



A Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the 2024-2025 academic year, students and families! It has been a joy to see so many enthusiastic faces filling our corridors in these first few weeks. Our Year 7 students have fully embraced their role in Team Nailsea, mastering the school layout and routines while making a fantastic impression. This was particularly evident during our Open Evening, where they showcased their new school to a record number of visitors, proudly sharing their learning experiences. At the time of writing I have also shown over 100 families around the school, who booked to see what life is like on a 'normal day'. Parental feedback has been phenomenal with visitors being exceptionally impressed with what they have seen happening in our classrooms.



Our Year 8 and 9 students have also made an impressive start, excelling in their lessons and actively engaging in both school and extra-curricular activities. These experiences are vital for their growth, and we love hearing about their achievements inside and outside the classroom.

Year 10 students have adapted well to the demands of their GCSE and other qualifying courses. The first few terms of Year 10 can feel intense as the pace quickens, but establishing strong routines now will lay the groundwork for future success.

Year 11 parents attended our 'Prep for Success' event, where we discussed managing workload, effective revision strategies, mock exams, and the importance of attendance. Our Year 11s are working hard towards their exams. We know that the workload can at times feel a bit daunting, and we really encourage students to take advantage of Period 6 and the resources available to them. As last years cohort will testify, planning your workload (and relaxation breaks!) will really help manage feelings of being overwhelmed.

Our primary goal is to meet the needs of all our students, providing a safe and supportive environment where they can learn and grow into intelligent, responsible, reflective, and caring young individuals. Term 1 is our Happy New Year and a reminder to reaffirm these resolutions!

Wishing all our families a relaxing half-term break!

Mrs D Elliott
Headteacher

A Hello from the Governors (Our Local Partnership Board)

As the first term of our new school year ends, the Governors are delighted to see the school busy with extracurricular activities, trips, lectures and initiatives. We welcome all our new Year 7 families and hope students are settling in well to their new setting, ready to get the most out of the many opportunities on offer at Nailsea School.

It was wonderful to see the success of our Open Evening, welcoming prospective students and their families, and to see the fantastic reactions to our school from comments on the night and on social media. The Governors were very proud to see how many students volunteered to showcase the school on the evening.

We have been continuing to meet for our Governor meetings and coming into school for visits, working within the governing structure of the Wessex Learning Trust. In the Trust structure, we are now known as local partners. If you see this term in communications from the Wessex Learning Trust, you will know this means the local governing body. We remain the same group of volunteers, committed to supporting the school in the goal of continuous improvement.

Thank you to all our families for supporting our school, and for everyone on our PTA working to help fund extra resources for our students. We were delighted to see the success of the Musical Bingo night, which raised £600. Please consider supporting the PTA Christmas Trees initiative.

We hope all students will enjoy an opportunity to rest and recharge over half term.

Dr J Edwards
Parent Governor



Sixth Form Round-Up

As we settle into the rhythm of the new term, I'm delighted to share the vibrant and inclusive culture our new sixth form community has quickly created. Walking through our corridors, I'm met with a purposeful learning environment and the focused energy of our students.

Year 12 are diving into exciting opportunities, from starting their Community Ambassador roles to our aspiring leaders submitting prefect applications. We're thrilled to have launched the prestigious HE+ programme and Access to Bristol scheme, with these initiatives offering invaluable insights into university life and supporting competitive applications. As we approach our UCAS application deadline,

Year 13 students are diligently adding the finishing touches to their personal statements, as are those students seeking an apprenticeship by finalising their covering letters and CVs. Meanwhile, EPQs have been submitted, showcasing the depth of research and passion our young scholars possess. Our recent Parent Information Evenings and Meet the Tutor Evening have strengthened the vital home-school connection, and I'd like to thank all of those who were able to attend for their support.

Mr Truan - Assistant Head - Sixth Form

NAILSEA SIXTH FORM - YOUR JOURNEY | YOUR FUTURE



On Friday 4th October our Year 12 students travelled to Ashton Gate Stadium for the National University and Apprenticeship Fair, where they explored their Post 18 options as part of our weekly Pathways Programme. Students visited stalls and spoke to providers from across the country about the courses they offer and their guidance on making a successful application. Across the day our students attended two university seminars and two apprenticeship seminars, providing them with a wealth of information to start considering their future pathways. We believe that attending this event at the very

start of Year 12 is a vital component in the journey towards making well informed decisions as the students' progress through their sixth form studies.

Mr Truan - Assistant Head - Sixth Form

We are delighted to announce that Hector S has been selected to represent Nailsea Sixth Form in the 2024-25 Gabblers Club competition. This prestigious and long-standing event is an after diner speaking experience for sixth form students, where the representatives are coached and guided through three practice speeches before the Grand Final held at The Bristol Hotel on Monday 28 April 2025. Our 'Gabbler' for the last academic year, Georgia, has kindly offered to mentor Hector through this year's process and pass on her valuable insight into the incredible journey he will go on over the coming months.



Mr Truan - Assistant Head - Sixth Form



Our Head Prefects, Bobby and Eva, delivered truly inspirational assemblies to lower school students in Term 1 on the topic of leadership. They decided to celebrate a handful of not so well-known examples from across the globe, of children and adults who had the courage and determination to make positive change within their communities. They also shared their own journeys into leadership which were interestingly very contrasting, before discussing 'everyday leadership' and the characteristics that every Nailsea School student should demonstrate to live and breathe our school values, creating an environment where everyone can not only reach, but exceed their learning potential.

Mr Truan - Assistant Head - Sixth Form

AGM

13th November – 7pm @ Nailsea School

We would love to see some new faces join us for tea / coffee and a catch up. We have our events planned for the next year so the AGM will be welcoming new members and appointing or re-appointing roles.

We are looking for the following roles to be filled:

- Chair
- Marketing Co-ordinator
- School Lottery Champion
- Easy Fundraising Champion
- Volunteers

The PTA meet once a term to discuss events and school wish lists – could you give up a few hours once a term to help?

Musical Bingo

Another fab night was had by everyone, plenty of laughing and singing. Thank you to everyone who came and took part and a BIG thank you to our fab compere Ken, who kept things moving along. Look out for Musical Bingo again in the spring.



Christmas Trees



As in previous years the PTA are once again selling pre-ordered Christmas trees, these trees are fabulous and are non-drop variety. Trees can be pre-ordered for collection on Sat 30th Nov from 9am – 11am in the school carpark. Order yours now by scanning the QR code or by clicking on the following link

<https://nailseapta.sumupstore.com/product/christmas-tree>



Murder Mystery

You do not want to miss this unique event! In conjunction with Nailsea Little Theatre the PTA are hosting a murder mystery evening with dinner on Saturday 7th December 7.30pm at Nailsea School. Are you a budding detective? Do you have what it takes to solve the case? Come along and join us for what will be a great night.

Tickets are priced at just £23 each for dinner and an evening of entertainment, and can be booked by clicking on the following link <https://nailseapta.sumupstore.com/product/murder-mystery-per-person-saturday-7-december-2024>

Raffle Tickets

Our Christmas raffle which will be drawn on 10th December is priced at £1 per ticket. Prizes up for grabs are £100 cash, £50 Amazon voucher, Drinks hamper, food & drink hamper. You have to be in it to win it! Tickets can be purchased by clicking the following link <https://nailseapta.sumupstore.com/product/raffle-tickets>



KS3 Art Update

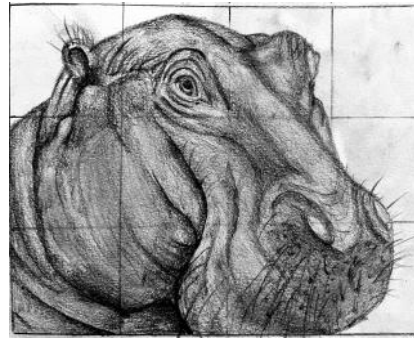
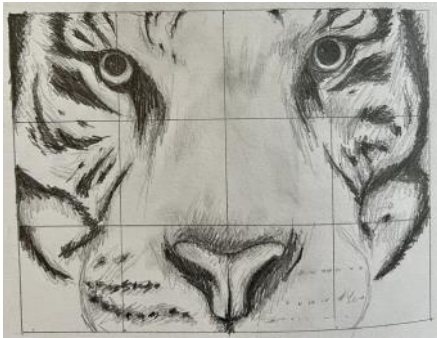
Year 7 artists have been exploring the basics of visual language through lines and shapes to help develop a strong foundation of visual language. We are now moving on to close observational looking, drawing a range of natural forms, and applying lines and mark-making to express the qualities of each item. This hands-on approach not only builds technical skills but also encourages creative expression as students combine lines and shapes to craft their own unique pieces.

This term, Year 8 artists have been contemplating why artists and designer distort and visually exaggerate elements within their work. Through the means of 2-point perspective they have been learning all about geometric forms, and how to extend and manipulate these.

Year 9 have been examining how artists have expressed viewpoints about the environment using visual connotations. They have also been applying tone, texture and mark-making as they draw a range of animals, with the aim of expressing distinct mood, atmosphere and character. This creative journey encourages students to think critically about the role of art in addressing environmental issues while honing their skills in conveying emotion and depth through visual elements. Here are some impressive examples of the work completed so far.



Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty



Year 10 Update

Year 10 Photographers have been honing their skills by learning how to create emphasis and define focal points in their images using both cameras and Photoshop. Through the strategic use of dominant colours, shapes, and scale, they have



explored how to guide the viewer's eye toward key areas within a composition. By applying these techniques, students are discovering how to manipulate visual elements to enhance storytelling and meaning in their photographs, setting the foundation for more sophisticated, visually compelling work as they continue their studies.

The Year 10 3D Artists have started their GCSE studies by studying form and structural integrity. Following an investigation into the 'endless column' by Constantin Brancusi and the interlocking structures by Damien Ortega, they have pro-

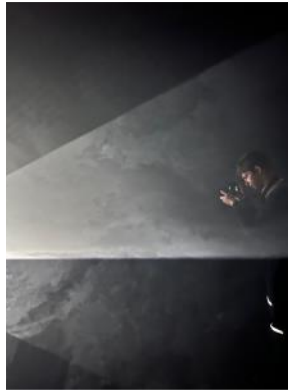
duced their own group models by connecting circles to form towers. In an impressive display of both skill and creativity, all of the sculptures remain standing, showcasing the students' deep understanding of balance and structure. Their innovative work marks an exciting start to their GCSE studies and highlights the technical prowess of our talented 3D Artists!

Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty

London Trip Year 11, 12 & 13



On Thursday, 10th October, Year 11, 12, and 13 Art & Photography students set off bright and early at 6 am (!) for an exciting visit to the Tate Modern in London. The Tate Modern houses one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary art in the world, with iconic works by renowned artists such as Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko, and Yayoi Kusama. This trip offered a fantastic opportunity for students to see ground-breaking art movements like Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, and Minimalism up close.



The Tate regularly hosts cutting-edge exhibitions, and the highlight of our visit was experiencing the innovative work of Anthony McCall. McCall is famous for his "solid light" installations, where beams of light, haze, and darkness are transformed into sculptural forms that visitors can walk through and interact with. Our students spent an hour immersed in this magical, multi-sensory environment, captivated by the experience. The sheer number of photographs taken by our students truly reflects the wonder of this exhibition, and the memories of this inspiring day are sure to stay with us for a long time.

Ms R Davies
Head of Faculty

Music Curriculum

This term Year 7s have started learning about rhythm and the elements of music. They will be working towards some rhythmic performances using percussion instruments inspired by the polyrhythmic drum patterns of West Africa. Year 8s are all about EDM (Electronic Dance Music) at the moment! They have been playing riffs on synthesizers and are now learning to compose their own EDM track using music technology. Year 9 have been learning some key skills on rock instruments including drums, bass, guitar and keyboard. They will soon be forming bands and competing in a Battle of the Bands performance! Year 10 have begun working on their first solo/small group performance pieces, and year 11 are getting stuck into their brief compositions for their GCSE coursework.

Extra Curricular

If you enjoy music, why not come along to one of our music clubs this year! Students who enjoy singing should check out our Choir every Friday lunchtime to learn some fun songs in harmony. If you play an instrument then come and play in our Big Band, which rehearses Wednesday Week 1 and Monday Week 2 at lunchtime - all instruments and levels of experience welcome! On Thursday Week 1

MUSIC CLUBS

1 Monday	1 Tuesday	1 Wednesday	1 Thursday	1 Friday
 Practice Rooms break	 STRING GROUP tutor	 Band Jam After school	 BIG BAND lunch	 MUSIC TECH lunch
 Music Theory lunch	 Practice Rooms break	 CHOIR lunch		
2 Monday	2 Tuesday	2 Wednesday	2 Thursday	2 Friday
 Practice Rooms break	 BIG BAND lunch	 STRING GROUP tutor	 Band Jam After school	
				 Practice Rooms break
				 CHOIR lunch

we have a music tech and music theory club at lunch, and if you would like to use practice rooms to play music together outside of lessons then you can do this on Monday and Friday break times, or after school on a Thursday.

Music lessons

We offer individual tuition on any instrument you would like to learn, including drums, piano, guitar, bass, voice, violin, trumpet, flute and more! Ask your music teacher or email dpate@nailseaschool.com for more information

MUSIC CLUBS

Why do a music club?

- Have fun!
- Be creative
- Make music with other people
- Learn a new skill
- Make new friends
- Take part in concerts
- Perform, go on trips, tours and more!

Mr Pate
Head of Department

Year 7

It has been wonderful to see Year 7 students engaging with their problem-solving starters and delving into the number work of their first unit. Unit 1 features thought-provoking activities focused on addition, subtraction, place value, and decimals, and will soon progress to related topics such as perimeter, median, and interquartile range.

**Year 8**

Year 8 students have been exploring the unit on surface area and volume. They applied their knowledge of circles and other areas creatively in the “Party for the King” task, where they designed cake trays with a focus on minimizing waste. Their investigation of painted cubes encouraged them to make connections between topics, identify patterns, and justify their conclusions.

Year 9

Having embarked on the GCSE syllabus, Year 9 students are now combining their understanding of indices and decimals to grasp how to express numbers in standard form. This skill enables them to work with both very large and very small numbers. It’s encouraging to see them integrate knowledge from various topics, elevating their mathematical thinking and application.

Year 10

Year 10 students are deepening their understanding of space, shape, and probability. The recap starters and homework have prompted them to revisit previously studied topics. We continually seek ways to challenge them, such as exploring more complex shapes, tackling probability problems that incorporate algebra, and working backwards from answers to find missing values.

Year 11

It’s been impressive to witness the turnout of Year 11 students at the after-school Period 6 math sessions. During these sessions, they focus on homework recap and topics in preparation for their upcoming mock exams early in Term 2. The atmosphere is relaxed, fostering effective collaboration among peers. Lessons are progressing toward more challenging material, including rearranging formulae, simultaneous equations, and circle theorems. Students are rising to these challenges and showing perseverance even when concepts become complex.

Year 12

Year 12 mathematicians are enhancing their skills in quadratics and algebra, applying this knowledge at a higher level as they tackle new content. Each lesson requires substantial independent work outside the classroom to master mathematical methods. This independent learning approach is crucial for success at the A-level. Meanwhile, Year 12 Further mathematicians are currently studying matrices and their applications in solving simultaneous equations and transforming shapes.

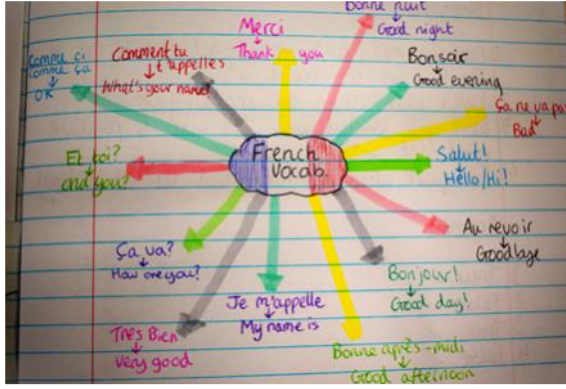
Year 13

Year 13 math students are building on their knowledge from Year 12. Recently, they have focused on a test to identify weaknesses from their end-of-Year 12 assessments, alongside core topics such as series, graph functions, and vectors. The Further mathematicians have transitioned to a Mechanics topic, which, along with their Decision algorithms work, offers a refreshing change after the initial complexities of A2 complex numbers and the applications of De Moivre’s theorem.

Congratulations to the students participating in the senior Maths UKMT Challenge. Keep pushing forward, and remember the weekly after-school support sessions:

Tuesday: Year 11 and Year 7 & 8 | **Wednesday:** Year 12 & 13

KS3 French



Year 7 – The Basics

Year 7 French students are learning all the essentials this term to get them started. How to greet someone appropriately in the target language, the French alphabet, numbers and saying their age and birthday. They will also learn colours and classroom objects. Be sure to test your students at home to see if they can teach you these things!

Year 8 – Are you connected?

Year 8 French linguists unpick everything about social media this term. They learn to describe TV programmes, films, reading and the internet.

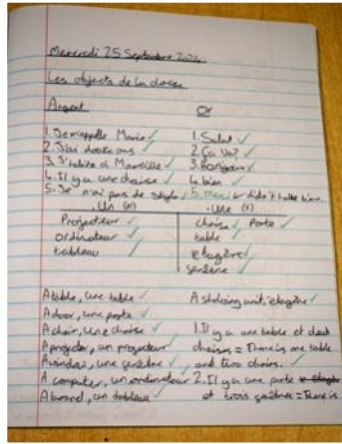
They will also learn how to use the past tense to describe actions that have already taken place in French. (Tenses focus more heavily at GCSE level!)

Year 9 – Teenage Life

We delve deeply into all things teenage related this term learning how to say what we like to do on social media. We take time to explore giving opinions whilst arranging to go out on a date. We cover the challenging grammar concept of direct object pronouns as well so students can save repeating the noun when writing and speaking making their language more sophisticated.

Next term we will share the details of what our KS3 Spanish students have been learning in Term 2.

Miss Cahill
Head of Department



Media Studies Round Up



Year 10 and Year 12 students have settled well into their GCSE and A Level courses in Media and have been learning about how meaning is created via codes and conventions. They are being introduced to the key concepts in Media and the texts they will be studying in greater depth across the two years.

Year 11 Media have been learning about Doctor Who and what life was like in the 60s. They have particularly enjoyed the symbolism of the Doctor's teenage grand-daughter being an alien – they agree that sometimes adults see them as unearthly!

Year 11 Film are learning about the sci-fi hybrid genre by studying their exam film Attack The Block. The film's use of Multi-Cultural London English has been very engaging for them. Some have enjoyed the film's gore more than others!

Year 13 Media students are engaged in learning about Taylor Swift which includes debating whether she exploits her fanbase – there

have been some spicy discussions in class! As a treat, the students have chosen a friendship bracelet to wear to become 'Swifties' for the duration of the unit.

Miss Britton
Head of Department

Drama Update

This term has seen the return of Drama to the KS3 curriculum, and it has been a joy to see students engaged and developing in the subject.

We are introducing Years 7 and 8 students to the basic skills required for the subject. The principal technique explored has been the Still Image, through which students learn to be disciplined, focused, and clear in the creation of work. Performances have been in response to titles such as 'I'm looking forward to school because...' and 'Problem in the Canteen', as well as to the story of 'The Trojan Horse'.

Year 9 students have delved straight into 'Blood Brothers', exploring the physicality, accents, and dialects of the eponymous characters, Mickey and Edward, and researching the plot, background, and social context of the play.

It was a pleasure to present Drama at the recent Open Evening. We were thrilled at the response from prospective students and parents to the breadth of the subject: performance, text exploration and analysis, a wide range of theatre styles and theatre practitioners, and technical theatre production.

Following a successful start to the year, we look forward to the growth of the subject and the impact it can have on students.

Dr J Lloyd
Head of Drama

**Key Stage 3 History Update****Year 7**

Our brilliant Year 7 historians started the year by handling different artefacts and looking for clues to figure out what they could learn from them about the past. They then delved into the exciting world of 1066 weighing up the suitability of three different contenders to the throne and reading historical accounts of the Battle of Hastings. This week we are visiting one of the earliest Norman Castles; Chepstow Castle to enrich the students' understanding of the defensive features of castles and how they helped William try and keep control of England!

Year 8

Our Year 8 historians have been looking at the causes of one of the biggest game changing events in French History; the French Revolution. They have been exploring the unpopularity of King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette. They have been getting creative and have designed posters for a campaign to bring Louis XVI down as King. At the end of the term will be exploring 'The Terror' that followed and the use of the gruesome guillotine as a beheading machine.

Year 9

We started Year 9 analysing the different causes of World War One and how a war which both sides thought would be over by Christmas lasted for 4 years. Students have learnt about the conditions



in the trenches and have read the personal accounts of soldiers from all over the world and have explored the records from local soldiers in Nailsea who signed up. Year 9 historians will soon be creating their own trench diaries based on historical sources we have looked at in class.

Mrs L Ginnis
Head of History

Football - ESFA Cup Under 15s

The Under 15 Girls football team got off to a winning start in the ESFA cup first round with a hard fought 3-2 victory against Mrs Elliott's old school Downend. Both teams had periods of dominating possession with Nailsea taking the lead early in the first half. The game was tied at 1-1 at half time. In the second half, Nailsea took the lead again, early with a quick counter attack that was calmly finished.

Despite some tight defending Downend again equalised shortly after with a fine individual effort from outside the box. The game remain locked at 2-2 until 10 minutes from time when after a sublime team effort a shot was coolly slotted in to the bottom left corner.

Well done to all players, and a particular mention to layer of the match Tia F who fought hard in defence for the whole game. They will now face Oldland School or Worle in the next round.

Squad: Emily P, Meadow H, Ruby W, Tia F, Katy L, Isla S, Isabella C, Maddie K, Phoebe W, Maisie M, Lois M, Trinity WM, Xanthe S



Football - ESFA Cup Under 13s

The Under 13 Girls football team faced a tough first round draw in the ESFA Cup being drawn against last seasons national semi finalists Hayesfield School. Nailsea had four students making their competitive debuts and despite the fierce opposition the girls demonstrated superb grit, determination and team spirit until the final whistle.

Sadly on this occasion their opposition were just too strong but the team have a great base to build on for next seasons competition.

Well done to all players and shout out to player of the match Amelia M who played the full game before travelling to Street for her Somerset County training. Squad: Cherry-Rose H, Mia F, Lily S, Olivia D, Cici R, Eloise T, Amelia M, Olivia S, Annabelle S, Chloe L, Maisie R and Frankie G.

Literature & Language Round-Up

Students have made a fantastic start to the school year in English! Year 7 have been exploring a range of poetry and will be putting their pens aside in the coming weeks in order to plan a poetry performance as a class, bringing the poet's words to life.

Year 8 have been studying a range of 19th Century short stories, from Maupassant's *The Diamond Necklace* to Chopin's *The Story of an Hour*.

Meanwhile Year 9 have been studying the importance of context and theme in their Great American Novel unit.

Year 10 have made a strong start to their GCSE journey with a two-week unit on analysing poetry and have now moved onto crafting their own creative writing. We're excited about the months to come as Year 10 will begin a new play – *Leave Taking*, a beautiful story about cultural identity and belonging.

Year 11 have hit the ground running with a Non-Fiction reading and writing unit, where they explore audience and purpose and the crafting on non-fiction forms. Some of our Year 11 students were fortunate enough to attend a performance of *An Inspector Calls* at the Hippodrome in Bristol—giving an additional insight to this GCSE text.

With such a great start, we look forward to what students will achieve in English this year!



Ms CB Jacobs
Head of Faculty



Year 7 Students Explore Coding with Scratch

Our Year 7 students have embarked on an exciting journey into the world of coding using *Scratch*, a fun and interactive platform designed to teach the fundamentals of programming. Throughout this unit, students are learning how to create their own animations, games, and interactive stories by using block-based coding techniques.

Year 8 Students Dive into Python with Adventure Story Coding

This term, our Year 8 students have been taking their first steps into text-based programming through the *Python Adventure Story* unit. Using the Python language, students have been learning to create their very own interactive adventure stories, where the plot changes based on the reader's choices.

Year 9 Students Master Data Skills in Spreadsheets Unit

Our Year 9 students are looking at the world of data management and analysis through the *Spreadsheets* unit. They are learning essential skills in using spreadsheet software, including organising data, creating formulas, and generating charts to visualise information.

Exciting Opportunity for Year 8 Girls: Join the CyberFirst Girls Competition!



We're thrilled to announce that some of our Year 8 girls will be participating in the *CyberFirst Girls* competition this year, taking place on November 18th. This national event is designed to inspire girls with an interest in technology to explore the exciting world of cyber security.

The competition will challenge participants with a wide range of tasks, from cryptography and logic puzzles to artificial intelligence and networking. It's an amazing opportunity to develop new skills, make friends, and potentially win big! The winning teams will be rewarded with brand-new laptops, as well as prize money for their schools.

There's still time for any interested Year 8 girls to get involved! Simply come along to Room 155 on Wednesdays during lunch to find out more and join the fun.



Year 12 and 13 IT Students Compete in South West Cyber Security Competition

Our Year 12 and 13 IT students have formed teams to take part in the exciting *South West Cyber Security Competition*, which challenges participants to put their problem-solving skills to the test with brain-teasing puzzles.

The first step was to come up with creative team names, and our students didn't disappoint with fantastic choices like "The Phishermen" and "Cache Us If You Can"! Since then, they've been hard at work completing various tasks, both in lessons and in their own time, all with the aim of reaching the grand final in March.

Best of luck to our Year 12 and 13 teams as they continue on their journey!

Mrs Wheeler
Head of Information Communication Technology

Library News



As we welcome our new Year 7s to the library and our English Guided Reading Lessons, the big topic of discussion was: 'What is our favourite type of book?' & 'Do we know what genre it is?' What I always find so fascinating is the variety of interests in genres and what the popular books are with young adults. Then as we turn to our Guided Reading Lessons, taught by different subject teachers, students can experience different subject reading using our designated subject shelves.



The Library clubs have now started including the monthly Book Buzz and Manga + Anime Club. Stay tuned to future editions showcasing the artwork created by students.

Book Recommendations:

Wings of Fire (graphic novel series) by Tui. T Sutherland. Illustrated by Mike Holmes. Book 1. The Dragonet Prophecy.

This is recommended by students, it's a very popular graphic novel series. This is a fantasy series with a Dragonet, Clay who has been chosen (along with four others) to fulfil a prophecy to end a war with another tribe. Clay isn't sure about a prophecy but he is close to his other Dragonets and when one is threatened, they all leap into action. What will come first – freedom or fulfilling their destiny?

Mrs Conner
Librarian

**Nailsea Aspires: Growth Mindset' and 'Discover your Passion' Talks.**

During a recent Extended Tutor Time session, our Year 7 and 9 students had the privilege of attending a presentation by motivational speaker Junior Saunders. The sessions focused on two key themes: developing a Growth Mindset and Discovering Your Passion. Through engaging stories and practical advice, Junior encouraged students to embrace challenges, set ambitious goals, and pursue their passions with confidence.



The concept of a growth mindset, which encourages students to view setbacks as opportunities for growth, was a major focus of the presentation to our new Year 7s. Junior emphasised the importance of resilience, reminding students that success is built on continuous effort and learning from mistakes. "Failure isn't the end – it's just part of the journey," he explained, motivating students to push beyond their comfort zones.

In addition to mindset, Junior explored the idea of discovering personal passions with Year 9, urging students to reflect on what truly excites and motivates them. He shared practical tips on how students can identify their interests and use them to shape their future goals and ambitions. This message resonated strongly, especially as many students in Year 9 are beginning to think seriously about their academic and career paths.

An equally important part of the presentation was the focus on communication and presentation skills. Junior demonstrated how confident communication is a key to success, not only in school but in life. Students were inspired to develop their own presentation skills, learning how to express their ideas clearly and persuasively.

We are incredibly grateful to Junior Saunders for his time and wisdom. His message of resilience, passion, and ambition has certainly left a lasting impression on our students, and we look forward to seeing them apply these lessons as they continue their school journey

Mrs S Ratty
Assistant Headteacher—Inclusion & Aspiration

Welcome Back to Science

Here's what we had going on this term:

STEM Club with Mr Bradley took place every Wednesday after school, offering hands-on projects and experiments for keen science enthusiasts.

Period 6 on Mondays for Year 11 provided an opportunity for students to get extra support with specific calculations and core knowledge recap as they prepared for their mocks.

Year 7:

Year 7 students built essential lab skills in preparation for their first deep dive into cell biology. These foundational techniques set the stage for their continued science education.

Year 8:

Year 8 delved into photosynthesis, respiration, and particle theory. They learned how plants convert light into glucose and explored the many forms respiration can take. This work gave them insight into the energy dynamics that sustain life.

Year 9:

Year 9 focused on atomic structure, cell fundamentals, and forces, making a strong start on their GCSE syllabus and laying the groundwork ready for next term.

Year 10:

This term, Year 10 studied the cell cycle, mitosis, and cancer. They learned how cells grow, divide, and what happens when these processes are disrupted, gaining insight into cell biology and its role in diseases.

In Chemistry, they have been learning about the periodic table. Its development, trends and key groups before exploring the application of this in the lab.

In Physics, students have been building on their knowledge of energy and how it is stored in different situations. They have begun using their maths skills to predict how object will behave using the law of conservation of energy.

Year 11:

Year 11 students explored homeostasis and its applications to diseases like diabetes. By studying how the body maintains stable internal conditions, they gained a deeper understanding of how imbalances can lead to health issues, providing context to conditions like diabetes.

In Chemistry year 11's have been busy learning and performing electrolysis. Learning how to split chemicals using electricity.

In Physics, students have been building on their knowledge of atomic structure in their lessons by learning about the process of nuclear radiation. They will have been describing the different types of radiation and what changes a nucleus undergoes when ionising radiation is emitted.

Year 12:

Biologists were busy with practicals on osmosis and membrane permeability, investigating how substances move through cells—a key concept for understanding cell-environment interactions.

Chemists have been reviewing GCSE content on core concepts, ready to apply this to A level content like titrations.

Physicists have begun exploring the building blocks of the universe with Mr Bradley, answering questions such as "What on Earth is a Quark?". On the other side of the course students began developing their mathematical and problem-solving skills to predict the motion of object in mechanics.

Year 13:

Biologists worked on thin-layer chromatography to analyse plant pigments and we're about to explore how weed killers impact the rate of photosynthesis.

It's been a productive term with each year group engaging deeply with a range of scientific topics and hands-on activities.

Physicists are have been learning about magnetic fields and how they affect the world around us, they are applying complex formula and experimentally determining the magnetic flux density between two magnets. They have also been continuing their studies on simple harmonic motion.

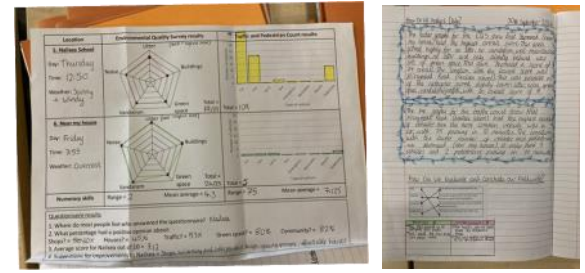


STEM Club made electricity from lemons & potatoes



Year 7

We have welcomed our new Year 7s to Geography and have been impressed with their excellent fieldwork skills! We have started this term studying the enquiry process and students have been collecting primary data during fieldwork at school and at home by completing traffic counts and environmental surveys, as well as analysing secondary data. This is allowing them to answer the big question: Is Nailsea a good place to live?



Year 8

Year 8 Geographers have been enjoying learning about the Middle East. They have been studying the physical and human characteristics of this region, as well as the natural resources it contains and the links this area has to the UK. After the biome lesson students completed homework showing adaptations that animals and vegetation have in order to survive and flourish here.



Year 9

Our Year 9 students have been learning all about the earth's structure and the plate boundaries which produce earthquakes and volcanoes. For homework we were blown away by the quality of some of the models that students produced showing the earth's



internal layers which help us understand why earthquakes and volcanoes occur at different types of plate boundaries.

We have already received lots of fantastic Antarctic flags for our annual Antarctic flag competition. This is a competition run by the UK Polar Network. Our winning flag gets sent to Antarctica and we receive a photograph back of it with one of the research scientists out there. We can't wait to see who wins this year. There is still time to enter, see Class Charts for details.



A-Level Geography

Our new Year 12 students were introduced to NEA coastal fieldwork techniques on Tuesday 8th October, when they visited Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door along the spectacular Jurassic coastline. Students completed beach profiles, sediment analysis and learned all about the influence of geology and lithology on the coastline, consolidating what they have been learning in class. It certainly was four seasons in one day - beautiful sunshine, wind and a downpour.

Mrs Thompson
Head of Geography



NAILSEA SCHOOL STARS

Celebrating those that have aimed a little bit higher, believed in going the extra mile and succeeded in reaching their goals. If there's someone you think deserves "Nailsea School Stars" recognition, or you have a great story to share then please do drop us an email with details to fdavies@nailseaschool.com

**YEAR 7**

- ★ Mr Pate in Music gives a big shout out to Jacob D, for fantastic drumming!
- ★ Miss Britton in English is giving star-status to Mia W, Della V and Freya G, for their excellent analysis of the poem 'The Eagle'.
- ★ Miss Timmins in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Michael M and Freddie D, for always being super keen to share great ideas with the class!
- ★ Mrs O'Reilly in MFL gives a big shout out to Molly M, for being really enthusiastic in every lesson.
- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography wants to nominate Olivia D, for excellent art homework and classwork- great pride in your work shown already!
- ★ Mrs Barron-Smith in Science gives a big shout out to Ranya F, for excellent theory and practical work on cells.
- ★ Mrs Coates in Maths is giving star-status to Ruby B, for setting in well to her new maths set.
- ★ Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Toby T-W, for smashing PE and attending Football and Rugby club.

YEAR 8

- ★ Mrs Truscott in English is really impressed with Elliot W, for your great ideas and enthusiasm in English.
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is giving star-status to Flo B, Annabelle E, Emily K and Martha O, for taking part in the CyberFirst girls Challenge.
- ★ Miss Holmwood in Maths is giving star-status to Lawson G, for aiming high every lesson and taking on challenges!
- ★ Mr. Bradley in Science is really impressed with Millie F, for excellent effort and work ethic in Science.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner in Health is awarding 'star status' to Niah M, for effort and determination in Netball.
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL is really impressed with Orlando G-B, for his excellent effort in Spanish so far this year.
- ★ Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Phoebe W and Eloise T, for a great start to their composing project.

YEAR 9

- ★ Mrs Cahill in MFL commends Abigail H, for always being kind and helpful.
- ★ Miss Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Jack F, for always aiming high and looking for an extra challenge!
- ★ Dr Lloyd in Drama is awarding 'star status' to Joel W, for always trying their best and stepping out of their comfort zone.
- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Mari W, for an expressive and atmospheric assessment drawing.
- ★ Mrs Lange in English is really impressed with Oscar H, for really engaging with our novella, 'Of Mice and Men'.
- ★ Mr. Bradley in Science is awarding 'star status' to Sam C, for continued high effort and engagement with Science Well done!
- ★ Mr Pate in Music is nominating Sam C, for excellent Radiohead drumming!

