

6th December 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Lots has been happening this week in the first of our House Charity weeks. Phoenix House have decided to raise funds for Cancer Research, Holly Hedge and Eco Schools. It's great to see students becoming so involved in being active citizens for both the school and the wider community, reflecting our school value of kindness. Fundraising efforts will be one part of the house competitions with new House shields to be awarded, that will be introduced in our House competition relaunch when we return in January – more details will be shared in due course. Phoenix have set the bar very high for the other houses to follow!

Have your say on walking, wheeling and cycling in Nailsea

Due to the severe weather warnings for Saturday, North Somerset Council had to cancel the public consultation on Saturday for the **Nailsea Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Action Plan**.

They will be in touch with an alternative date after Christmas.

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**.

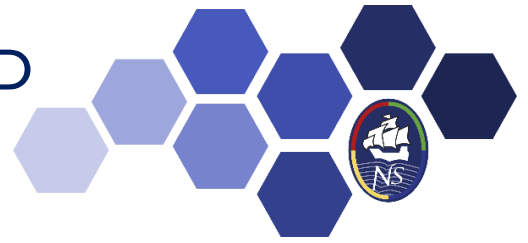
Term 2 Winter Reward Event - Film Afternoon

We are delighted to inform you that 500 students from the lower school have been invited to attend our Winter Reward Event, which will take place during lunchtime and Period 5 on Monday 16th December. If your child has been invited, you will have received a notification via a Class Charts announcement.

Please check the letter on Class Charts for further details and follow the link provided to complete the Microsoft Form by Thursday 12th December. This event is a celebration of students' hard work and commitment, and we look forward to recognising and celebrating their efforts.

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 23rd January to 3rd 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.



End of term arrangements

Term finishes for staff and students on Friday 20th 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.

We are hiring!

As you may have seen from our social media feeds we are currently advertising opportunities to join the team as part of the catering or cleaning team. Further details can be found here:

[Nailsea School jobs - Eteach](#) or [Current Vacancies – Nailsea School](#)

Use of the car park by parents and carers

It has become evident that there are in increasing number of parents who are using the car park to drop and collect students, despite there being no prior arrangement or emergency reason to do so. This is making the carpark a dangerous place at both the beginning and end of the school day. There have been many times in my weekly letter where I have asked parents to adhere to the request to drop off away from school but these are continuing to fall on deaf ears. I fear that soon I will be reporting that someone has been injured by the conduct of parents/carers still using the car park. I would ask, again, that the numbers of cars on site is kept to a minimum and that students are only dropped off when absolutely necessary and when permits have been granted. As a school we are looking at more permanent measures, including full time presence of staff on the gate and/or installing electric gates. Both of these will cost school funds that will ultimately be taken away from the in class and enrichment opportunities that can be provided for your children. Thank you, in advance, for both understanding and adhering to this request.

Finally...following a national delay, this week the national compare school performance data has been published. This takes the Progress 8 measure, from the summer 2024 GCSE results, for each school and compares this across each Local Authority. I am incredibly proud to say that Nailsea is ranked first in this measure of all the secondary schools in North Somerset with an above average national Progress 8 score of +0.26. This means that students who come to Nailsea will do better than expected based on their Key Stage 2 outcomes. Students and staff have worked incredibly hard for these results, supported by parents at home, over the last five years. Ultimately, these results have provided improved life chances for our young people moving forward. I am very proud of all that has been achieved by such a fantastic group of people, as all involved should be.

Take care and be kind

Dee Elliott, Head teacher