



27th March 2026

Dear Parents/carers

As you may have seen if you follow the school social media accounts we have had two teams representing Nailsea at the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament this week – a great achievement. I know that both the students and staff involved were really looking forward to the event and irrespective of the outcomes of the games, I am sure memories have been made. Back on school site, other events continued this week, including a lunchtime lecture on the workings of the teenage brain, a Higher Education event for our 6th form students and year 8 students experiencing fieldwork at the River Holford. Many thanks, also, to all the parents that joined last night at the subject evening to discuss progress and content covered to date.

As a reminder, there are only 4 days of term remaining, with school finishing at 3pm on Thursday 2nd April. Students are back for Term 5 on Monday 20th April. This will be a week 2.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Responding to student voice

At the heart of our school community is the belief that students should feel heard, valued, and genuinely involved in shaping their experience. When students share their ideas, concerns, or suggestions, they are not simply offering feedback—they are helping us build a stronger, more inclusive school.

Over the past term, we have been working to strengthen how we listen and respond to student voice. Whether it comes through surveys, the student council, conversations with tutors, or informal discussions around school, your perspectives matter. They help us understand what is working well, where improvements can be made, and how we can continue to support your learning and wellbeing.

Most importantly, acting on student voice is what makes the difference. When you see your ideas reflected in our decisions—big or small—it shows that your contribution has real impact. Thank you to everyone who has shared their thoughts so far; please continue to speak up, offer ideas, and help us shape a school environment where everyone can thrive.

Two major changes will come into force from the start of term 5 as a result of student voice heard so far this year:

1. Ties will not need to be worn from Term 5. We are asking for students to donate their tie to the House office so that the material can be used in a project – further details to follow. Please bring the ties along to the House offices from the start of next term.
2. Students can continue to wear a shirt without a tie from the start of term 5. However, polo shirts will be available to order from [School Togs](#) from this weekend. Any orders using the Free Delivery to Nailsea School Option will not be delivered to you until after the Easter break, as the school will be closed.



Samples of each size are available in Reception for students and parents to view **after 3pm**. All students will be expected to wear polo shirts from September. Year 11 are exempt from this being an expectation.

3. There are some adjustments being made to the behaviour system to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to learn without disruption. These changes have been explained to students in assemblies this week and will be reiterated to in tutor time before the break. A summary of the changes, for your reference, can be found on the attached document.

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. [Student Voice Survey](#)

Year 11 Students NEA Day

Some year 11 students are being invited to attend a focused day completing their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) components on Monday and Tuesday next week. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to ensure they have submitted as much work, to the very best of their ability, ensuring marks are 'in the bag' ahead of sitting the external exams. I trust every student uses this time well, upgrading and completing their existing work.

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.

Spring Concert – Tuesday 31st March

The Music Department are presenting their Spring Concert on Tuesday 31st March at 6.00pm. Tickets at £5 are available on MCAS.

Reminder regarding Upcoming Vaccinations – Year 9

Parents/carers are required to give their consent for the upcoming Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations. These are happening on 14th May and the consent link is here: <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/dtp/2025/consent?v=2>

Reporting absence

Holiday requests, lateness and other absences can be reported via the MCAS app and there is no need to phone or email Reception or other staff.

Please see attached for a guide on how to do this.



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 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 Spider verse), Sponge the Teacher
- Thursday 2nd April- Non-school Uniform Day, Film (continue Spiderman: Across the Spider verse), Fitness 100 (staff fitness contest)

Staffing Update

At the end of next week we will be saying goodbye to members of staff who are moving on to new opportunities. Mr Gibson, Learning Mentor, is moving on to other opportunities having supported students over the last two years. I am sure staff will wish him well.

Mrs Nicholson, joint Head of History, will also be leaving us to take up a post closer to home in Wales. Mrs Nicholson has been at Nailsea for 5 years and as well as working with the History team, she has organised trips abroad and been a fierce supporter of Unicorn House. Teaching in the department myself, Mrs Nicholson, has been great to work with and we all wish her well.

Changes to bus times and routes

As you may be aware, there will be some changes to the bus network through Nailsea from the 5th of April.

For students, the main change is the withdrawal of the X7 from Clevedon to Bristol via Nailsea, Backwell and Long Ashton. North Somerset Council have worked to mitigate this with the new A2 Airport Flyer service, which has been timed to accommodate school journeys for Backwell, Nailsea, Clevedon and Gordano schools. Because of this, students will unfortunately have to wait until 15:54 to catch the bus from Link Road to Backwell rather than 15:36. The X11 has been upgraded to run to Nailsea instead of just between Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon. This will be timed to allow students to get there from Clevedon.

- **X7/X9 from Long Ashton:** No change to X9. Double decker X6a adds capacity instead of X7.
- **X7 from Backwell:** Use the A2 instead – note students living in the direction of Farleigh will have to walk to Backwell Crossroads.



- **X7 from Flax Bourton:** Use the A2 instead and change in Backwell for the X1.
- **X7 from Clevedon:** Use the X11 instead.
- **X7 from Tickenham:** Use the A2 or X11 instead.

Details are being posted on all the bus stops so that you can check the changes.

Finally... when we return in term 5 exam season is very much upon us, with the practical exams in Art and Photography being held in that first week. As such I would like to finish this week's letter with a message for students in year 11 and 13 and their families:

Dear Year 11 and 13 students,

As you approach the start of your exams, I want to offer you all my warmest good wishes. You've shown dedication, resilience, and real determination throughout this year, and now is your moment to put that hard work into action.

I'll leave you with a quotation I think is perfect for this time of year from Marcus Aurelius, a previous Emperor of Rome:

"The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way."

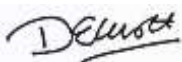
In other words: challenges aren't there to stop you—they're there to shape you, strengthen you, and move you forward.

As you head into your exams, remember:

- **You are ready.** You know more than you think, and you've earned your confidence.
- **Look after yourselves.** Rest, eat well, and give your brain the chance to perform at its best.
- **Take each exam one step at a time.** Don't let tomorrow's worries distract you from today's opportunities.
- **Ask for help if you need it.** We're here, cheering you on every step of the way.

Most importantly, be proud of how far you've already come. Exams may be important, but they are only one part of a much bigger journey—and you are already proving yourselves capable of great things.

Good luck to all of you. You've got this, and we believe in you



Dee Elliott,
Head teacher

