



24th January 2025

Dear Parents/carers

Today is the closing date for the first House competition following the launch of the new system last week. For those that follow the school on our Facebook and Twitter accounts you will see a summary of the work completed to date. Many thanks to the PTA for funding the new shields, enabling us to revamp the House system, in response to student feedback. Further details can be found here: [School Houses – Nailsea School](#) and here [House Championships – Nailsea School](#)

Other messages for the week can be found below:

Impact of Social Media

We are increasingly dealing with unkindness and bullying through social media that happens outside of school. Young people use language and say things they would never use face to face, but feel it appropriate to say on social media.

We urge all parents to regularly check their child’s phone use and social media accounts to help prevent these incidents. Within school, we do all that we can to ensure that our pupils understand the risks attached to online activity. At the same time, we spend far too many hours trying to unpick issues that may have arisen from the misuse of social media outside school, which then causes issues in school. As parents who pay for your child’s phone contract/data, there is a responsibility for what happens online. All social media apps have age ratings for good reason.

A summary of the minimum ages for popular social media apps is below.



The NSPCC has a really useful page around social media, potential risks, links to children’s mental health and tips to help children stay healthy online which can be accessed here [What is social media? | NSPCC](#)



With Christmas in very recent memory, now is a great time to take stock of the devices they have (plus any new Xmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child. One frustrating issue is the amount of available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

- A - Activate parental controls.
- B - Balance screen time.
- C - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice here [Use the ABC online safety checklist for parents | Internet Matters](#)

Sometimes when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's one that has been used by another family member, for example when a parent gets a new contract, this can be a real positive as devices are expensive. It is important that these are also configured correctly for younger users. Internet Matters also has a guide for parents to navigate features and setting, including how to choose the right pre-loved device. This can be found here [Tech guide to second hand phones and devices | Internet Matters](#)

Curriculum Enrichment Week – Monday 23rd – Friday 27th June

CEW trips are almost all confirmed, and trip leaders will be in contact with you, through Class charts, with further information about any trips where deposits have been paid. This communication will happen prior to half term and will detail when further payments are required.

Changes to Management Information System

Please find attached notification of changes that will be taking place, regarding the systems we will use in school to manage student and staff data, including things such as attendance registering and parent/carer information

Year 8 HPV vaccination

Sirona will be in school next term to administer the HPV vaccine which helps protect your child against 9 strains of the HPV virus. Y8 parents were sent information about this via ClassCharts in December. If you have not already done so please complete the consent form [Sirona consent](#) to give permission for child to receive the vaccine.

Card purchases at breaktime and lunchtime

The catering team are noticing, once again, an increase in the number of students that are not bringing their card to purchase food/drink at breaktime and lunchtime. As you will remember from previous correspondence on this issue, cards are an expected part of the uniform and the system enables service to be time efficient. The time we have for break and lunch is more than sufficient to serve all students and staff, if time is not taken having to manually look up the names and accounts of individuals. As before, persistent offenders will be told they cannot purchase food if they cannot present their card for payment.

If a student has lost their card, they can purchase a replacement through Parent Pay and the Finance team will ensure this is delivered to them.



Matilda The Musical Jr

Nailsea Musicals Youth Section are performing 'Matilda The Musical Jr' from February 21st - 23rd at Scotch Horn Leisure Centre. 40 amazingly talented young people from Nailsea and surrounding areas are involved and it promises to be a fantastic show. Nailsea School students would love your support. Tickets can be purchased via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailseamusicals>.

Finally... it has been a real privilege to be part of the 6th form interview process this week, interviewing 20 of our year 11s who are working through their options and next steps. I was really impressed with the thought that my interviewees have put into their applications and how this will help them develop their future plans. Future career aspirations included amongst others, becoming a pilot, a primary school teacher, an architect and a motor sports mechanic. I have to admit that some of these areas were careers I knew very little about, but the students certainly did. It is also fantastic to hear that students in year 11 are continuing with their out of school interests and hobbies – really important for keeping that work life balance, especially at this time of their education. Although I may have been expecting the sporting stories, the creativity of model making and the commitment to be at the ice rink before 7am some mornings was something more unexpected! Enjoy your weekend – whatever you choose to do

Take care and be kind



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