

Head's Bulletin



Monday 13th January 2020

Wk 1: Wk Commencing 13th January

Term Dates

2019/20

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

Happy New Year

It has been nice to get back to some routine this term despite the alarm last Monday morning being a shock to the system and the realisation that on the 6th January there was no longer any rationale for chocolate being a suitable choice for breakfast.

Over the Christmas break our site team have been busy installing LED lighting in corridors and offices to reduce our carbon footprint. The running costs of the new lighting is 50% of the previous cost which will continue to support the school budget. Many thanks to Low Carbon Gordano for the grant we received that helped contribute to these changes being possible.

As I seem to say after every break—we have another busy term ahead. Year 11 have started their new tutor programme very positively and we will be seeking feedback from parents and students as the term progresses. Year 12 students are preparing for their internal tests this week and towards the end of term, Year 9 will begin the process of choosing their GCSE options.

Many thanks for parental support in reducing the numbers of cars dropping off students by driving onto site in the mornings— this has certainly made the site safer. There is still some concern at the end of the school day with some vehicles blocking access on the roundabout for coaches and other large vehicles. We would continue to ask for parents to consider safety and to rethink the need to access the site between 8am & 9am and again between 2:30pm & 3:30pm when pedestrian traffic is at it's peak.

Thanks, in advance, for your continued support.

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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Key Dates Term 3

Wk Comm 13th Jan

Yr 12 Internal test week

Tues 14th Jan

Chef visit for y11 Food and Nutrition groups

Wed 15th Jan

Yr 8 (period 2) and year 10 (period 5) House matches

Thurs 16th Jan

Yr 11 Fine Art Day

Fri 17th Jan

HSC visit to Weston

Fri 24th Jan

Yr 11 Photography Day

Positive Post

Last term saw the launch of our 'Positive Post' Scheme with Mrs Elliott checking the postbox every fortnight. As a reminder cards are awarded to those students or staff that have been noted as embodying our school ethos, 'Aspire Believe Succeed', with each of the cards giving examples of how this may have been achieved.

As well as receiving the card from the nominee, the recipients also receive a covering letter from Mrs Elliott and 25 house points to be added to both their individual and house totals—a figure that can certainly make a difference to students qualifying for termly rewards events and for the House Championship.

There are 3 of the cards to collect and Mrs Elliott has an, undisclosed, additional prize for those students who are then awarded the full set.

91 cards were issued last term to 81 different students—around 8% of the school and 8 students across the school have received more than one of the cards.

I am sure this number will only continue to rise with the way students have returned so positively from the Christmas break.

Next collection: Wed 22nd January 2020



New Yr 11 Tutor group arrangements

The change to tutor group arrangements for year 11 students has started very positively this week. Similar models to the one we have introduced at Nailsea, adopted in other schools, has led to a significant positive impact on student mental health and, ultimately, improved final outcomes for students.

Each week will be structured in a similar way with three of the sessions explicitly focused on understanding a revision technique and then being given the opportunity to use these by creating revision materials

This system will enable an extra 80 mins to be devoted to revision techniques during the school week and not add any additional time or pressures for students attending after school sessions. In total, with this system, there will be 25 additional hours during the school day where students in year 11 can be specifically supported prior to the exams. Feedback on the programme will be sought from students and parents in due course.

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School Gateway—more information available for parents from 2020

Thank you to all parents that have now activated their School Gateway account which was launched last term. For those parents that have not activated their accounts just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we already have on the school system, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date. If you need to change any details please contact the school so that these details can be updated.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>.

From this term all parents using the app will be able to see all comments related to sanctions and rewards that are entered by staff on the school system—the type given and the reason for the sanction/reward being issued. Parents will therefore have a clear and regular overview of levels of behaviour and engagement that will empower them to have even more meaningful conversations at home.

If you have any queries or questions about the behaviour/reward information please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

Wooden Cutlery—positively received in the dining hall

As parents and students are hopefully aware the Student Council, in liaison with the Climate Change group, are looking at ways the school can reduce any detrimental impact on the environment.

One key aspect of this change was the introduction of wooden cutlery which has now replaced the single use plastic knives and forks which, although costing 5p per item, can then be reused.

It has been great to see that this move has been generally well received by students with some even asking why it hadn't been done before.

Since the introduction last Monday it has been noted that, despite the cutlery being able to be taken home and re-used, lots of students are choosing to leave them behind or throw them away, choosing to pay for a new item each time.

I would ask that parents discuss this situation with their child and it would be great if we could move to a system (as I do) where students have their own reusable set to use each day. Over the course of a year, if students continue to repurchase in the way we have seen over the first few days, it could amount to a substantial cost for the school and students if new cutlery is purchased every day.



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