



Nailsea School

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17th June 2022

Dear Parents/carers

As I write this on Friday morning, if the forecast is to be believed, Nailsea will be hotter than Nice today. Students and staff should have taken up the opportunity to dress appropriately for this heat and it will be great if it lasts just long enough for an evening beverage in the sunshine later on today. Cheers!

Ambition



We are at the time of year when the elections of House Captains and 6th form prefects are held. I see student leadership as a key way our school can develop our young people, preparing them for society and being active members of that society. I know that Mr Truan is working with the year 12 candidates and in the coming weeks Heads of House will be looking to current year 10 students to be applying for House Captain roles. This is a great opportunity for students to influence their school and I would urge all eligible students to think about applying.

#AimHigh

Respect



This week we have welcomed a number of visitors to the school. Students in years 7, 8 and 9 listened to some talks from representatives from St Giles' Trust and year 9 students also experienced a virtual reality session linked to the WWI trenches. It's great to be able to get these additional experiences back on the calendar for the students. In addition to this, a number of external invigilators are continuing to support the exams team. It has been wonderful to hear such positive feedback regarding the 'level of co-operation and good behaviour' that have been experienced by these people. Being respectful and positive is a key value we are fostering at Nailsea and it is always great to see these being confirmed.

#BePositive

Kindness



I received recognition today from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, thanking the school for continuing to support the programme. In the last year a record breaking number of young people in the South West have started their awards – 32, 991 in fact with an increasing number of students from Nailsea making up this number. This is in no small part down to the hard work and commitment of the team of staff volunteers. Special thanks to Ms Mason and Mr Smith who have picked up oversight since Mr Bunce left at Easter. I know that the parents and students really appreciate the experiences that this scheme provides and it could not happen without the staff involvement.

#BeKind

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Pride

Earlier this week the PE Department took students from years 7 to 10 to an Athletics Festival. Students faired incredibly well despite the heat and I was extremely pleased to hear Nailsea School finished 34 times in the top 3 with all years delivering impressive performances. Once again staff were proud to be represented by the students whose attitude and conduct was exemplary throughout.

It has been very pleasing to see that the drive on uniform standards is resulting in students taking pride in their appearance. This week reminders have been reiterated in tutor time regarding hair colour and jewellery. The expectations are both reasonable and clear as shown on the school website:

HAIR	Hair must be of a natural colour and there must be no lines or decorations shaved in
NAILS	Nails should be of an appropriate length to comply with Health & Safety guidelines and be natural and with a clear neutral colour
JEWELLERY	No rings, necklaces, bangles or bracelets. Earrings are allowed, with a maximum of two studs per ear, no other piercings are acceptable.
FACIAL PIERCINGS	Facial piercings are not allowed, students will be asked to remove these during the school day
NEW EAR PIERCINGS	New ear piercings should be done at the end of the Summer Term to allow for appropriate healing time so they can be removed for PE Lessons

#BeProud



Community

The sun was shining on Tuesday afternoon as we welcomed 350 new students and families to Nailsea for our Year 7 Welcome BBQ. It was great to see this event returning and to see so many smiling faces leave site having been fed and watered. Special mention to the school catering team for overseeing the BBQ and to the amazing PTA volunteers who manned the bar and the uniform sale. This was an informal opportunity for contact to be made with staff and to have any questions or queries answered. Feedback from those leaving was incredibly positive. We very much look forward to seeing the students back on site for the Transition Day on 7th July.

#TeamNailsea

Finally...

it is not often that I am lost for words, but this was certainly the case on Monday afternoon. Unknown to me my old History teacher, Mr Jeffery, who taught me from year 7-13, had secretly organised a visit to school to come and surprise me. Mr J, who has since been a head teacher in 3 different schools, was in Somerset for a conference and took the opportunity, as he had always promised to do, to come and see me here at Nailsea.

Being honest, as well as it being an amazing surprise, I was quite overwhelmed – there may have been tears, especially on seeing his Facebook post later on!

The hour flew past and despite looking back on incidents from 25 – 30 years ago, as well as me being able to clearly remember different lessons Mr Jeffery had taught me, he could remember specific conversations we had had – even him advising me which boy to accompany to the year 7 Valentine's Disco (in the days when I got more than one offer!)

Mr Jeffery was THE reason I went into teaching and he made me realise, once again, what an amazing privilege it is to be able to work with young people in education. I am very lucky.

Had a wonderful hour with Mrs Elliott at Nailsea School. To say I'm proud of her would be the least of it....



Have a lovely weekend.

Take care and be kind
Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of Mrs Dee Elliott in cursive script.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher