



7th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the final term of 2024/25 – something I can't quite believe I am typing.

The exams season is now in full swing and staff have all been impressed with the continued attitude and focus of the students– 8 more days to go!

Term 5 concluded with Unicorn house's charity week. As a house they raised over £2000 for Cancer Research UK – a cause close, unfortunately, to many staff and students' hearts. Every tutor group was involved in a series of activities but there were some individuals that warrant special mention. Harry H and Joseph M both sold jewellery and handmade bath bombs, donating 50% to charity. Whilst the rest of the House took part in their 'Walk4Life', Jack G-S and Harry S decided to run instead with great enthusiasm. Every House's efforts during their charity weeks this academic year have demonstrated huge levels of student selflessness and community awareness. School is not just about learning and gaining qualifications but also a chance to form characters, make each other smile and have experiences that warm your heart – the charity weeks this year have resulted in this in abundance. Many thanks to all the Heads of House and the tutors involved that help make these events such a success.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

PTA Survey

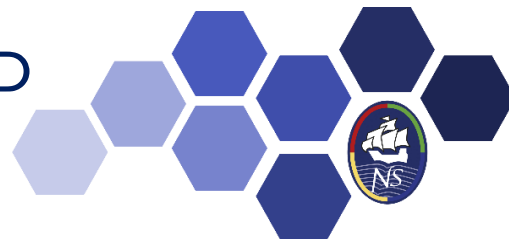
The PTA are interested in learning about what activities and opportunities they can provide to help with their fundraising. They have had to cancel a number of events this year and would appreciate feedback to ensure that their efforts are directed in the most efficient way possible going forward. They 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 here [PTA Survey](#)

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.

Summer Camp

Please see the attached information if you would like to sign your child up for a week or a day at summer camp during the school summer holiday.



Positive feedback

As mentioned before in these letters, students wearing the Nailsea School uniform are also advocates for our school whilst travelling to and from the building every day. I was delighted to receive this email from a member of the public this week and wanted to share the content with you:

I just wanted to take the opportunity to let you know how my husband was singing the praises of your students this evening following a few days of driving them to school via Long Ashton this week. He was telling me this evening that he has been amazed at how they are the most well-mannered young people he had the pleasure of travelling with on his bus. Previously he has driven buses on the Isle of Man and Jersey, and in WSM and Bristol for a while now too, but no passengers have ever been as thoughtful of others or as grateful to him as your pupils. They are all true credits to your school and their families, showing how mature and polite younger people can be.

An important reminder to us all that first impressions really do count and that our key school values of kindness and respect are ones that are always noticed.

School Day Consultation

In order for the school to be in line with the government's White Paper recommendation of delivering 32.5 hours of education per school week, we are proposing to make a slight change to the school day with effect from September 2024. The proposed change would mean starting school ten minutes earlier, at 8:30am instead of 8:40am. All other aspects of the day would remain the same.

I have attached a separate letter outlining the proposal in full, including timelines involved and detailing how we can receive your feedback on the consultation. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Palworld - Xbox and PC game

The safeguarding team wanted to alert parents to the popularity of a new game that can be accessed through PC and Xbox called Palworld. Although initially appearing child friendly, given the cartoonish nature of the graphics, the game does contain some disturbing content. Given the presence of online multiplayer and the potential for interacting with strangers, it can pose further online safety risks.

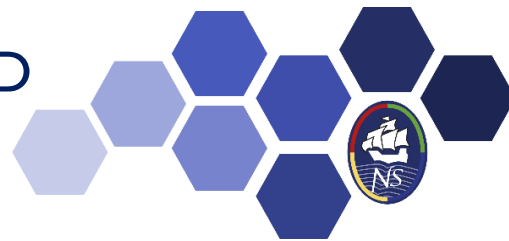
Mendip Hill Young Rangers Team

This group is offering new places for young people aged 11 – 14 from September. This is a great opportunity for young people with an interest in the natural world/conservation to learn new skills in their local area.

The deadline for applications is Friday 5th July. The application form is here [Young Rangers - Mendip Hills National Landscape \(mendiphills-nl.org.uk\)](https://mendiphills-nl.org.uk)

Finally... although I felt very refreshed by the half term break, events of this week have also made me feel hugely emotional. The significance of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings was, quite rightly, acknowledged by news outlets and tv channels over the last few days. In addition to this, the news of Rob Burrow's death at the weekend, after his diagnosis of motor neurone disease in 2019, did really affect me. In both cases, men had their lives cut short leaving behind friends and families.

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The other similarity in both cases is the clear friendships the men had formed with those closest to them in the situations they found themselves in. The recollections of the veterans referring to their friends that did not make it home obviously showed that despite the passing of time the bonds that were formed have never broken. Kevin Sinfield, Rob Burrow's Leeds Rhino team mate, was also visibly emotional in the times he has been interviewed this week speaking about his friend. I think you have to have a heart of stone not to be moved by the 2023 image of Sinfield carrying Burrows over the finish line when they were completing the Leeds marathon. The support from friends is something that can never be underestimated and I see this every day walking around school in the interactions between students. I hope you all get a chance to spend time with loved ones this weekend, remembering that support network is always there. As A.A. Milne wrote and Piglet said to Pooh *'Difficult days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh'*

Take care and be kind

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light purple rectangular background.

Head teacher