

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/carers

This week it has been really encouraging to see how students are settling into new classes and subjects. Despite being very close to the start of term we welcomed our new School Improvement Partner to Nailsea on Monday who visited lessons and had meetings with groups of students. It was really pleasing to hear the comments that came through in the report and I felt it was important to share some key comments with you:

'Leaders have high ambition for pupils and insist that adaptive teaching supports all pupils. Teachers are experts and staffing is strong. Outcomes are increasingly strong. Leaders have strong quality assurance processes and are using these to drive consistency across the school'

'Behaviour and attitudes are strong both in lessons and around the school site. There is a calm orderly environment, clear routines and consistency. There is no disruption of lessons and pupils report that bullying and discrimination are rare...Pupils expressed that they felt that teachers would deal with any instances quickly'

'Leadership and management at all levels is a real strength of the school...Leaders have put strong, consistent policies into place and make sure they follow them through. The leadership of curriculum intent and implementation is strong'

I am incredibly proud of our staff that have worked hard to address the issues that were raised in the 2020 Ofsted inspection and these comments suggest that real progress has been made. There were also some topics raised in Monday's visit that are ongoing areas of improvement (for example the rewards system, trips and enrichment and lunchtime supervision). Please be assured that I will update you on intended changes in these areas in due course.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

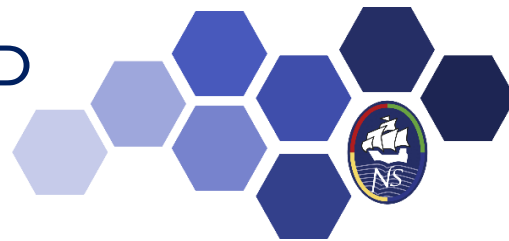
Student Entrances

From Monday 25th September the Station Road entrance will not be open and closed at the start and end of the school day. Given the restricted access at this entrance and members of the public reporting a number of 'near misses' between students (both walking and on bikes) and cars this entrance will be closed for the foreseeable future. I appreciate that this decision may add a few minutes to the journey to and from school for some families, but the essence of the decision is based around the importance of student safety.

The main entrance (MizzyMead Road) and the Ash Hayes Road entrance will be the only two student entrances moving forward.

In addition, members of the public have also reported dangerous behaviour when parents are dropping students off at MizzyMead Road, specifically near the pedestrian crossing. I would ask parents to be mindful of other road users and pedestrians when drop offs take place.

Thank you, in advance, for understanding that prioritising the safety of students is paramount in decision making.



Open Evening – Thursday 28th September, 5pm – 8pm

Many thanks to the students that have volunteered to act as guides or Subject Ambassadors during Open Evening next week.

As previously shared, in order to ensure the site can be fully prepared for the evening and in recognition of the late finish on the evening there will be some changes to the school day next week.

- Thursday 28th September – students will be dismissed at 2pm. There will be no lesson 5 that day. School transport providers will be informed and students will leave one hour earlier than usual.
- Friday 29th September – students will be expected in tutor time for 9:40am. There will be no lesson 1 that day. Students will attend period 2, as usual, from 10am. School transport providers will be informed and students will arrive one hour later than usual.

Iceland Trip – November 2024

Current year 11 and 12 students have the opportunity to come along to an information evening on Wednesday 27th September at 5pm to hear about our planned 5 day expedition to Iceland. Although this will be incredibly useful for students taking A Level Geography, the trip is open to all students. The meeting will take place in the auditorium.

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together – Day of SEND event

Please find attached a flyer related to an event taking place on 18th October.

The QR code on the leaflet attached and the link below will enable you to access the full programme for the day <https://www.nspcwt.org/events-1/event-a-day-of-send>

Finally....this is the first season I have entered into a Fantasy Football competition, with the idea having been suggested by another of the Head teachers in the Wessex Learning Trust. I am currently 5th in the League (out of 9) and 43 points from the top spot.

In all honesty I have been surprised with how addictive I have found the whole thing, even only after week 5 – although I am not surprised with how competitive I am. What it certainly reminds me, is that every part of the team is important in making the whole group succeed. In my case Haaland, of Man City, may score several goals (who doesn't have him in their team?!) but it is just as important for my team that Evan Ferguson from Brighton has a great game in order to secure those points.

All of us, (be that student, parent or staff member) has a part to play in ensuring TeamNailsea is the very best it can be. Please be reassured, I am relentless in my pursuit of this aim and I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve it – as well as, hopefully, a top 3 finish in the Fantasy League! Have a good weekend.

Take care and be kind

Mrs Dee Elliott

Head teacher