

Newsletter

Term 4 | March 2026



A Message from the Head

This term has brought renewed energy, with students embracing new opportunities in and beyond the classroom. Currently our tutor rooms are nurturing sunflowers as the first of our eco House challenges takes off.

Hopefully now is the time to say goodbye to the cold and ice – but hearing about our two ski trips, it sounds like many of our students enjoyed their time in the snow this term. It's been exciting hearing about our teams headed to Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s this year.

There is so much happening inside these pages and beyond. In this edition, you'll find highlights of recent events, classroom updates, and celebrations of student success. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



Mrs Elliott
Headteacher

Local Partnership Board Update

One of the key roles undertaken by Local Partners are scheduled visits to school. In this newsletter, we wanted to outline what we do in these visits and how they contribute to school improvement. Local Partners play a vital role in ensuring that every child in our community receives a rich, ambitious, and well-supported education. One of the most meaningful ways we do this is through our regular visits to school. These visits give us first-hand insight into daily practice, help us understand the impact of strategic decisions, and allow us to offer both support and constructive challenge in an informed way.

What Local Partner Visits Look Like

Local Partner visits are planned in partnership with school leaders and linked directly to the priorities in the School Improvement Plan. Each visit has a clear focus and we meet with staff, talk to pupils, and observe learning environments. These are not inspections; they are opportunities to listen, understand, and celebrate the work taking place across the school. This helps us champion the school within the wider community, advocate for resources, and ensure that staff feel recognised and supported in their work.

How Visits Enable Effective Challenge

Constructive challenge is an essential part of governance. Seeing practice first-hand enables us to ask sharper, more relevant questions at our meetings. We can test whether policies are working as intended, whether improvement strategies are having the desired impact, and whether all students are being well served. This challenge is always rooted in partnership and shared ambition for our school and our students.

Why This Matters for Our Local Partnership

Across our partnership, Local Partner visits help maintain a strong, transparent relationship between schools and the governing body. They ensure that strategic decisions are informed by our own observations and they keep students at the centre of our work.

Dr. Edwards
Local Partnership Board

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As we move through March, our Year 13 students are approaching the end of their final full term of Post 16 study. They have now completed specification content, any final assignments, and are fully focused on preparing for their summer examinations. Meanwhile, Year 12 students have begun drafting personal statements, cover letters and CVs as they plan their Post-18 destinations, reflecting carefully on their strengths, aspirations and next steps beyond Sixth Form. This is an exciting and significant time, and we remain committed to supporting every student to achieve success in their chosen pathway.

Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

Aspirational Learners

As our Year 13 students step ever closer to continuing their journey beyond Nailsea Sixth Form, both as a cohort and as individuals, they have truly embodied being aspirational learners. They have set ambitious academic targets, embraced super-curricular opportunities and prepared thoughtfully for life beyond school through work experience and volunteering. Many have proactively sought guidance from teachers, refined their independent study skills and demonstrated maturity in managing competing demands.

Through leadership roles, collaboration with peers and a balanced, organised approach to their workload, they continue to model the determination, ambition and self-discipline that characterises our Sixth Form community.



Independent Thinkers



At the Nailsea Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Service held at Lions Green, two Year 12 students, Alys and Genevieve, represented our Sixth Form with dignity and compassion, reading the poignant poem *Butterfly* by Pavel Friedmann. This important annual event provides a vital opportunity to remember the millions of Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside other victims of genocide, and to reflect on the consequences of hatred and prejudice. By engaging so thoughtfully with this powerful text and its historical context, Alys and Genevieve encouraged all present to reflect critically, stand against intolerance and uphold the values of respect and humanity.

Community Ambassadors

Our Sixth Form students recently enjoyed an unforgettable ski trip to the Aosta Valley in northern Italy, taking to the white slopes of Pila. With a wide range of experience and ability, students supported one another brilliantly, embracing challenge across the varied runs and changeable conditions, while taking in the breathtaking alpine scenery. Beyond the slopes, they immersed themselves in the local culture, demonstrating curiosity and respect throughout. The resilience, camaraderie and shared memories developed during the trip are experiences they will carry with them long into the future.



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Sixth Form Prefect Team

In the past few weeks, the Sixth Form Prefect Team have been working hard to expand on wider reading opportunities. We are happy to say that the Sixth Form library is now open! Books can be found in Room 161 and signed out with Ms Summerell. The library is stocking both wider reading to assist in UCAS and Apprenticeship applications and fiction books such as recently adapted "The Housemaid" and "Hamnet".

Furthermore, the team have been setting up an online wider reading database on Padlet with the link being shared with students soon. This should make it easier for Sixth Form students to find wider reading and references when citing sources (such as for any EPQ's or HE+ projects).

The team would greatly appreciate it if your child could upload any resources they have found helpful leaving comments using the handy guide found on the Padlet. The hope is that the resource can become an established tool for the VESPA programme allowing aspirational learners further opportunities to broaden their subject knowledge.

Nailsea School Prefect Team

A-Level History Wars of the Roses Conference

Our A-Level History students recently had the exciting opportunity to take part in a dynamic virtual conference, bringing together expert historians and enthusiastic learners for a day of deep exploration and discussion.

The conference featured a series of engaging lectures delivered by leading academics and specialists in the field, including Lauren Johnson who spoke about the incredible role of Margaret Beaufort in helping Henry VII; the first Tudor King take the throne, and Dr. David Grummit, whose session on Richard III offered fresh perspectives on key historical debates. Each lecture encouraged students to think critically, challenge interpretations, and broaden their understanding beyond the classroom curriculum. The opportunity to hear directly from experts not only reinforced subject knowledge but also provided valuable insight into how history is studied at university level.

In addition to the lectures, students were able to reflect on new ideas and engage with complex historical arguments, strengthening their analytical and evaluative skills—essential for success at A-Level and beyond. The conference has undoubtedly enriched their appreciation of history as a discipline and sparked further curiosity about the past. We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future, continuing to support and challenge our students in their academic journey.



Mrs Ginnis
Head of Department



Drama Department Update

It has been a vibrant and productive period for the Drama Department, with students across all year groups embracing new challenges and demonstrating impressive creativity, energy, and thoughtfulness in their work.

In Key Stage 3, students have engaged with a range of exciting schemes of work. All Years have engaged with a Scripted Unit, introducing them to plots that explore different social, historical, and political contexts. This term, Year 7 have explored Melodrama/Silent Film, developing their understanding of exaggerated performance styles and physical storytelling. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have challenged their Chorus skills, learning how to collaborate effectively and use ensemble techniques to enhance performance. And Year 9 have undertaken a new Unit on Design, where the focus has been on interpreting texts and briefs through set, lighting, props, and costume.

Across all year groups, this work has strongly encouraged imagination, innovation, and thoughtful analysis of context. Students have adapted exceptionally well to the differing demands of each scheme, responding with enthusiasm and originality in both their practical and written work.

Year 9, in particular, have risen to the challenge of hands-on design work. A standout task required students to create set, costume, and props using just a single sheet of A1 paper. This constraint inspired some truly inventive outcomes, with students fully flexing their creative muscles. One memorable example saw Dr Lloyd proudly modelling a paper costume designed by Grace and Niah – a fantastic demonstration of ingenuity and collaboration.

At Key Stage 4, Year 10 students have continued to make strong progress towards their Devised assessment. Their work has been further enriched by a recent theatre trip in January to see *Lost Atoms* by Frantic Assembly at Bristol Old Vic. This experience provided valuable insight into physical theatre and professional performance, which students have already begun to apply to their own devised pieces.

It has also been a pleasure to see Drama Club flourish this term, with growing numbers of students in Years 7 and 8 attending regularly. They have shown fantastic commitment as they collaborate on a piece to be performed at the Drama Showcase later in the year. The sense of teamwork and enthusiasm within the group has been wonderful to witness.

Overall, it has been an inspiring term, with students demonstrating creativity, resilience, and a genuine passion for Drama. We look forward to seeing how their work continues to develop in the months ahead.

Dr Lloyd

Head of Department

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Eco-schools update - nurturing wildlife and new seeds

Pupils have been enjoying the Spring sunshine in the DEN with pupils coming just to relax in nature, or to get involved in projects during their lunchbreak on a Thursday. The two hammocks that were funded through PTA donations have been in high demand. Also the new gardening equipment has been used to start clearing back old woody stems to allow new growth to flourish. We are very grateful to the Nailsea School PTA for their contributions to help pupils create a place where pupils can connect with nature and take ownership of the space.



We have been careful to leave some stems and flowerheads over the winter to provide habitats for wildlife. In January we also focused on encouraging birds to visit the site by adding bird boxes, bird feeders, bird baths and providing some nesting material. As part of the Big Schools' Birdwatch we counted the birds that visited the DEN one Thursday lunchbreak, while we enjoyed some hot chocolate in the hut that we used as a 'hide'. Work is progressing well on the bug hotel with students gathering natural materials like sticks, pine cones and moss to add to the 'pallet tower'. We have also added four signs to the bug hotel, one in each house colour, which were decorated by students on a wet Thursday in winter.



In order to add more colour to the DEN and other areas of the school grounds pupils have started to plant flower seeds, such as cosmos and lupins. We are trying out our new propagators which are starting to show signs of growth as the seedlings make the most of their position on a sunny window ledge. Tutor groups have also been challenged to grow sunflowers from seed in a house challenge to grow the tallest plant. Once the tutor groups have finished nurturing their seedlings the flowers will be planted along the fence near the field and the courtyard on the main school site.



Mrs Bicknell

Eco School Coordinator



House Challenges

This term saw the launch of our Sunflower Eco grow challenge, each tutor group has been given a seed and pot of compost, they must work together to grow and keep the sunflower alive. The winners will be the tutor group with the tallest sunflower. We wait in anticipation to see what the results are in June, when we hope that our sunflowers will be taken by the eco team to be grown on in the school gardens, resulting in extra food for pollinators and later in the year – food for birds.



Congratulations to Farzad N. in Unicorn 7 whose excellent book review of 'Pep Confidential' by Marti Perernall for the last Academic Challenge came out top!



Next term's House challenges include a singing competition and the chess competition final!



Mrs Davies

Enrichment & Extension | Extended SLT

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English Update

Fantastic things have been taking place in English in Term 4. Our Year 7s and Year 8s have delved into the world of Shakespeare. After studying the class reader *Bone Talk* (which is always a firm favourite) Year 7 are exploring the magical comedy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where strict Athenian laws are met with the chaos of the fairy world. Year 8 are studying something different altogether as they explore *Romeo and Juliet*. From tragic heroes to tragic flaws, this play introduces Year 8 to the tragic form – something that will serve them well in the future.



Year 9 have started a new unit that explores non-fiction texts across the ages, from Victorian times until now. We consider how the shifting social landscape over the years impacts non-fiction writing and then Year 9 learn to craft their own opinion writing in the form of a letter.

Over Terms 3 and 4, Year 10 have studied poems from a poetry anthology where they have explored how poets craft their language to present themes of power and conflict. From the power of nature to the power of memory, students have become experts in analysing the poetic form and exploring the messages of the poets. As this unit comes to an end, they now will turn their attention to the treacherous *Macbeth*.

As GCSE exams approach, Year 11 have finished studying the content of both of their English GCSEs and their revision is now in full swing. From revising units they learnt in Year 10 (such as *Leave Taking*) to practising skills of writing, students are using lessons to prepare for May and June.

Ms Jacobs
Head of Faculty



Careers Sector Fair

This term saw our second Careers Sector Fair, focusing on professional services including Law, Finance, Business, Recruitment, as well as the Police, Armed Forces, Teaching, and Coaching.

The event was open to students in Years 9–13, with around 150 attending throughout the afternoon. We are grateful to all participating organisations—your support and engagement made the event a great success, giving students valuable opportunities to connect with industry professionals.

Year 10 students also attended an Apprenticeship Awareness assembly led by Weston Training Provider Network, where they learned about different apprenticeship pathways and how to apply.

If your organisation can support our careers programme through insights or work experience, please contact Lhumphreys@nailseaschool.com.



Mrs L Humphreys

Careers & Employability Coordinator

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Religious Education Conference

Mr Jones, Head of RPE and Humanities attended a conference on Wednesday 18th March held at Kings of Wessex. Alongside national figures in the world of Religious Education, Mr Jones engaged with colleagues about the proposed changes to the Religious Education curriculum in England.



The main news included the government's Curriculum and Assessment Review recognising the importance of the subject for modern Britain by including it in the National Curriculum.

The final report from the Curriculum and Assessment Review states that "RE's importance is not currently reflected in its standing in the curriculum," and recommends moving it to the National Curriculum in order to "improve access to high quality provision and prevent further diminishment." Since the 1988 Education Reform Act, Religious Education has been a compulsory subject in the school curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum. Each local authority instead has provided an agreed syllabus to determine what is taught.

The review now calls for a "staged approach to reform" to have the subject adopted into the National Curriculum. It recommends that the Government invites representatives from faith bodies, secular groups and experts from the teaching and wider education sector to develop an "independent task and finish group" that will decide on how the subject is taught in the new curriculum.

Last year's Ofsted subject report on RE praised the subject as "intellectually challenging and personally enriching". It stated that "it helps young people develop beliefs and values, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, which are important in our diverse society."

The RPE curriculum here at Nailsea provides students with the right balance of breadth and depth, with all students being taught at least four of the world religions as well as the opportunity to look in detail at high order concepts contained in our Philosophy and Ethics units in Year 9 and 10.

Mr I Jones
Head of Faculty

Titanic: The Ship of Dreams that turned into a Nightmare

Join Miss Cresswick as she looks at this iconic ship – exploring how a perfect reality soon became a devastating tragedy.

Date: Thursday 12th March
Time: 1.30pm
Place: Auditorium



The Psychology of the Teenage Brain

Join Mrs Hastings as she gives an insight to the adolescent brain, find out how it works and what makes it special.

Date: Tuesday 24th March
Time: 1.30pm
Place: Auditorium



Lunchtime Lectures

This term saw the last of our current programme of Lunchtime Lectures, with a talk by Miss Hastings on the Psychology of the Teenage Brain, a really interesting look into teenage thought processes and a useful introduction into Psychology.

Other topics have included UFO's, the Titanic and A Christmas Carol, all really insightful lectures and interesting way for our students to spend their lunchbreak.

Thank you to all of the speakers who gave up their time - for some incredibly detailed and well researched talks!

Mrs Davies

Enrichment & Extension | Extended SLT

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MFL Update - Focus on Spanish

Year 7 – Mi insti

Year 7 Spanish students are learning all about school this term. They compare Spanish and English schools and focus on the different aspects of school life, including lessons, subjects, and timetables. Students express their opinions on their favourite subjects and explain why they enjoy them. Food also plays an important role, as students learn how to say what they have to eat and drink in Spanish.

Year 8 – ¿Qué hacemos?

Year 8 Spanish students focus on arranging to meet up with friends and making plans. They learn how to talk about different places in town, the times they can meet, and what they might wear. Students also practice giving excuses when they can't meet up, discussing things like being busy or having other commitments. They use the present tense to discuss their plans, preferences, and routines, as well as to express when they can and can't meet. This helps them build confidence in using everyday language for social situations.

Year 9 – Jóvenes en acción

Year 9 Spanish students focus on young people's actions and how they contribute to society. The topic revolves around volunteer work, activism, and what teenagers do to make a difference in their communities. Students express their opinions about social issues, discuss their aspirations, and talk about what they hope to achieve in the future. Through exploring these themes, students also practice the future tense and improve their ability to communicate their thoughts in Spanish.

Year 10 – Mi estilo de vida

Year 10 Spanish students look into their lifestyle and how their everyday habits reflect their identity. The students talk about their diet, health, fitness routines, and how they manage their time. They also learn how to describe what they typically do on a normal day, expressing likes and dislikes about their routines. The future tense is practiced as students describe the lifestyle changes they would like to make in the future, providing an opportunity for personal reflection and growth.

Year 11 – Revisión

Year 11 Spanish students focus on revising all the key topics covered throughout their GCSE course, with a special emphasis on speaking skills. They work on fluency and pronunciation, while revisiting key structures from previous modules such as personal identity, social issues, school life, and future aspirations. This term helps students feel confident in their spoken Spanish as they prepare for their final GCSE exams.

Finally, on the last week of term we are taking our Round 2 Wessex Translation Bee qualifiers to compete against the other schools in the Trust. They have done incredibly well to get this far and hopefully we can see some of our students make it through to the final.

Check back in next term to read what French students are up to in the next Newsletter!

Mr Bennetts
Head of Department



Spotlight on Sport

Girls Football

Squad: Emily P, Meadow H, Tia F, Isla S, Ruby W, Martha C, Eloise T, Maisie M, Amelia M, Xanthe S, Trinity M,

The Under 16 girls team travelled to Writhlington School before half term in their Somerset County Cup round of under 16s fixture. Despite the biblical rain and wind, the whole team showed incredible resilience and determination. This effort was rewarded soon after play when Isla won the ball back in defence and found Amelia free in midfield. Some excellent individual play and great vision meant Amelia could play a great ball through to Trinity to open the scoring. Nailsea doubled their lead a few minutes later when a throw in from Meadow was expertly controlled by Maisie and passed on to Amelia whose long-range effort found the back of the net. As the rain increased and visibility deteriorated Nailsea withstood a period of pressure and some great tackles from Ruby and Martha as well as an excellent save from Emily prevented Writhlington from scoring. Nailsea went into half time 3-0 up following a corner from Xanthe that was expertly converted by Eloise. After half time the team went with a change of formation and opted for a 3-4-1-2 which took a bit of adjusting to but Nailsea were able to extend their lead further after Tia played a ball through and Trinity sent the Writhlington keeper the wrong way. Another excellent long range shot from Amelia with a few minutes remaining secured a 5-0 victory for Nailsea who now progress to a quarter finals match against Gordano.

Year 11 Netball Squad Shine at Their Final District Tournament

Squad-Saule S, Bonnie L, Frankie T, Sophie W, Amelie G, Phoebe T, Leyla M, Ava W, Bea H, Phoebe W and Hula B

Our Year 11 Netball squad brought their Nailsea School journey to a memorable close as they took to the court for their final District Netball Tournament—joined by two talented Year 10 players who stepped up with confidence and skill.

After five years of commitment, teamwork, and growth, this squad has become known not only for their talent, but for their spark, character, and unwavering determination. Their development over the years has been inspiring to witness, and their final performance reflected everything they have worked so hard to achieve.

The team finished an impressive 3rd overall, securing five wins and only two losses across the tournament. Opposing teams selected Saule, Ava and Phoebe W as Players of the Match—recognition well deserved—but the entire squad played with exceptional quality, showcasing their cohesion and competitive spirit.

A large number of these players are actively involved in sport outside of school, and they truly embody what it means to be role models for girls' and women's sport. We hope they continue to pursue their sporting passions long after Year 11 and carry forward the confidence and camaraderie they have built together.

Nailsea School is incredibly proud of the squad's achievements, their dedication, and the joy they have brought to the netball community. They leave behind a legacy of hard work, positivity, and team spirit that will inspire younger players for years to come. Well done, Year 11—what a fantastic finale to your school netball story.

Mrs Wells
PE Teacher

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Swimming Gala

Squad: Year 7 – Ntinos D, Esme F, Fin H, Ben S, Robbie P | Year 8- Matilda E, Eleanor H, Evie M | Year 9 – Grace C, Fedir, K, Cam L, Will M, Niah M, Phoebe P, Elsie S, Thalia T | Year 10 – Oscar H

On 27th February Nailsea took a team of 17 swimmers in years 7-10 to Hutton Moor to take part in the annual North Somerset School Swimming Gala against 11 other local schools. This is the first time since 2020 that Nailsea have been able to field a full team in every gender and age category, and all students were a credit to the school, with every student who took part finishing in 3rd place or higher in their heat. Some individual performances to mention, who won their respective heats were:

Name	Year	Event
Matilda E	8	7+8 100m Individual Medley
Elise S	9	9+10 100m Individual Medley
Ben S	7	7+8 50m Freestyle
Grace C	9	9+10 50m Freestyle
Oscar H	10	9+10 50m Freestyle
Niah M	9	9+10 50m Breaststroke
Grace C, Phoebe P, Niah M and Elsie S	9	9+10 4x50m Freestyle relay



The team placed 5th overall, narrowly missing out on 4th place by 2 points. A huge well done to the whole team. Please see the poster above advertising swimming opportunities for teens. If you are worried about whether it's for you, then a free trial session can be offered. Please use the contact in the advert to do this.

Mrs Wells
PE Teacher

Film and Media

Year 10 Film are comparing their teen films – Rebel Without a Cause and Ferris Bueller. They are deciding on which independent film they would like to study next – at present Juno is in the lead!

Year 11 Media have been learning about music videos, in particular the Arctic Monkeys and Black Pink. They are contrasting the authentic, organic nature of Arctic Monkeys with the more commercialised K-Pop group. As part of this unit, students have been exploring how the internet revolutionised the way in which bands were marketed. They have been learning about the early days of social media and peer-2-peer networking via My Space and Napster. They are just about to start learning about the Film industry and are about to compare the marketing of I Daniel Blake with Black Widow. This unit focuses on the differences between independent film and Hollywood films and students will learn industry terms such as monopoly, oligopoly and conglomerate.

Video games, in particular Horizon Forbidden West have been the area of study for Year 12 media. They are about to study Postmodernism and will be soon enjoying the simulacra of a Terry's chocolate orange!

Year 13 Media students have been captured by Martians! Not really, but they have been studying the 1938 radio adaptation of War of the Worlds by Orson Welles. They have explored how the political and social context of the Munich Crisis and Hindenburg disaster created a condition of consumption that led to people believing the myth. Newspapers of the day manipulated the radio performance to their advantage and exploited the situation in headlines on 'terrified' people. They are now studying music videos, in particular Ghost Town by The Specials and Lil Nas X's Old Town Road

Miss Britton
Head of Department



Dragon House 2026 Benchball Championship

Since January, Dragon tutor groups have been battling it out in a highly competitive group stage that ran over eight weeks. Every tutor group showed real determination, teamwork and pride as they fought for a place in the semi-finals. After a brilliant run of fixtures, Dragon 2, Dragon 4, Dragon 5 and Dragon 7 advanced into the knockout stages. The semi-finals did not disappoint, with Dragon 5 overcoming Dragon 2 and Dragon 7 securing victory against Dragon 4. The grand final took place on Thursday 19th March, with Dragon 5 and Dragon 7 going head-to-head in front of the entire house. The atmosphere was fantastic, with students filling the Sports Hall to cheer on the finalists. Both teams walked out to their chosen tracks to a rapturous applause, creating a real sense of occasion.

The final was played as a best-of-three. Dragon 7 took the first match, Dragon 5 responded brilliantly to win the second, and it all came down to a tense decider. The last game was incredibly close, but Dragon 7 found that extra gear when it mattered most to edge over the line and claim the 2026 Dragon House Benchball Championship title. A huge well done to every tutor group for taking part. As we've said throughout, this championship is so much more than winning. It's about coming together as a tutor group, supporting one another, and having fun while you compete. Every single group has shown what our house values of ambition, community and resilience truly look like.



Fred Continues to Shine in Powerchair Football!

I would like to recognise Fred B's remarkable progress and continued achievements in Powerchair Football. Since his early days with Bristol Dragons, Fred has gone from strength to strength, honing his skills through sheer persistence and dedication. Over the past two years, he has developed into a formidable goalkeeper, becoming a key part of his team's success. This season has been an especially impressive one. In January, Fred and his team competed in the qualifying rounds of the WFA Cup competition and made it through to the semi-finals of the WFA Vase, which will be played at Derby Arena in May. They have also finished third in their regional league and ninth in their national league, an incredible achievement, particularly as this is their first year competing at both levels following promotion last season. Alongside his club performances, Fred has recently been invited to try out for the Regional Emerging Talent Programme, which is the first step towards the England Development Team. Being invited is a huge honour in itself, but the fact that Fred has earned a place in the squad shows just how far his hard work has taken him. It is an outstanding achievement and something he should be incredibly proud of.

Fred, we are all so proud of everything you are accomplishing. Thank you for representing Nailsea School and Dragon House with such positivity, resilience and determination. You are an inspiration to so many, and we cannot wait to see what you achieve next. Keep up the amazing work Fred!



Dragon

Mr Miles + Miss Timmins
Dragon House

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Art & Photography News

One of the highlights of the winter months is seeing the Key stage 3 art projects come to fruition, and last term saw our young artists excel in their artistic outcomes in both clay and paint. Year 7 explored natural forms, culminating in circular tiles celebrating the intricacies and textures of nature. Year 8 manipulated the form of a torus, creating miniature sculptures. Year 9 explored viewpoints on animals in our environment, depicting them as resilient and liberated. It has been a pleasure to view and celebrate these works of art this term.

We also received some great news about one of our KS3 photographers this term. Lottie M, who won our Annual Photography Competition, has now gone on to win first prize in the South West regional area. The judges were rightly impressed by Lottie's conceptual and technical skills, commenting: "The basic image is well seen and captures a woodland scene with wonderful autumn colours. There is excellent use of recession, taking the viewer's eye along the path to the distant figure. The idea of using the overlay of a smiley face was creative and expressive."

Best of luck to Lottie as her photograph now goes forward to the national competition.

Our Year 10 students in Fine Art and Photography continue to develop and hone their skills, showing an outstanding ability to explore and experiment as they build confidence in their media and techniques. Year 10 artists have been exploring scratchpoint techniques, while photographers have been manipulating smiley motifs in Photoshop to great effect.

Next term will see the conclusion of the Year 11 and Year 13 projects. Great work so far, artists and photographers, we cannot wait to see what you create in your practical exams.

Ms Davies
Head of Faculty



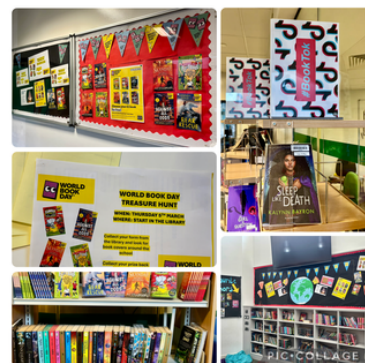
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Library News

This year, Nailsea School held various events to mark the start of the National Year of Reading 2026. During March all students in Key Stage 3 took part in our second Reading week this Academic Year by reading a book of their choice. At the end of Period 4 and at the start of Period 5, students and staff all read for 10 minutes. On World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, all students were invited to bring in or wear an item to represent their favourite book or book character. There were lots of interesting items ranging from jewellery to head pieces! At lunchtime students were racing around the school looking for various book covers to complete the correct titles.



Book Recommendation

This term's book recommendation 'A Girl of Ink and Stars' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, winner of Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017 and shortlisted for numerous other awards. This book will take you on a whirlwind of adventures and emotions from start to finish. There's magic, myth, adventure and fantasy all rolled into one. Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland – and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.



Mrs Conner
Librarian

Criminology

Criminology students have been working incredibly hard in preparation for the summer exams. Our Year 12 students have been exploring a range of theories of criminality, including Freudian psychodynamic theory, biological explanations such as the XYY theory, and sociological perspectives including Marxism and Merton's Strain Theory. It has been fantastic to see students critically engaging with these theories and confidently applying them to case studies.

Year 13 students have also been working diligently, focusing on the different aspects of the criminal justice system. They have examined the process of law-making and the roles of key agencies such as the CPS, the Police and the Judiciary, evaluating how effectively these institutions work to achieve social control.

We are also proud of our Criminology students, Alex W and Ella W, who recently represented the school in the North Somerset debate competition run by MP Sadiq Al-Hassan. After delivering an impressive debate on the topic of banning social media for under-16s, they successfully progressed to the final in April. A huge congratulations to them both!

Mrs Cartwright
Head of Department



★ Naisea School Stars



YEAR 7

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Cole for an excellent accuracy project sketchbook and final clay model.
- Mrs Wells in Health is really impressed with Saphie C, Willow K, Aoife M & Martha R for continually challenging yourselves in lessons and extra curricular activities. Ambition
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Sophie M For always working hard and being resilient every lesson.
- Mr Graff in Health gives a big shout out to Iggy for being an excellent positive role model to others.
- Miss Wild in Health is really impressed with Sophie B for taking on board advise in PE which has led to more confident polished performance with actions and reactions.
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL gives a big shout out to Orla w for making a big effort recently to participate in lessons and be an excellent role model to others.
- Mrs Case in Music says you are a star Finley H for showing great commitment through in choir and demonstrating a strong work ethic in all areas of your musical learning- keep up the excellent work!

YEAR 8

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Ewan for his ambition in lessons and independent sketchbook work.
- Miss Wild in Health is awarding 'star status' to Edith B for her determination to improve in rugby this term! Amazing!
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Megan W for some fantastic progress in PE.
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Mollie S for giving 100% effort in dance.
- Miss Devonald in Health gives a big shout out to Taylor G and Felicia P for an amazing effort in dance and always being proactive in PE.
- Mr Bennetts in MFL is really impressed with Farzad N for always trying your very best and taking every opportunity to learn.
- Mrs Case in Music is giving star-status to Chloe L & Erin P for outstanding creativity and focus during our song writing topic - well done!



★ Naisea School Stars



★ YEAR 9

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is really impressed with George D for the resilience and dedication he showed in concluding his viewpoint project.
- Mrs Wisby in English is really impressed with Elijah H For working with great focus in English and consistently producing fantastic work.
- Mrs Wells in Health is giving star-status to Eloise T and Amelia M for playing up an age group to help the U16 girls football reach the quarter finals of the County Cup. #Community
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to her Year 9 basketball group for unbelievable progress in basketball skill development, tactics in attacking play, officiating and creations of set plays.



★ YEAR 10

- Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography is really impressed with Teegan D for consistently ambitious and thoughtful photography homework.
- Miss Ford in English is awarding 'star status' to Sam W for consistent excellent contributions in class discussions and his essays.
- Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Zach B for great contributions and working hard in lessons.
- Mr Truan in Social Science is awarding 'star status' to Rachel H for outstanding focus and commitment to completing her Health & Social Care assignments.



★ YEAR 11

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Logan H for a creative approach to all tasks in 3D Art and Photography.
- Ms Jacobs in English gives a big shout out to Eila J for the unbelievable work she is doing in English!
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Year 11 Netball squad for their amazing commitment to netball this year.
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Year 11 Food students for their amazing work ethic in their recent food NEA. The quality of food produced was outstanding.
- Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is really impressed with Bonnie L for being an excellent positive role model to others.
- Mrs Macleod in Social Science gives a big shout out to Eila J for exceptional progress in Health and Social Care this term - well done!

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★ Nailsea School Stars



YEAR 12

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Cody S for producing such ambitious and skilled clay models.
- Mrs Gardiner in Social Science is really impressed with Esther V for excellent work on her unit 5 coursework so far.



YEAR 13

- Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with all Y13 Art & Photography students for an outstanding approach to your exam preparation.
- Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to the Year 13 OCR PE students for their work ethic to their coursework meeting deadlines, responding to feedback and being proactive in their progress.
- Miss Cartwright in Social Science is really impressed with Kate K for outstanding determination and focus to achieve your goals in Criminology!



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