



14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

So, this is letter 36 of the year and my last of 2022/23. Despite the weather over the last week suggesting otherwise, we are at the end of the summer term and the school holidays are now tantalisingly close. A number of activities have taken place this week which show cased the talents of our students, notably the Sports Personality Event at Cadbury House on Monday and the Music Concert on Thursday. Thanks to the efforts of all of the staff in providing these opportunities, particularly to Mr Pate and Mrs Case who oversaw the first concert at Nailsea for a while. I am sure this department will go from strength to strength. Thank you, also, to the staff involved in the enrichment trip to Tynesfield on Monday – we are very lucky to have access to great resources and experiences so close by.

### **Staff Leavers and starters**

In schools, terms 5 and 6 is always the time that interviews and appointments of new staff in readiness for September are confirmed. As is always the case at this time of year there are a number of staff that are leaving Nailsea and those that will be joining us in September. I am sure you will join me in wishing staff leaving us well and this will also give you the opportunity to pass on any messages to these staff who may have played an important role in your child's education:

- Leavers
  - Mrs Cattani – Cover Supervisor
  - Ms Chamberlain - Art
  - Mrs Dunn – Modern Foreign Languages
  - Miss Figgures – English
  - Mrs Hart –Art Technician
  - Ms Longhurst – Art
  - Mr Patel - English
  - Mrs Rogers - Maths
  - Mr Ruffley – Learning Support Assistant
  - Mr Turner - History
  - Mr Wood – Science

You will have seen in the news that nationally recruitment into teacher training is extremely low at present and more teachers are leaving the profession than joining it. Staff recruitment and retention is therefore a real challenge. It is against that backdrop that I am pleased to announce that we have a full staff with subject specialists in post; testament to the school and its community that we have managed to attract such excellent candidates.



- **New Starters**

Mr Bennetts – Modern Foreign Languages  
Ms Blackledge – Learning Support Assistant, SEN  
Miss Bywater – Cover Supervisor  
Ms Craze - English  
Ms Davies – Higher Level Teaching Assistant, SEN  
Mrs Glover – Learning Support Assistant, SEN  
Mrs Graffagnino – Business Studies  
Ms Johnson - Learning Support Assistant, SEN  
Mr Martinson - Learning Support Assistant, SEN  
Ms Partington - Maths  
Mr Payne – Science  
Ms Pownall – Design Technology  
Ms Rigby – Maths  
Ms Sutherland – Learning Support Assistant, SEN  
Miss Tanner - PE  
Ms Tonkin – Business Studies  
Ms Zimmerman – English

## **New responsibilities from September**

As well as welcoming a number of new staff in September, I am also pleased to let you know of some changes to some leadership positions which will come into effect in the new academic year.

Ms Britton and Mrs Gardiner will be joining Mrs Macleod as Heads of Year in the 6<sup>th</sup> form. The team will continue to be overseen by Assistant Head teacher, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> form, Mr Truan.

We have also extended the pastoral leadership teams in lower school, appointing four Assistant Heads of House. Miss Timmins will work with Mr Miles in Dragon House, Mr Taylor with Mrs Vass in Griffin, Ms Hancock-Martin joins Ms Wisby in Phoenix and Mr Reid will be supporting Mr Howard in Unicorn House. Students will have seen that the Heads of House are now based in their own House offices around school, clearly identifying where support and guidance can be sought. From September House tutor groups will be moving rooms so they are also close to the offices. Further details of the change of rooms will be displayed for students at the start of term in September.



## End of term arrangements

Please find below the details of the end of term arrangements

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Celebration Day

Periods 1, 2, 3, 4 and lunch at usual times. Students who have achieved a place on the rewards list will be allocated time on the bouncy castles at the front of school, per year group.

At the start of extended tutor time, student should leave bags in their normal rooms and then come down to the Sports Hall. During the whole school assembly the winning house will be revealed and those students will spend the rest of the day out of lessons.

- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Final day for students

Tutor time to period 3, as normal

12:20 – 12:45 – Lunch

12:45 – Students leave for the summer. School Transport providers will have been notified about the amended timings.

## Support during the holiday period

Although many of us are looking forward to the summer break, it can also be difficult for students facing a long stretch without any school routine. Please find useful information and ideas with links for support on our website

[Wellbeing Support – Nailsea School](#)

## Results' Days

Students collecting their external exam results will be able to do so at the following days and times:

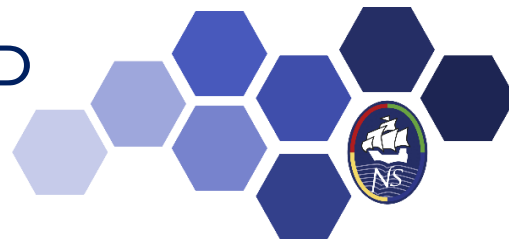
- A Level, AS Level and Level 3 results – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 9am – 11am
- GCSE Level results – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 9am - 11am

There is an important letter that families expecting results should read ahead of the end of term, including details of how someone other than the student themselves can collect any results. This can be found on the exams page of the website [Exams Information – Nailsea School](#)

## Start of term arrangements - September 2023

As is usual the start of the academic year will be a staggered one with details outlined below:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day - Students not expected in school
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7 and 12 students only on site. Year 7 students should arrive by 8:40 am and gather in the dining hall entering through the student entrance. Year 12 students should arrive by 10:30am and go straight to the Green Lecture Theatre.
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – ALL students in school for 8:40am. Students will spend an hour in tutor groups and then head to a shortened lesson 1 at 9:30am. Period 2 will start, as normal, at 10am and the normal school day timings will then be followed.



**Finally...** it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the huge levels of time, energy and commitment that our Chair of Governors, Jo Hopkinson, has given to Nailsea School since she started as a governor on 18 July 2016. Jo is stepping down from her role as Chair of the Local Governing Body this term after 7 years of service, which included her overseeing the school joining the Wessex Learning Trust. Many of our families will have known Jo in her previous role as Deputy Head of Golden Valley Primary school but her retirement from there, clearly worked to our advantage, given the enthusiasm and joy she has brought to her role in supporting the school and our students. Jo is passionate about education and the importance it has in empowering young people to improve their lives. You will, I am sure, have seen her at many of our school events over the years. What many of you may not have seen is the level of support she gave teaching staff behind these public events – be that sourcing materials from home to support the Art department, to volunteering to create and put up classroom displays for teachers or to leaving chocolate treats in the staff room at the end of a busy term. Nothing has ever been too much effort for Jo in supporting the school, the staff and the students. Inevitably the relationship between a Head teacher and a Chair of Governors has to be a close one and on a personal level, Jo has been a huge support both professionally and personally over the time we have worked together. Her approach is epitomised by every weekly meeting starting with her asking me how I am, despite her having to face a number of her own challenges. To conclude, Jo, stealing the words of William Shakespeare from Twelfth Night:

*I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks.*

I wish everyone a restful summer break, take care and be kind

See you all in September!

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher