

# Head's Bulletin



Friday 13th September 2019

Wk 1: Wk Commencing 16th September

## Term Dates 2019/20

### Term 1

Tues 3rd Sept—Fri  
25th Oct

### Term 2

Mon 4th Nov—Fri  
20th Dec

**INSET day 2: 22nd  
Nov**

### Term 3

Mon 6th Jan—Fri  
14th Feb

**INSET day 3: 14th Feb**

### Term 4

Mon 24th Feb—Fri  
3rd April

### Term 5

Tues 21st April —Fri  
22nd May

### Term 6

Mon 1st June —Fri  
17th July

## Term 1—well underway and loving it!



It's been fantastic to see Term 1 well and truly in full swing and by the time of reading this most students would have met all of their new teachers and started their new subjects. Teaching year 11, 12 and 13 myself I have been impressed with the start students have made to the term.

Year 10 students are beginning to get to grips with new courses and the new demands, having begun GCSEs. Parents of year 10 students will be able to find out more at our 'Information Evening' that is being held on the **19th September**. My year 11 History group, and others in the cohort, have come back this term aware that they are coming to the 'business end' of their 5 years of study—an exciting but daunting prospect. For year 11 parents there is the chance to find out more about how they can support their son/daughter at our 'Preparation for Success' Event being held on **2nd October** and I look forward to welcoming parents to what has been a very well received event in the past.

As the term has now started I have also included a section on pages 4 and 5 of this bulletin outlining who the best person in school is to contact, depending on the issues you would like to discuss. I hope this is a timely reminder for existing parents and a great reference point for parents new to the school.

I have had the privilege this week of taking the House assemblies and having the opportunity to speak to students about what they can expect from me, as well as reiterating what the school expects of our students. The underlying message was that if students take pride in themselves and try their very best they will certainly receive the respect and loyalty of all the staff at Nailsea.

On Thursday evening this week there was the opportunity to celebrate past students' achievements at our annual Presentation Evening. The auditorium was full to bursting with over 250 parents and ex students joining us to reflect on what had been another incredible year of success for the young people at Nailsea School. We were lucky enough to have Jo Parsons who is an ex pupil from Nailsea and a graduate from the Guildford School of Acting as our guest speaker. Since his graduation, Jo's theatre credits have included roles in *Spamelot* at the English Theatre and *Les Miserables* at the Queens Theatre. His summary of his life and career to date would surely have impressed and inspired anyone who was in the audience. Wishing you all the best for a lovely weekend

**Mrs Elliott, Head teacher**

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## Key Dates Term 1

### **Thurs 19th Sept**

Yr 10 Info Evening,  
6pm—7pm

### **Tues 24th Sept**

DofE Awards Evening,  
6:30—7:30pm

### **Thurs 26th Sept**

Open Evening, 6pm

**Please note school  
starts at 9:40 am on Fri  
27th Sept**

### **Sun 29th Sept**

Yr 8 Trip to France/  
Germany departs

### **Mon 30th Sept**

School photos for years  
7, 9 and 11

## **Uniform Reminder**

In my final letter of term 6 I did include a section on uniform expectations.

The intention was to avoid unnecessary confrontation at the start of term with students returning to school in September dressed in accordance with school uniform policy.

The vast majority of students have returned adhering to these expectations. Naturally, I want to avoid the school being at odds with any student as this is a negative start to the term for all concerned.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families of our expectations and ask for parents to support the school:

**Shoes:** Plain black sensible leather look shoes. No boots or canvas shoes.

**Trousers:** No jeans or leggings. No visible zips/buttons/fashion accessory belts. Ankles should not be visible.

**Jumper:** The only jumper students should wear whilst in school is the Nailsea School jumper. Hoodies and other jumpers are not permitted and should be removed on entering the building. Failure to do so will mean they are confiscated.

**Coats:** Outdoor coats should not be worn in the building. These should be stored in lockers at the start of the school day. Failure to do so will mean they are confiscated.

**Jewellery:** One pair of small, plain studs or sleeper size earrings and a watch are the only items allowed. Hooped earrings must not be worn. All Jewellery must be removed for PE activities and is brought into school entirely at the student's own risk. **No facial piercings are permitted.**

**Make Up:** Students will be required to remove any excessive make up. Nail varnish is not allowed and students will be asked to remove this. False nails are not allowed.

I am sure parents can appreciate the fairness and clarity of these expectations.

As a school we really value the support of parents and carers to reinforce our high expectations in terms of smart uniform and readiness to learn.

Thank you, in advance, for your support in helping us to maintain these very achievable standards.

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## Parental Communication: FAQs

Communication between home and school is highly valued at Nailsea as a way to support students in being happy. Happy students make the most progress. As a reminder here are some frequently asked questions about methods of communication and who to contact when.

### ***When should I contact school?***

If in doubt, please contact us; we would rather you contacted us for reassurance over something that turns out to be minor than spend time worrying about something.

### ***I know class teachers are busy. Is it ok to contact them?***

Of course this is fine. We only ask that you respect the fact that most teachers teach around 150 students and cannot, therefore, realistically enter into detailed dialogue over a prolonged period of time with individual parents. Please feel free to use email in the first instance. Please note that as part of school policy it is not expected that teachers will reply to messages outside of work hours. Ordinarily, though, you should expect a response within 48 hours.

### ***Can't I just contact the Head if I've got a problem?***

Yes, you are always welcome to contact the Head if you feel you need to either directly or through the school reception. At the same time it may be appropriate for another member of staff who has more detailed knowledge of the issue to respond in the first instance.

In addition Mrs Elliott holds her 'Open Door Parent Clinics' on most Wednesday afternoons during term time for parents to speak directly with her regarding any concerns or suggestions they may have.

These are held from 3:30pm until 5:30pm and can be booked through contacting reception on 01275 852251 or at [Nailsea.school@nailseaschool.com](mailto:Nailsea.school@nailseaschool.com)

### ***Who are the best people to contact?***

The table overleaf is intended to help parents with information about who to contact in certain common scenarios. If you are unsure of who to contact, we recommend you call the main school reception on 01275 852251 where our staff can point you in the right direction.

We always try our best to solve issues if and when they arise. We also understand that parents/carers may be frustrated about issues when they occur. At the same time our staff should not have to tolerate communication that is abrasive or aggressive. Equally we would much prefer parents or carers contact us directly with concerns rather than raise them on social media before we have had the chance to respond.

Thanks for your support.

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Issue	Who to contact	How?
<b>Any safeguarding concern</b>	Mr Craig Mawford is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Ms Lucy Cadwallader is our Safeguarding Officer. All Heads of House will also be able to help.	Contacting the team through main reception (01275 852251) or by emailing staff directly.
<b>Concerns about bullying</b>	Any member of staff. The tutor will usually be the first person to contact but Heads of House and the pastoral team can also help.	We hope the student would feel confident to report it in person. We also have an email address they can contact reportbully@nailseaschool.com
<b>Reporting student absence</b>	Phone to report an absence. Mrs Coles oversees attendance and will be able to deal with any queries you have.	Contacting the absence line on (01275 850400) on the day of the absence. You can notify tutors of a planned absence by emailing staff directly.
<b>Concerns about your child's progress in a particular subject.</b>	The class teacher, initially, but please contact the Curriculum Leader if this does not resolve the issue.	Email is the most efficient way to contact teachers. They can phone you back if needed. <a href="http://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Staff-Contact-List-updated-17.07.19.pdf">http://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Staff-Contact-List-updated-17.07.19.pdf</a>
<b>Needing information about a particular subject e.g best revision guide and the exam board covered.</b>	The Curriculum section of the website has lots of this key information. <a href="http://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/curriculum/">http://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/curriculum/</a> Otherwise, try the class teacher or the Curriculum Leader	Email the Curriculum Leader directly. (see contact list of staff, above)
<b>Concerns about your child's progress generally.</b>	Head of House	Email or phone call.
<b>A complaint about a member of staff</b>	Usually the Curriculum Leader is the most appropriate person. If it is especially serious the Head teacher should know. If the complaint is about the Head teacher it should be made to the Chair of Governors.	Complaints to the Chair of Governors should be addressed to Mr Joanne Hopkinson and left for her attention at school reception. Alternatively she can be contacted on JHopkinson@nailseaschool.com

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Issue	Who to contact	How?
<b>Concerns about friendship issues</b>	The tutor is the best person to approach but the Head of House may also be able to help.	We would hope the student would feel confident in reporting the issue in person. If they feel unable an email or call would be fine.
<b>Questions about uniform</b>	The website has information about our uniform <a href="http://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/">http://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/</a>	Email or phone the Head of House who can clarify any concerns or queries you may have.
<b>Questions or concerns regarding SEN provision</b>	Ms Lloyd, our SENCo	<a href="mailto:SLloyd@nailseaschool.com">SLloyd@nailseaschool.com</a>
<b>Information about extra - curricular clubs</b>	This can be found on our website. Students should speak to the teacher named in each section for further details.	<a href="http://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Extra-Curricular-Directory.pdf">http://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Extra-Curricular-Directory.pdf</a>
<b>Questions or queries about finance and lockers</b>	Mrs Leach can be contacted in the Finance Office.	<a href="mailto:JLeach@nailseaschool.com">JLeach@nailseaschool.com</a>
<b>Questions about Exams</b>	Mrs Beattie, our Exams Officer, will be able to help.	NBeattie@nailseaschool.com
<b>Term dates</b>	These are always on the website.	<a href="http://www.nailseaschool.com/about-us/diary-dates/">http://www.nailseaschool.com/about-us/diary-dates/</a>
<b>Lost property</b>	This is located in the Heads of House Office, room 20, so please contact your child's Head of House.	Email or phone the Head of House.
<b>Questions about the school transport</b>	Mrs Ridge in Finance can help.	<a href="mailto:CRidge@nailseaschool.com">CRidge@nailseaschool.com</a>
<b>Something that doesn't fit into any of these categories</b>	Contact reception and they will direct you to the most appropriate person.	01275 852251 Nailsea.school@nailseaschool.com

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