



10th January 2025

Dear Parents/carers

It's been a chilly start to the term, but it has been great to see students back in the building this week.

It was only staff in on Monday, where Nailsea hosted staff from all middle, secondary and upper schools from the Wessex Learning Trust for our joint INSET day. The focus was 'The Power of Collaboration' and staff worked in subject groups discussing curriculum and assessment from years 7 – 13. Staff were very positive about the time spent with other colleagues across the Trust, clearly seeing the benefit in sharing good practice and workload among the 5 schools that were here. Ultimately, this type of collaboration will help improve the classroom experiences of all students across our schools in Somerset and North Somerset and the ability to work in such a way is a key positive of working in a Trust.

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Staffing Update

With some staffing changes we welcome the following colleagues that start with us this term:

- Mrs Young joins the Modern Foreign Languages Department
- Mrs Hobbs joins the Art department
- Mrs Alison joins us in a volunteer role as our Connect worker

Congratulations to Mr Pate and his family who welcomed baby Ivy, on New Years' Day. Ms Hancock Martin will be starting her maternity leave in the next couple of weeks. Mrs Mailey, Learning Mentor, will take up the role of Assistant Head of Phoenix House for this period.

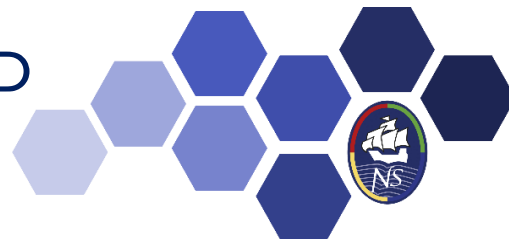
As some students will be aware there are a number of staff that have not returned from the Christmas break, for a variety of reasons. When this happens, as a school we work to find a solution which mitigates the impact on students in the classroom. This often involves swapping around existing teachers' timetables and attempting to secure subject specialist supply teachers. Priority in these situations is given, understandably, to exam classes at KS5 and KS4 and so this may mean, despite our best efforts, that some classes in years 7, 8 and 9 are being covered for a period of time. We regularly monitor the classes that are impacted in this way so that, moving forward, further action can be taken to ensure any shortfalls are addressed.

Wellspring Fashion Show – 28th February

A number of students have benefited from the support offered by Wellspring Counselling. The service means that students can access professional counselling with little or no cost incurred. However this also means that the organisation does have a monthly shortfall of about £19,000.

The team at Wellspring are putting on a fashion show at Nailsea School on 28th February and it would be fantastic if this could be well attended. Details are on the attached poster. In addition, if anyone would like to volunteer their services as a model for the event the team would love to hear from you.

ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED



Finally... many thanks to all parents and carers for continuing to understand the changes to vehicular access made at the end of last term.

As a reminder gates will be closed between 8:20 – 8:40 am and 2:50 – 3:10 pm. This is to increase the safety for staff and students exiting the building and using the pedestrian walkways at the start and end of the school day. There have been some parents/carers who have continued to be resistant to the changes and I would like to clarify that the plans we have put in place adhere to the government guidance issued to schools. This guidance can be accessed

here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-access-to-school-premises> and clearly state that as a school we have 'set out the rules [for when parents can come onto site to drop off and pick up and told] parents what these [arrangements] are'. As the guidance also states, schools do have the authority to bar people from the premises if they feel 'that their aggressive, abusive or insulting behaviour or language is a risk to staff or pupils. It is enough for a member of staff or pupil to feel threatened'. Thank you, again, for supporting the fact that these small adjustments have been introduced so that the safety of staff and students have been prioritised.

Take care and be kind

Dee Elliott

Head teacher