

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents/carers

It was a very busy night, last night at our Sixth Form Open Evening with both existing students and external applicants coming along to find out more about the courses we have on offer for September. Walking around the site, I overheard a number of pertinent conversations taking place that were clearly informing next steps. As parents are aware the prospectus, showing the broad range of courses available, can be accessed here on the website [6th-Form-Prospectus-2025-DIGITAL.pdf](#) All details about how to apply can be found here on our website [Applying to Sixth Form – Nailsea School](#)

## Year 10 events

Thanks to the parents who attended the Prep for Success event that took place on Tuesday evening. We hope you found the session a useful and informative one.

Next week Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December parents will be able to have specific discussions at the online subject evening to understand the start that has been made to GCSE courses.

## Year 11 Practical Art exams

Well done to the students involved in their Fine Art, 3D Art or Photography exams this week. 5 hours is a long time to maintain focus and concentration but it will be a great practice for the 'real thing' in the summer.

## Flu Vaccines – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December

Sirona care & health's School Aged Immunisation Team has created a video to inform families about the flu vaccination. The video can be accessed here:

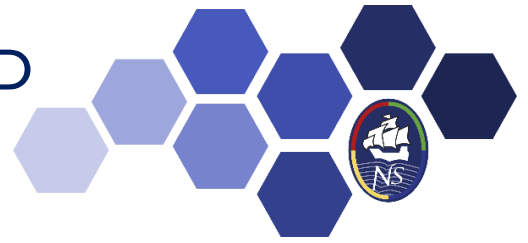
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBe0zDjFMAM&list=PLKUdUuPyBB5nn1kH1b6XPrkJsU7APsD6m&index=5>

The immunisation team visits schools across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire to deliver the free flu vaccine to children and young people from reception to year 11. They will be in Nailsea on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Flu can be a very unpleasant illness and the vaccine helps to protect children, their families, friends and the wider community against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia. The video provides more information about why the vaccine is important, how children will receive it and what it feels like. Children who do not attend school, and anyone who missed the session in school, will be invited to a community clinic to receive their vaccine.

## Phoenix House Charity Week

Next week is charity week for Phoenix House. There will be a non school uniform day at the end of the week with a suggested contribution of £1 to take part. All week there will be various events for students to get involved with and the now famous Phoenix raffles are back for charity week, with each tutor group compiling a bumper hamper of goods. To be in a chance of winning enter via parent pay. This year Phoenix House are supporting Cancer research, Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary and Eco Schools. Various other events including chocolate coin deliveries, cake sales and a Christmas gift shop will take place throughout the week in the atrium. Please can students bring in cash next week to get involved and support the fundraising.



## **Have your say on walking, wheeling and cycling in Nailsea**

Local people are being invited to have their say on walking, wheeling and cycling routes in the town. The Council is working with the local community to help make it easier for people to get to school, work, the shops and travel for leisure.

The plans, which support the council's commitment to improve sustainable travel routes, include a range of short, medium and long term projects. The council has been working with people to understand local concerns and aspirations and outline a walking, wheeling and cycling network that addresses local needs.

Nailsea residents are now invited to review the initial plans at 2 drop in sessions, attended by council officers and people will be able to leave comments on the proposed new network.

The sessions will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December in Tesco 12pm – 2:30pm and on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December as part of the Eat Festival between 10:30am and 3:30pm. The stand will be outside Holland and Barratt.

## **North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together – Annual survey**

North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together, our local forum for parents and carers of children with SEND and additional needs, is undertaking their independent annual survey which seeks parents' experiences of using education, health and care services locally. The results of the survey will be shared with the local area SEND Improvement Board and support strategic leaders in understanding needs and planning services. The forum is encouraging all parents of children with additional needs and/or disability aged 0-25 to complete the survey, whether they have an Education Health & Care Plan, receive SEN Support, or are awaiting further support from services. Parents and carers who complete the survey can enter a draw to win one of eight Amazon E-vouchers, with a top prize of £100. The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSPCWTSurvey2024>

The survey will close on **15th December 2024**.

## **Year 9 Guided Choices Event – Change of date!**

Advance notice for year 9 students and parents that the Guided Choices event, where students can explore which courses they would like to take in years 10 has been changed from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> April. This is different to the date publicised at the beginning of the year, please amend your diaries accordingly. Further correspondence will be shared in due course.

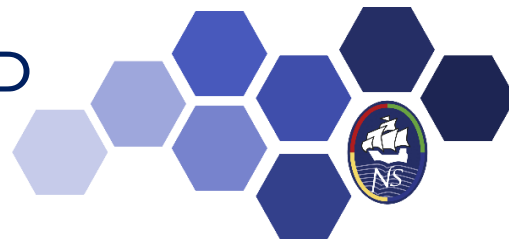
## **Christmas Lunch payment deadline – 6<sup>th</sup> December**

As a reminder the deadline for payments for our annual Christmas lunch, to be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, as shown on ParentPay is 6<sup>th</sup> December. For those students not wishing to take part the Juice Bar and Media Café will have a limited offer of food that can be purchased instead.

## **End of term arrangements**

Term finishes for staff and students on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12:20pm. Students will attend tutor time and lessons 1-3 as normal. Students will be dismissed at the end of lesson 3 for the Christmas break. There will be an offering of snacks at breaktime but students will be offsite from 12:20pm. All coaches and taxis have been informed of this earlier finish time.

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## House Ethos and Championship relaunch – January 2025

Feedback from students and staff is continuing to inform plans for the House relaunch in January. The Heads of House, Assistant Heads of House and tutor teams have been actively involved in discussions about house ethos and their wish for additional chances to represent their house.

**Finally...**the rest of the senior team were very relieved when I did manage to get pre release tickets for Gary Barlow's solo tour next year, when they went on sale on Wednesday. My office was unusually quiet for 30 mins before and after the release time, as colleagues feared seeing a stressed and possibly disappointed middle aged woman battling with a ticket website. All turned out well in the end!

Have a lovely weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light pink background, reading 'Dee Elliott'.

Dee Elliott, Head teacher