

Welcome to Nailsea School Induction Booklet 2024



Wessex
Learning Trust
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Welcome to Nailsea School

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you to Nailsea School. I am delighted you have chosen Nailsea as your secondary school and we are excited for you to experience what school life is like here. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead and celebrating your success as you progress through the school.

The years ahead will be some of the most memorable in your lifetime. We are privileged to help you on this journey. I know that you may have some anxieties about your move. What I can promise you is an unwavering dedication from a talented group of staff who believe passionately in giving the best opportunities for all the young people in our school and also for all the parents and carers. Every student at Nailsea is an important individual and we will work with every one of you to bring out the very best of your potential and shine a light into a future that perhaps you didn't know existed.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher



Contents

PAGE

2. Welcome from the Headteacher
3. Transition, explanation of student groups and classes
4. Heads of House and tutor groups
5. Transition Events
6. Nailsea School Uniform
7. School Day, Homework and SEN
8. Key school information and admin
9. Transition: how can parents help
10. A message for our future Year 7s

Transition



Hello and welcome to Nailsea School.

We understand that a move between primary and secondary is a big event and during this time we aim to keep you as informed and supported as we can to ensure the transition is successful and enjoyable.

As the applications for places are now confirmed, Nailsea School staff can start to put plans in place for welcoming a new cohort of Year 7 students in September 2024. Over the coming months we will be visiting primary schools and meeting Year 6 teachers to gather information that will help make the move to Nailsea School as smooth as possible for all of our new families. In the summer term we will use this information as we start to allocate students to Houses, tutor groups, teaching groups and classes. Students will find when they join in September they are in a number of different groups, each with different mixes of students maximising the opportunity for them to make new friends and settle in to the school.

We are planning transition events in the summer term that will help students familiarise themselves with the school, meet their new classmates and teachers and most importantly ask the burning questions that they will no doubt have.

Please look at this booklet with your child as it contains information to introduce you to Nailsea School. One of the biggest adjustments for families at this time is the change as students become more independent, seek out information and answers themselves, learn to manage their time, plan their work and start to take ownership of their learning. This is a good opportunity to support them as they begin to make those changes.

Thank you for selecting Nailsea School, we look forward to meeting you all in the summer terms and working with you to ensure your child's move to secondary school is exciting, trouble free and a good foundation for the next phase in their educational journey.

Transition Team



Class groups

A big difference for students at secondary school is the way their classes are put together. Students have individual timetables following a 2 week program of lessons which they attend in their teaching groups 7a to 7h. The Transition Team use information from the primary schools to ensure each teaching group has a range of students covering a mix of academic abilities, ages, gender, primary schools, interests, personalities, as well as taking on advice from primaries about students that work well together or who are best kept apart. Students will also find that within these teaching groups for certain subjects they are with different students, for example Technology, PE, Maths as abilities change and teachers regroup students according to the requirements of the subject.

Students naturally change and develop as they make the transition from primary to secondary adapting their interests, priorities and personalities. This can have a dramatic effect on friendships as individuals change and meet new people. For this reason we do not take friendship requests ahead of the move into Year 7. Please be assured a lot of time and consideration is given to ensuring students are placed within groups where they will see familiar faces and meet students with similar outlooks. We enjoy seeing the effort put into our transition program coming to fruition each year as we witness the smooth and confident start to September for our new students.

Houses and Tutor Groups



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Nailsea School. We are the House team. There are 4 Houses: Dragon, Griffin, Phoenix and Unicorn. In each House, every tutor group contains a mix of students from year seven to year eleven. We have found this system works really well as it gives students a chance to mix with and make friends with students from different year groups as well as their own.

Each day students meet up with their Tutor Group. These groups contain around 5 or 6 students from each year group. Tutor Groups are put together in a similar way to Teaching Groups and are structured vertically as part of the House system. We do try to place siblings in the same House. Tutor time is a chance to receive news and notices about school life, ask questions of the tutor and follow up on school admin, plan tutor group assemblies, take part in quizzes competing with the other Houses and group projects. Within their tutor groups students follow the ABSolute Curriculum covering a range of topics.

We aim to work together to try and help each other achieve our very best. Our collective ethos is to 'celebrate effort, success and achievement at all levels and across all areas of the School'. This also includes any effort, success and achievement made outside of School. We want you to be part of this ethos and make every effort to be the best you can be. We will do everything we can to help you do this.

We very much look forward to meeting you soon.



Heads of House

Griffin



Mrs Vass

Dragon



Mr Miles

Phoenix



Mrs Wisby

Unicorn



Mr Howard

Induction Day



All current Year 6 students transferring to Nailsea School in September are invited to come to school on Wednesday 10 July for an Induction Day.

Students should arrive at the main entrance by 8.30 am ready for an 8.40 start. They will sign in and then spend a short period of time in the main auditorium when key members of staff will be introduced, and the organisation of the day explained. After this students will meet their Heads of House and take part in a series of 'taster' lessons.

The Induction Day finishes at 3.00 pm, and students are free to walk home or be collected from the front of school.

Students should come to school in their junior school uniform. They do not need to bring PE kit. They will need to bring a pen and pencil to use during lessons and a water bottle.

We find most students prefer to bring a packed lunch on Induction Day although refreshments/lunch can be purchased and currently a main course lunch plus dessert costs £4.05. Students who have free school meals will be given a packed lunch from their primary school.

If your child needs to take prescribed medicines on the day, please hand these in on arrival in a clearly named bag.

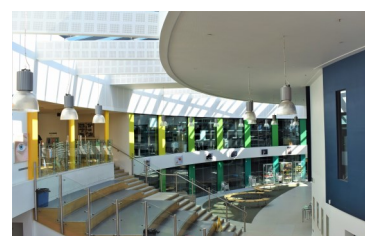
Induction Evening

Parents are invited to attend our Induction Evening on Wednesday 10th July to meet with senior staff and tutors. Students should not attend as there is limited room and information is aimed at parents.

The evening starts at 6.00pm for parents of Phoenix and Unicorn House students and at 6.30pm for parents of Dragon and Griffin House students.

During the evening parents will meet their child's tutor and will also attend a presentation about what to expect in Year 7. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask any questions. Confirmation of the first day in September including timings will be given on this evening.

Please note that very limited parking is available on site so where possible, please use the local public car parks and walk across.



Year 6 Family Social

We are planning a welcome afternoon for those students starting at Nailsea School this September.

In the summer term students are invited to come along to a social event to be held at the school. The PE Department will host a friendly sports activity for Year 6s starting at 4.30pm and we would be delighted if your family would join us for a **FREE** welcome Barbecue.

The Barbecue will be a great opportunity to mingle with other students and parents and to meet key members of Nailsea School staff in a relaxed setting.

We will send out further information about this event and how to book during Term 5.



Uniform for Students Years 7 - 11



Please see Nailsea School's website for further information on jewellery, makeup and uniform.

All items of uniform should be marked with the student's name and be clean and neat. Trousers, shoes and shirts can be purchased from any outlet but must follow the guidelines below.

School ties and sweatshirts can be purchased exclusively from School Togs.

Sweatshirt	Compulsory – School sweatshirt with the school badge
Fleece	Optional – School fleece branded with the school badge, can be worn as an additional layer
Shirt	White shirt (long or short sleeve) top button done up
Tie	Clip on House Tie
Trousers	Tailored black trousers. (Skin tight fitting style trousers are not allowed).
Shoes	Black leather shoes or trainers (no canvas, boots or coloured flashes/logos)

PE Kit:

Compulsory Kit

PE Polo Shirt (navy & gold)
 Plain navy sports shorts (not cycling shorts)
 Reversible navy and gold rugby shirt
 Trainers
 Long navy socks – needed when wearing shin pads (white sports socks to be worn otherwise)
 A pair of shin pads (for football and hockey)
 A gum shield (compulsory for hockey and competitive rugby)
 Football boots for football and rugby
 All jewellery must be removed for every lesson this cannot be taped
 Piercings, in line with the school uniform policy, must be done at the start of the summer holidays to allow time for healing. Piercings cannot be worn in PE lessons at all and cannot be taped.

Optional Kit

A pair of navy blue sports leggings with printed Nailsea logo
 A plain navy blue jumper (no hoodies)
 Hoodless waterproof navy coat
 Skort

School Togs

School Togs stock all uniform and PE kit items and are happy to advise.

School Togs will be running a 10% discount promotion (new starter buy scheme) on Nailsea School branded uniform and PE kit.

This offer is available from 1st June until 31st July.

www.schooltogsnailesea.co.uk | 01275 857491 | School Togs: 2 Clevedon Walk, Crown Glass Shopping Centre, Nailsea



The School Day

The school day starts at 8.40am and it is expected that students should be in school and ready for the start of the school day by 8.30am. School finishes at 3.00pm.

- Term 1: 05 September – 24 October 2024
- Term 2: 04 November – 20 December 2024
- Term 3: 07 January – 14 February 2025
- Term 4: 24 February – 04 April 2025
- Term 5: 22 April – 23 May 2025
- Term 6: 02 June – 22 July 2025



Homework

At Nailsea School, we believe that homework is an integral part of students' learning. The main benefits include:

- Consolidating and extending learning outside of the classroom
- Allowing students time to consider a subject or topic in more depth; leading to a better understanding of key concepts
- Giving time to develop and practice skills such as problem solving, research and extended writing.
- Building independence, self-discipline and organisational skills which we value as important life skills all students should be equipped with once they leave our school



In addition, homework forms an important bridge between our school and parents. It provides you with opportunities to see what your child is learning and to support their attitude to learning through positive encouragement.

Teaching staff are mindful of the need to balance the benefits of homework with time for students to enjoy themselves outside of school. We do not have a set homework timetable (although as a minimum expectation, all tasks set will have a 3 day turn around). As a school, we strongly believe that homework should be relevant, challenging and meaningful and that it will only be set when it is appropriate to do so.

We offer a supported study space for those students who would benefit from attending to their homework in school.

ClassCharts

Nailsea School uses an online system called ClassCharts to set all homework tasks. The site enables teachers to clearly explain the homework that has been set, suggest how long students should spend on it and be clear on when it is due in. Teachers can also upload help sheets and other resources needed to complete homework in order to support students in their independent study.

Information about how to access ClassCharts and the unique codes are shared once the student accounts are set up in September.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The SEND Team co-ordinate the whole school response to individual learning needs across the range of age, ability and curriculum. Discussions with primary schools take place in the term prior to students arriving to identify any barriers so that we have strategies in place for year 7 arrival in September.

The Hub is where the SEND team is located and whole school intervention is delivered in addition to the resource base. The North Somerset resource base is a provision whereby some of the student timetable is delivered within the Hub location and the rest is accessed in the mainstream. This provision is specifically for ASD students and there is an entry criteria, which is managed by North Somerset SEND team.

Our SENCo is Melody Cole. She can be contacted at the school on 01275 852251, mcole@nailseaschool.com.



ParentPay

ParentPay accounts enable parents to make swift financial transactions for trips, activities, resources and to put money on the student's lunch pass.

You will receive a letter in July detailing the information you need to set up a ParentPay account.



Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Did you know that registering for Free School Meals provides much more than a meal? It attracts extra 'Pupil Premium' funding to the school that can be used to help your child to achieve their full potential.

Information about the process and eligibility is available via this link www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals

Even if you do not think you would make use of the free meals you should still apply, as there are many other benefits to the scheme. Registering also enables the school to access Pupil Premium funding which we use to help your child to participate fully in all learning activities.

If you have any questions about Free School Meals and Pupil Premium, or would like some help with your application, please contact Sophie Ruddy at the school 01275 852251, srutty@nailseaschool.com.



Lockers

All students in Nailsea School are provided with a secure locker for their sole use. There is a one-off payment of £25.00 to cover locker use in Years 7 – 11 including a £5.00 refundable deposit. This is payable via ParentPay by 16 August 2024 to ensure your child has a locker allocated for the first day of term.



Cashless Catering

Cashless Catering eliminates the need to carry money throughout the day. Students are given a keycard on their first day to which parents can add funds via ParentPay. Students will then use the keycard to pay for hot and cold food and drinks at break and lunch times.



Communication

All communications from school are sent home via the School Gateway app. This is a free app enabling parents to keep in touch with school, view their child's achievements, school reports and other important information. Sign up to the app to ensure you receive key information from school including messages about events, parents evenings, transport notices, updates on school sports fixtures, school closures, regular weekly communications and termly newsletters.

Once you have registered your details with the school you can download the app from your usual app store or from www.schoolgateway.co.uk.



Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media

All students receive advice and guidance on the use of social media through the ABSolute curriculum. Any issues that arise from inappropriate use of social media will be investigated if they are affecting students in school.

Our school mobile phone policy is "Off and Away for the whole school day". Use of phones during the day leads to learning being disrupted. Students checking their social media during breaks will often then turn up to lessons distracted and focussing on the latest social developments rather than being prepared for their lesson.

Phones have become a really important part of our lives in the 21st century but direct conversation and social skills are also really important and should be developed, away from looking at screens. We like to see students around school learning these social skills rather than communicating via their phones.

We appreciate the support of parents with this very clear school policy and in reminding students of the safe and responsible use of their phones and social media.

Transition: leaving Primary, joining Secondary

What can you do to help?

One of the key ways to prepare your child for transition is to develop their independence skills. For example, encourage them to pack their own equipment or help them to manage their own time. Discuss the route they will take to school and maybe walk it together a few times to build their confidence. Talk to your child about how they can respond if things go wrong and how to ask for help.

We encourage students to view moving to secondary school as a time to meet new people and make new friends. In September we will welcome students from over twenty different primaries and a number of children who will be the only child coming from their Primary School.

In order to support your child to make the move into a new class you can:

Share ideas with your child to encourage them to make new friendships - you could practice some introductory questions for making new friends.

Prepare your child for the possibility that current friendship groups are likely to be distributed across a number of different tutor groups and teaching groups.

If your child is joining with a number of others from the same Primary School, do make your child aware that there will be some students who will join their class alone. Encourage your child to welcome new people into their friendship groups.

Talk with your child about Year 7 being a fresh start in every sense and not to expect current friendship groups to all be in the same classes. Help your child to understand everyone will be feeling apprehensive and one way to make friends is by learning how to navigate this together.



Communication between now and September

While you are still in Year 6 your first point of contact for queries and advice about transition remains with your primary school.

Please be aware our pastoral team continue to look after their current students until the end of the summer term. When Year 11 leave school after the summer exams, staff can turn their attention to planning for the new Year 7 intake.

The transition process starts with meetings with all the primary schools in the spring. We speak to Year 6 teachers about every individual Year 6 who will be joining us. We observe students when they visit us in the summer term. Pastoral teams then meet to work on the most beneficial groupings of students.

If there is anything you want us to know, make sure your current primary school are aware to pass on to our pastoral team when we meet with them.

Students that need extra assistance with transition will be identified by the visits to primary schools and our SEND team will follow up. Students who may benefit from enhanced transition support will be invited to attend a summer school and information about how to book a place will be sent direct to those families in the summer term.

If you have a query after having checked this booklet, checked the school website and spoken to your current year 6 teacher, then please do contact the school reception info@nailseaschool.com and this will be forwarded to the most appropriate member of staff.



Future Year 7s #TeamNailsea

You are joining a caring and friendly team at Nailsea School who are working together to support all our students to achieve the very best that they can.

It may feel very different and daunting changing schools. We have a team of experienced staff who work hard between now and September 2024 to help ensure you have a fun and stress free move into secondary school life. You can look forward to meeting lots of new friends from different schools, getting to know a new way of learning, discover more subjects, plus lots of exciting opportunities to grow and develop your confidence.

To make your move a success, think about how you can prepare. Check your uniform is in place and you have planned your route to school. When you arrive be ready to listen and receive lots of information on those first few days. Your tutor is the first member of staff that you will get to know well as you will see them every day with the rest of your tutor group. This is the key time to ask questions and find out what's happening in school. All the new Year 7s will be in the same boat finding out about the school and how everything works. There are always staff and older students who are happy to help if you are unsure about anything. Just ask.

We look forward to meeting you in the summer. In the meantime please see a few comments from previous students reflecting on their experience of joining Nailsea School.



The first day there are only new Year 7s and Year 12s in school. The first thing you do is meet with your tutor and they give you lots of help and advice to settle in. You are shown how to colour code your timetable to help you find your way around. I didn't realise how easy it would be.

I thought the teachers were going to be really strict. It's funny to think about it now because they're all really nice and friendly. Even teachers that don't teach me talk to me and say hi in the corridor and they smile at you and somehow seem to know your name.

I was worried about not being able to make friends but actually there are lots of different ways to meet people. The first homework I was set was to talk to 5 different people in my tutor group which was really helpful. Your teaching group are always going in the same direction to the next lesson so you quickly form little groups to go around with.

Be yourself. Some new Year 7s try and be louder and bigger than they are and this is a mistake as the older students don't like it and you can't keep that going. There is no need, just be yourself and you'll be fine. Same in lessons, teachers don't expect you to know everything. Be warned though, parents will ask lots of questions and get ready for that first day photo!