



3rd September 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome to the Year Ahead - Year 9

As we begin another exciting year at Nailsea School, I wanted to share the key dates for Year 9 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 9 is a particularly important milestone in your child's secondary school journey. While students will continue to develop their knowledge and skills across the full curriculum, this is also the year in which they begin to look ahead and make decisions about the subjects they wish to study at GCSE. The choices made this year will help shape the next stage of their education and provide opportunities to pursue areas of strength, interest and future aspiration.

Alongside the GCSE options process, Year 9 is a year of growing independence, increased personal responsibility and academic maturity. The habits, attitudes and routines established now will play an important role in preparing students for the demands of Key Stage 4. We encourage every student to approach this year with curiosity, ambition and an open mind, making the most of the opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom.

Term One

- **Tuesday 8th September:** Start of academic year for all students. Arrive for 8:30am
- **Wk Comm 16th September:** Year 9 Assessment Week
- **Friday 18th September:** Year 9 School Photos
- **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 12th October:** Report 1 sent home
- **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
- **Wk Comm 7th December :** Year 9 Assessment Week
- **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 11th January:** Report 2 sent home
- **Thursday 14th January:** Year 9 Subject Evening
- **Thursday 21st January:** Guided Choices Evening
- **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
- **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 9 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 9 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 enters Year 9, our commitment to working in partnership with families remains as important as ever. This year represents a significant stepping stone towards Key Stage 4, and the support, guidance and encouragement students receive from both home and school will play a vital role in helping them make informed decisions and achieve their potential.

One of the strongest predictors of future success continues to be attendance. Our recent GCSE and A Level outcomes once again reinforced the clear link between excellent attendance and strong academic achievement. Students who attend school regularly are better placed to make sustained progress, develop confidence in their learning, build positive relationships and fully engage with the wide range of opportunities available to them.

We therefore expect all Year 9 students to attend school every day, arrive punctually and be fully prepared to engage in their learning. This is particularly important in Year 9, as students will be preparing for the transition into GCSE study and making decisions about their future curriculum pathway. Strong attendance and positive learning habits now help ensure that students are able to make these choices from a position of confidence and success.

At the same time, we recognise that families can sometimes face challenges that affect school attendance or engagement. Where difficulties arise, we encourage parents and carers to contact us early so that we can work together to provide support and identify solutions. Our aim is always to combine high expectations with care, ensuring every student feels supported, included and able to thrive.



Together, by maintaining strong communication, shared expectations and a commitment to regular attendance, we can ensure that every Year 9 student is well prepared for the exciting opportunities and important decisions that lie ahead, continuing to Aspire, Believe and Succeed.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher

