6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin Term 2, I would like to take the opportunity to thank families for their support throughout Term 1 and to remind everyone of the three simple expectations that underpin our school culture: Ready, Respectful, Responsible.

Over the half-term break, work has taken place across the school to make these expectations even more visible to students. New displays have been installed in key communal areas, including the auditorium, canteen and Juice Bar, ensuring that our shared values are seen and reinforced throughout the day. These visual reminders are part of our continued commitment to building a positive, consistent culture where every student understands what is expected of them and how they can contribute positively to the school community.

Being ready means arriving equipped, punctual and prepared to learn. Being respectful means showing consideration for others, our environment and the learning taking place around us. Being responsible means taking ownership of choices, actions and behaviours. When all students consistently meet these expectations, classrooms remain calm, focused and disruption-free, allowing teachers to teach effectively and every student to make the most of every lesson.

As we enter a shorter but incredibly important term, we will continue to place a strong emphasis on these expectations. By working together, we can ensure that students experience uninterrupted learning, achieve their best and make a positive contribution to the life of the school each day.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

House Challenges Update – Building Belonging Through Healthy Competition
Reflecting on the first successful term of House competitions, students across all four Houses have shown outstanding enthusiasm, commitment and school spirit. Participation levels have been exceptionally strong, with students contributing through academic achievement, sporting success, creative talents and acts of citizenship. Current House Championship standings are:

1. **Phoenix**
2. **Dragon**
3. **Griffin**
4. **Unicorn**

Phoenix currently leads the overall championship after a particularly strong term, securing first place in both the Academic Shield and Sports Shield and winning the recent House Walking Challenge with an impressive 2,446 laps. Dragon's strong performance in Citizenship and the Foodbank Challenge keeps the competition close, while Griffin and Unicorn remain firmly in contention thanks to excellent performances in the Arts and wider House events. With five terms still to influence the overall outcome, there is everything to play for and every student has the opportunity to help their House climb the table.

Term 2 brings a fantastic programme of House competitions designed to encourage creativity, teamwork, curiosity and sporting excellence. We encourage all students to get involved. Whether competing, creating, supporting teammates or earning House Points through everyday excellence, every contribution matters.

Here at Nailsea School, of course, the House system is about much more than competition. It helps students develop a strong sense of belonging within our school community, creating connections across year groups and providing opportunities for every student to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Healthy competition encourages resilience, teamwork, ambition and pride. It provides students with opportunities to challenge themselves, celebrate success, learn from setbacks and recognise the achievements of others. Just as importantly, House events bring students together, strengthening friendships and fostering a shared identity rooted in our school values of Aspire, Believe and Succeed.

Congratulations to all Houses on an excellent start to the year. We look forward to seeing which House rises to the challenge in Term 2.

Attendance Update – Term One Review
Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day. Regular attendance plays a vital role in academic achievement, wellbeing, friendships and future success, and we are pleased that our overall attendance for Term 1 was 92.6%, representing a positive start to the academic year.

There is much to celebrate. Over 700 students attended for more than 95% of the term, while an impressive 439 students achieved 100% attendance. Our new Year 7 students have made an especially strong start, with attendance of 94.5%, and Dragon House recorded the highest attendance across the school.

As we move into Term 2, attendance becomes even more important because the term is only 33 school days long. Even a small number of days missed can have a significant impact. For example, missing just three days during Term 2 means a child will have missed almost 10% of the learning time available that term. Every lesson counts, particularly as students build knowledge and prepare for assessments.

We encourage all families to continue prioritising attendance, avoiding unnecessary days off and ensuring appointments are arranged outside the school day wherever possible. If your family is experiencing barriers to attendance, please contact us early so that we can work together to provide support. Let's work together to make Term 2 our strongest attendance term yet and help every student make the most of all 33 days of learning ahead.

Nailsea Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 26th November
A reminder that our Nailsea School Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Wednesday 26 November, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. This is an excellent opportunity for students and families to

discover more about our thriving Sixth Form, explore the wide range of academic and vocational courses on offer, and find out about the enrichment, leadership and extracurricular opportunities available beyond Year 11. Visitors will be able to meet staff and current students, tour facilities and gain a first-hand insight into the supportive and ambitious environment that helps our students achieve excellent outcomes and progress confidently to university, apprenticeships and employment. We look forward to welcoming all interested families.

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.

Nailsea Wreath Making Workshop – 8th December
As we move towards the festive season, I am delighted to share details of a wonderful community event being organised by Wellspring Counselling. Their Wreath Making Workshop will take place at Holy Trinity Nailsea on Tuesday 8 December from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Participants will have the opportunity to create their own beautiful Christmas wreath while enjoying a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, with all proceeds supporting the valuable work of Wellspring Counselling in our local community.

Many families and young people connected with our school community have benefited directly from the support and guidance provided by Wellspring Counselling. Their work makes a genuine difference to the wellbeing of children, young people and families across our area, and fundraising events such as this are an important way of helping to ensure that these vital services remain available to those who need them most
Further details can be found on the attached flyer.

And Finally…. like many families, you may have spent part of the half-term break watching the final of *Celebrity Traitors*. While it makes for great television, it also offers a few reminders that feel surprisingly relevant to school life.

One of the things that stands out throughout the series is how easy it can be to jump to conclusions when people do not have all the facts. At Nailsea, we want our students to learn the importance of listening carefully, considering different viewpoints and making decisions based on evidence rather than assumptions. Whether in the classroom, around school or online, these are valuable life skills that help young people build positive relationships and make good choices.

The programme also highlights just how important trust is. The strongest teams are usually those where people communicate honestly, support one another and take responsibility for their actions. These qualities sit at the heart of our shared expectations of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible. As we begin a new term together, let us continue to work as a team of students, staff and families. When young people know what is expected of them, feel supported by the adults around them and make positive choices each day, they are in the best possible position to thrive both academically and personally.

Term 2 is always a busy one. It is only 33 school days long, yet it contains so many of the moments that make school life special: opportunities to learn, achieve, represent the school, support others and create lasting memories with friends. We know that the greatest impact comes when school and home work together, and we are grateful for the encouragement, guidance and support that you provide every day.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We look forward to sharing their successes with you over the coming weeks and wish all our families a happy, healthy and successful term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Elliott,

Head teacher