



20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Many thanks to all concerned for adapting to the new procedures related to vehicular access being restricted at the start and end of the school day that came into operation this week. I have been at the gate at the start and end of the school most days and the action has made the car park much quieter and, therefore most importantly, safer. It has also been noted that traffic on MizzyMead Road is also calmer given the staged release of vehicles. Traffic not exiting the school drive immediately after school has also meant students walking from either pedestrian exit, heading left or right, have one less hazard to contend with. This was also noticed by a number of local residents who have commented on the need for such action to be taken to safeguard all concerned.

Thanks to the parents that have contacted me with feedback, all of which has been taken into account in deciding the final plans ahead of the return in January.

From January 2025:

- Gates will be closed between 8:15am and 8:35 am in the morning and 2:50 - 3:10 pm in the afternoon (This is a reduction to 20 mins at each part of the school day, given how quickly traffic has eased) Parents can drop off by driving onto site before and after these times.
- There will be staff manning the gates (this will be members of the senior leadership team) as there will be some exemptions for vehicles that can enter during the morning closure times, namely:

the Nailsea school minibus,

other Local Authority provided minibus transport, if not on site prior to gate closure,

external speakers/supply teachers and

those students with a physical disability and those with a temporary physical leg/foot injury.

- The afternoon arrangements remain the same apart from a slight shift in timings, with vehicles being prevented entry from 2:50pm and gates open to allow trapped traffic to be released at 3:10pm.
- The school provided Long Ashton coach service will continue to drop off on Mizzymead Road in the morning. The coach will be parked in the relevant bay at 3pm so students can board the bus at the end of the day. The bus will remain with the other cars onsite, until released at 3:10pm

I trust families can see that further compromises have been made during this trial period, whilst also ensuring that the main aim of safety continues to be our top priority.



Other messages for the week can be found below:

## Christmas Lunch

I would formally like to thank the school catering team for their efforts in producing another excellent Christmas lunch that took place on Tuesday – which certainly added to the festive feel.

The week team were also subject to an unannounced Health and Safety inspection from North Somerset and, yet again, I am delighted to report that the inspection team have given the school another 5 star rating.

## Staff Leaving us

As is possible at this time of year some staff are leaving us to take up new pathways and adventures elsewhere.

Mrs Price leaves the Enterprise Faculty after two years working primarily in the Food Tech department to take up a post closer to home in Weston. We wish her well.

Ms Cahill, Head of Languages, has been with us for 6 years leading her department at a time when all the staff joined at the same time. I know from the 'Christmas Cracker' nominations that students have thoroughly enjoyed being taught French by Ms Cahill. She has also made a significant contribution to the 6th form tutor team and the students at KS5. Ms Cahill is treating herself to a well-deserved pause from education, but I know from her varied interests and family commitments she will remain very busy.

The longest standing member of staff leaving us this week is, Rose, one of our Catering team. You may remember that Rose does not shy away from challenges, given that she completed a sponsored sky dive for charity in recent years. Rose is leaving the country, heading to Tanzania, to spend time with her children and grand-children - one who will be arriving imminently.

## Rise in cases of measles

Please find, attached, information regarding the increase in the numbers of cases of measles and, where needed the recommended action to take.

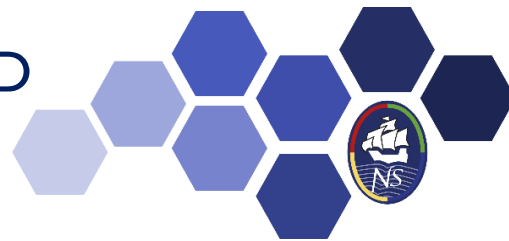
## Anti-Social Behaviour in the Community

It was disappointing to take a call from a parent yesterday describing students in Nailsea uniform behaving in a very antisocial manner outside Golden Valley School. Quite rightly, given the actions of the students and the verbal aggression that was demonstrated towards this member of the local community they have reported the situation to the police. The police are going to be liaising with the school once they have accessed the CCTV in place at Golden Valley in order to identify those involved. As a reminder, any incident that takes place outside of school time where students are wearing Nailsea uniform will be investigated and sanctions applied in the same way as if it was taking place in school. This could, where necessary, include suspending students from school. We are really lucky to be able to live and work in such a close knit community and I would ask parents to remind their children about their conduct before and after school.

## Start of term 3

As a reminder Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January is an INSET day and students are not expected on site. School Term 3 starts for students at 8:30am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. It will be a week 2.

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**Finally...**many of us are, quite rightly, looking forward to a period of rest and relaxation over the break, spending time with family and friends. Whilst enjoying the gatherings and the tinsel, it is important to also be mindful that for some individuals and families the Christmas break can be a challenging one, where emotions can often be heightened. Last Christmas was certainly one for my family that we would happily forget. As I had to tell myself last year, it's important to remember that we are not alone in sometimes feeling that times are tough and it is always useful to seek support. The following link may be a good place to start for those that need it:

[Parents share their experiences of the challenges they face around Christmas time - BBC Bitesize](#)

Stay safe and well over the break and see you all in 2025.

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

Dee Elliott, Head teacher