



3rd September 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome to the Year Ahead - Year 8

As we begin another exciting year at Nailsea School, I wanted to share the key dates for Year 8 so that families can plan ahead and feel fully informed about the year to come. We know how valuable advance notice can be for busy families, and we hope this overview helps you prepare for the important events, reporting points and opportunities that lie ahead.

While the dates included reflect our plans at the start of the academic year, there may occasionally be changes during the year. Should any amendments be necessary, we will communicate these with parents and carers as early and clearly as possible. For most of the events listed parents/carers will also receive a separate notification/reminder about the purpose and expectations of the event nearer the time.

Year 8 is sometimes described as the "hidden year" of secondary school, but in reality it is one of the most important. Students are no longer finding their feet as new arrivals, and this is often the year when they develop the habits, attitudes and routines that will underpin success throughout the rest of their education. It is a year for building confidence, deepening friendships, embracing opportunities beyond the classroom and establishing the strong foundations that will support future GCSE study. We encourage all students to make the most of every opportunity, challenge themselves to try new experiences and continue developing the independence and resilience that are such important characteristics of successful learners.

Term One

- **Tuesday 8th September:** Start of academic year for all students. Arrive for 8:30am
- **Thursday 24th September:** School Open Evening. Students leave site at 1:20pm
- **Friday 25th September:** School Day begins with tutor time at 9:30.
- **Wk Comm 5th October:** Year 8 Assessment Week
- **Thursday 22nd October:** Last day of Term 1 for students. Students dismissed at 3pm
- **Friday 23rd October:** INSET Day. Students not expected in school. End of Term One

Term Two

- **Monday 2nd November:** INSET Day. Students not expected in school
- **Tuesday 3rd November:** INSET day. Students not expected in school
- **Wednesday 4th November:** First day of Term 2 for students
- **Friday 18th December:** Last day of Term 2. Students dismissed at 12:20pm

Term Three

- **Monday 4th January:** First day of Term 3
- **Wk Comm 18th January:** Yr 7 reports sent home.
- **Friday 12th February:** Last day of Term 3. Students dismissed at 3pm

Term Four

- **Monday 22nd February:** INSET day. Students not expected in school
- **Tuesday 23rd February:** First day of Term 4 for students

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- **Thursday 18th March:** Yr 8 Subject Evening
- **Thursday 25th March:** End of Term 5 Students dismissed at 3pm

Term Five

- **Monday 12th April** – Start of Term 5
- **Wk Comm 10th May:** Yr 8 internal exams begin
- **Friday 28th May**– End of Term 5 Students dismissed at 3pm

Term Six

- **Monday 7th June** – Start of term 6
- **Wk Comm 14th June:** Year 8 End of year reports sent home
- **Friday 25th June** – INSET Day. Students not expected in school
- **Wk Comm 28th June** – IGNITE week
- **Friday 23rd July** – End of Term 6. Students dismissed at 12:20pm

As your child begins their second year at Nailsea School, we remain committed to working closely with families to ensure every student is able to flourish academically, socially and personally. We know that students achieve their very best when school and home work together, sharing high expectations, open communication and a collective commitment to supporting each young person's success.

One of the most important factors in that success is attendance. Our recent GCSE and A Level outcomes once again highlighted the strong link between excellent attendance and strong academic achievement. Students who attend regularly benefit from consistent learning, stronger relationships with staff and peers, greater confidence in their studies and increased opportunities to participate fully in school life.

We therefore expect all Year 8 students to attend school every day, arrive punctually and engage fully in their learning. This year is particularly important because it is when many students establish the habits that will carry them through the remainder of Key Stage 3 and into their GCSE years. Good attendance, positive routines and a commitment to learning now will have a lasting impact on future success.

At the same time, we recognise that families can sometimes face challenges which affect school attendance. Where difficulties arise, we encourage parents and carers to contact us early so that we can work together to identify support and remove barriers wherever possible. Our approach combines high expectations with care and understanding, ensuring that every child feels supported to attend, achieve and thrive. Together, by maintaining strong partnerships and a shared focus on attendance, achievement and wellbeing, we can help every Year 8 student continue to Aspire, Believe and Succeed.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher