



21st October 2022

Dear Parents/carers

I hope students are enjoying an early start to the half term break with today being an INSET day. Staff are on site working on key department and faculty priorities, as well as having their annual appraisal meetings with their line managers. In the business of a working week there is often little or no time for staff to reflect on how much they have achieved over the course of a year and this is why these opportunities are really valuable. Wishing you all well for the half term break. We return to Term 2 on Monday 31st October at 8:40 am. This will be a week 2.

Please find some other messages for the week below:

Zero Heroes – Term 1

Congratulations to the 470 students who have been issued with 'Zero Hero' status for term 1. For those new to school, this means these students have received 0 behaviour points, demonstrating they have made the correct choices and met expectations every day for 7 weeks. As well as students being notified on Classcharts following student feedback last year, all Zero Heroes were entered for a prize draw to win a £25 voucher. The winners for this term were issued with their vouchers yesterday morning. Congratulations to:

- Olivia W in Dragon House
- Eden P in Griffin House
- Edie D in Phoenix House
- Zach W in Unicorn House

A clean slate will start in term 2 so everyone has the chance to be entered for the next draw, which will take place just before Christmas.

Performance measures

You may have seen my letter sent yesterday following the government publishing performance data from the summer 2022 exams. I hope the letter explained the process and the caution given when directly comparing between schools given the uneven impact of the pandemic on these outcomes. However, it would be remiss of me not to highlight how immensely proud I am of the students and staff at Nailsea in achieving our summer results. When compared to the last set of results in 2019 the outcomes represent a significant shift in our Progress 8 score – clear evidence of the hard work of staff and students. Despite improvements of over half a grade on average for all students in these outcomes, as a staff and a school please be assured that we are not complacent. We are continuing to build on and embed the changes that proved so successful and will focus relentlessly on supporting all exam groups ahead of the summer.

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Christmas Appeal for Ukraine

Nailsea School will be a collection point for a Christmas Appeal for Ukraine, coordinated by 'From Bristol with love for Ukraine'. This will gather Christmas presents for the children of the Odessa region. The group intend to send, as presents, new toys and winter clothes (with tags), sweets and chocolates, new puzzles (unwrapped) for children under the age of 16 years old. The deadline for this collection is **11th November 2022** and all gifts should be handed to reception. After checking and sorting the gifts will be packed and delivered by the groups Volunteer Transporters. I am sure that any gifts donated will bring a smile to young people and their families at what is a very challenging time.

Tutor Evening

Thank you to all the families in Year 7, 12 and 13, who attended last night's Tutor Evening. This was an opportunity to discuss how students are settling in and raise any concerns. It was great to see over 85% of parents attended with their child. These conversations are really valuable, especially for the student to be part of the discussion around expectations and support. Staff appreciate such a positive turnout and the chance to meet parents alongside their tutees.

Finally....one of my 'go to' tv programmes when I need a bit of reassurance is *The West Wing*. Given the events of the last 44 days and the current situation with the British government, I will definitely be re-watching a couple of episodes over the half term break in a hope to restore faith. Beyond President Bartlet, my favourite character is Josh Lyman. His words, below, seem to be very much at odds with the behaviour seen by those in public office over the last few weeks. However, they sum up exactly how I hope all people, irrespective of being in leadership positions, would view their role in an organisation for it to function successfully:

'I want to be a comfort to my colleagues in tragedy and I want to celebrate with them in triumph, and for all the time in between, I just want to be able to look them in the eye'

Wishing you all the best for a relaxing break.

Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher