

Head's Bulletin



Friday 11th October 2019

Wk 1: Wk Commencing 14th October

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

Meeting and Greeting



This week has been one where I have had the privilege of meeting a number of future parents and future students; a part of my role that I thoroughly enjoy. I have taken prospective parents and students on 12 tours since our Open Evening—all fully booked—and I have another 8 planned before the end of term. Extra dates and times had to be added to meet the demand!

As many of you will know Open Evening 2019 was the busiest I have seen in my 6 years at Nailsea, with over 270 students wanting to find out what life might be like if they joined us in year 7. As ever, the students who volunteered to come back in the evening, to be tour guides or to work in subject areas, really did themselves and the school proud.

There has been lots of positive feedback from parents on the night and from parents following the tours. (I have included some of these on the final page of this week's bulletin so you can get a flavour of how our school is being talked about in the local community) These occasions always remind me of what a great place Nailsea School is to work and learn. Parents and current 6 students have been really impressed with the wide range of lessons we have visited. The tours have enabled me to meet with families from Nailsea primary schools as well as those from further afield. With a further twelve tours scheduled over the next 2 weeks, I am looking forward to meeting even more future students.

It's at this point that I would like to remind existing parents that if they would like to come and take a tour during the school day, they are more than welcome to do so. It really does give you a great opportunity to see the school 'in action'. If you would like to take me up on this offer please make contact with the school.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Elliott, Head teacher

Open Door Clinics

Open Door Parent Clinics are held most Wednesday afternoons during term time for parents to speak directly with Mrs Elliott 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.

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**Key Dates Term 1****Mon 14th Oct**

Y12 Geog Lulworth
Cove Trip

Tues 15th Oct

Yr 11—13 Art and
Photography Trip to
London

DofE Launch Event

Wed 16th Oct

ABSolute Curriculum
Day 1

Thurs 17th Oct

Yr 11 Subject Evening
and Careers Fair

Careers Fair—17th October 4pm—6pm

Hopefully you all have the date and time of our annual Careers Fair in your diary. In the past this has been a very well received event from both the point of view of students and parents. Over 30 employers, higher/further education institutions and apprenticeship providers will be represented at the event and the information attendees could pick up will be invaluable in informing future decisions. We deliberately plan the event on the same evening as the Year 11 Subject Parent Evening and it is hoped that parents and students will find time before/during their appointments to pop down to see the exhibitors.

It is important to remember that ANY student in ANY year can attend this Careers event—it is never too early to think about the future.

If for any reason any student or parent would like support or advice about any future plans they can contact Mrs Deb Britton, our independent careers adviser to discuss possible options.

**ABSolute Session 1—16th October**

On Wednesday 16th October all teaching will be collapsed for periods 3 and 4 and every year group will be involved in a series of activities that focus on the wider curriculum.

The focus for each year group is shown below:

Year 7— Community: Friendship and Anti Bullying

Year 8— Body Image and Relationship Education

Year 9—Relationship Educations

Year 10— Careers Focus; cv writing, work experience, apprenticeships

Year 11—Stress Management

Year 12 —Study Skills

Year 13—UCAS/Apprenticeship advice and money management

Students will be being made aware of the room and teacher that will be running their sessions in tutor time. Posters showing key information will also be shown on the day. We would encourage parents to talk with their son/ daughter about the day and find out about the content that has been covered.

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Environmental Group Launch



With continued coverage regarding the impact of human behaviour on the environment, I said 'yes' immediately when Finn, Ciara and Alice (3 year 13 students) asked me if they could set up a group to raise the profile of such issues in school.

As well as publicising the group through speaking in all House assemblies last week, they also launched the club at the recent Club Fair and a number of students have signed up.

The group will be reporting on their work in future editions of the newsletter and plan to meet with Student Council on a regular basis. As a way to raise the profile of the group, Alice has provided me with some things we could all think about doing or not doing, this weekend and moving forward, to help the environmental cause. More tips will follow next week.

Walk, cycle or use public transport as much as possible.

Try and reduce how often you use a car e.g. walk short distances, car-share with friends/co-workers.

Go plastic FREE.

E.g. reusable bags, metal water bottles/ straws, buy loose vegetables and fruit and look for alternative packaging methods (for example just paper). ESPECIALLY AVOID SINGLE USE PLASTICS.

Be vegan (best option) or vegetarian.

Or reduce the amount of meat and dairy you eat e.g. have one meat free day a week.

RECYCLE as much as you can.

Sort through you and your family's recycling and see what can/ can't be recycled (look at packaging of product) and if there isn't local recycling, find out where you can send/ give it to. Make an effort and be aware of **reducing litter and packaging** as much as possible and **take your rubbish home** with you to recycle.

TIP: Bottoms of take-away pizza boxes can't be recycled because they're greasy.

Pringles cans— metal bases/plastic lids/cardboard tubes— can be recycled separately

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Feedback from visiting parents

It was a very informative visit and great to see the school during a typical day. The students were a credit both to the school and more importantly to themselves.

I was very impressed with your tour and the school. After assuming I had made the choice for secondary school, this has definitely given me food for thought.

The visit this morning was an absolute pleasure. The work you and the team have put in is clear and it is obviously making a positive impact on pupils.

You are right to be proud. We were really impressed with all we have seen. You have a very honest and open approach which we really like.

Thank you very much for welcoming us into your school and showing us around personally. The Open Evening and tour were so impressive. I cannot thank you enough for making the decision of choosing a secondary school so easy!

We were really impressed with the facilities and the students. Fingers crossed that you have the space and we will be joining you in September!

The visit has only reinforced our decision to place Nailsea as first choice.

I have been very anxious about choosing a school that would bring out the best in my son. Today I feel we have found that. I'm just hoping that we are now lucky enough to get a place. I'm not surprised you are proud—it's a fantastic school.

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