

30th September 2022

Dear Parents/carers

I am writing this letter this morning, slightly bleary eyed after our Open Evening last night. However, I could not be more proud of the staff and students that represented the school to the over 800 visitors that we had on site. Feedback was incredibly positive as have the comments made by visitors on our morning tours who have seen the school in action this week. Over 250 students volunteered to stay last night to work in subject areas and be tour guides and, as ever, they hugely impressed visiting families. After a later evening I hope everyone enjoys some rest and relaxation this weekend.

Extra Curricular Booklet

Experiences outside the classroom are just as important as those inside and I am pleased to announce that our Extra Curricular booklet containing all that we have on offer at Nailsea has now gone live. The link can be found here:

https://www.nailseaschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Extra-Curricular-Directory-2022-23-web_version.pdf

Some clubs are seasonal and students interested in attending should make contact with the member of staff listed as a point of contact to find out more.

Parent View

Thanks to the parents that have already completed the Parent view survey that I have referenced in the last couple of weeks. At present a flavour of the responses are that

- 96% agree/strongly agree that their child is happy at our school
- 96% agree/strongly agree that their child feels safe at school

Of course, this does not mean that we are complacent and if any parents have any concerns or worries I would urge them to make contact with the school.

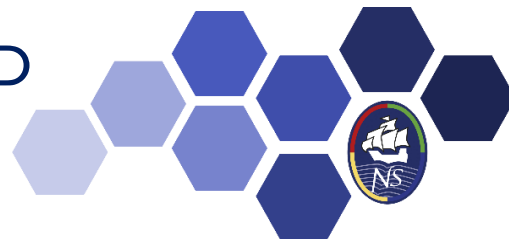
There are a number of responses that state that parents are unaware of the topics that students will study during the year. As a reminder all of this information is accessible through the school website through the curriculum pages accessed here <https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/curriculum/> Clicking on any subject will enable parents to access the 'Curriculum map' where an overview of content and skills can be found.

For any parent that has not yet completed the survey this can be done here:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views/survey/214155> Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to complete the survey.

Message from Carmel Coaches

As parents may be aware we have two coaches that bring students into school from Long Ashton. The company have asked me to remind students and parents about the importance of road safety when leaving the coaches. They report that some younger students, in years 7 and 8 and particularly at the Co-op and Theynes Croft stops, are crossing the road in front of the coach when they are dropped off. In doing so the students are unable to see if any traffic is overtaking the coach and it is exceptionally dangerous. I would ask for parents to reiterate the importance of waiting for the bus to pull away before crossing the road.



First Aid on site

As a reminder the First Aid room should only be visited by students for medical emergencies during the school day. We have noticed an increase in the number of students taking themselves to the room for issues such as a headache which, as you can understand, the team cannot do anything for. I would ask that parents reiterate this message at home.

Bike Sheds

It is great to see so many students taking the decision to ride to school. As a reminder although the bike sheds are locked and unlocked at the beginning of the school day, students are still expected to lock their individual bikes within the bike shed. With our site being used by the local community and being open until late in the evening and over the weekends securing bikes individually within the shed will guarantee their safety outside of school hours if they are ever left here.

Holiday requests during term time

North Somerset policy is that holidays are not automatically authorised during term time. Advice is that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence to a pupil during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents do not have the automatic right to withdraw pupils from school and, in law, have to apply for permission in advance. Exceptional circumstances are defined as exceptional significant family events or circumstances, which will be considered on a case by case basis, or forces personnel on leave from a foreign posting.

Finally....I can't quite believe that next week we are in October. So much has been accomplished already this term, including sporting fixtures and clubs returning with a vengeance. It was particularly pleasing to see so many year 7 students being so confident to take tours around yesterday evening at the Open Evening, as well as the students that presented to the four packed audiences. I was very proud of them. The future is clearly a very bright one.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher