



8th September 2023

Dear Parents/carers

It's a pleasure to send out my first weekly letter after such a fantastic start to the academic year. As mentioned in earlier communication this week, the weather conditions have certainly proven to be challenging but students and staff have managed incredibly well. At present the plan is to revert to normal uniform from Monday 11th September given the weather forecast. As was demonstrated this week if conditions warrant any change parents will be informed via School Comms and ClassCharts in the first instance. In addition, I will be asking Student Council to begin work discussing the introduction of an official summer uniform which will reflect the warmer conditions whilst not having to wear PE kit. I will certainly keep you posted on these developments throughout the year – but, I am sure, this will be a really positive experience for all.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Parents on site at the start and end of the day

As parents know our site is an incredibly secure one and we place the wellbeing and safety of our students as a key daily priority.

During this first week it has been noted that a number of parents have been driving into the car park to drop off and collect their children and other parents have been walking to reception and/or gathering outside the main student entrance to meet students.

I would ask, for safeguarding reasons, that parents meet their children at the Mizzymead Road gate and, if picking up by car, a location is agreed off site.

Those students, for specific reasons linked to additional needs who do need to be collected on site, should confirm this with their Head of House to ensure that a pass is provided.

Thank you, in advance, for keeping the number of vehicles and adults on site at the start and end of the day to a minimum so that students remain safe.

Use of Social Media

Nailsea School has both a Twitter and Facebook account where we can celebrate what is happening in school and post any important announcements. These accounts are monitored daily, but any responses to posts will not be replied to outside of school hours. I would also ask that members of the Nailsea community are mindful of the comments that may be posted on such sites, that will inevitably go unanswered and the unfairly negative impression this could give of the school in a public domain. Regular readers of this letter will know the importance I place on communication between school and home and I am always happy to respond to queries or comments, when they are lodged in the appropriate way.

As such, I would ask any parent to direct any questions about any aspect of school life to the relevant person at school, be this through a phone call or contacting directly via email. Details can be found here [Staff-List-2022-2023.pdf \(nailseaschool.com\)](#)



Website information

The school website contains a range of information that parents could find useful, particularly those new to the school. A new attendance section of the website has been updated for the start of the year which can be accessed here [Attendance & Punctuality – Nailsea School](#)

The website also has curriculum details for every subject. The main curriculum section is here [Curriculum – Nailsea School](#) and by clicking on your choice of subject and then the 'Curriculum Map' tab parents will be able to see what is being covered in class over the course of the year.

Once again, if there are any questions related to subject issues please contact the Head of Subject/Faculty in the first instance.

Drama Lessons in Year 7, 8 and 9

As students will be aware from an announcement in tutor time, due to staffing shortages, for one year only Drama will not be a timetabled subject in years 7, 8 and 9. As students in Year 7 and 8 will have seen on their timetables, they have one extra English lesson and one Reading for Learning lesson timetabled instead. In Year 9 students have two additional lessons of art. I appreciate this may be disappointing for students but we are committed to Drama in both the short and long term. We will keep you posted on the recruitment process.

Admissions Area Consultation

Please find attached information from North Somerset Local Authority. There is a legal requirement for them to consult and review the area for proposed school admission arrangements. Any comments on the attached can be sent direct to the admissions team at North Somerset.

Finally... as existing parents are aware, my final letter of the last academic year acknowledged the huge impact Jo Hopkinson, the Chair of Governors had on the school as she stepped down from her role. Jo was a huge presence both in school but also in the Nailsea community and so I am sure many of you will know that she, sadly, passed away over the summer. I will be attending her funeral next week and we will then take some time as a school to think of a way to officially recognise the lasting impact she has had on staff and students alike. As I said last term, Jo was passionate about education and the importance it has in empowering young people to improve their lives. On a personal level, Jo was also a huge support both professionally and personally over the time we worked together epitomised by the fact that despite all the challenges she was facing she started every meeting by asking me how I was. I will miss her terribly but believe she is still with us all in spirit. It seems fitting, especially this September to finish with the words of the late Queen Elizabeth II:

'Grief is the price we pay for love'

Do spend some time with your loved ones this weekend.

Take care and be kind

Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher