



15th November 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Although I was unable to attend this week, I have heard very impressive reports of the school representatives that attended the Wessex Learning Trust Remembrance Ceremony in Cheddar on Monday. Many thanks to Mr Boyce and Mr Reid who accompanied George in year 11 and Bobby in year 13 to the commemoration where the names of those Nailsea residents that had given their lives in the Great War were read out. With 18 schools represented, ranging in age from pre school to 6th form it was a very moving experience that enabled a very clear opportunity for reflection.

Mock exams - Wk Comm 11th November

Students in year 11 and 13 have concluded their first week of exams and although some may have found the experience a daunting one they are an important part of the preparation process. As parents we would ask for your support in ensuring your child arrives promptly for the start of their exams – the school day starts at 8:30am, attending with the correct equipment and knowing their seat number. This information has all been previously shared with students on their individual timetables. Having this equipment and information enables the exams to be started promptly.

Decision over Formula/Equation sheets for GCSE exams

You might be aware that during COVID students sitting GCSE exams received formulae and equation sheets. This provision was scheduled to end this year, but it has now been announced that it will continue for the next three years. There is a chance it might be a permanent change, but we will see. As it stands, students do not need to memorise formulae for Maths, Physics or Combined Science. This is good news and will enable students to demonstrate the application of these processes as opposed to having to memorise them.

PTA vacancies

Our PTA committee do a wonderful job of raising additional funds for the school, but as many of their children have finished at Nailsea School, they are now desperately in need of a few new faces to join the team. If you are happy to volunteer at any of the PTA events or would be willing to fill one of the current vacant roles they would love you to message them at nailseapta@nailseaschool.com

Current vacant roles:

Chair	Easy Fundraising Co-ordinator	Marketing Co-ordinator
Secretary	School Lottery Co-ordinator	Event volunteers

The next PTA meeting is the [AGM on Wednesday 13th November at 7pm](#) here at school, if you think you can help, or would like to learn more please email the PTA at nailseapta@nailseaschool.com and let them know; they would love to hear from you and see you next week.

PTA Fundraising

Please find attached two ways the school community can support the PTA in the next few weeks; ordering Christmas trees for collection at school and buying Christmas raffle tickets. All monies raised goes back into the school community. Thanks, in advance, for your support.



Contacting Heads of House and Ms Cole, SENCo

As a school we welcome contact from parents as and when any perceived issue arises. However, as with other public sector services, there are parameters in which these conversations need to be scheduled and it is not possible to arrive in reception asking to speak to members of staff immediately. Our pastoral staff have teaching commitments and Mrs Cole has other meetings/students that are timetabled in that cannot be dropped at a moment's notice. If there is a need to speak with a member of staff I would ask parents to make contact with reception and the relevant staff will be made aware. Thanks for your understanding.

Careers Sector Fair – 19th November

Tues, 19th Nov sees the launch of our inaugural 'Careers Sector Fair'. There will be three fairs running this year with each focusing on specific career sectors.

As you can see, from the image to the right, next week we are focusing on construction, architecture, engineering, heritage and health. A range of local and national companies will be joining us.

Y11 and 6th Form students have been invited to request attendance during period 5 through an announcement on Classcharts. Students need to pre-book attendance so that names will be added to a register.

All families/students are able to visit from 3-5pm. The event will be taking place in 161 and the bridge to 6th form.

Finally...I spoke last week about how this Wednesday was

'World Kindness Day'. I am very lucky to be able to work in a place where this value is demonstrated every day across the school site, typified by how many staff and students have asked me how I am feeling after picking up a very nasty cough. I know that on some occasions with parents wanting to be the strongest advocates for their child, emotions can run high, especially where there is the feeling of apportioning 'blame' at a particular door. There have been two occasions this week, via email and in person, where parents, when emotional, have been unnecessarily unpleasant and aggressive to staff. At these times, I would ask parents to be mindful of the tone and manner of both written communications and verbal interactions with staff here at school. Staff at Nailsea, as with staff in any workplace, are entitled to come to work without fear of being shouted at or intimidated. My commitment is that I will always work with families to unpick any situation and work to find a resolution when one arises, - we may not get everything right, all the time, but any steps forward can only be agreed where there is respect from all involved. One of my favourite quotations from John Wesley sums it up very nicely with his emphasis on kindness and helping others:

'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all times you can, as long as ever you can'

Dee Elliott, Head teacher