



22nd May 2026

Dear Parents/carers

This week, students have been taking part in our Unicorn Charity Week, showing fantastic enthusiasm and generosity throughout. A range of fundraising activities have been organised, including a cake sale, football match, karaoke, and our ever-popular Live Friday event. This year, Unicorn house is raising money for Cancer Research and St Peter's Hospice in memory of Mrs Brewster, a much-loved former Unicorn tutor. It has been wonderful to see students actively engaging in these events while embodying our school values of kindness and community, supporting one another and coming together for such important causes.

We were delighted to successfully host our first transition visits for Year 6 students this week. During their time with us, students took part in a range of activities designed to help them become familiar with their, soon to be, new surroundings, supporting a smooth and positive start to their journey into secondary school.

At the same time, Year 6 teachers spent valuable time with our staff, sharing important information about each student. This face-to-face collaboration has been incredibly beneficial, allowing us to build a deeper understanding of students and their families ahead of their arrival in September. We hope that these early connections will help to ease any anxieties about transition and ensure that every student feels confident, supported, and ready to begin the next stage of their education.

This morning we will be holding our Year 11 Leavers' Assembly, a special opportunity to reflect on the time this cohort has spent with us. Heads of House will share their reflections and celebrate the many achievements and contributions students have made during their time at the school. As always, we will also enjoy the much-anticipated leavers' video, thoughtfully put together by Mrs Davies. Year 11 have been a wonderful cohort who will be greatly missed, and we wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

### **Attendance Matters because your child's future Matters**

Regular school attendance plays a vital role not only in students' academic success, but also in their wellbeing. Being in school consistently helps students to build positive relationships with peers and staff, develop a sense of belonging, and maintain routines that support both their mental and emotional health.

Even small amounts of absence can quickly add up and have a significant impact on learning. For example:

- **Missing 1 day of school each fortnight equates to around 19 days of learning lost across a school year, which is approximately 95 hours of lessons.**



- An attendance rate of **90%** means a student misses around **1 in every 10 lessons**, adding up to roughly **4 weeks of school per year**.
- Over five years of secondary school, this could result in the loss of **half a year of education**.

Each lesson builds on prior knowledge, so gaps caused by absence can make it harder for students to keep up, which in turn can impact confidence and wellbeing. Good attendance helps students stay on track, feel more secure in their learning, and achieve their full potential.

To acknowledge those students who maintain their 'streak' we have introduced our 'Full House Friday' initiative this term. This is one way that students can earn raffle tickets that they then deposit in the box in each house area for a draw at the end of each term. I am pleased to report that the winning students in each House this term, receiving a £15 voucher, are:

- **Dragon – Kayla N- D8**
- **Griffin – Louis H – G5**
- **Phoenix – Zach P – P3**
- **Unicorn – Tom P – U1**

In addition to this today marks the end of the first of our belonging weeks, May Matters. During the fortnight rewards were issued to students or groups randomly chosen that were attending that day of the reward. In the last fortnight:

- 18 teaching groups have been rewarded with a sweet treat
- 25 students have received a breaktime treat
- 20 students got to pick a prize from the 'Trolley of Treats'
- 25 students individually received a chocolate/sweet treat
- 15 students had money added to their accounts for purchases of their choice in the canteen at lunchtime.

To receive such awards all students need to be attending on the day the names are randomly selected. Term 6 is made up of 35 school days and I look forward to seeing students continue to 'be in their seat, for the possibility of a treat'.

### **Nailsea Students Shine**

We always like to hear about the successes of our students outside of school. This week there were two fantastic achievements I wanted to share. Jacob D (Year 10, Phoenix House) was selected as Assistant Referee for the Somerset FA U13s Cup Final Match held in Brislington last weekend. Speaking to Jacob about the experience he was rightly proud of this important step in his refereeing career.

Secondly, and for those of you planning to visit Upfest (the world's largest street art festival) please do ensure you pop by the Tobacco Factory on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Grace, Charlie and Harry B have been accepted to be part of the festival. Given that only 200 of the 900 applications were accepted this is a fantastic achievement. If you are interested in finding out more, please use the link below [We R Family Archives - Upfest](#)



Finally, congratulations to all of the year 8 students who, as part of the Nailsea Junior Football Club U13s team, won the league and secured the Woodspring Cup. As well as the joy of the victory I know that this group have formed an excellent set of friendships and bonds that will continue for many years. Do look out for the victory photos in the summer edition of our newsletter.

### **Bikeability Holiday Courses**

Please find details of the May holiday bikeability courses on the attachment to this letter.

### **House Challenges – Student Feedback**

We'd love to hear student feedback on the House Challenge programme, we'd appreciate it if you could take 3 minutes to complete this short survey. We will use your feedback to refine and improve the programme.

[House Challenge Student Feedback Survey – Fill in form](#)

### **Leadership Changes from Term 6**

From Term 6, there will be some changes to our Senior Leadership Team. Mr Truan, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, will be taking up a Deputy Headteacher secondment at another school within the Wessex Learning Trust, Kings of Wessex. Mr Truan brings a wealth of experience and expertise, and we are confident that he will make a significant contribution to strengthening their leadership team.

At Nailsea, we are pleased to share that Mrs Macleod will be seconded into the role of Head of Sixth Form from Term 6 onwards. I am very confident that, under her leadership, the Sixth Form will continue to go from strength to strength.

These changes have been carefully planned to ensure there is minimal impact on students, with continuity and strong support remaining in place throughout the transition. Details regarding the appointment of an additional Head of Year for Key Stage 5 will be shared in due course.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating both Mr Truan and Mrs Macleod on their well-deserved promotions and wishing them every success in their new roles.

### **Nailsea Town Council Community Clean Up – 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Nailsea Town Council, working in partnership with the Nailsea Climate Emergency Group, is inviting residents to come together for a special community clean-up as part of Great Big Green Week 2026.

- Date: Saturday 6 June 2026

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- Time: From 1:00 PM (Meet at 12:45 PM)
- Meeting Point: Millennium Park near the Skate Park
- Equipment: Provided by Nailsea Town Council and Nailsea Climate Emergency Group. If you have your own gloves or litter-picking tools, feel free to bring them—along with your enthusiasm!

These events are a fantastic way to take positive action for our environment while connecting with others who care about Nailsea. Every piece of litter picked makes a difference, and together we can make our town look its very best for the summer ahead.

### **Mental Health Awareness Competition**

We're excited to share an opportunity for students to get involved in a creative and meaningful project set up by the North Somerset Youth Parliament Mental Health Subgroup.

The group is launching a competition to help raise awareness of mental health, and we'd love for our students to take part. Students are invited to create a short video exploring mental health. This can take a variety of forms, including:

- A short film
- An animation
- A voice recording with accompanying visuals
- A PowerPoint presentation with a voiceover

This is a fantastic chance for students to express their ideas, raise awareness, and help reduce stigma around mental health in a creative way.

Prize: The winning entry will receive a £100 voucher, and the selected video will be shared by North Somerset Council and partner agencies to support wider mental health awareness campaigns.

We strongly encourage students to get involved and use their creativity to make a positive difference. Further details can be found on the attachment.

### **Reminder of expectations from next week and moving into Term 6**

From next week, we will be reinforcing clear expectations across three key areas of school life. These are designed to promote a calm, safe, and purposeful environment where all students can succeed.

- **Social time expectations and eating:**  
Students who are eating from a carton, lunchbox, or sandwich packet must do so while seated. Eating should not take place in corridors. Students should either be seated while eating or outside. Additionally, students should not be "lapping" the building. Those who are seen doing so will be directed to room 132 for the remainder of the break or lunchtime.  
**Why?** These expectations are in place to ensure student safety, reduce congestion in corridors, and create a more pleasant environment for all.



- **Lateness to School and consequences**

Any student arriving late to school will be issued with a breaktime detention in room 132. Failure to attend this detention will result in a same-day detention after school in 139. Failure to attend the detention will lead to a placement in Internal Reflection (IR) for two periods and one social time.

**Why?** This structure is intended to support punctuality, which is vital for students to access learning from the very start of the day.

- **Homework**

Failure to complete homework will result in a same-day detention.

Failure to attend the detention will lead to a placement in IR for two periods and one social time.

**Why?** Homework plays an essential role in reinforcing learning and developing independent study habits, which are crucial for long-term success. Although important at any time, this is particularly significant for students currently in year 10 as they approach the half way point in GCSE content.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home and helping your child understand their importance. By working together, we can ensure all students are able to thrive in a structured and supportive environment.

## Your Space

Lots of opportunities for parents coming up in Term 6:

1. **SEND parents & carers Drop-in coffee morning - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June @9 - 10.30am** - with staff from our Pastoral support and SEND teams, and North Somerset Parents & Carers Working Together (NSPCWT).
2. **Social Meet for Dads & Male Carers**, hosted by NSPCWT at Nailsea School - **Weds 10<sup>th</sup> June @6-8pm**: this event is open to North Somerset Dads and Male carers, not just at Nailsea School.
3. **Parent Family Support Advisor stand - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June @4.30-6pm** - at the Nailsea School's New Year 7 parents & students' Big House Party event.
4. **Empowering Healthy Gaming' - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July @5.15 - 7.15pm** - presented by YGam Training & Engagement Manager Favill Gill, providing practical training to develop a deeper understanding of young people's digital lives.



**Finally...** as we come to the end of Term 5, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their continued hard work, positivity, and commitment over what has been a busy and successful term. It has been wonderful to see so many examples of our school values in action, both in lessons and across the wider school community.

We now look ahead to the final term of the academic year, which is always an exciting and eventful time. Highlights will include Sports Day, transition days for our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, and IGNITE Week, which will provide numerous opportunities for students to try something new and broaden their experiences. We will also look forward to celebrating our Year 11 and Sixth Form students at their proms, as well as announcing the House Champions for 2026.

In the meantime, we hope that you all enjoy a well-earned and restful holiday break. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

