

21st June 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Well the weather did us all a favour and the sun shone for both the Transition BBQ event on Wednesday and year 11 Leavers' day today. As I mentioned in my previous letter, given how June had started I wasn't quite sure this was going to happen. Over 500 people attended on Wednesday afternoon – an informal way for students to familiarise themselves with, what will be their new surroundings, and for parents to begin conversations with key staff. Many thanks to the Connect team for manning the BBQs and to the Music department for ensuring that the amazing talents of our students were showcased at the event. It was a great final practice ahead of the Music tour to Belgium next week. Year 10 students, ahead of their work experience placements next week, are spending today exploring what a typical day would be like at Nailsea 6th form. This cohort of students will have important decisions to make about their post GCSE pathways when we return after the summer break and it is never too early to start thinking about what the possibilities could be.

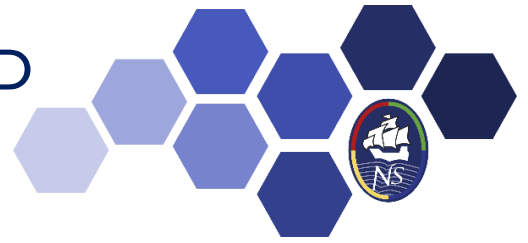
With next week being Curriculum Enrichment week, I will be away with the year 9 trip to the battlefields in Belgium, so there will not be a weekly letter sent next Friday, 28th June. I look forward to hearing about all the enrichment activities when we are all reunited back at school on Monday 1st July, which will be a week 2.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Curriculum Enrichment Week

After a number of years of absence, enrichment week returns next week for students in years 7, 8 and 9. Final reminders about the week are listed below for reference:

- Monday 24th June is a normal Monday of week 2 in the timetable. Lessons will take place as normal and students are expected to attend in uniform. Some residentials and the Harry Potter trip are taking place.
- The normal school timetable is collapsed from Tuesday 25th June – Friday 28th June and as well as day trips and residential trips taking place, students remaining on site have been allocated a range of daily activities.
- Students will attend a morning session and an afternoon session each day.
- Students should attend their normal tutor room every day where the allocated activities will be shared for the day ahead.
- Students on site are not expected to wear uniform. Students can wear their own clothes, ensuring these are appropriate for a school environment, including wearing appropriate footwear (no flip flops, sliders, Crocs etc)
- Wk commencing Monday 1st July will be another week 2, and wk comm 8th July will be a week 1, and so on, until the end of term.



As you can imagine timetabling sessions for nearly 600 individual students has been no easy task. As a result of the logistics involved and the need to be clear on where students are on site for safeguarding reasons, students will not be able to swap out of any activities they have been allocated and they are expected to attend the ones that are listed. Students who remain on site during the week will undertake 8 different workshops. Many thanks to Mrs Gardiner who has taken on the oversight and planning of the week, also at late notice due to staff absence. We hope students are looking forward to a different week in school and, of course, we will review the week once completed, ahead of beginning the planning for 2025.

School Day Consultation

As previously mentioned, 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. All feedback on the proposal can be submitted here <https://forms.office.com/e/YkYA9cRM1Y> The survey will close on Friday 5th July. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to contribute.

Road Safety

As local residents are aware, there is a new zebra crossing that has been installed on Trendlewood Way. A member of the public contacted us this week to say she witnessed the following:

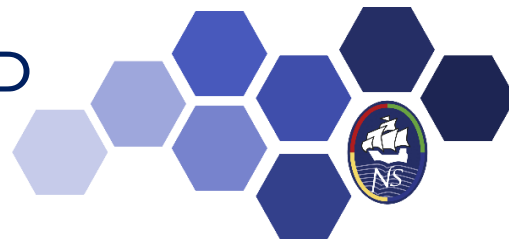
I was walking the dog at about 3:15 and a whole load of boys came over the crossing on their bicycles. The first gang came across no bother at all, but then there were two boys slightly lagging behind. One came out from the bridal path without looking at all and very nearly got hit by a car. I heard the boy say he looked both ways but he truly hadn't. He hadn't even slowed down. There was screeching of brakes and God knows what else and I honestly shut my eyes and expected to see a load of blood and carnage when I opened them which thankfully wasn't the case. The car stopped with a couple of inches at most to spare.

I would be grateful if parents could discuss the importance of road safety with their children at home, especially given the removal of the gate at the end of the bridal path in the approach to this crossing.

Staffing updates

We will be welcoming Ms Cowling back from her maternity leave on 1st July for the remaining weeks of this academic year. As such, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr Haslam who has stepped in to cover a number of English classes in the interim period. We wish him well. In addition to this Mr Neil Wylie, our Connect worker, will be leaving the school on Friday 28th June. Mr Wylie has been working at Nailsea in this role for the last 10 years and has always been of great support to staff and students. Most recently he has introduced a number of our students to fishing and it is a role in the Angling Trust that he is going on to take up. I hope we will have the opportunity to see Mr Wylie in school at some point in the future. I am sure if any students or families have worked with Mr Wylie, they will join me in thanking him for his service to the school community and to wish him well in the future.

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Finally... as parents/carers will be aware, there have been a number of communications this week related to the implications on the cyber attack recovery work and the ability to produce end of year reports. I hope the week has shown that as a school we do our very best to listen to feedback and make changes within the parameters that we are working within. The staff at the school have been blown away by the messages of support and thanks received over the last couple of days. Given the national context and the specific issues we have faced since returning from the Easter break, working in and leading a school is not always an easy job. However, the fact that I am blessed to work with a group of amazing staff and supportive families means I really can't see myself doing anything else. Have a lovely weekend

Take care and be kind

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Elliott', written on a light purple rectangular background.

Head teacher