

12th July 2024

Dear Parents/carers

It was fantastic to meet over 200 students and their families at the year 7 Induction day and evening this week. The year 7 cohort from September is at the planned number we can admit and seeing so many smiling faces by the end of the day was a real joy. This time of year is always one where staff need to wear two hats – saying goodbye and celebrating the achievements of those students in years 11 and 13 who are leaving us, whilst also welcoming those students who will be in year 7 as they start their next chapter. As I shared with the parents in the presentation on Wednesday afternoon, I can't quite believe this stage of my career means that in September I will be welcoming back the 25th cohort of year 7s from a summer break and the 9th cohort since I have been Head teacher here at Nailsea. It continues to be a real privilege to have a small part to play in the lives of our students and families.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Sports Day

Despite the weather this week, the PE department worked incredibly hard to ensure that the sports events were concluded with Dragon House coming out victorious. Students were, sadly, unable to come and spectate in the traditional afternoon sessions given the ground being so wet – sitting on the grass for that amount of time would have been very uncomfortable. In addition to this, given the safeguarding implications, as always, it is not possible for parents to attend the event. Thank you for your understanding.

School Day Consultation

Thank you to all the parents that provided feedback on the consultation on the change to the school day proposed for September 2024. A separate letter has been sent to all parents and carers explaining the outcome.

Bikeability Courses

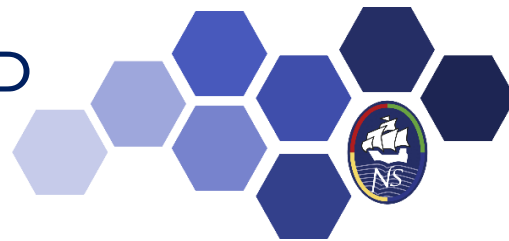
Please see the attached flyer that are advertising holiday courses that will increase your child's cycling confidence. These will take place in August and details of how to book can be found on the flyer.

Term dates 2025 – 26

The following term dates have now been agreed in draft form

Term 1	2 nd September 2025 – 24 th October 2025
Term 2	3 rd November 2025 – 19 th December 2025
Term 3	5 th January 2026 – 13 th February 2026
Term 4	23 rd February 2026 – 2 nd April 2026
Term 5	20 th April 2026 – 22 nd May 2026
Term 6	1 st June 2026 – 22 July 2026

INSET days will be confirmed in due course.



Term Time Holidays – changes to the law

Please find, attached, a summary to the changes being made to the issuing of Penalty Notice Fines after 19th August for your reference. You may be aware that there has been national concern about falling school attendance rates across the UK. The Department for Education has introduced this new statutory guidance, aimed specifically at reducing the number of term-time holidays and unauthorised absences. As a reminder

- every day's absence counts as two absent sessions (morning and afternoon)
- unauthorised absence includes term time holidays, lateness to school after the register has closed or any other unauthorised absence.

The amount of the fine is also increasing as shown on the attachment. Please be aware that the money goes to the local authority and not to us at school.

We understand that this news will not be popular with families, but wanted to let you know of changes as soon as possible. Schools cannot authorise holidays in term-time unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances and evidence will be required to demonstrate these circumstances. The law is specific in that headteachers are expected to enforce these penalty notices robustly.

Of course, fundamentally, these measures are in place to encourage families to ensure children do not miss education, Every sessions of learning is an important building block in your child's education and absences can seriously affect progress. Thank you for continuing to work with us to support your child's learning.

Lost property

There is a large amount of lost property gathered in the collection point near the student entrance by the canteen. I would urge students to check if they are missing any items and if they had found their way there. Any uncollected lost property will be donated or recycled if not claimed by the end of term.

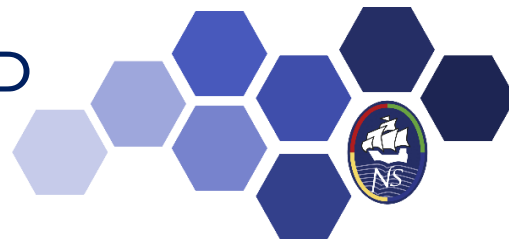
Final few days of term

Term ends on Tuesday 23rd July at 12:50pm for students.

For the final two days, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd, Tuesday timings will apply in order to facilitate the House Celebration Event on Monday afternoon. There will be a whole school assembly on Monday during the afternoon tutor slot where the 2024 House Champions will be announced. Will Phoenix retain the cup and the glory?

Student group movement in years 7, 8 and 9

As is always the case at the end of the academic year there is always a review of current teaching groups ahead of the return in September. The decision to move a student to a different teaching group is always one that is carefully considered. On occasions this is due to some issues with students having settled and a fresh start in a different group is seen as beneficial. In other cases the decision to disband a teaching group and move students between the other existing groups has to happen as a result of staffing constraints. I would like to reassure you that where and when this happens the priority is always to give students the best experience, whilst working within these external parameters.



Uniform preparation for September

Inevitably many children have grown a lot over the course of the school year and purchasing new items of school uniform may be required in the weeks over the summer break. If your child has grown out of their uniform and it is in good condition, the PTA would be very grateful of any donations to add to their collection.

Everyone should be clear and informed on the school's expectations regarding uniform and consequently we can get it right for the start of the new school year. The uniform guidance is clear and can be found on the website here: [Uniform – Nailsea School](#)

A reminder of some key elements of our uniform that, on occasions, cause a pushing of the clear boundaries:

- Leggings are not permitted. Nailsea School students wear black trousers to school. A visual of what is and is not acceptable can be found here [Trousers-Guide-Visual-helpful-links.pdf \(nailseaschool.com\)](#)
- Shoes should be all black – be they leather, leather look shoes or trainers
- Hair must be of a natural colour
- Nails should be of an appropriate length to comply with Health and Safety guidelines
- Rings, bangles and bracelets are not permitted. Stud earrings are permitted, no hooped earrings. Metal nose studs/rings cannot be worn in school.
- Clip on ties to be clipped at the collar of the shirt

We hope by clarifying arrangements now there is plenty of time to make sure everything is in place for September. If you have any financial difficulties in making sure that your child is in the correct uniform please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Finally... let's all cross fingers for Sunday evening – there's nothing more to say is there?!

Take care and be kind

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D. Elliott'.

Head teacher