

Nailsea School

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020 | Term 1



Message from the Head

The Disney+ channel continues to be a favourite in the House of Elliott and with the weather taking a decidedly autumnal turn over the last few weeks, I have taken the opportunity to share one of my guilty secrets with Mr Elliott - the High School Musical movie. I am not saying I have convinced him to add this to his top movie list, but the words of the lead song 'We're all in this together' certainly had a particular resonance with us both as we moved through this term in our respective schools. Having the corridors full of students once again with students back together in September was a really special moment and did bring a lump to my throat.

I cannot begin to describe my admiration for the staff and students who have returned to a new normal and adapted so quickly and successfully to the systems we currently have in place. As students will have passed on, the key business of teaching and learning is continuing, all be it in a different way, as are the calendared events, although largely completed remotely. Irrespective of the changes in place, our key focus of ensuring our students are safe and happy, and therefore receptive to learning, remains the case.

As you read about the great things that are continuing to happen at Nailsea School within this newsletter, I will leave you with the words sung by Gabriella, Troy, and the rest of the students at East High School which definitely sum up my feelings:

*'Everyone is special in their own way
We make each other stronger
We're not the same
We're different in a good way
Together's where we belong'*

Have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing #teamnailsea at the start of term 2.

Mrs Elliott
Headteacher



Farewell to Mr Morris

Mr Morris is retiring this term, he has worked at Nailsea School for over 12 years in various roles and currently as Assistant to the Heads of House. As a non-teaching member of staff he has worked closely with hundreds of students over the years offering them guidance, support and advice. He has turned the lives of many children around, setting them on a better path and towards a brighter future.

He is affectionately known as the 'old GOAT' - translating to 'Greatest Of All Time', his work at Nailsea School has been invaluable and he will be missed by colleagues and students alike. We wish him a very happy retirement.

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A Message from the Governors

The ongoing Covid-19 situation facing us has enabled our school and community to shine. The Governors are so thankful for the ongoing hard work of the school leadership and staff to enable our school to remain a safe place for students, and their resilience in meeting all the challenges of this term.

We would also like to thank all the parents and carers who have supported the school; it is wonderful to be a part of this community. We send particular thanks to our Nailsea PTA, whose efforts we greatly appreciate. They have been a wonderful source of support to the staff in this difficult time, and we recognise how very valuable this is.

The Governors have been continuing to meet (by Zoom) and have been remotely continuing our roles. This term many school events which we would typically be attending have had a very different format. The online resources for Year 10 information evening and Year 7 induction videos were an innovative way to receive information and many parents have remarked positively about these different school communications. In October, the school had the new challenge of hosting a virtual Open Evening, and we are grateful for all the time, passion and commitment of our staff promoting our school going forwards.



Settling in Success

We would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of our newest #teamnailsea members - our superb Year 7 cohort – for the way they have handled a very different sort of transition. Since joining us in September they have already started to grow in confidence and ability. It has been really great to see lots of new friendships forming, and a huge amount of support being offered between members of our youngest year group. We have received much positive praise from both their subject teachers and tutors alike.

It is really important that as we move towards Term 2 that Year 7 maintain their high standards. Checking Show My Homework should by now be part of daily routines, and pride should be taken in completing any work set in a timely and efficient manner. The overall number of Behaviour Points across Year 7 remains encouragingly low – which is fantastic. We want to see more Reward Points being awarded as we go forward. Don't forget to let your tutors know of any achievements outside of school - we reward those also!

Communication is key when dealing with any queries or problems, and we would encourage all parents to ensure that they are now fully engaged with the School Gateway app. This is an easy to use and really useful tool for school to home communication.

Keep up the great work, Year 7.

Mr Mawford and Mr Hellier



Mr Mawford—Transition Manager



Mr Hellier —Head of Year 7 Bubble

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Rotary Walk – fundraiser while you walk/run

Nailsea Rotary Club are running their Charity Walks again - Nailsea School PTA is one of the nominated good causes.

The walks can take place at any time between the 11th - 31st October. The more people registered against Nailsea School PTA, the more money we can raise as funds are split according to the number of walkers representing each cause. It costs £7 for an adult and children are free (but they still count in our numbers). Any Nailsea School student participating will gain 25 house points. You can register any time up until 31st October. Please consider supporting us this year when raising funds is harder than ever- you can find out more info and register at [here](#).

Easyfundraising – fundraiser when you shop online

We've registered Nailsea School Parent Teacher Association with easyfundraising, which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them.

These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Register now before you start your Christmas Shopping! It's also possible to register for multiple causes [here](#).



The PTA Summer WINTER Fun Prize Draw

As announced in the last newsletter, the PTA's annual prize draw was postponed. It will now be drawn on Monday 14th Dec and tickets will be on sale via ParentPay very soon.

If you bought a ticket at one of our events earlier in the year this will still be valid for the postponed draw. Thank you to all the local businesses that continue to support us with prize donations.

Would you like to find out more about the PTA?

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm via Zoom – new faces would be very welcome. Please email us to request the zoom login details at nailseapta@nailseaschool.com. All specific committee roles are full so don't worry about being pressured into taking on anything you don't want to. Joining the PTA is a great way to support the school and feel a little more involved in your child's education. We welcome volunteers at

all levels whether it's being part of the committee or helping with events – volunteer time is always appreciated.

Social Media – keep up to date with latest news

The PTA are planning a few other innovative ways to fundraise in the coming months - so please follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to keep up to date.

New Lectern—Donated by the PTA

You may have seen, in recent social media posts, the fabulous new lectern funded by the PTA – as you can see Mrs Elliott is very pleased with it!

Support from the PTA usually allows the school to purchase the 'extras' but in these unprecedented times the committee also decided to give funds for essential items to make the 'new normal' life around school a bit easier.

One use of this funding will be the purchase of more webcams to help with virtual Parents' Evenings and delivering online lessons if necessary.



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Nailsea Sixth Form



Open Evening Online

Available On Demand

19th November - 14th December 2020

"Consistently one of the highest achieving 6th forms in North Somerset, with excellent results every year"



Nailsea Sixth Form offers a wide range of Level 2 and Level 3 courses, including partnerships with Priority Football & boomsatsuma. Meet the team, see our prospectus and find out more on our website.

www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/welcome-to-sixth-form/

Sofa So-Good!

During lockdown, the decision was made to remove all the fabric sofas from Nailsea Sixth Form common room leaving only the leather sofas which are much easier to wipe down and keep clean.

The Nailsea Sixth Form team asked for donations of leather/faux leather sofas via social media and were blown away at the incredible response they received. Within hours, they had been offered sofas and armchairs from all over North Somerset including Weston-Super-Mare, Portishead and our local Nailsea community.

It has made a huge difference to the students who are now able to socially distance more easily and no longer need to clamber for a seat.

Year 13 students Alex said:

"On behalf of Nailsea Sixth Form, we would like to thank everyone for their generosity. The sofas have

been greatly appreciated by all students and have given us a space to relax between lessons. New sofas have given us a safer environment as we are able to clean them before and after use. Thank you for your kindness!"

Year 13 students Eloisa said:

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated sofas to Nailsea school sixth form, it's truly changed the dynamic of the common room as we can now all socially distance comfortably. The leather sofas are easily cleaned meaning that they enforce our safety during this time. Lunch times are now more homely because we can all sit and chat without people being left out because there was a lack of seating."

Year 12 Sixth Form Students have settled well into the courses now, after the challenging end to their Year 11 exams, the organisation will be hosting a virtual Open Evening this year for prospective entrants - see www.nailseaschool.com for further details.



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Autism Spectrum Disorder—Resource Base

This September Nailsea School launched its Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Resource Base. The aim of this provision is for students with an ASD diagnosis and Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) to have an extended transition into secondary school life with them ultimately being able to successfully access the main school full time. This follows the launch in 2017 of the Nailsea School Hub for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) where they are able to access a reduced mainstream timetable supplemented by a specialist provision to ensure that their social, emotional and sensory needs are met.

The ASD Resource Base is situated where the library used to be, housed in the centre of the school, where it has its own entry and exit points and has enjoyed a redesign with 'pod' classrooms and open plan areas for learning and support.

Nailsea School Hub Intervention and Resource Base co-exist, sharing these same aims. Each child's needs are continually monitored and assessed, a flexible approach ensures that the best course of action for each child is adopted. The first of its type in North Somerset, the Hub and Resource Base have been supported by North Somerset Council and is now being recommended by them to other schools looking to improve their SEND offering.

SEND SURGERY - Contact anytime
SENCO: Slloyd@nailseaschool.com
Deputy SENCO / Hub: deputysenco@nailseaschool.com



Memorial Banner

Students have created a colourful banner to be displayed in a large canvas tent that has been donated to Nailsea School's Developing Engagement in Nature (DEN) project by the Nailsea Community Trust (NCT).

The banner is in memorial to John Smithson and is a legacy championed by his wife in dedication to all the work Mr Smithson undertook for the NCT. Mr Smithson was a founding member of the Nailsea Community Trust and hugely supportive of the DEN project.

The students used fabric wax crayons to create nature inspired patches to form a border to this memorial embroidery. The donated tent will be used for workshops and events.

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Meet The Team

Some new appointments took place over the past few months, and with each termly newsletter we will be introducing the team and putting faces to the names.



Charis Duckworth - Academic Mentor

My name is Charis and I've joined the Nailsea Team this September in the role of Academic Mentor. I'll be working with selected students to help them reach their educational potential.

I've been working with 11-18-year olds in and out of school settings for 10 years. I've recently moved back to the South-West (aka the motherland) from London where I was managing an exclusion reduction programme across schools in South London. Helping young people find their passion and work towards it is what I've always come to work for and I'm excited to now be doing that at Nailsea School.

Out of work, alongside any creative hobby I can experiment, with you'll usually find me running, attempting to bake, or trying to convince my partner that we should go to Disneyland.



Paul Jones - Head of English

I'm the new Head of English, having taken up the reins from Mrs Ruddy who has joined the Senior Team. I lead an amazing department and in essence, my role involves oversight for the texts we teach and how we teach them. At heart, I'm a modernist and have a Master's degree from Birkbeck where I did lots of work about time and identity. I like to look for ways to get this into the classroom; to make students think about the world and how their identity is shaped by the forces around them. In this respect I am looking forward to teaching Phillip Larkin, W.H. Auden and Louis MacNeice next term to our Year 12 Literature students. I think my favourite poem on a good day might be *An Arundel Tomb*, where a belief in love endures long after we are gone.

What little spare time I have is spent writing books about people and cycling. Or as my daughter puts it, "blah blah blah bikes bikes bikes". I am hoping to introduce these elements - the writing and not the bikes - into our extra-curricular programme. Look out for our new Nailsea Seminars and some very exciting writing clubs in the terms ahead.

Teaching is my vocation and I'm enjoying this next phase in my journey. I'm excited by the endless potentiality of how we can make Nailsea School an even better place for young people and their parents. This ranges from the obvious, like improving results; to the less obvious but no less vital: following a dream, finding happiness and living your best life.



Annette Watts - SLT Assistant

I work with the Senior Leadership Team across all areas of the school and oversee school communications so I generally have a good idea of what's happening around school and can be a first point of contact for problem-solving, advice and enquiries. Good communication between school and home is essential in creating a supportive environment for students to thrive. Any query parents, students or staff have, they can just ask and if I don't know how to help I can guarantee I'll know someone who does. Colleagues affectionately refer to my role as "Watts Up".

My background is in events and previously I worked in places including the Bristol 2000 project, Redwood Lodge and the British Red Cross. I recently completed a psychology degree with the Open University indulging my passion of understanding what makes people tick. My final dissertation was based on the psychology of success. I find teenagers fascinating - they are funny and have a bright, fresh perspective on life - we can learn so much from them so I definitely feel like I'm working in the right place! I live locally and have had two children come through Nailsea School so I have seen it from both viewpoints and can empathise with the difficult job of being a parent.

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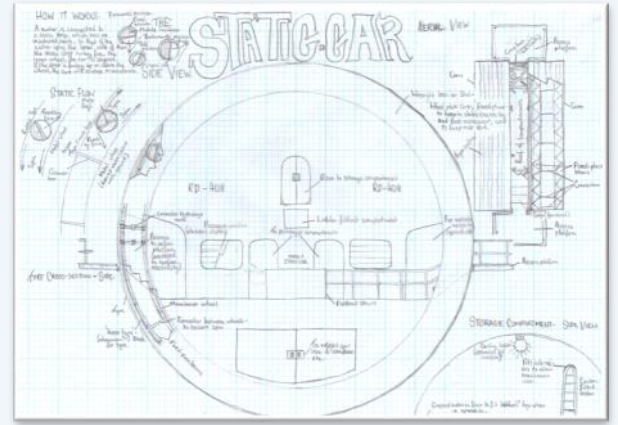
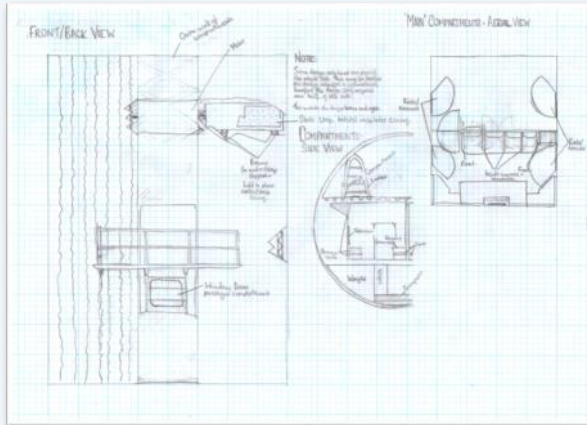


Green Tech Winner

Congratulations to Year 9 student Amon S, for his winning entry to the Clean Transport competition that was held by the Centre for Sustainable & Circular Technologies throughout June and July. Amon won the KS3 prize, with his 'Static Car' design – which the judges loved.

Amon won a book called "How To" by Randal Munroe, a backpack made from recycled bottle plastic and a personalised keyring made from a sustainable plastic called PLA which is bio-sourced and biodegradable.

The Centre for Sustainable & Circular Technologies places sustainability and circularity at the core of research, innovation & public engagement, in association with the University of Bath.



Headphones

A reminder from the Music department that where possible students should bring in a set of headphones to their music lessons. These are for their own personal use. Due to the control measures in place for Covid19, unfortunately we are currently unable to share the schools' equipment.



Year 7 Golf Team Success

A big WELL DONE to Year 7 Frances S from 7C (Phoenix House) for being part of the junior team from Long Ashton Golf Club that won the South West England Regional Final recently.

Frances was one of a team of 6 that competed for this prestigious prize at the famous Bowood Golf Club.

We look 'fore'ward to hearing how Frances and the team get on at the next competition. Good luck!

Mr Hellier



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Welcome to Nailsea School's first **Wellbeing Bulletin** of the Academic year. The aim of this bulletin is to share with you useful information, strategies and resources in order to support our students mental wellbeing.

The past few months have been particularly worrying and for many have had an impact on their mental wellbeing. In response to this, the Nailsea School Safeguarding Team thought we'd kick the year off talking about negative thoughts and how to manage them. We hope you find the following information helpful.

If you are struggling at all and would like some support or guidance then please do contact the Safeguarding Team who are available to support you. Alternatively if you are not quite ready to talk to us then please do check out our directory of services on the Nailsea School website. It is full of outside agencies and resources that we recommend.

AUTOMATIC NEGATIVE THOUGHT?

An 'ANT' is a thinking pattern that doesn't match reality. When you notice that you are having one, you can begin to train your mind to ignore them. Get to know a few of the common ones so that you will be able to stop them:

ALL OR NOTHING *example: it's not perfect, so it must be awful'*

You see things in black or white with no in between. You believe that everything is either right or wrong with no exceptions. You think of things as a complete success or a total failure. This type of thinking sets you up for failure almost always. Give yourself some slack! You are only human!

PREDICTING THE FUTURE *example: 'I'll forget what I'm supposed to do'*

You expect bad things to happen. When thinking of your future, have a positive mind-set. If you imagine yourself being successful you are more likely to have a good outcome. When you picture a negative outcome in your mind, it will often keep you from trying. Stop expecting bad things to happen. You never know what will happen unless you try. Try new things. Be brave!

MIND READER *example 'I bet they hate me. They must be staring at me because she doesn't like my clothes'*

You think you know what others are thinking. You assume the worst without evidence. You cannot read minds. Don't try to guess what people are thinking. You will be wrong a lot of the time.

STEWING *example 'I keep thinking about my mistakes'*

You keep going over something in your mind hoping you can figure out a way to change it. When you repeat negative thoughts or bad experiences over and over in your mind, you begin to lose sight of the positive things around you. Stop thinking about mistakes too much. Think more about what you did right. Think less about what you did wrong and focus on the positive.

MAGNIFYING

When you let one bad thing define everything in your life. This occurs when you make a big deal out of something small. Don't focus on one bad thing when there are so many good things too.

PERSONALISATION *example 'I must have done something wrong because my teacher looks angry'*

You blame yourself for everything. You think that everything people say or do is a reaction to something you did. This isn't the case, there are many factors.

MANAGING AUTOMATIC THOUGHTS:

- Notice the thought and label it as untrue
- Challenge the truth of the thought with evidence or facts
- Remember that positive emotions undo negative thinking
- Distract yourself with something happy.

Have a go at some of the options below that can help you for a minute or two

- Listen to your favourite music
- Watch your favourite videos
- Connect with someone who's good for you
- Watch inspiring YouTube videos
- Spend time with a pet (your own or someone else's)
- Think about a special and positive memory
- Count to 10
- Take 5 deep breaths
- Phone someone you like and trust
- Message or text someone whom you value
- Watch TV programmes that make you feel better
- Take a break and go outside for a walk
- Take a break by moving to another room
- Get a hug from someone you trust
- Remind yourself that these intense and overwhelming feelings won't last forever
- Remind yourself that you got through tough times before and can again.

If you are struggling and feel that you need support you can contact the pastoral team on the email addresses below:

Safeguarding Team: Safeguardingteam@nailseaschool.com

Mr Mawford (Safeguarding Lead):
cmawford@nailseaschool.com

Miss Cadwallader (Deputy Safeguarding Lead):
lcadwallader@nailseaschool.com

Alternatively if you would prefer support outside of school please see the directory of services on the school website for outside agencies or contact your GP. If you worry that you cannot keep yourself safe, please call 999.

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Netflix Adventure

Nailsea School was delighted to welcome Wildseed studios to use its site as a filming location for the Netflix sci-fi adventure 'The Last Bus' this October. Wildseed studios are based in Bristol, where much of the filming will take place including at the Bottle Yard studios.



The film crew arrived on Nailsea School site on Friday and left on Sunday this included filming time and down time to ensure the building was Covid secure.

Bristol was made a Unesco city of film in 2017 and since then has continued to flourish in the creative and filming industries. Nailsea School was excited to take part in the activities and would willing be used as a filming location again.



Donations Thank You!

Nailsea School were grateful to receive donations of

- 7 x Webcams from Impact IT Solutions
- 2 x 5 litres of Hand Sanitiser from Unicorn Office Supplies
- 150 x Traffic cones from Murphy Construction.

The donations were organised by PTA member Nancy M, who asked the school to make suggestions as to what would help them, now that new ways of working were being established under the new Covid19 guidelines.

New government guidelines mean that all schools need to be able to teach online, should they be required this means for a school the size of Nailsea we would need approximately 8 webcams per year group, which is more than 50 in total. As a school in Term 1 we have used 120 litres of hand-sanitiser—which is the equivalent of 60 large tubs of ice-cream! The cones will help us to enforce the bubble system we have in school, and around the site including the car park and school field.

In addition to organising these fabulous donations the PTA also donated a tin of Heroes to staff...thanks for the chocs! Thank you very to the companies involved in donating—your generosity is very much appreciated.



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NAILSEA SCHOOL STARS

Celebrating those that have aimed a little bit higher, believed in going the extra mile and succeeded in reaching their goals. If there's someone you think deserves "Nailsea School Stars" recognition, then please do drop us an email with details to fdavies@nailseaschool.com

- ★ Mr Hellier thinks **All of Year 7** are total stars for an amazing start to your first year as part of #teamnailsea.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner thinks Year 9 student Poppy R is a total star for brilliant effort whilst at home to keep doing Badminton.
- ★ Miss Creswick thinks Year 10 student Adrian A is a total star for a great start to the year.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student David M is a total star for a superb enthusiasm and focus in GCSE History.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student Dylan T is a total star for a fantastic set of contributions to class discussion and focusing hard on work set.
- ★ Miss Creswick thinks Year 10 student Edie C is a total star for a wonderful poetry essay.
- ★ Ms Thompson thinks Year 10 student Edie C is a total star for a detailed and informative summary of the Nepal case study.
- ★ Ms Thompson thinks Year 10 student Elliot G is a total star for a super summary of the Nepal case study.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner thinks Year 10 student Hannah O is a total star for superb effort in Badminton.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student Jack S is a total star for excellent contribution to class discussion and great homework efforts in GCSE History.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student Jack W is a total star for an excellent start to GCSE History focusing well in class.
- ★ Ms Thompson thinks Year 10 student Lauren H is a total star for a fantastic summary of the Nepal case study.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner thinks Year 10 student Lily B is a total star for effort and determination in badminton.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 10 student Lily B-J is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner thinks Year 10 student Lily B-J is a total star for an amazing start to the OCR PE course.
- ★ Ms Thompson thinks Year 10 student Lily K is a total star for excellent notes on the Nepal case study.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student Molly W is a total star for great resilience shown in ensuring new terms and content are used appropriately in GCSE History.
- ★ Mrs Elliott thinks Year 10 student Oscar V is a total star for superb use of key terminology in both written and verbal contributions.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 10 student Sawyer H is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Mrs Davies thinks Year 11 student Adam E is a total star for fantastic work on achieving your black belt in karate.
- ★ Mrs Dunn thinks Year 11 student Anabela R is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 11 student Chloe S is a total star for greater confidence in speaking French this year.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 11 student Harry T is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Miss Creswick thinks Year 11 student Jerry J is a total star for a fantastic analysis of 'Macbeth' and contributions to class.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 11 student Lauren P is a total star for a fabulous homework/exam question on holidays.
- ★ Mrs Dunn thinks Year 11 student Mollie R is a total star for a great start to the year with a positive attitude in class.
- ★ Miss Cahill thinks Year 11 student Nathan P is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Miss Creswick thinks Year 11 student Sonny C is a total star for an amazing start to the year, and to 'Macbeth'.
- ★ Mrs Dunn thinks Year 11 student Tallulah S is a total star for a fabulous start to the year and contributions to class.
- ★ Mrs Dunn thinks Year 11 student William H is a total star for a positive start to the year.
- ★ Miss Creswick thinks Year 11 student Zac L is a total star for his great attitude and focus.

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