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**YEAR 10**

- ★ Mr Truan in Health is awarding 'star status' to Eila J, for going above and beyond to extend her subject knowledge in Health and Social Care.
- ★ Mrs Ginnis in Humanities is really impressed with Ethan M, for such a fantastic start to Year 10 History!
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL is really impressed with Fatima R, for excellent effort and work ethic in Spanish. Keep up the great work!
- ★ Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Leo H, for fantastic singing in music.
- ★ Miss Holmwood in Maths is really impressed with Louis B, for always working hard and rising to every challenge!
- ★ Miss McKinney in Enterprise is really impressed with Phoebe T, Amelie G and Aimee P, for their enthusiasm and surprising me with new ideas in Textiles!
- ★ Ms Jacobs in English gives a big shout out to Rowan P, for putting in maximum effort at the start of Year 10.
- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is awarding 'star status' to Tobias K, for diligence, ambition and determination to make the most out of every learning opportunity.
- ★ Miss Herring in Science is awarding 'star status' to Tobias K and Eleanor W, for an excellent start to Year 10 Triple Science, well done!

YEAR 11

- ★ Mr Pate in Music is really impressed with Al W, for great work on his solo performance coursework.
- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with Andrii M, for putting in so much time and effort into your 3D Art and Photography coursework both in and out of lessons.
- ★ Miss Rigby in Maths gives a big shout out to Els T, for putting in loads of effort for a great start to Year 11!
- ★ Mrs Wells in Health gives a big shout out to Flo N and Elle R, for going above and beyond each lesson to help others to succeed.
- ★ Miss Creswick in English is giving star- status to Freddie M, for such an amazing start to the year, showing maximum focus.
- ★ Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is really impressed with Kara C, for her positive growth mindset and being a great role model to others.
- ★ Mr Howard in Humanities is really impressed with Sophie S, for always going the extra mile in everything she does.
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Humanities is really impressed with Tyron DA and Isla B, for the mature start they have made to Year 11.
- ★ Miss Dee in Science is nominating Tyron DA and Andy LW, for a fantastic start to the year. You've both shown excellent progress - Well done!

YEAR 12

- ★ Miss Dee in Science gives a big shout out to 12C Chemistry, for an incredible start to the A Level course! Well done.
- ★ Miss Cartwright in Humanities is really impressed with Grace B, for an excellent start to A-Level Criminology!
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL is nominating Leanne C, for settling into French-Nailsea life so well.
- ★ Mr Taylor in Health is really impressed with Matthew L, for aiming high in every lesson and going above and beyond to support other students answers.
- ★ Mr Pate in Music is nominating Ollie V, for continuing his commitment to music clubs in Year 12.

CONTINUED

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YEAR 12

- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is nominating Thomas F, for having such an impressive approach to learning from the very beginning of the A Level course. Keep up the great work.
- ★ Mrs Sutherland in Maths gives a big shout out to Tom F, for your commitment to learning.
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise is awarding 'star status' to Year 12 IT students, for taking part in the UWE Cyber Security competition.





YEAR 13

- ★ Mrs Groves in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Anna A, for being awesome.
- ★ Ms Evry in Science is really impressed with Beth D, for work completed over the summer.
- ★ Mrs Cooper in English gives a big shout out to Bobby B, for awesome evaluative thinking.
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL gives a big shout out to Cherry B, for improving paper one skills - keep up the good work!
- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is giving star-status to Ebony D, for planning and executing an ambitious photoshoot, and achieving excellent results due to this.
- ★ Mr Pate in Music commends Jacob F, for being a fantastic member of choir and band.
- ★ Mr Jones in Humanities is really impressed with Poppy R, for hard work and contribution to class discussion.
- ★ Mrs Hastings in Health is really impressed with Rhian J, for always aiming high and looking for an extra challenge!
- ★ Mrs Wheeler in Enterprise gives a big shout out to Year 13 IT students, for taking part in the UWE Cyber Security competition.

	September					October					November							
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24	
	December					January					February							
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24
Tu		3	10	17	24	31	Tu		7	14	21	28	Tu		4	11	18	25
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	2	9	16	23	30	Th		6	13	20	27
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	4	11	18	25		Sa	1	8	15	22	
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	5	12	19	26		Su	2	9	16	23	
	March					April					May							
M		3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28	M		5	12	19	26
Tu		4	11	18	25		Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		6	13	20	27
W		5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30	W		7	14	21	28
Th		6	13	20	27		Th	3	10	17	24		Th	1	8	15	22	29
F		7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25		F	2	9	16	23	30
Sa	1	8	15	22	29		Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	3	10	17	24	31
Su	2	9	16	23	30		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	4	11	18	25	
	June					July					August							
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25
Tu		3	10	17	24		Tu	1	8	15	22	29	Tu		5	12	19	26
W		4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27
Th		5	12	19	26		Th	3	10	17	24	31	Th		7	14	21	28
F		6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29
Sa		7	14	21	28		Sa	5	12	19	26		Sa	2	9	16	23	30
Su	1	8	15	22	29		Su	6	13	20	27		Su	3	10	17	24	31

Term Dates 2024-25

Key

-  Term Time
-  INSET / School Closed to students
-  School Holiday
-  Bank Holiday