawkins a Glaciologist. In the background you can see the Rothera Research Station.

The photos below were taken at Reptile Ridge.

Geography Team



Winner: Issy!



Winner: Freya

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



History Highlights: Celebrating Outstanding Homework in Years 7–9

This term has been an exciting one in the History department, with students across Years 7–9 producing creative, thoughtful, and brilliantly researched homework tasks and projects. Their work has shown not only a strong grasp of historical knowledge, but also empathy, imagination, and an enthusiasm for understanding the past. Here are some of the fantastic achievements we are celebrating:

Year 7 – Medieval Board Games: Learning Through Play

Our Year 7 students are currently stepping into the world of medieval England by designing their own board games based on the Black Death. Speaking to different Year 7 students they have created a whole range of different games combining historical facts with creative gameplay, showing excellent understanding of how the plague spread and the impact it had on everyday life. We have been loving playing on the games in class!



Year 8 – Diverse Voices of the British Empire

In Year 8, students have been deepening their understanding of the diverse experiences of people living within the British Empire. Their homework tasks have included looking at the ‘stolen generation’ in Australia in which aboriginal children were stolen from their parents through to re-designing the Empire Plate to give a more accurate image of the impact of Empire for the people living in it.

Year 9 – Trench Diaries: Life on the Western Front

Year 9 students have been delving into the emotional and physical realities of the First World War by creating trench diaries inspired by soldiers’ experiences on the Western Front. These moving pieces of creative writing captured the fear, boredom, camaraderie, and resilience of life in the trenches. Many students incorporated authentic historical details, mud soaked conditions, routine duties, and the ever present danger of shellfire. Their sensitive and thoughtful work has demonstrated real maturity and empathy



Mrs Ginnis
Head of Dept.

Daisy’s Tug of War Triumph!

Daisy, a rising star in tug of war, recently won a bronze medal at the World Championships — an achievement she describes as “amazing.”...and we would agree too!

Her passion for the sport started young. “My dad used to pull when I was little, and I grew up watching him,” Daisy explains. Five years ago, her dad became a coach at Felton Eccles. Daisy started training at age 9, officially joining the team at 14. “Seeing the things he’s won and the places he’s travelled motivated me to give my best.”

Daisy trains twice a week, building both strength and strategy. She explains, “Tug of war is all about the team. A good team supports each other and communicates well. We are only as strong as our weakest link.”

The World Championships in Nottingham were “incredible.” Winning bronze was a proud moment for Daisy and her team. “Everyone was so happy for us. I was proud of how far we’d come, no matter the outcome.”

Balancing training with school work is challenging, but Daisy stays organised to keep her training days free.

Looking ahead, Daisy’s goal is clear: to become a gold champion at next year’s World Championships in South Africa.

Her dedication, teamwork, and determination make her an inspiration to all of us. Good luck Daisy!



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Geography Fieldwork - Year 12 Jurassic Coastline Trip

Year 12 Geographers visited the Jurassic coastline in the last week of Term 1, to experience the awe and wonder of this most amazing coastal landscape. Students have been learning all about how geology and lithology shapes our coastlines and Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door never fail to amaze. Students learned important fieldwork techniques for their NEA including beach profiling, completing cliff instability susceptibility surveys and the class field sketch. Well done to all students and staff who attended.



Year 11 Bristol Fieldtrip

Year 11s completed the second of their compulsory fieldwork days to Bristol harbourside this term to study the sustainability of redevelopment of brown field sites. They took a tour of the harbourside by boat to explore the different types of redevelopment, then completed primary data collection at Wapping Wharf, Redcliff Wharf and Cabot Circus to compare different redevelopment techniques and the sustainability of each site. Two fantastic days of great Geography fieldwork, thank you to all the staff involved.



Year 12 Field Trip

This January, Year 12 Geographers set off on a five day residential trip to Slapton Sands to learn about different fieldwork techniques and gather data for their coursework. Sunday was spent investigating rural change in the village of Slapton before escaping the rain to do some follow up group work looking at the Geographical enquiry process.

Monday was spent doing a coastal walk along Start Bay in the glorious sunshine. Students learnt about the lost village of North Hallsands and explored coastal management and fieldwork techniques at the villages of Beesands and Torcross before heading up to Strete Gate to practice beach profiles. Just before bed our students were also luckily enough to be treated to a rare display of the Northern Lights.



Tuesday was spent in Totnes exploring human geography fieldwork techniques. Students also learnt about the Transition movement and attempts in Totnes to manage some of the more negative aspects of globalisation and consumer culture. Play was cut short somewhat by the monsoon rains that came in during the afternoon but our students remained positive and resilient throughout. After an evening of independent investigation planning, Wednesday was data collection day with students splitting between the locations visited previously and gathering their own primary data for their NEA.



The weather conditions were horrendous, but once again our Nailsea students showed great character despite this. Thursday morning was spent doing stats tests and writing up data before it was time to head back to School. Overall despite the challenging conditions it was a successful trip with all students having now started their NEA. Huge thanks to the staff at FSC Slapton Ley for great teaching and food, and big thanks to the Geography team for all the mini bus driving and late night lab sessions. ..and Yr 12 Geographers...you're all now officially Geolegends!

Mr Anstey
Head of Dept.



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



Art Update

Across the art department our time has been all about consolidation and development, with our young artists and photographers rising to the challenge of increasing their independence and creative decision-making in lessons. We have seen some wonderful and expressive use of materials in KS3, with inks, tempera paint, and all manner of other media being combined and refined.

Our GCSE Fine Artists have continued to experiment confidently as they explore the possibilities offered by the landscape genre. Their surreal and atmospheric outcomes have been truly exciting to see. Equally impressive is the work of our GCSE Photographers, who have been developing their understanding of aesthetic and commercial photography as they record products such as Coca-Cola. In recent lessons we've seen exceptional uses of bokeh, key lighting, lens flares, and warm colour casts.

A real highlight of Term 2 was our annual Art Exhibition, a celebration of the Class of 24–25 and a chance to showcase the diverse and creative work produced by our GCSE and A Level students. It was wonderful to welcome these students back into school, along with their families, to celebrate their considerable achievements. The exhibition not only honours the work of previous students but also offers current students an opportunity to aspire to the same level of creative outcomes. Year 9 students were especially inspired by the work on display, speaking to older students and staff about options for GCSE and beyond.

Towards the end Term 2 we announced the winners of our annual Photography Competition. The shortlist has now been released, and as usual the entries have been exceptional. This year's theme, Happiness in Nature, has yielded a wide range of thoughtful interpretations - clearly demonstrating that nature makes us all very happy indeed! Well done to all the shortlisted photographers, and thank you to all 103 students who entered the competition.



Happiness in Nature

Ms Davies
Head of Department

PHOENIX CHARITY WEEK!

Phoenix Charity Week has raised £1608.00, to be shared between Nailsea School PE department, WellSpring Counselling and Cancer Research. Their main fundraiser alongside in-school activities and a non school uniform day was a hamper raffle - incredible work from the Phoenix team!

Winners of the Hampers:

- P1 - Sweet Treats - William M U6
- P2 - A Great Night In- Featuring An Escape Room, Family Games and Snacks- everything you need for a great night in - Joe C-S D8
- P3 - Valentines Chocolate Hamper- Jago K P3
- P4 - Afternoon Tea Hamper - Ned E P2
- P5 - General goodies e.g. chocolates, pamper stuff, toys etc - Sophie H P7
- P6 - Snack Hamper - Ethan A P6
- P7 - Valentines Day Hamper - Ollie T U1
- P8 - Sweet Treats - Eilidh R P5

Congrats to the winners and thanks to everyone who took part.



Phoenix
Aspire | Believe | Succeed



Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



CAREERS

Did you go to Nailsea School?

Are you one of our amazing alumni? If so, we would be delighted to hear about your career pathway and potentially feature your story in our alumni posters and future newsletters.

Your input will help to inspire our students by showing real-life success stories that encourage them to believe in their own potential, please do get in touch if you would be willing to share your story by filling out this form: [Alumni Contact Details – Fill in form](#)



Science Department Update

Here's what we had going on:

STEM Club with Mr Bradley continued this term on Tuesday's in Week 2. They have been investigating the structure of a heart by dissection.

Period 6 - Year 11 students continue to get ahead with their revision for the up and coming exams, these sessions open to everyone in Year 11 will help students re-cap their learning.

Year 7 have been exploring energy and particles, including practical work like separating rock salt and investigating chromatography techniques to deepen their understanding of the material world. The Year 7 science fair projects have been launched. Students are free to choose from a range of weird and wonderful projects to complete with a team from their class. After presenting to the class they will be shortlisted for the overall science fair afternoon when they will showcase their findings to their peers and a winner will be chosen for the Most Scientific, Most Popular, Most Effort.

Year 8 have focused on breathing, digestion, and energy. They've put theory into practice by testing whether height affects lung volume, combining scientific investigation with real-world applications. There has been opportunity for dissection demos to see the digestive system in mammals.

For **Year 9**, the term has centred around energy, chemical bonding, and organisation. A standout moment for some was observing and participating in heart dissections, giving students a detailed look at the heart's structure and function.

