

11th November 2022

Dear Parents/carers

This morning I am accompanying Elsie C (Yr 9), Lewis S (Yr 10) and Ada R (Yr 7) to the Wessex Learning Trust Remembrance Service in Cheddar. Students will lay wreaths during the service, which I know will be a very moving experience. The students have been selected as their relatives gave their lives in the First and Second World War. Elsie's great grandfather, Surgeon Lieutenant Augustine Peter Curtin, won an award for his role at Dunkirk and received a letter from King George VI. His Royal Navy ship, the Nankin, was captured by the Germans and he then spent 3 years in a prisoner of war camp in Tokyo. Lewis' great great uncle, 2nd Lieutenant Eric Bastin, was killed in action in October 1917. Ada had many family members who served in the world wars and in researching their past has discovered some really interesting stories. These are just some of the family members that have been acknowledged in our 'Memory Wall' that can be seen in the library. Many thanks to Mrs Conner for overseeing this amazing project and further details on the stories shared will be in the December newsletter.

Please find some other messages for the week below:

Year 11 and 13 November exams

Students are at the midway point in their November exam schedule. As a reminder students should be attending exams with the correct equipment as it is not guaranteed that this can be loaned to them on the morning of the exam. If students are struggling to source equipment they should contact their Head of House. I wish students all the best for their remaining exams.

Wellspring Counselling

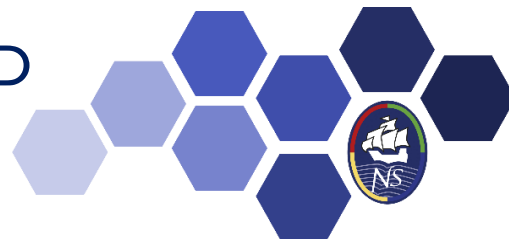
We are grateful to welcome a new Counsellor from Wellspring Counselling who will be based in school every Thursday from January supporting our students. Parents or students can book an appointment by contacting Wellspring direct and information about this service is attached.

Sixth Form Open Evening – 24th November

As a reminder, the Nailsea 6th form Open Evening is taking place later this month, running from 5pm until 7pm. The evening will enable students to see our facilities, discuss subject choices and to learn about the wider enrichment and pastoral support the team here can offer. All of the application processes will be explained on the evening but families can find out more about the current offer through our website: [Welcome to Sixth Form – Nailsea School](#)

Sixth Form Staffing Update

From Monday 14th November Mrs Jones will no longer be the Head of Year 13. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank Mrs Jones for her work over the last 8 years within the 6th form team. Mr Truan and Ms Macleod remain within the 6th form leadership team and if parents and students have any concerns they should contact their tutor in the first instance.



Expressive Arts

A reminder that the Expressive Arts Showcase takes place next Thursday at 6.00pm in the School Atrium. All families are invited to come along and view the impressive Art, Media and Photography work that the students and teachers have been putting together.

Finally.... many of us must be feeling that the news at the moment is particularly bleak. It is my role to maintain that outward optimism for students, staff and the community whilst, possibly, worrying internally about the challenges facing education and wider society. However, there are always moments of joy and I will be switching off and tuning into Strictly on Saturday. An apt quotation to leave this week I thought, linking both factors

'In life, as in dance, grace glides on blistered feet'

I will certainly keep dancing, whatever the blisters.

Enjoy your weekend. Take care and be kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher