

Head's Bulletin



Thursday 14th October 2019

Wk 1: Wk Commencing 18th November

Term Dates

2019/20

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

6th form Open Evening—21st Nov, 5-7:30 pm

It's an exciting week ahead with the 6th form Open Evening scheduled for Thursday. As well as providing a familiar and nurturing environment for year 12 and 13 students, as you will have seen from the August results, once again our students left us, going onto further education or employment, with the best results in North Somerset. As students would have hopefully already seen from the prospectus (available here <http://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Sixth-Form-Prospectus-2020-low-res.pdf>) we are continuing to consolidate and extend our very exciting 6th form offer, combining traditional subjects with additional creative opportunities. With courses being offered at both Level 2 and Level 3, I am very proud to say that any student wanting to stay at Nailsea can pick up a programme of study in our 6th form— something that cannot be said of every school based 6th form and a clear demonstration of how we place the student at the heart of everything we do here at Nailsea.

The links we have made with boomstasuma continue, as well as new partnerships with Priority Football and "theschool" (where opportunities are there for students to be part of a Football Academy training and fixture programme or to take an Extended Diploma in Dance) The Applied Criminology course introduced last year, I am sure, will maintain in popularity. In addition to the Extended Health and Social Care Diploma introduced last September, for September 2020 we are also offering an Extended Diploma in Sport. Although it is great to have a written overview of the courses in the prospectus, nothing can replace the information you can glean from the face to face conversations on the evening. Current year 10 students are also welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing you on the night.

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. These are held from 3:30pm until 5:30pm and can be booked through contacting reception on 01275 852251.

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Nailsea School Mizzymead Road Nailsea BS48 2HN

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Key Dates Term 2

Tues 19th Nov

6th form Geography -
Climate Change conf

Thurs 21st Nov

ABSolute Curriculum
Day 2

Yr 7 Kooth Assembly

Tutankhamun Trip

6th form Open Evening

Fri 22nd Nov

INSET DAY 2

Wk Comm 25th Nov

Year 11 Mock exams
begin

Kooth— online support



Next week year 7 students will attend an assembly that explains how they can, if needed, seek support through Kooth. This also seemed a good opportunity to remind all parents and students about the support that this online platform can provide, as well as other support available in school.

Kooth is a transformational digital mental health support service. It gives children and young people easy access to an online community of peers and a team of experienced counsellors. Access is free of the typical barriers to support: no waiting lists, no thresholds, no cost and complete anonymity. Launched in 2004 and accredited by the BACP, more than 1,500 children and young people across the country login to Kooth every day.

We understand, that in order to succeed, student wellbeing has to be our priority. There are lots of ways to maintain good wellbeing, whether it's through exercise, expanding a friendship group and life experience through a range of activities, managing your workload, or finding the right person to talk to.

Our pastoral team (tutors, Head of House, or any of the Safeguarding Team) are here to help, please do approach them for advice and guidance.

If you or anyone you know is at risk of harm then you must let a member of staff know. You can tell any member of staff about your concerns. They then may pass it on to a member of the safeguarding team.

The email address for **non-urgent** matters is **safeguarding-team@nailseaschool.com** but it is always best to talk with one of the team in person— see below for contact details.

Nailsea School

Safeguarding Team Information

Senior Head of House
Mr D Graffagnino

Designated Safeguarding Officer
Miss L Cadwallader

SLT Safeguarding Lead
Mr C Mawford

Safeguarding Governor
Mrs J Hopkinson

Miss R Figgures

Mr J Morris

Mrs N Shoemith

Mr W Hellier

Mrs S Bannerman

Safeguarding Team at Nailsea School Non-urgent email contact address: safeguardingteam@nailseaschool.com

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

If you are concerned in any way about a student's welfare or safety you
MUST speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team

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Teaching and Learning—Memory retention for mock exams

Our teachers at both GCSE and A-Level are very aware that the breadth of knowledge needed to pass exams has increased substantially since the recent qualification reforms. With almost all qualifications now being linear, (meaning exams are being taken at the end of the two years of study), the focus on retaining knowledge and understanding has never been more prevalent.

With these increasing demands in mind, as a school we have been thinking about the best way to support and prepare our students for these final assessments. Having conducted some regular walks of the school in the last few weeks it has been great to see teachers embedding our 'Do It Now' tasks at the start of lessons. These activities give students the chance to remind themselves of key skills and content from last lesson, last week and last year—with such a practice being shown to help commit ideas to our long term memory. Having spoken to students and parents of my own year 11 History group, the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

KS4 students and parents would have also seen this idea being used in the homework that has been set this year with the concepts of consolidation and interleaving as a clear focus. Students have been proactive in providing feedback during student council meetings and staff are continuing to act on this during this term in order to ensure students find the tasks as meaningful and useful as possible.

Yr 11 and yr 13 students will shortly be preparing for their mock exams and the following tips may be useful:

Story Time

Sometimes isolated pieces of information can be really difficult to remember, so why not create a memorable story to remind yourself of the links between them. Your brain is more likely to remember something which feels like it has a narrative to it than a string of words and phrases.
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2012/jan/15/story-lines-facts>

Voice Notes

Some people find listening makes things much more memorable than reading – it's also much more portable! You could record key facts and information. You could record yourself reciting a paragraphs with key words blanked (or silenced) out. You could record quiz questions to answer (in your head) while on the bus to school.

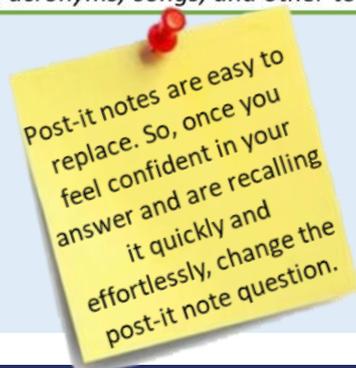
Mnemonics

If you are finding related or connected information tricky to remember, how about creating your own mnemonic. You can make it as silly as you like – as long as you remember it!

A mnemonic, also known as a memory aid, is a tool that helps you remember an idea or phrase with a pattern of letters, numbers, or relatable associations. Mnemonic devices include rhymes and poems, acronyms, songs, and other tools.

A really effective way to use post-it notes...with the permission of the homeowner(!)...is to post-it note questions around the house.

If every time you want to go to the toilet, you have to answer the post-it note question on the door, you will re-visit (and therefore learn) this information quickly!



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