In **Year 10**, Biology students wrapped up their topic on cells, conducting osmosis experiments with potatoes to explore cell transport. They've since moved on to enzymes, investigating catalase activity in tissues such as liver and apple to better understand enzyme theory. In Physics students have been studying mechanics and physical models of electricity. In Chemistry this year group have been thinking about structure and bonding in molecules and have moved onto chemical maths, which is quite a chunky topic for our triple science students and shows the links between maths and science very clearly.

Year 11 students have completed their mock exams, and are now following up on areas to focus on. We would like to extend a big well done to Y11 for their hard work and great attitude during the mock exam period which will stand them in good stead for the real thing in May/June 2026

In the **Sixth Form**, Year 12 biologists explored gas exchange across various organisms, including dissecting locusts to examine insect respiration systems in detail. Year 13 students turned their focus to genetics, unravelling the causes and effects of mutations and their impact on protein structures.

Year 12 Physicists have been continuing diving into the mechanics topic, exploring more complex ideas such as projectile motion and conservation of momentum. Our Year 13 students have finished learning about gravitational fields and are moving onto studying nuclear physics.

Year 12 Chemists have begun to develop their understanding of atomic structure further and increase their knowledge with new ways to name and draw the various homologous series within Organic Chemistry. Year 13 have been exploring new organic molecules such as benzene and taking their knowledge of rates and equilibrium much further than Year 12. They also completed a week of mock exams which will be the springboard for further revision and targeted learning as they work towards their future beyond school.

Team Science



★ Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 7

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is really impressed with Kingsley for excellent ideas shared about symmetry in nature- your ideas will inspire an exciting design later in the term.
- Miss McKinney and Miss Witherow in Design Technology is giving star-status to Isabella C for a fabulous start to Year 7 textiles - your skills will inspire an amazing monster design!
- Dr Lloyd in Drama gives a big shout out to William C for always giving 100% and contributing thoughtful and creative ideas.
- Mrs Wisby in English is really impressed with Harrison C for working with focus and enthusiasm - always shares his ideas in class. Well done. #Pride
- Ms Thompson in Health is awarding 'star status' to Ronnie B, Jaxon J, Henry T-W, Eilidh R for amazing map skills. #Pride
- Miss Wild in Health is awarding 'star status' to Evie B for her high levels of enthusiasm in lessons across a range of activities. A very talented sports woman. #Ambition
- Miss Devonald in Health is really impressed with Millie H For being a clear role model in PE with her enthusiasm and proactive approach to do well in lessons and a fantastic sportswoman in a range of activities. #Pride
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Emily D for her application and skill development in Hockey.
- Ms Irwin in Music is nominating Finlay H for excellent singing and brilliant drumming in Samba band.
- Mr Early in Science is really impressed with Ella N Working really hard in science, you are very keen and committed.

YEAR 8

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is nominating Lewis for his unique and exciting clay model.
- Mrs Evans in Drama gives a big shout out to Jimmy O for always working hard and contributing some great ideas to the creative process. Well done!
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Amber H for excellent application to her skill development in PE. #Ambition
- Ms Ginnis in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Jacob S and Elsa W, for excellent verbal contributions and extended writing on Empire.
- Mrs Finney in IT is giving star-status to Farzad N for working hard in every lesson. Showing progress and determination to do well.
- Mrs Rigby in Maths is nominating Olivia S for excellent dedication and enthusiasm in lessons.
- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Aurelia C for consistently excellent effort in French lessons.
- Ms Irwin in Music is awarding 'star status' to Ellis W for his determination in guitar playing and for helping others.
- Science is awarding 'star status' to Matilda E for asking amazing science questions!



★ Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 9

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is giving star-status to Eloise T for the excellent sketchbook pages produced so far in your viewpoint project- pride personified!
- Miss Witherow and Miss McKinney in Design Technology is giving star-status to Elliot W for an enthusiastic approach to the project.
- Mrs Winter in Drama gives a big shout out to Phoebe P for always being committed to the creative process in a calm, focused, and intelligent manner.
- Mrs Wells in Health is really impressed with Lola E and Erin S for high levels of effort and enthusiasm since September. #Ambition
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Mia F for a consistently great effort in PE. Showing determination in every lesson. #Ambition
- Miss Wild in Health is awarding 'star status' to Maddy H for her determination to be the top court champion in badminton. #Ambition
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to her 9Y PE group for their creation and execution of their own individual training programs. #Pride
- Ms Thompson in Humanities is giving star-status to Freya T for her amazing extended answer in her tectonics test. #Respect
- Mrs Wheeler in IT gives a big shout out to Cam L for his determination with the Sonic Pi unit and the amazing track he is developing.
- Mrs Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Alfie T for amazing progress in effort, focus and particularly presentation!
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is nominating Rudi B for being an excellent linguist and going above and beyond in lessons.
- Ms Irwin in Music is really impressed with Felix C for using lots of specific musical vocabulary to achieve a very good listening test grade.
- Miss Herring in Science is really impressed with Evie CS, Tommy L, Joey D and Ruby H for great contributions to science lessons, well done !

YEAR 10

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Risini M for approaching all learning with such a positive attitude.
- Dr Lloyd in Drama gives a big shout out to Aurelia S for always committing to group work and giving 100% focus and creativity.
- Mrs Ruddy in English is awarding 'star status' to Ashton S for consistently high levels of effort in his first term of GCSE English and Literature.



★ Nailsea School Stars



YEAR 10 CONTINUED

- Miss Creswick in English is really impressed with Louie S for trying your hardest and making great points in lessons. #Ambition
- Mrs Wells in Health gives a big shout out to Level 2 Cambridge Nationals sports students for working hard and completing Topic areas 1 and 2 of the OAA unit. #Pride
- Mr Taylor in Health gives a big shout out to Sam W For getting on the Exeter City football trials. #Ambition
- Mr Miles in Health is really impressed with Year 10 GCSE PE students for the start they have made to this course. #Ambition
- Mr Jones in Humanities gives a big shout out to Phoebe W for excellent answers especially 12 markers. #Pride
- Mrs Finney in IT gives a big shout out to Emilia G for working hard in her coursework. Excellent attention to detail and wanting to achieve all the requirements.
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is nominating Rosie T for always being positive in lessons and trying her very best.
- Ms Irwin in Music is really impressed with Joel W for consistently excellent homework and a super first performance.
- Miss Dee in Science is giving star-status to Esme L and Emily J for your excellent classwork in Chemistry recently - Well done!
- For good work in Social Sciences, Harry B is awarded 'star status' to for great focus and effort in lessons and his controlled assessment.



YEAR 11

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Luke S for working so diligently on your coursework, and going above and beyond to reach the highest grade boundaries.
- Mrs Vass in English is really impressed with Logan H for Resilience, determination and lots of hard work- it's paying off. Well done.
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Barnaby B, Ollie B, Ruslan F, Jaimie H, Maisie M, Lois M, Oscar M, Ethan M, Zach P, Isla S, Hayden T and Phoebe W for their focussed approach to the start of their GCSE PE written coursework. They are showing high levels of application to their studies. Well done.
- Mr Anstey in Humanities is really impressed with Tymofii S for showing huge progress with exam technique and great effort completing past papers. #Ambition
- Mrs Wheeler in IT is awarding 'star status' to Ryan C for attention to detail and continued focus with his NEA.

Newsletter

Term 3 | February 2026



YEAR 11 CONTINUED

- Mrs Rigby in Maths is giving star-status to Jamie S and Fatima R for fantastic work during and outside of lessons.
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is nominating Evert C for being a role model student and inspiring others in learning Spanish.
- Ms Irwin in Music is nominating Leo H for delivering your best performance at the Year 11 concert.
- Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Eleanor W, Tobias K and Moses A for excellent effort to prepare for mocks.
- Mrs Gardiner in Social Science gives a big shout out to Rowan P for excellent perseverance and determination in Business recently. #Ambition
- Miss Witherow and Miss McKinney in Textiles is giving star-status to Lily W for wonderful design ideas and sketching skills.

YEAR 12

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is giving star-status to Cody S for responding with such rigour and creativity to the work of the artist Christo.
- Mrs Cooper in English gives a big shout out to Florence for excellent effort and enthusiasm with homework and lesson tasks.
- Mr Jones in Humanities commends Alexa L and Chloe E for going above and beyond in delivering four great assemblies for Parliament Week. #Community
- Ms Evry in Science is nominating Arthur M for regularly having very good questions for me in lessons.
- Miss Cartwright in Social Science gives a big shout out to Nancy M, Ruby P, Aimee C and Emma T for a fantastic start to Unit 2 Criminology !

YEAR 13

- The Art & Photography department gives a big shout out to Phoebe, Thomas, Elsie, Aaron and Emily for their help at 6th form Open Evening- thank you for sharing your projects and advice with future creative 6th Formers.
- Miss Creswick & Mr Jones in English, are giving star status to Year 13 Literature for incredible focus and effort in your NEA and mock preparation. #Ambition
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Ella B, Matt L and Jack R for their organisation, problem solving and planning of the winter house matches. #Community
- Mr Jones in Humanities commends Katie C for always striving to improve and be the best possible version of herself. #Ambition
- Mr Early in Science gives a big shout out to Anna P for visibly putting in a lot of effort outside of school based learning to improve outcomes. Well done !
- Miss Cartwright in Social Science is really impressed with Vicky M for determination and perseverance in Psychology.
- Miss McKinney and Miss Witherow in Textiles is giving star-status to Eliza L for fabulous sketchbook pages and always going above and beyond in everything she does!

ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED