



13th March 2026

Dear Parents/carers

As you may remember, last week, I had the opportunity to attend a Department for Education Conference, which brought together schools from across the South West to explore current thinking and best practice in supporting all learners.

It was an inspiring event, highlighting the growing national focus on early intervention, inclusive classroom strategies, and strong pastoral systems. What was particularly reassuring was how many of the approaches being promoted as emerging or aspirational are already firmly embedded here at Nailsea. From our emphasis on relationship-based practice to our proactive use of assessment and support plans and graduated response in supporting challenges linked to both behaviour and attendance. I was proud to see that we are ahead of the curve in many areas. Several sessions echoed work our staff are already doing daily—strengthening the message that our inclusive ethos is not only positive but a real strength.

Attending the conference served as a powerful reminder of the dedication and skill within our school community. While we are always striving to improve, it was heartening to recognise how far we have already come and how well-positioned we are to continue supporting every student to thrive

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Wessex Learning Trust Student Voice Survey

This week, we are inviting all students to take part in the Wessex Learning Trust Student Voice sample, which gathers honest thoughts and feelings about school life. This is an important opportunity for students to reflect on their experiences and help shape future improvements across the Trust. Their feedback plays a meaningful role in understanding what is working well and where we can strengthen the support, opportunities, and environment we provide. We would be grateful if you could encourage your child to complete the survey thoughtfully so that their voice is fully represented. The survey can be accessed here [Student Voice Survey](#) or through the new 'Student News' link sent out this week.

Reading Week – Week Comm 9th March

This week, our school was buzzing with enthusiasm as we celebrated Reading Week. Students across KS3 engaged in a range of activities designed to spark curiosity, deepen comprehension skills, and remind us all of the joy that reading can bring. From book-themed quizzes to our daily reading moments at the end of lesson 4 and 5, pupils embraced the opportunity to explore new genres and share recommendations with one another. It was especially encouraging to see students discussing their favourite characters and storylines, and even stepping outside their usual reading choices. We hope the momentum continues at home, and we encourage families to keep nurturing this love of reading by talking about books, visiting the library, or setting aside quiet reading time together

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.
Registered in England. Company number 7348580



Students are encouraged to finish their chosen reading book by 23rd March, with opportunities to read at home as well as during the school day. When a student completes their book, they can earn 10 Book Finisher House Points and receive a sticker from their tutor or the librarian.

Careers Sector Fair

This week, our students had the valuable opportunity to engage with a wide range of employers and training providers at our Careers Sector Fair. Representatives from organisations offering apprenticeships, vocational pathways, and work-experience placements spoke highly of the maturity and curiosity shown by our students throughout the event. Many visitors commented specifically on the high levels of engagement, thoughtful questions, and genuine interest pupils demonstrated when exploring possible future career routes. It was wonderful to see students confidently initiating conversations, gathering information, and considering how different pathways might suit their skills and ambitions. We hope this experience has inspired them to continue reflecting on their next steps and exploring the diverse opportunities available beyond school.

IGNITE – Pay it Forward

If you'd like to additionally support the IGNITE enrichment programme you can 'pay it forward' or make a donation in the MCAS store. This donation will help subsidise activities and enable us to purchase additional resources for in-school activities.

Uniform consultation feedback and next steps

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the survey that closed last Friday. Please see attached a separate summary and outline of next steps.

Important MCAS update - reporting Absences

We've enabled attendance reporting on MCAS, allowing you to report absences directly through the app. This system ensures teachers receive updates instantly and helps the school maintain accurate records.

How it works:

- Notifications: If your child is not in school by 9:45 am and no reason has been provided, the app will automatically notify you.
- Action Required: If you receive an alert, please update the app immediately with the reason for the absence.

Alternatively, to report an absence you can still call the absence line on 01275 850400.

Please use the app instead of calling Reception for all absences or lateness. This keeps our phone lines clear and ensures your message reaches the right staff members instantly.



Dragon Charity Week

Between Monday 30th March and Thursday 2nd April Dragon House are fundraising for Cancer Research UK, which is very close to the hearts of many Dragon students and staff. A portion of the money raised will be donated to Eco-Schools to fund our own Dragon House planter.

Each tutor group have worked very hard to plan a fundraising event. Most events are available on the MCAS app to pre-pay for. Some events will accept cash on the day. We have also set up a Go Fund Me page linked here: [Dragon Fundraising Go Fund Me](#). Any donations are greatly appreciated.

For further details, look out for the promotional slides in your weekly plan PowerPoints from your tutors and around the school. See the plan below, and attached so you can sign up, have fun and raise some money!

- Monday 30th March - Badminton Tournament, Dragon Hunt, Bingo
- Tuesday 31st March - Penalty Shootout, Carnival Games
- Wednesday 1st April - Traitors, Film (Spiderman: Across the Spiderverse), Sponge the Teacher
- Thursday 2nd April- Non-school Uniform Day, Film (continue Spiderman: Across the Spiderverse), Fitness 100 (staff fitness contest)

Social Media

We have received the following message from Sadik Al-Hassan, MP for North Somerset, to pass on to parents:

On the 19th of March 2026, from 6:30pm-8pm, I will be holding a public meeting to discuss the challenges around whether to ban social media for under-16s.

School staff, parents, and students are very welcome to attend and can secure a free spot [here](#). I am eager to gain a wide range of perspectives.

Over the past few months, I have seen a Social Media Ban become one of the largest campaigns for North Somerset residents, many of whom have contacted me directly. The case for a change is clear - Social Media use is damaging to children's brains. But what is the best action to take? Australia introduced their world-first social media ban last year. Now France and Norway are following suit.

Whether you support a ban, favour tighter regulation, or think education and parental controls are the solution, join me to share your views. I am also running a survey to collect views on this topic. Have your voice heard here: <https://buff.ly/4kLVNYI>

Finally... As we come to the end of the week, it hasn't escaped my notice that today falls on Friday the 13th—a date often surrounded by superstition. While many of these old beliefs are rooted in tradition rather than fact, they offer a helpful reminder about how easily worries can grow when we focus on



the “what ifs” instead of the realities in front of us. In school, we encourage students to question assumptions, challenge myths, and approach challenges with confidence rather than fear. Perhaps the best lesson we can take from today is that uncertainty is a normal part of life, and our response—grounded in resilience, curiosity, and rational thinking—makes all the difference.

Wishing you all a calm, positive weekend ahead, whatever the date on the calendar may say.

Take care and be kind



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.
Registered in England. Company number 7348580

