

5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/carers

Although the thought of two successive Bank Holidays was a pleasing one, the last few weeks have felt somewhat disjointed in school and it will be nice to get back to some routine with the last two weeks of term 5 being complete ones.

Other messages for the week can be read below:

### **Student behaviour in the community**

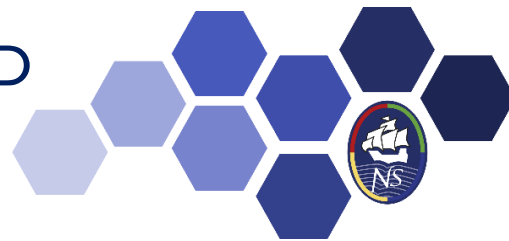
It is a real privilege that Nailsea is a school at the heart of the local community. It is important to remember that our students are also representing the ethos and values of the school when in uniform in the local area. There are many occasions where I have received comments from the public regarding the exemplary behaviour and kindness shown by our students. At other times, sadly, I have also been contacted when some students make incorrect choices and have behaved in an anti-social way. I am aware that some comments were made on social media over the last week assuming that some poor behaviour in the precinct was committed by Nailsea students. As these students were not in uniform, given it was a day of industrial action, we cannot be certain that these young people are from our school but this was the assumption made in the conversation that followed online. I would want to take the opportunity to remind families that any incidents of poor behaviour where students can be identified on the way to and from school, where students are in uniform, will be followed up in the same way as students are on site.

### **Year 11 Drop Down timetable**

GCSE exams start for year 11 students on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Please find attached a copy of the amended timetable for the remainder of this term. To clarify, year 11 attendance is compulsory for the rest of this term.

Students will either be in normal lessons or in exams or in specially timetabled drop down sessions as shown. Staff are mindful that given the subject choices of students, on a number of occasions, students could have exams in both the morning and afternoon sessions on some days. Staff will be planning revision activities that students can choose to take part in during periods 3 and 4 on the days highlighted. Alternatively, as shown, students can choose to complete their own revision for an exam that they may have later that day.

From term 6, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, year 11 students can continue to attend lessons in the subjects they have not yet taken exams in. This will be by adhering to their existing timetable in their normal classrooms. Attendance from 5<sup>th</sup> June is not compulsory for year 11 students.



## Staff Absence

Unfortunately there are occasions where teaching staff will be absent from school. Where this is for a prolonged period of time (2 weeks or more) we work very hard to put alternative arrangements in place for the classes involved, prioritising the exam classes. Sometimes, despite the best efforts of those involved on occasions there are still classes which may be covered by supply agency staff. I know this is particularly difficult if this means practical subjects are re-roomed to a classroom and alternative activities are set. If your child has been impacted by the absence of a member of staff I would like to reassure you that we are currently looking at how timetables could be changed from Term 6. Thank you for your understanding.

## May 22<sup>nd</sup> Online Safety Evening

Parents and carers are welcome to join us for this informative online safety event, where Cyber Protect Officer, Megan Haldane, from Avon and Somerset Police Service will work with parents to ensure they are 'up to speed' with the latest online software and trends. The hour long discussion aims to tackle a variety of online challenges and will equip parents with the knowledge of how to manage them.

Places should be booked in advance through Eventbrite [HERE](#)

**Finally....** as parents of students in year 13 will know next week there are a number of activities scheduled to commemorate the final week in school for year 13 students. This cohort started in year 7 as I started in my role as Head back in 2016 and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. In the time this cohort have been at Nailsea TikTok and the Nintendo Switch have been launched, monarchs, Prime Ministers and Presidents have come and gone and a global pandemic led to mass shutdowns across the world. No one can say that it has been uneventful! This group of young people, will I am sure go on to achieve great things and I wish them well for what will certainly be some fantastic futures.

Take care and Be Kind

Yours faithfully

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher