



Nailsea School

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14th February 2022

Dear Parents/carers

As you are aware I was involved in the Deputy Head teacher appointment process last week, hence this letter being issued today and not last Friday. Following a rigorous process, I am delighted to confirm that Mr Paul Jones, currently Head of Faculty (English and Drama) has been appointed to the role. Mr Jones has a wealth of experience and demonstrated, through the ten separate interview tasks, that he has a range of ideas to ensure our improvements in standards and achievement continue at the school. I am delighted with the appointment and very excited at the prospect of working with Mr Jones. As a school we will now go about advertising for a replacement as Head of Faculty (English and Drama) and I will update you on progress in due course.

Changes to practice given Covid updates for Term 4

Rates of positive cases within the school remain low (below 2%) and we have been fortunate in that the vast majority of classes are continuing to be taught by their usual classroom teacher. For the very small number of students that do suffer disruption the Head of Faculty will always be in touch to outline the plans that are in place to ensure students are given the best experience possible. Many thanks for understanding the challenging backdrop we are still operating against.

For the return to school in term 4 there will be two additional changes that reflect a return to normality within school:

- Social areas will no longer be divided up into separate year groups. This means all students across the school can spend time in any areas around the school at break and lunchtime.
- Students will attend school every day in full school uniform. The change in term 4 will be that if students have PE they will bring kit with them and change into PE kit solely for those lessons.

As mentioned last week and with the last two weeks of term being an opportunity to remind students, from the start of next term mobile phones are expected to be 'off and away for the whole school day'. Any phone seen being used will be confiscated.

Members of the public pretending to be Education Welfare Officers

North Somerset have received a report recently that a member of the public was visited by someone claiming to be an Education Welfare Officer working for North Somerset Council. The member of the public was a neighbour of a parent at one North Somerset school. The neighbour was already suspicious as to why the male had called round to the home and had immediately then contacted the parent. The caller knew the name of the parent and showed the neighbour a badge, saying he was from Education Welfare.

Headteacher: Mrs D Elliott

Mizzymead Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 2HN

Company Number: 8084047

Telephone: 01275 852251 e-mail: nailsch@nailseaschool.com Web: www.nailseaschool.com

Please note that all North Somerset Staff will have an ID badge which has their photo and title on the badge, and will have the North Somerset logo on the badge. If parent are in any doubt about the authenticity of a caller claiming to be from North Somerset Council Education Welfare Service, the advice is that they should not be permitted to enter the home and to report this to the police immediately.

NSPCWT annual Survey 2022

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together, our local forum for parents and carers of children with SEND and additional needs, is undertaking their independent annual survey which seeks parents' experiences of using education, health and care services locally.

The results of the survey will be shared with the local area SEND Programme Board and support strategic leaders in understanding needs and planning services. The forum is encouraging all parents of children with additional needs and/or disability aged 0-25 to complete the survey, whether they have an Education Health & Care Plan, receive SEN Support, or are awaiting further support from services. Parents and carers who complete the survey can enter a draw to win one of eight Amazon E-vouchers, with a top prize of £100.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NSPCWT2022>
NSPCWT can be contacted via their Facebook page or via email at admin@nspcwt.org

Ambition



Year 9 students have responded very maturely to the processes involved in their **Guided Choices** programme. It is an exciting time choosing courses for the next two years. As a reminder the forms should be returned to Miss Dee by the end of the day on Wednesday 16th February.

It has also been an absolute privilege to be involved in discussing **6th form options** and courses with some year 11 students over the last two weeks. I never fail to be impressed by the focus, attitude and warmth of personalities within our student body. It is hoped that all discussions are concluded this week and so year 11 students will be receiving their official offer letters in due course

#AimHigh

Respect



I am very proud of how all members of our school community support and respect each other. Nationally, February is **LGBTQ+ History month** and students will have already watched the assembly delivered by Ms Davies last week. School should be a warm and welcoming place for all staff and students and the establishing of this group has had a hugely positive impact on the school as a whole. For those parents and students who would like further information about this group or other groups that support mental and emotional wellbeing, further details can be found on the website

[Wellbeing Support – Nailsea School](#)

#BePositive



Kindness

This last week of half term signals the **Griffin and Dragon House Charity activity week**. There will be range of fun activities in the atrium, including 'Guess the sweets in the Jar', a raffle, 'Sponge a teacher', a bake sale, and 'Guess the number of M&Ms'. This is to raise money for the chosen house charities 'Children's Hospice Southwest' and 'Ups and Downs Southwest'

Friday 18th February will be a non-school uniform day. Pupils may come in non-school uniform for a donation of £1, which will be collected during lesson 1. Clothes must be appropriate for a working environment. If pupils have PE on that day, they must bring their full PE kit and will be able to get changed before their lesson

#BeKind



Pride

Sporting success continues this week. This time, Mr Taylor's year 9 football team remained undefeated and came home as Champions from the Somerset Cup. Congratulations to all involved.

#BeProud



Community

Interviewing for new/replacement staff, as has happened in the last week, can be a time-consuming experience. However, the warm views/reception of all visitors to the school also gives me the opportunity to reflect on what a truly special place our school is. The candidates last week could not speak more highly of the students, staff and governors involved in the process. I couldn't be more proud of us all.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

this will be the final letter of this term, with term 4 starting at 8:40am on Monday 28th February. (week 1) It has been a busy 7 weeks and I am sure we will all take the break to rest and recharge. Enjoy spending time with friends and family.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dee Elliott".

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher