

Newsletter

Term 5 | May 2024



A Message from the Head

Term 5 seems to have flown by - it's been great to see the signs of summer, even if the skies haven't been particularly blue, the leaves have arrived with their annual lush green glow signalling the arrival of sunnier times ahead.

Year 11 and 13 have started their exams now and I'm sure many of our families are sharing their nerves as they take this opportunity to meet the challenge of doing their best. Our Year 7s, will soon be welcoming the Year 6 cohort from their old primary schools. It's always interesting to reflect on the journey that our youngest members have made and to see how their confidence has matured.

Our Year 7, 8s and 9s will be thinking of next term's Curriculum Enrichment Week - which shows a welcome return to the calendar. Year 10s and 12s should have their work experience placements ready for next term too and a number of them might be thinking about running for the role of House Captain (Year 10s) and Head and Senior Prefects (Year 12s), important roles that serve as advocates for student voice across the school.

As a school we try our best to celebrate all types of success, and we know that success is measured in many more ways than a grade on a piece of paper, it can be measured in the feelings of pride in our friends and family, and in the deeds and accomplishments that we've achieved. The most important things to remember are - Did we try our hardest? Did we listen to ways to improve? Did we help people along the way? That way when we get the grade on the piece of paper, whatever it is, we know we've earned it. When our friends, colleagues and our community see what we have achieved and commend us for it, we know we are winners in the eyes of those who know us best - and that's real success.

Good luck to those taking their exams and those who keep aspiring - you've got this!

Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher



Governors Update



As the 2024 exam series continues, we know our students in Year 11 and 13 are working exceptionally hard. We hope that everything goes well for them all in the exams themselves, and are grateful for all the extra support given by the staff to these year groups at this time. Thank you for all the support given by parents and carers at home too.

We have been continuing to meet for our Governor meetings and have been progressing our governor work, including governor visits and responding to feedback from the recent Ofsted visit. This has included working with our partners in the Wessex Learning Trust on many vital issues for the school and our students.

Thank you to all our families for supporting the school as we continue to make progress in our objectives of school improvement.

Message from the Head of Sixth Form



We are delighted with the recent Ofsted judgement of Nailsea Sixth Form, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students, parents/carers, members of staff and governors who have been on this journey with us to 'outstanding'. The report references our student's confidence and independence, commitment to learning, exemplary attitudes to their work and the meaningful contribution they make to the life of the school and wider society. These characteristics, which we have the pleasure of witnessing on a daily basis, will serve our students well throughout the examination season.

Mr D Truan - Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form

Aspirational Learners



The Gabblers Club final 2024 was an evening of conversation, laughter and endless toasting! After eighteen 'gabblers' spent months being tutored in the art of public speaking, 22nd April marked the final of the after-dinner speaking competition. Year 12 student Georgia Lee represented Nailsea School in front of an audience of over 200 at The Bristol Hotel. Before the final, each 'gabbler' was randomly assigned a topic for their final speech. Georgia was given the title 'Lucky Charms', however certainly didn't need one on the evening, where she delivered an informative, engaging and witty speech. It was a pleasure to be in attendance with Georgia's parents, and I am incredibly proud of the journey that Georgia has been on, from a self-diagnosed quiet and shy introvert who wanted to push herself outside of her comfort zone, to a confident and talented public speaker.

Mr D Truan - Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form

Independent Thinkers

Throughout my time at Sixth Form, we have completed weekly VESPA sessions which stands for: Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitudes. These sessions have provided us with information surrounding study skills and revision strategies such as the Leitner Box technique and using Personal Learning Checklists to identify red, amber and green topics so we know what areas to prioritise. Through this process we have been able to find the techniques that are most effective when preparing for assessments. I have found that using mind maps to summarise and then recall information is my preferred strategy. VESPA sessions have allowed me to use my revision time effectively and hopefully ensuring success in my upcoming exams and future studies at university.

Annabel S (Senior Prefect)

Community Ambassadors



As Year 13 started to count down their final weeks before the summer exam series, it was time for our Year 12 Prefects to take the student leadership reigns and deliver their first assembly to the four houses within lower school. Bobby, Cherry and Eva presented their own experiences of how they've demonstrated our three core values throughout this academic year and shared examples of how students within Years 7-11 could also be aspirational, independent and ambassadors within our school and the wider community. Bobby has been an aspirational learner by securing a work experience placement at The Old Vic Theatre due to his passion for drama performance, giving him valuable experience to prepare him for his chosen career pathway. Cherry has been an independent thinker by studying her Spanish A Level outside of school and actively engaging in Aim Higher MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and wider reading. Finally, Eva has been a Community Ambassador by volunteering at Golden Valley Primary School, working closely with the children within the classroom to support their learning, whilst also developing her own work experience skills.

Miss G Britton (Head of Year 12)

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Cash for Clothes

Many thanks to everyone that donated to our cash for clothes, the bins at the front of school were overflowing. It was a great success, and we plan to run it again.



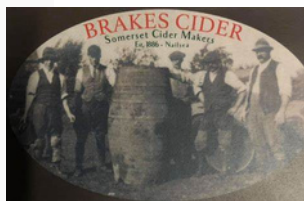
Summer Raffle – It's Back!

We have some fantastic prizes up for grabs in our annual summer raffle at only £1 a ticket, purchases can be made via Parent Pay.



Just some of the fantastic prizes up for grabs are:

- £100 cash prize
- Crate of Brakes cider
- 2 x Tickets Bristol City home match
- 1 x signed Bristol Bears rugby shirt
- 1 x signed Bristol City shirt
- Coates voucher
- 2 x adult tickets Noah's Ark
- £15 Tesco voucher
- £60 UK active voucher
- £25 Laser Fusion Voucher
- Thatcher's Gift Box
- Chocolate and alcohol hampers



You have to be in it to WIN it!

Second Hand uniform

Year 11 leavers - We would love to have your old school uniform so that we can re-purpose it. Please either drop it into reception or email nailseapta@nailseaschool.com and we can arrange to collect from you. We would also appreciate any spare text books.

For all remaining years, if your child has outgrown their current uniform, we have a large selection of all sizes of second hand uniform available.

All prices of our second-hand uniform are available on our webpage www.nailseaschool.com/our-team/our-pta. If you require any uniform, please email the PTA at nailseapta@nailseaschool.com, detailing what items and sizes you would like, and we will be in touch.

Next Meeting – 12th June, 7pm @ Nailsea School

We are always looking for volunteers to join our friendly team so don't be shy, come and join us for our last meeting of this academic year.



To hear our latest news, you can follow us on Facebook. Here you can learn about our events, volunteering opportunities and where we are spending our donations

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Library News

It has been busy in the library this term, moving the fiction around and making way for a new Year 9 plus area. There are some great new reads from authors such as Soman Chainani (*The School for Good and Evil*), Jennifer Lynn Barnes (*The Inheritance Games*) and James Dashner (*The Maze Runner* series) amongst many others.

"*TikTok made me read it*" is taking the publishing world by storm with young adults reading titles listed on #booktok lists. The library has 2 book spinners with a variety of #booktok titles for students to enjoy.

Recommended Read

Our student librarians are raving about the TikTok sensation Holly Jackson's novel "*A Good Girls Guide to Murder*". A teenager is working on her EPQ about a past murder in the town she lives in, she investigates with the suspected murderers brother, and all is not quite as it seems. There are lots of twists and turns throughout the story to keep you hooked to the very end. A must read!

Mrs Conner - Librarian

Making it Big in L.A

Frances S in Year 10 has come first out of 23 competitors in Round One of the Gloucestershire County Golf Championships. Frances is currently Junior Captain at Long Ashton Golf Club, being only the 2nd female Junior Captain in their history. In Round Two, Frances didn't manage to hold on to the top spot but did particularly well considering most players had a higher handicap with many playing off one. Congratulations to Frances.

Mr Dominic Graffagnino
Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Wellbeing)



Ten Tors Success!

Congratulations to Griffin House student's Jamie and Timo who took part in the Ten Tors Expedition last weekend!

The Year 9 students' determination and teamwork were truly inspiring as they conquered the challenging terrain and unpredictable weather conditions. Jamie and Timo's commitment to completing the Ten Tors Expedition is a testament to their resilience and spirit of adventure. They have shown that with dedication and perseverance, any goal can be achieved.

Well done to both of them for their incredible accomplishment!

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Shape My City

Shape My City is a programme led by Design West, in Bristol, Amon S (Year 12) is currently on this 'talent accelerator' programme for young architects and engineers. He learned about the scheme through this Newsletter and is now keen to let other student's know of its usefulness.

It's a brilliant scheme with a monthly session, sponsored by locally based companies. (Amon has managed to get work experience through the contacts as well).

He has found the experience to be incredibly rewarding, not only gaining valuable insights into the world of architecture and engineering but also building connections that could potentially shape his future career. The programme has provided him with a platform to explore his passion for design and construction, and he has been able to collaborate with like-minded individuals who share his enthusiasm for creating innovative and sustainable spaces.

Amon was really happy for the opportunity to be a part of Shape My City, as it has allowed him to expand his knowledge, skills, and professional network in ways that he never thought possible. He is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and is eager to continue learning and growing through this inspiring programme.

SHAPE MY CITY
@designwestuk

Design West's talent accelerator programme for 15-18 year olds interested in the Built Environment

Apply now for 2024-25

What Workshops with a broad range of professional partners to give you hands-on experience of careers within the Built Environment.

Where Design West, Bristol Harbourside

When First Wednesday of every month, 5-7pm

Learn about careers in the built environment
Receive mentoring and support
Build your CV and develop work experience
Connect with industry professionals
Develop teamwork, confidence and communication skills

Architecture - Interior Design - Masterplanning - Structural Engineering - Urban Design - Heritage
Landscape Architecture - Transport Engineering - Sustainable Design - Renewable Energy and more

"Shape My City changed my life and I am grateful for the doors it helped open. I would 100% recommend the programme."
SMD Graduate 2015

Scan here for an application form

Our professional partners include:

ALLFORD HALL MONAGHAN MORRIS | LD&DESIGN AWW | Stantec | BURO HARPOLD | Ramboll | Lindenlegg Dradley Studio

Shape My City Talent Accelerator Programme for Future Engineers and Architects!

"I've been into transport planning since I was young, so when I heard about the 'Shape My City' talent accelerator programme for future engineers and architects I applied for a place. I was lucky enough to get in and have been going to monthly sessions since October 2023, at Bristol Design West. I've learnt about lots of aspects of engineering and architecture, from landscaping to sustainable transport to heat networks. The other students are from all over Bristol and we have a nice chat at the start of each workshop.

The programme is sponsored by local engineering companies, so each session is free with an evening meal and transport covered, and I've even been able to get a civil engineering work placement this summer at one of the sponsor's offices.

They are now open to applications for next year's programme and I really recommend it to anyone interested in engineering, urban design or architecture! They especially welcome applications from girls and ethnic minorities. To learn more and apply for a place: <https://www.designwest.org.uk/shape-my-city/>"

By Amon S. Year 12



© Paul Blakemore, May 2024.



Touch Rugby Squad Aspiration

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Will J who has made the selection for England Touch Rugby junior training squads this year.

Touch Rugby is different from other forms of Rugby as it is a non-contact sport where players score by touching their opponents instead of tackling them. This fast-paced and skillful game requires quick thinking, agility, and teamwork. It is a great way to develop techniques, improve fitness, and have fun on the field.

Will is training hard to be in for selection for the Junior European Touch Championship in Vichy, France in August.

We wish Will the best of luck in his preparations and hope he enjoys a successful tournament in August. His success is an inspiration to all aspiring young athletes. Go Will!



Fred Stars for the Dragons!

Congrats to Year 9's Fred B for his recent achievements in his chosen sport of Powerchair Football. Fred has recently joined Bristol Dragons Powerchair Football team and has been playing a starring role in his first few games since joining the club.

Fred and the team are travelling across the UK to play against other Powerchair Football teams. Recently, they travelled to the Midlands, where they played against West Brom at the West Brom training ground. The Dragons won their first game in the club's history 2-1 against a very strong West Brom team. Fred played a pivotal role in helping his team win the game by scoring BOTH of the teams goals!

In addition to playing for Bristol Dragons, Fred has also started to raise money for the charity, Goals Beyond Grass, to help other young people access the sport that has already given Fred so much enjoyment!

Keep up the amazing work Fred, we are all very proud of your achievements!



Mr Miles
Head of Dragon House



Nailsea's Street Artist 'Haz' is Back!

Year 7 artist 'Haz' or as he is known at school - Harry B has been accepted to paint in the internationally renowned street art festival 'Bristol's Upfest'. Haz was first invited to take part in the festival in 2022, when he was the youngest artist to ever to be invited. His work became popular through his Instagram page where he began gaining followers for his vibrant work initially undertaken with Posca pens.

Now, Harry continues to explore various styles and mediums, drawing inspiration from the vibrant Bristol art scene. Attending workshops led by seasoned artists he admires, he continues to enhance his artistic skills. Participating in Upfest for the second time, he is thrilled to paint alongside his artistic heroes.

Upfest is Europe's largest street art festival. Harry was chosen as one of the 200 artists to take part from 900 applications and will be the youngest participant.

Harry will be painting live at the Tobacco Factory (North Street, Bedminster) on Saturday 25th May alongside some of the world's best street artists. This is a massive achievement for the Year 7 student who continues to develop and practise his art.

Congratulations Harry - this is great stuff and an amazing opportunity and reward for the development of your skills as an artist!
Well done!





Teacher Training at Nailsea MFL

From A-level and GCSE speaking exams, to Year 7 singing about the colour of their eyes in Spanish, language lessons have been in full swing since the Easter Holidays.

As a trainee teacher now in my final placement, it's been wonderful at Nailsea to be able to experience teaching the whole range of ages, moving from GCSE revision one lesson to dressing up and talking about our talents with Year 8 French the next.

Instilling fun and purpose into language learning is key for me as a language teacher and having the chance to do that and see the smiles and satisfaction in pupils when they manage to communicate in another language is incredible.

As I enter into my final weeks at Nailsea, I'll miss the enthusiasm and the character of the pupils at Nailsea, as well as the dedication and skill of the whole department that has supported me so well.

Mr C Wade, Trainee Teacher


Somerset Rugby Captain

In PE News, Mr. Taylor has been appointed as the Captain of Somerset County Rugby for this year's prestigious Bill Beaumont County Division 1 Championship, presenting an exciting opportunity to compete at Twickenham.

The inaugural match was held in mid-May against Lancashire County, entailing a lengthy 6-7 hour coach journey and an overnight stay.

The game was an exhilarating showcase of skill and sportsmanship, as both teams boast rich rugby traditions and a fierce competitive edge.

Mr. Taylor led the team with inspiration and confidence to motivate his teammates, leading from the front as he scored Somerset's first try of the match. The clash against Lancashire County was a gripping contest, with a score of 34 to Somerset and 51 to Lancashire. The 9 time County Winners taking the advantage as they approach the second round of games on Saturday 25th May.



Nailsea School Fashion Show


Thursday 13th June 2024

Come along to see the work of Fashion and Textile students in Nailsea School. With a focus on the impact fast fashion has on the environment and sustainable ways to make positive change!


Doors open at 6pm.
Refreshments and raffle available.

Adults: £5 - Children: £3.50

All ticket and raffle sales go to UNICEF a United Nations Children's Fund.



COMING SOON





Term 5 Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 7

- Mrs O'Reilly commends Grace C, Tilda E and Evangeline P in MFL for their enthusiasm and excellence in language learning.
- Mrs Sutherland is really impressed with Harry H in Maths for his resilience so far.
- Ms Hancock-Martin gives a big shout out to Niah M in Expressive Arts for an excellent 'aim higher' colour wheel work.
- Miss Britton is really impressed with Saf in English / Drama for always participating in class discussions.
- Mr Taylor is really impressed with Zach E in Health for his outstanding effort in Cricket during PE.
- Miss Timmins is awarding 'star status' to Zach E in Humanities for his resilience, improvement in class and offering brilliant answers.

YEAR 8

- Miss McKinney is giving star-status to Flo H in Enterprise for your excellent work in textiles.
- Mr Anstey gives a big shout out to Jacob B in Humanities for great verbal contributions to lessons and always giving 100% during written work. A real Geolegend!
- Mr Bennetts is really impressed with Khamari W and Sofia N in MFL for always pushing themselves in lessons.
- Miss Herring is really impressed with Maddox H in Science for creating an excellent recycling initiative for Nailsea School pupils in their recent Science homework.
- Mrs Cooper is awarding 'star status' to Ruby B in English / Drama for your positive attitude to English and reading lessons.
- Mrs Vass gives a big shout out to Sam C in English / Drama for always giving of his best and smashing his targets. He can always be relied upon to contribute thoughtful, intelligent points to class discussions.
- Mr Miles is really impressed with Sofia N in Health for always giving her best and always willing to demonstrate skills and activities.

YEAR 9

- Miss Cahill gives a big shout out to Bea H in MFL for consistent effort on Gold tasks and contributions to class.
- Ms Hancock-Martin is really impressed with Dan H in Expressive Arts for his characterful clay model of Mr Martinson. Great modelling skills on display!
- Mrs Sutherland is really impressed with Ethan M in Maths for his efforts.
- Mrs Lange is awarding 'star status' to Henry D-R in English / Drama for their excellent analysis of 'A century later' in their assessment.
- Miss Dee is giving star-status to Lois M Jack G and Nethula H in Science for their excellent classwork produced in Science over the past few weeks! Keep it up.
- Ms Thompson gives a big shout out to Neve S in Humanities for her conscientious approach to her studies, always giving 100% and catching up on work if she has missed a lesson.
- Miss Tanner is really impressed with Phoebe W in Health for stepping out her comfort zone to attend several different clubs this year.



Term 5 Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 10

- Miss Zimmerman is awarding 'star status' to Dec M in English / Drama for an excellent work ethic and thoughtful contributions in English.
- Mr Paillier gives a big shout out to Dec M in MFL for a consistently positive attitude and high standards of work in Spanish.
- Mrs Sutherland gives a big shout out to Emily L in Maths for her organisation and commitment to excellence.
- Miss Tanner is giving star-status to Florence N in Health for continuing to be a role model in lessons.
- Miss Britton gives a big shout out to Freya H in Expressive Arts for always working hard in lessons.
- Miss Herring is really impressed with Joe B in Science for consistently high effort and contributions to lessons in science.
- Ms Thompson is really impressed with Noah W in Humanities for revising hard for his Geography test and trying really hard in lessons.
- Mrs Wheeler is awarding 'star status' to Oliver M in Enterprise for excellent progress in IT and always helping others.

YEAR 11

- Mrs O'Reilly commends Billy G and Elsie F in MFL for their enthusiasm in language-learning and their continuous attendance at period 6s.
- Mrs Sutherland is giving star-status to Calum D in Maths for his consistent attendance at P6 sessions, and going the extra mile in his revision for the exams.
- Ms Jacobs is giving star-status to Isla T in English for an excellent A Christmas Carol practice response. Fantastic!
- Mr Miles wants to nominate Jack R in Health for being a pleasure to teach over the past 5 years.
- Miss Herring gives a big shout out to Karla B in Science for being so dedicated with her biology revision and always asking for more resources to revise.
- Miss Britton is awarding 'star status' to Lucas S in Expressive Arts for putting in lots of effort to Media revision.
- Mr Howard gives a big shout out to Peter B in Humanities for his consistent attendance at P6 sessions for RS, and going the extra mile in his revision for the exams.

YEAR 12

- Mr Paillier gives a big shout out to Cherry B in MFL for a proactive and dedicated approach to language learning.
- Ms Hancock-Martin and Ms Davies gives a big shout out to Ellie O-G in Expressive Arts for excellent mentoring of year 10s in the art lessons she supports in.
- Mrs Cooper is really impressed with Lillian L, in English for their perseverance and progress in our unit on child language.
- Miss McKinney gives a big shout out to Maisie J and Taylor I, in Enterprise for excellent creativity in designing and manufacturing their bomber jackets!
- Miss Wild gives a big shout out to Scarlett P, in Health for application to her PE course both inside and outside of school.
- Ms Thompson is giving star-status to Seth B, for his excellent work ethic in Geography.

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Term 5 Nailsea School Stars

YEAR 13

- Mr Howard was so impressed with Jack S in Criminology for the way in which he has developed and implemented a revision strategy. Always studying hard!
- Miss Cahill commends Lily BJ, Lily H, Jen C and Rose LJ in MFL for a mature approach to their revision for Paper 3 exam.
- Miss Britton is nominating all of her Year 13s in Media Studies for their awesome attitude towards revision this term.
- Mr Jones and Miss Creswick gives a big shout out to Year 13 English Literature, for your amazing work over the past two years. It has been a pleasure to spend time with you enjoying such complex and engaging texts. You've got this!
- Miss Dee gives a big shout out to Year 13 Forensics, for their fantastic work on the mock crime scene and subsequent assignments linked to this! Well done all.
- Mrs Gardiner is giving star-status to Year 13s in Health & Social Care, for their effort and determination throughout the whole course and producing work that is outstanding.
- Mrs Wheeler gives a big shout out to the Year 13 I.T. group, for making excellent progress with their coursework.

ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED