



24th May 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Unicorn House have done a fantastic job this week during Charity week. All members of the House have been involved to some extent and activities have been happening every day. Many families are, unfortunately, affected by cancer and I know the money raised will enable some invaluable support to be given those that need it. Charity weeks provide opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and embody our school values of kindness and community. All houses have had their charity weeks for this academic year and their combined efforts will have raised over £4000 for charity - something students should be incredibly proud of.

Other notices for the week can be found below:

Year 11 Study Leave

Today officially marks the beginning of study leave arrangements for year 11 students. I have written to year 11 students separately recognising their time with us over the last 5 years. I wish students well for the remainder of their exams.

Delivery of Personal Development Curriculum and Extended Tutor Time

Extended tutor time and Tuesday timings will return in term 6, with the first session being Tuesday 4th June. Some extended tutor groups will meet a different tutor in term 6, given that those staff that have been with year 11 groups can be redeployed lower down the school.

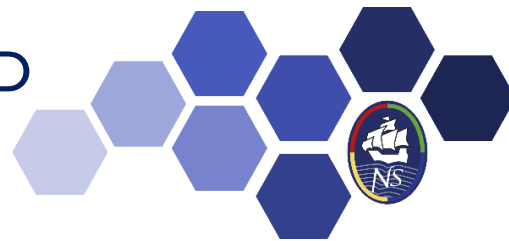
From next academic year, Personal Development in the form of a PSHE lesson covering RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) will form part of the curriculum in addition to ABSolute extended tutor time for students in Years 7, 8, 9. This will allow specialist topics to be delivered by a curriculum team, ensuring the delivery of high quality lessons by consistent staff. Our vision is to teach ambition, kindness, respect, pride and community through these lessons as well as covering all the statutory requirements.

Bikeability Holiday course

Please find details of an opportunity for students in years 7, 8 and 9 over the break, attached.

Festival Way

Improvements have been made to a popular cycling and walking route between Backwell, Nailsea and Bristol. The Festival Way route connects Backwell and Nailsea to Bristol and also links the villages of Long Ashton and Flax Bourton to local schools. Four key crossings have been upgraded please see the attached for more information which may help with your child's route to school.



Jewellery and piercings in Term 6

It has been noted that more students are attending school with metallic nose studs. This is clearly contravening our uniform policy which can be found here:

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/student-life/uniform/>

Given we have a week's break, I wanted to be clear on the expectations when we return in term 6.

- Students are permitted to wear one pair of studs as earrings. Hoops will need to be removed if they are worn to school.
- Metallic nose studs cannot be worn to school. Clear plastic piercings should be worn instead. The school will have a number of these that can be used by students if they arrive at school without one.
- If a metallic nose stud is seen in school, students will be asked to replace this with a clear plastic stud. Refusal to do so will mean that the student is placed in the internal exclusion room.
- All piercings need to be removed for PE lessons in adherence with health and safety guidelines.

As you can see, as a school, we are acknowledging that students may choose to have their nose pierced. However, when on school site, as with other working environments where a dress code is required, the stud needs to be a clear plastic one. Thank you, in advance, for supporting us with this approach.

Data Collection Form (Yrs 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12)

Please ensure you complete the Data Collection and Photo Permission Form for your child. The school has a statutory duty to ensure that your data is up-to-date and accurate. This is particularly important in the wake of the recent cyberattack, whilst we restore our systems and database. Individual links were sent to you in a separate email and this information needs to be completed for all students by Friday 7th June.

PTA Events Survey

The PTA are interested in learning about what activities and opportunities they can provide to help with their fundraising. They have had to cancel a number of events this year and would appreciate feedback to ensure that their efforts are directed in the most efficient way possible going forward. They have put together a short survey to find out what everyone's thoughts are, and they would appreciate it, if you could take some time to give them some feedback. The PTA put a lot of effort into fundraising for the school, raising money for much needed resources, so please take a moment to offer your thoughts.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wC_kKVN2UUqgzosIzVoQVZVMssEeTedPnGu_a9pO-2qZUNihBNDILVDRBMzIzNDJEMkk2UVpWWktGQy4u

Congratulations

It's always great to be able to acknowledge student successes. This week special mention, firstly, to the students who completed the Ten Tors expedition recently. Those involved walked 35 miles of hills



in two days, all whilst carrying their equipment. That is no small achievement!

Secondly, under Mr Davidson's management, our Priority Football Academy Team have been confirmed as the ECFA South West Men's Regional Champions. We have been told the trophy is on its way! The team play in the league and in tournaments as well as studying for an Extended Diploma in Sport within our 6th form. You can find out more about the academy through the link below

<https://www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/priority-football-academy/>

End of term arrangements

Term 5 concludes at 3pm on Friday 24th May. Students return to school on Monday 3rd June which will be a week 1.

Finally.....May half term also coincides with my birthday and I am looking forward to catching up with friends and family, hopefully with some sunshine. Amongst the activities planned, I am off to see 'Hamilton' on Saturday afternoon at the Hippodrome. This period of American History was part of my History A Level course and although I have seen the musical a number of times before, the goosebumps are there every time the orchestra starts up. Although there are a number of character traits of Alexander Hamilton that I wouldn't necessarily want to share, his resilience determination and focus is certainly something I admire. It is good for us all to remember, as Alexander sings in the opening number 'not to throw away our shots' and seize those opportunities when we can, even those that we were not actually expecting.

Have a lovely break

Take care and be kind

Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher