



3rd September 2026

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome to the Year Ahead - Year 11

As we begin another important year at Nailsea School, I wanted to share the key dates for Year 11 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 key milestones, reporting points, intervention opportunities and celebrations that will make up this final year of compulsory education.

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 11 is undoubtedly one of the most important years in your child's education. Whilst it may look like a full academic year on paper, the reality is that students have only around eight months before their GCSE examinations begin. As a result, every week matters, every lesson counts and the habits established from the very start of September can have a significant impact on outcomes next summer.

The year ahead represents the culmination of five years of learning and the opportunity for students to demonstrate everything they have achieved during their time at Nailsea School. We want every student to make a positive start, approach the year with determination and make full use of the expertise and support available to them. Experience shows that students achieve the strongest outcomes when they work in close partnership with their teachers and families, acting upon advice, seeking help when needed and maintaining consistent effort throughout the year.

Alongside academic study, Year 11 will also be a memorable year filled with important milestones and celebrations. As students progress through the year, they will have the opportunity to take part in a range of leavers' events, culminating in shirt signing and the Year 11 Prom. These occasions provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate friendships, achievements and contributions to the school community as students prepare for the next stage of their journey.

Term One

- **Tuesday 8th September:** Start of academic year for all students. Arrive for 8:30am
- **Wednesday 16th September:** Yr 11 Prep for Success and Careers Evening 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- **Friday 18th September:** Yr 11 Individual Photo Day
- **Wk Comm Wed 16th September:** Assessment Window 1
- **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 Oct:** Report 1 sent home
- **Thursday 15th October:** Settling in Evening for year 11. Parent/Tutor meeting to review progress. Students are expected to attend with parents.
- **Thursday 22nd October:** Last day of Term 1 for students. Students dismissed at 3pm

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- **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 9th November:** Yr 11 Mock exams begin
- **Thursday 26th November:** Sixth Form Open Evening, 5pm – 7pm
- **Tuesday 15th December:** Mock Exam Results Issued
- **Friday 18th December:** Last day of Term 2. Students dismissed at 12:20pm

Term Three

- **Monday 4th January:** First day of Term 3
- **Friday 8th January:** Sixth Form application deadline
- **Thursday 28th January:** Yr 11 Subject Evening
- **Wk Comm 8th February:** Assessment Window 3
- **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
- **Wednesday 24th February:** Yr 11 Group Photo
- **Wk Comm 15th March:** Report 2 sent home
- **Thursday 25th March:** End of Term 5 Students dismissed at 3pm

Term Five

- **Monday 12th April** – Start of Term 5
- **Wk Comm 19th April:** Practical GCSE exams begin in Photography and Art
- **Wk Comm 10th May**– GCSE Exams begin in all other subjects
- **Friday 28th May:** Leavers' assembly and shirt signing

Term Six

- **Wednesday 23rd June:** Exam Contingency Day (All students need to keep this date available)
- **Thursday 24th June:** Year 11 Prom
- **Thursday 8th July:** Year 11/12 Transition Day
- **Thursday 19th August:** GCSE Results' Day. Collection on site from 9am.

As your child enters Year 11, the partnership between home and school becomes more important than ever. Success at GCSE is rarely the result of a few weeks of revision at the end of the course. Instead, it is built through consistent attendance, positive attitudes, effective study habits and a willingness to engage with the support available throughout the year.

Attendance remains one of the strongest indicators of future success. Our GCSE outcomes over recent years have consistently demonstrated that students who attend regularly, engage fully in lessons and follow the advice of their teachers often achieve results that exceed expectations. Every lesson contributes valuable knowledge, skills and confidence, and there is simply no substitute for being in school and benefiting from expert teaching.



We therefore expect all Year 11 students to attend school every day, arrive punctually, engage fully in lessons and take responsibility for their learning. We will support this through regular progress checks, assessment points and monitoring throughout the year, enabling staff to identify strengths, address gaps and provide targeted intervention where needed

Students and families should expect to receive invitations to revision sessions, intervention programmes, mentoring opportunities, subject support and additional guidance at various points during the year. My advice is simple: please take these opportunities with both hands. Every year we see students make significant gains because they engage positively with the support offered, ask for help early and act on the guidance provided by their teachers.

Alongside these high expectations, our commitment is to ensure that every student feels supported. Should challenges arise, we ask that parents and carers contact us promptly so that we can work together to provide the right support and help remove barriers to success.

As the year progresses, attention will naturally turn towards the end-of-year celebrations. We want every student to be able to participate in these memorable events, including shirt signing and Prom. To support this, the school's Passport to Prom expectations will be communicated clearly to students and families from the outset. Our aim is always for every young person to attend and celebrate their achievements with their peers. However, attendance at Prom is not an automatic entitlement and expectations around attendance, behaviour, conduct and engagement will remain high throughout the year. Where students face specific challenges or circumstances, appropriate adjustments and support will be considered, but the expectation remains that all students work positively towards meeting their set criteria.

Year 11 will undoubtedly be challenging, rewarding and memorable in equal measure. By working together, maintaining high expectations and making the most of every opportunity available, we can ensure that every student is given the very best chance of success, both in their examinations and as they prepare for the exciting next stage of their education. Together, we will help them to Aspire, Believe and Succeed.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher