22nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of Term 1, it feels fitting to pause and recognise the many students who consistently make positive choices day after day. Schools rightly celebrate exceptional achievements, but it is often the quiet consistency shown by so many young people that underpins a successful school community.

This week saw the presentation of our very first Headteacher's Termly Awards, a new initiative introduced following feedback from students who told us they would like to see more regular recognition for those who "do the right thing", all of the time. The awards celebrated students who have achieved 100% attendance, 100% punctuality, and those who have accumulated the highest number of positive achievement points throughout the term, with two students chosen from years 7-11.

While academic success is important, the habits that sit behind it matter just as much. Turning up every day, arriving on time, being ready to learn and contributing positively to our community are the foundations on which future success is built. We are proud of all those students whose efforts were recognised this week and hope that these awards will encourage even more students to strive for these standards during Term 2.

As we close the term, I would like to congratulate all of our award winners and thank every student who has worked hard, shown kindness and contributed positively to school life over the past seven weeks. Their efforts help make our school the welcoming, ambitious and supportive community that it is.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Attendance Update – Finishing the term strongly
As we reach the end of Term 1, I would like to thank students and families for their continued support in prioritising attendance and punctuality. Over the past term, we have seen many students demonstrate excellent commitment to their education by attending regularly, arriving on time and making the most of every opportunity available to them.

During the second Belonging Week, we focused on the message "Be Here. Belong Here. Thrive Here." We were delighted by the positive response from students, with many embracing the initiative and recognising the important link between attendance, achievement and a sense of belonging. Throughout the week, students were rewarded simply for being present, engaged and ready to learn, reinforcing the message that every day in school matters.

As we begin Term 2, we will be celebrating the efforts of those students who have demonstrated exceptional attendance. Attendance certificates will be presented during the first few weeks of next

term, recognising students whose commitment to being in school every day has helped them make a strong start to the academic year. We know that excellent attendance does not happen by accident and would like to thank parents and carers for the vital role they play in supporting their child's education.

Alongside attendance, we continue to encourage students to arrive on time each morning. Our message remains simple: Every Minute Matters Because You Matter. Being punctual helps students start the day calmly, access important learning and make the most of every lesson. As we head into the half-term break, we hope students have the opportunity to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 4 November, ready to build on the positive habits established during Term 1 and ensure another successful term ahead

House Challenges Update – Building Belonging Through Healthy Competition
As we move through the year, it has been fantastic to see so many students engaging with our House Challenges. These activities are an important part of life at Nailsea School, giving students opportunities to contribute, compete and work together beyond the classroom.

This term, students have been taking part in a range of challenges linked to our House Shields. In the Art Shield, students contributed to the House Mural Challenge, showcasing their creativity and helping create a lasting display of house pride. In the Citizenship Shield, houses competed through their support of local communities by collecting Food Bank donations, demonstrating our shared values of kindness and service. Meanwhile, the Sports Shield has seen students taking part in the Walking Challenge, encouraging healthy habits, teamwork and friendly competition.

Our House system plays a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging. Whether students are contributing artwork, supporting charitable causes, taking part in sporting activities or simply cheering on their housemates, these shared experiences help strengthen relationships and create a stronger sense of community. We know that when students feel connected to their school, they are more likely to thrive both socially and academically.

Alongside these specific challenges, we continue to track attendance, punctuality and house points, all of which contribute towards overall House totals. Every day offers students the opportunity to make a positive contribution to their House, whether through attending school regularly, arriving on time, demonstrating our values or participating in enrichment activities.

The House Competition remains an important part of being a member of the Nailsea School community, and we look forward to seeing the latest standings develop as the year progresses. Thank you to all students, staff and families for supporting the many ways in which our House system brings our school community together.

Term dates 2027/28
Please find attached the confirmed term dates for 2027/2028. Inset days are also highlighted in yellow.

Nailsea Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 26th November
Families considering post-16 options are warmly invited to attend the Nailsea School Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 26 November, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. We are really proud of our strong reputation for combining impressive academic outcomes with exceptional pastoral care, ensuring that students are both challenged and supported as they prepare for their next steps. The Sixth Form offers a wide range of academic and vocational courses, alongside extensive enrichment opportunities that help students develop confidence, leadership skills and independence. The prospectus is now live and can be accessed here to see our offer for 2027: 2027 Sixth Form

Further details of the Open Evening can also be found on the attached graphic. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet staff and current students, explore the facilities, learn more about the curriculum offer and discover the broad range of extracurricular activities available, from sport, to leadership, volunteering and wider enrichment programmes. Whether students already know their preferred pathway or are still exploring their options, the evening promises an excellent insight into life in the Sixth Form and the opportunities available beyond Year 11. We would encourage all interested families to attend and see first-hand what makes Nailsea School such a successful and supportive learning community.

Smoothwall Online Safety Workshop for Parents
This parent session has been rescheduled and will now take place on 12 November.
The link for the updated parent workshop is:
https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ArRd_MBRS9a5kIi1pN9wtQ

This one hour session will be led by Katherine Howard, Head of Engagement and Education at Smoothwall, and will cover:

- The latest apps and games children may be using
- Types of harmful content children may encounter online
- Practical guidance for helping children navigate online risks safely
- Access to a new, free Online Safety Hub with dedicated resources for parents
- An introduction to a parental control app to help manage and monitor online activity

This is a valuable opportunity for families to gain practical tools and insights into keeping children safe online and we would really encourage parents to attend.

Community support
If you are looking to volunteer in the local community, please see the attached flyer asking for volunteers to support local girlguiding.

And Finally…. As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to thank all of our students, families and staff for their support throughout what has been a busy and productive start to the academic year. Looking back over the term, there is much to celebrate: excellent attendance, strong engagement in lessons, impressive achievements in sport, the arts and enrichment activities, and countless examples of students demonstrating our school values each and every day. Most importantly, our young people

have continued to show resilience, kindness and determination, helping to create a positive and purposeful school community.

Term 2 will be an important one. As the evenings grow darker and the weather becomes less inviting, it can be tempting to slip into winter mode. However, experience tells us that the students who maintain strong attendance, arrive punctually and continue to engage fully with school life at this stage of the year are the ones who make the greatest progress by Christmas and beyond. We encourage all students to return ready to make the most of every lesson, every opportunity and every minute.

A reminder that tomorrow is an INSET day and the school will be closed to students. There are also two further INSET days at the start of next term. Students will therefore return to school on Wednesday 4 November, and this will be Week 2 of the timetable.

For now, I hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved break. Thank you once again for your continued support of the school. We look forward to welcoming students back refreshed, recharged and ready for a successful Term 2.

Have a wonderful half term.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher