



26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents/carers

This week's IGNITE programme—*Inspiring Growth, New Ideas and Talent Explored*—has still provided many students with valuable opportunities, despite the significant disruption caused by the recent red heat warning. With school closures and the cancellation of some activities necessary to ensure everyone's safety, we recognise that this has not been the experience we had all originally planned.

Where activities were able to go ahead safely, students engaged in a wide and rewarding range of experiences beyond the traditional classroom. From outdoor adventures and team-building opportunities to creative pathways in art, music and media, students embraced the chance to explore new interests and develop existing passions. We are grateful for the flexibility and positivity shown by students and staff alike during a week that required careful adjustment.

The breadth of the programme remained a key strength. Some students were still able to take part in local visits, environmental fieldwork and aspects of our wider trips programme, while others engaged in adapted on-site or alternative activities. Across these experiences, there remained a strong focus on fostering curiosity, creativity and collaboration. STEM sessions, enterprise projects and creative workshops continued to challenge students to think critically and work together in new ways.

Importantly, even within a more limited framework, IGNITE has continued to support students' personal development—encouraging resilience, adaptability and independence in the face of unexpected change. These are, in themselves, invaluable life skills, and we have been impressed by how students have responded.

While this week has looked different to what we envisaged, we are proud of the commitment shown by our staff in adapting plans at short notice to prioritise safety while still providing meaningful experiences. IGNITE remains an important part of our wider commitment to an ambitious and enriching education for all students.

Our team are working on the refunds process for the trip element of the Ignite package. This involves coordinating with our external providers, suppliers and coaches, which will take some time. We will contact parents as soon as the refunds are ready to be issued. Thank you for your continued patience.

Many thanks to all staff involved in planning and adjusting the week, especially Mrs Davies, and thank you to our students for their understanding and resilience throughout.



Other messages for the week can be found below:

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

We are delighted to share some very positive news regarding student attendance prior to IGNITE week. Every tutor group across the school has improved its attendance compared to the previous two-week period—an excellent whole-school achievement and a statistic we are incredibly proud of.

When looking at this improvement by house, the average gains are particularly impressive:

- **Dragon:** 8.7% improvement
- **Griffin:** 5.8% improvement
- **Phoenix:** 6.87% improvement
- **Unicorn:** 6% improvement

These figures reflect a collective commitment from students, families and staff to prioritise attendance and maximise learning opportunities.

A special congratulations goes to tutor group D5, who are our *Improved Attendance Champions* that fortnight. They achieved a remarkable 14.3% increase, the highest in the school. As a well-deserved reward, sweet treats will be available for the group to choose from at breaktime in the house area.

Thank you to all families for your continued support in ensuring students attend school regularly and on time—it truly makes a difference to their progress, wellbeing and success

### Sports Day Trials – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Monday will see both great enthusiasm and energy during our Sports Day trials, with students across all year groups demonstrating fantastic levels of commitment to participation. The weather is forecast to be cooler so that these can happen but, as with this week, if things need to change families will be made aware. At our school, participation is key, and this event has always been a strong reflection of our core value of community—students stepping forward, encouraging one another and taking pride in being part of something bigger than themselves.

Representing their house is an important aspect of school life, and it has been wonderful to see students embracing this opportunity with pride and determination. Whether competing for places or simply giving their best in trials, students will show a clear sense of belonging and teamwork.

We are also regularly impressed by the resilience on display. Trials can be challenging, but students approach them with maturity—supporting peers, celebrating successes and showing perseverance when things have not gone their way. The encouragement often heard from the side lines is just as important as the performances on the field.



We look forward with excitement to Sports Day itself, taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> July (weather permitting) where this spirit of community, resilience and house pride will undoubtedly continue to shine.

### **National Survey: The Big Future**

We are keen to ensure that the voices of our students are heard on a national level, and we are therefore supporting *The Big Future* survey led by the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza.

This important survey aims to gather the views, experiences and aspirations of children and young people from every school and community across the country. At a time of significant change, it is vital that student voices help shape future policy—and without participation, those perspectives risk being missing from the national picture.

We strongly encourage all students to take part by completing the survey here:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture> A range of helpful resources, including an introductory video and FAQs, are also available on the Children's Commissioner's website.

There is even an opportunity for students to act as *student champions*, promoting the survey among their peers. Those who help generate high participation may receive formal recognition from the Children's Commissioner's office—something that can be included in personal statements, CVs, and future applications.

Schools with the highest response rates will also be invited to attend the final *Festival of Childhood*, celebrating the voices and contributions of young people from across England. We hope you will support your child in taking part in this valuable opportunity to have their voice heard.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Form Social Action Week – Wk Comm 29<sup>th</sup> June**

A group of year 12 students have been working hard to introduce a 'Social Action Week' to Nailsea Sixth Form. Throughout this week, students will be raising money for chosen charities close to their hearts by running an activity every day for the Sixth Formers to be involved in. The week will run from June 29<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> July (minus Transition Day on Thursday!). The Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> July) will be a whole school non-uniform day, where, if possible, we would like everyone to wear the colours associated with our charities. The selected charities are Weston Hospice care (orange, blue, green and pink) and Cancer Research UK (pink, blue and purple). Students are encouraged to donate at least a pound to whichever charity they wish. Links to the Just Giving pages have been provided below - Thank you in advance for your support.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/nssocialactionweek-westonhospicecare?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/nssocialactionweek-westonhospicecare?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/nssocialactionweek-cancerresearchuk?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/nssocialactionweek-cancerresearchuk?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)



## Mental Health Support

Finding mental health support for a child or young person can seem overwhelming. The North Somerset Better Health service offers a wealth of information and different levels of support that a child or young person might need. Aimed at parents, the website offers advice and will direct you to local and national sources of support.

<https://www.betterhealthns.co.uk/mental-wellbeing/children-and-young-people-mental-health-support-in-north-somerset/>

**Finally...** a number of staff are looking forward to celebrating together at the Sixth Form Ball at Ashton Gate this evening; a fitting and memorable way for this group to mark the end of their time with us.

Year 13 has been a truly exceptional year group who have made a lasting impact on our school community. Throughout their time here, they have demonstrated excellent commitment to their studies, embraced leadership opportunities and contributed positively to school life—whether through academic success, enrichment activities or their support of younger students. They have helped to shape a warm, ambitious and inclusive culture that we are extremely proud of.

Their achievements this year have been significant, and they leave us with a strong legacy of hard work, resilience and character. It has been a privilege to see them grow from new sixth form students into confident, independent young adults, ready for the next stage of their journey.

We wish each and every one of them the very best for the future, whether they are progressing to university, apprenticeships or employment. We have every confidence they will continue to achieve great things and make a positive difference in the world.

Have a lovely weekend



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher

