



A Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of an incredible term and year, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements of our wonderful students. This has been a term filled with energy, creativity, and hard work, and it's a privilege to see our school community live out our motto: *Aspire, Believe, Succeed*.

Our Christmas concert was a true highlight, bringing us all together to enjoy beautiful performances from students of all ages. The talent and enthusiasm on display were truly inspiring. Likewise, earlier in the term the Arts Showcase was a vibrant celebration of creativity, with students producing artwork that was imaginative, thought-provoking, and admired by everyone who attended.

On the sports field, our teams have given us plenty to cheer about, with successes in school and out. Their commitment and teamwork remind us of the values that make this school special.

I also want to commend our older students for the focus they showed during mock exams – a big step toward achieving their goals for the future, both Year 11 and Year 13 are making great steps. Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a huge success attracting many of our current Year 11s and visitors from further afield. Thank you to all of the students who were brilliant ambassadors on the evening volunteering your time and support.

Finally, being recognised as one of the top schools in the South West is a huge honour. This reflects the hard work of every member of our community. As we head towards 2025 let's carry this positivity forward and work together to recognise, achieve and celebrate all of our success.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Mrs Dee Elliott
Headteacher

A Hello from the Governors

Our Governing body has welcomed a number of new members over the last six months, who are bringing specific skills and qualities which strengthen our strategic capabilities, knowledge and effectiveness. Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be introducing our new Governors to you as we welcome them to our school community. You can find out more about our Governors as a whole on the school website, www.nailseaschool.com/our-team/our-governors/

This term, we would like to introduce Joy Tague.

Joy Tague

"I taught Geography for thirty years in schools similar to Nailsea School in North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Norfolk and Gloucestershire. These moves were prompted by my husband's career, but as a geographer, new areas are invariably enticing. About eight years ago I moved to Nailsea from the Cheltenham area, to live with our younger family members who are well established in this area. In my retirement I have remained interested in education through my grandchildren and studying for another degree with the Open University 'for fun'."

I look forward to working with the Nailsea School community, and I hope my enthusiasm and expertise can be helpful to the school.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Dr Jo Edwards
Parent Governor





Sixth Form Round-Up

As we approach the end of term, there's an undeniable buzz across the Sixth Form as university offers and interview invitations are rolling in for our Year 13 students. This extends to those applying for apprenticeships who are busy sending applications and preparing for interviews. It's heartening to see their incredible hard work and focus paying off and displaying as something more tangible, which will provide an extra spark of motivation moving into the new year.

Our Year 12 students have continued to embrace the challenges of Post-16 study with enthusiasm. They're honing their independent study skills and diving into Aim Higher tasks, broadening both their subject knowledge and critical thinking skills. They've also engaged in potentially life-saving bleed kit training provided by the Bristol Bleed Kit Campaign, funded by an anonymous local donor, who our Sixth Form community would like to thank for their generosity.

Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form



Bristol Neuroscience Research Network

Our Year 12 aspiring medics recently attended the thought-provoking 'Bodies: 2' event, hosted by the Bristol Neuroscience Research Network. They were treated to inspiring talks from speakers and best-selling authors who are revolutionising our understanding of health and the human body. Meanwhile, our Access to Bristol participants have wrapped up their winter programme, paving the way for the next cohort in the spring scheme. This invaluable initiative offers a glimpse into university life, subject-specific insights, and guidance from current students and academics. It's a fantastic chance for our pupils to explore higher education options and make informed decisions about their future paths.



Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form



Bath University Trip

Stepping into the world of higher education, our Year 12 students recently embarked on an enlightening journey to Bath University. As part of their Pathways Programme, they delved into university life, weaving their way through their excellent facilities and soaking in the academic atmosphere. The university's Lead Admissions Tutor shared invaluable insights regarding the admissions process and how to write a competitive personal statement. Our students' curiosity shone through as they engaged in a Q&A session with current students, gaining advice and guidance on a range of topics from student accommodation to dissertations.

Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form



Leadership Team

I'm thrilled to share a recent initiative that exemplifies our student leadership team's commitment to embracing diversity and promoting an inclusive learning community. The Year 13 Prefect team has taken the lead in educating our younger students about neurodiversity through a series of assemblies. Their efforts are instrumental in fostering a school environment where everyone feels valued and understood, and being able to communicate complex ideas with such clarity and confidence is truly commendable. These assemblies not only educate but also inspire, showcasing the values and leadership qualities we aim to cultivate in all our students.

Mr Truan

Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form



Film and Media Studies

Year 10 Media are enjoying their study of online media, in particular looking at how Marcus Rashford and Kim Kardashian use their social media presences – very different as I’m sure you can imagine! They have been analysing the choices of images and verbal codes in posts and using the theory of Uses and Gratifications to explore what appeals to the audience.

Year 11 Media have been learning about the advert for the OMO washing powder and what life was like in the 50s. They have particularly enjoyed exploring how 50s adverts represented women and I’m sure none of the them will be asking for a vacuum for Christmas (unlike the infamous Hoover advert of the 50s which stated ‘Christmas morning she’ll be happier with a Hoover’!).



Year 11 Film have been immersed into South African culture via the film Tsotsi. Tsotsi, directed by Gavin Hood, tells the story of David – a young man struggling in Post-Apartheid poverty who learns through friendships with others how to be a good person. The Kwaito music in particular has been a highlight for students. Students are studying a number of key sequences and have to analyse the Key Elements of Film Form – cinematography, sound, mise-en-scene and editing.

Taylor Swift has once again made an appearance for **Year 12 Media** students and we’ve enjoyed exploring different interpretations of her online posts. They’ve even read a dissertation on how Swift engages her fandom during the marketing for her albums. Their online study continues with considering digital news sources – in particular The Voice which is a niche newspaper online and subscription only.

Year 13 Media students have been exploring the 1960s and how masculinity and femininity was represented. Their set text of the Score hair cream advert has raised debates around the roles of the genders at this time, with the male protagonist either being the hero or the reward. They have enjoyed learning more about the intertextuality in the advert, exploring the character of James Bond (Sean Connery being the best Bond of course!) and the role of Carry On film franchise and Pulp Fiction at this time.

Both Year 11 and Year 13 students have worked incredibly hard this term on their mock revision and hopefully the Christmas holidays will be a chance for them to re-set.

Miss Britton

Head of Department - Media & Film Studies



Parliament Week 2025

Nailsea School students took part in Parliament Week this November, joining over 1.6 million students from every nation and region of the UK, and countries all over the world. UK Parliament Week (UKPW) is an annual event, spreading the word about what Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved. It was a great way to find out new things about UK Parliament. Mr Jones (Head of Humanities and Politics) led an Assembly for each House.

During the week students took place in lunchtime activities experiencing a more hands on approach to Politics, including planning campaigns including those related to more funding for more resources in schools.

Students learned about the General Election result and about past and current MPs for North Somerset. Mr Jones also shared the experiences had on a recent A Level Politics trip to Parliament to Prime Ministers Questions. Students were given practical tips on how to get more involved in their community and in the issues that they feel strongly about, they were told that there are many ways for teenagers in the UK to get involved in politics. Here are a few ideas:

- Join a political party (youth sections for under 15s)
- Join a youth council or youth parliament
- Volunteer for a political campaign
- Write to your MP
- Start your own campaign or organisation
- Use social media

Mr Jones

Head of Humanities and Politics



Exceeding Expectations

Nailsea School takes pride in celebrating the individual achievements of students. Success is central to the school's ethos of *Aspire, Believe & Succeed* – making it especially exciting that the schools' efforts to develop student potential have earned it recognition and being named as one of the top comprehensive schools in the South West.

Nailsea School's recently published 2024 Progress 8 Score is +0.26, signifies that the school is now ranked first across North Somerset for progressing its student's potential, and that students at Nailsea School have considerably outperformed expectations nationally.

Since 2019 the school has been amongst the most improved in the South West and the top 3% nationally, attracting recent attention from The Sunday Times, who place Nailsea as the 7th best comprehensive in the South West.

Headteacher Mrs Elliott said:

"In 2019 it was clear that there was work that needed to be done, and our team have rolled up their sleeves and worked incredibly hard to help our students reach their potential and beyond. I am very proud of everyone here, and the results we have achieved in such a short time frame".

She continues:

"I will always recognise that some individual student journeys will be tougher than others, that behind every result is often a unique story of endeavour, which is why this result is particularly meaningful – it shows how far all of our students have progressed, celebrating the potential of all students and not just those at the very top."



Mrs Elliott Headteacher and Mr Truan Assistant Head—Head of Sixth Form

Alongside this, Nailsea school's recently published A Level progress results saw the school ranked in first place across North Somerset for Vocational and Academic subjects, and the only school where the average grade is at least a 'B'.

Nailsea is now the highest performing Sixth Form in Bristol and North Somerset for Applied awards, and the only Sixth Form in North Somerset to be awarded Outstanding by Ofsted.

Head of Sixth Form Mr David Truan said:

"We are so proud of the students and staff at Nailsea Sixth Form and recognise that within these incredible headline figures there are unique individual results for young people who have worked their socks off and done so much to make our Sixth Form a warm, welcoming, and fantastic place to study."

Nailsea School has long emphasised a child-centred approach to learning, with a focus on the wellbeing of children in its care, it means the carefully tailored curriculum and excellent teaching methods combined with outstanding pastoral care can lead to exceptional outcomes for every student. The gaps between different groups of learners not only exceed the national average but also continue to improve at a significant rate, particularly boys and pupil premium.

The school continues to develop its journey, responding to the ever-changing backdrop of student needs and government direction.

Drama Update



During this term, we have been seeing the results of the re-introduction of a Drama curriculum to Nailsea School. Students are becoming increasingly impassioned and emboldened by the subject and the opportunities they have to display their creativity.

Since the last update, Year 7 and 8 students have completed two performance assessments: 'Problem in the Canteen' and 'The Diamond Robbery'. Students were challenged to implement all the techniques covered in the 'Intro to Drama' unit in a clear, logical, and engaging manner. The work on display was impressive, and many students grasped the 'aim higher' gauntlet with both hands, making their own props (see Elliot W's fantastic fully functioning lamp post—pictured left) and bringing in costume. These efforts emphasise the passion and dedication that students have for their study of Drama, going above and beyond to create the very best end product.

Year 7 is now engaged in the study of a playscript which encourages a more detailed and thoughtful approach to characterisation, and Year 8 is exploring the concept of Chorus, starting with Greek Theatre, progressing through Shakespearean Drama, and ending with modern concepts of the technique.

Following performances of key extracts from 'Blood Brothers', Year 9 is now responding particularly well to GCSE-style questions. Students are showing a strong ability to articulate their performance and design ideas and to justify their choices.

As the term nears to a close, the Department has been reflective about the impact of Drama on Nailsea students. We are particularly lucky to teach students who are full of enthusiasm and creative flair, and are embracing the opportunities to push themselves and embrace challenge. We look forward to seeing all that students have to offer as we explore a range of new and challenging techniques and topics in Term 3.

Dr Lloyd

Head of Drama

Priority News

The 1st XI football team continues to impress this season, currently leading the ECFA South West Championship A.



Their success extends beyond the league, as they've also secured a place in the Quarter Finals of the Somerset Cup, where they will face Beechen Cliff in an eagerly anticipated (H) fixture in January. This promising season reflects the team's commitment, talent, and potential for further success.

Mr Davidson

Priority Football



Getting Growing in the DEN



At Nailsea School we are very lucky to have a wildlife area known as the DEN. To make the most of this amenity pupils in all year groups have been invited by Mrs Bicknell to take part in an Eco-Schools club during Thursday lunch breaks. The aim is to make the area a colourful and welcoming space for pupils to enjoy spending time in and to ensure it is a space where nature can thrive.

We have started by clearing back overgrown shrubs and weeds to reveal the small pond areas and let more light into the space. Pupils have enjoyed using the gardening equipment that was bought using funds from the PTA and trying to identify plants as they cut them back.



Parents were asked if they were able to donate anything to the DEN and we are truly grateful for all of the contributions which included a number of bird boxes, nature books, bird feeders and daffodil bulbs. We have been slowly planting the bulbs along the fence and under trees in the hope that there will bright yellow daffodils to greet people as they come into school.

Tutor groups have also taken part in a survey to decide how £500 of funding from 'Nature Grants' should be spent to improve the DEN. There was a choice from 10 products under the themes of 'gardening', 'wildlife', 'seating', 'firepit' and 'outdoor learning'. You can see from the results of the survey that pupils voted for a 'get growing kit', a 'seed ball pack', x 2 benches and a 'learning with fire' kit. Mrs Bicknell has successfully applied for the grant which also includes 2 hours of staff training taking place in Spring.

Mrs Bicknell

Eco Club Coordinator | Geography Teacher

1. How would you spend £500 to improve the DEN?



Charity Week

Phoenix Charity Week was a huge success and the culmination of raffles, stalls and a non-uniform helped raise a whopping £1465.00! A totally fantastic achievement led by the yellow house! The money will be split between a National, Regional and local charity—the House have decided that Cancer Research, Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary and our very own Eco School Club will share the funding. It's an amazing achievement—and so many students got involved in helping to organise and support the event.



House News

In 2025...Stand by **Dragon House** as they breathe new life into their future...Join **Griffin House** as they soar majestically to brighter horizons...Watch **Phoenix House** glow as they light up their dreams...See **Unicorn House's** magic hit legendary new heights. WATCH THIS SPACE for the re-launch of all things 'House' next year!



Your Space and Events for Parents.

This Autumn we held Your Space events for parents a coffee morning and an evening session, which were well-attended.

Guest speaker Leanne Havinden from **North Somerset Parents and Carers Working Together (NSPCWT)** was available for parents' questions and advice about their young people and SEND. She gave lived experience as well as support on offer from this fantastic charity: in the shape of 1;1 and group support for parents.



Nailsea School had a stand at Priory Community School in Worle for 'A Day of SEND' on 23rd October which was a fantastic opportunity for networking and finding out about support available for parents in North Somerset.

We continue to work with families and students who are

struggling with EBSA - Emotionally Based School Avoidance, offering support and signposting. This December we've had staff training in school with a North Somerset Educational Psychologist to develop our staff skills and approaches, as this is a reality in schools across the country as well as ours.

Next Term, Save the Date...

What	Maths For Parent
Date	Tuesday 14th and 21st January
When	3pm – 4pm
Details	<p>NEW: Maths for Parents - 'It's all different from my day' 'I was never any good at Maths' 'I wish I knew how to help but I'm rubbish at Maths!'</p> <p>If you've ever said or thought like this, come to our new Maths for Parents sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical ideas on how to help your young people with Maths homework - even if you don't know where to start • You don't need to be good at Maths, but you can learn how to help with Maths homework - just having you there could massively help your child understand. • Maths support staff and teachers on hand to give advice and explain • A chance to look at online Maths support so that you can show your child at home later • Practise looking for the answers even if you don't know them. • Help with understanding the Maths curriculum for their year group • Promise: Nobody will put you on the spot!
Who	All parents VERY Welcome

What	Coffee & Catch Up
Date	Tuesday 28 th January
When	9.30 – 10.30am & 5.15pm -6.45pm
Details	This term's theme: Managing Friendships and Teens . This was chosen by parents as it is so central to the lives of their teens. No magic wands, but plenty of ideas.
Who	All parents VERY Welcome

To attend please email: Alison Moran at AMoran@nailseaschool.com | yourspace@nailseaschool.com

Mrs Moran

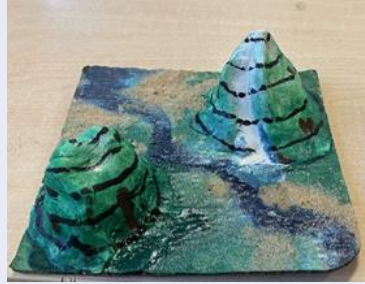
Parent Family Support Advisor



Creative Contour Models



The Geography department have been impressed again by the standard of contour models produced for a **Year 7** homework task. Pupils have been learning about a variety of map skills such as identifying symbols, locating places using grid references, measuring



distances using a scale and recognising different ways of showing the height and shape of the land on a map. Pupils used a range of materials to show the use of contour lines, spot heights and colour shading to show the relief of an area, for example, cardboard and paint, Lego and even potatoes! We hope that this creative activity has helped pupils in their understanding of this aspect of map skills.



Year 8 Infiltration Fieldwork

Year 8 Geographers have been studying the topic of 'Watery World' in geography and have been learning about 'flows' and 'stores' in the water cycle. This will then link in with our end of topic assessment about the causes, consequences and responses to flooding. Year 8 pupils therefore carried out a fieldwork investigation to answer the question, 'Which area of Nailsea School site is most likely to flood?'. Pupils worked in small groups to manage the equipment of a measuring cylinder, stop watch and water and timed how long it would take for 100ml of water to infiltrate at different locations. We then returned to the classroom to present and analyse our results. 8D were lucky to have a dry and sunny autumn day to do the fieldwork in. We discussed how different our results would have been after a period of heavy rain that would have saturated the soils. We hope the pupils enjoyed learning outside the classroom.



Year 11 Bristol Fieldtrip

Year 11s completed their second day of GCSE Geography fieldwork by visiting Bristol Harbourside and investigating how



sustainable the regeneration of brownfield sites has been. We started with a boat trip which explained the history and changes that have taken place along the Harbourside. At Whapping Wharf, Redcliff Wharf and Cabot Circus, students investigated the sustainability of each site, by completing an environmental quality assessment, footfall count, land use survey and asking questionnaires. Excellent data was collected for analysing and presenting back in the classroom. Well done Year 11.

Geography Students Aim Higher with UWE

On December the 5th, Dr Chris Spencer from the University of the West of England came to talk to Year 12 and 13



Geographers about the carbon and water cycles which are a core part of the A-level specification. He linked this to other parts of our course including hazard frequency, changing climate, and the impacts on vulnerable populations. This was fantastic for the synoptic paper geographers' take which links their human and physical geography. He also had a chance at the end of the talk to discuss applying to universities and in particular applying for geography courses. A massive thank you to him for giving up his time to talk to us.

ICELAND TRIP

Our Icelandic adventure began on the Reykjanes peninsula by walking across the bridge between the continents, physically walking from the Eurasian to the North American plate was a rite of passage for our students. From there it was on to the Gunnhver geothermal area to witness boiling mud pools and steam vents. With a strong smell of sulphur in the air it was clear we were not in the UK anymore. A quick stop at the coast and then on to the capital city Reykjavik for the 4D cinema experience a 'Fly Over Iceland'.

Day two started with a tour of the Hellisheidi geothermal power station where students learnt not only about the way Iceland gets its energy from renewables but also about the work of the Carbfix programme where carbon dioxide is being turned to stone. This cutting-edge form of carbon capture and sequestration links brilliantly to the Carbon Cycle and Energy Security unit Year 13 were studying at the time of the trip. Next up was a visit to three resplendent waterfalls; Skogafoss, Seljalandsfoss and Gjuffrabrui. Followed by a visit to Solheimajokull glacier for some hiking. With crampons on feet and an ice axe in hand our intrepid explorers proceeded to make their way on to the snout of the glacier to learn about glacier formation, moulins, the impact of climate change on Icelandic glaciers and of course...to hack a piece off with an ice axe and have a little nibble. After a hearty supper it was back out into the night for a visit to 'The Lava Show' where students were treated to the spectacle of real flowing lava, instantly turning the room in to a sauna

Day three was a big one. The Golden Circle! This comprises of a visit to the Geysir geothermal area, Gulfoss waterfall and the Thingvellir National Park. Geysir is always spectacular. What used to be perfectly still, turquoise pools that surround Geysir have become raging cauldrons of boiling water or bubbling mud.

After talks from our guide and an explanation of how to pronounce Geysir properly (gay-sear) it was on to Gulfoss. There were once plans for this giant of a waterfall to be destroyed to make way for a hydro-electric power station but thankfully, due to protests from a local Icelandic woman called Sigríður Tómasdóttir it has been preserved for all to enjoy. From there it was on to Thingvellir – the site of Iceland's first parliament, Icelandic chieftains met in the shadow of the Mid Atlantic Ridge here in 930AD to discuss affairs.

Day four was a day of highs and lows. An initial high of an epic sunrise was quickly followed by a low of the news that our ferry to the Westman Islands was cancelled. Spirits were quickly lifted however when this created the opportunity to visit a local Icelandic dairy and sample their delicious ice cream, we took time to meet some gorgeous Icelandic horses alongside a visit to the Lava Centre. Our final stop before dinner was an outdoor geothermally heated swimming pool in Reykjavik

So we came to our final day in Iceland, while everyone was sad to be packing up there was still one treat in store to send us on our way. The Sky Lagoon! The highlight of many students' trip, this spa facility comprises of an infinity pool carved out of old lava flows and looking out over Reykjavik Bay, tumbling into which is a waterfall. The 38°C water meant the blustery weather didn't matter and the '7 step ritual' everyone took part in meant we all left feeling fully re-vitalised after the action packed days.

A huge thank you to all the students and staff that went. Behaviour was exceptional and we had several comments from staff at the Sky Lagoon and outdoor pool in Reykjavik about how exemplary you all were. #TeamNailsea did the school proud. Takk! Now on to the 2026 trip...Current Yr 10 and 11 look out!

Mr Anstey
Geography Teacher



Antarctica Flag Competition 2024-2025

Yet again the Geography department have been blown away by the quality of entrants to the UK Polar Network Antarctica flag competition. The winner was Ruby B from D7, her picture and some of our other entrants are



pictured. We loved the peace sign of the dove over Antarctica coloured in the world flags.

There was some excellent designs and so

we have selected 9 runners up, these include:

- Evangeline P D6
- Molly H D6
- Niah M G2
- Phoebe W G4
- Annabelle S P3
- William S G2
- Taylor G P7
- Jack H U8
- Luke W G3



They have all been awarded house points and Ruby's flag was sent to Antarctica to be photographed. Thank you to all students who entered.

Mrs Thompson

Head of Department - Geography



Ruby's flag has made it to Antarctica. Here we can see it at the Singy Research Station, in front of a magnificent Adeli penguin colony.

Sports News

This term has been extremely busy once again with students take part in a range of fixtures. All students involved should be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements. A massive thank you to Mrs Wells, Miss Herring, Miss Bywater, Mr Taylor and Mr Miles who have given up their free time offering training and taking the students to these competitions. The new club timetable will be advertised to you through tutor time in the New Year. Congratulations to

- Olivia C in Year 8 who had U14 football trials and has been accepted into Forest Green ETC.
- Ameila M in Year 8 who has made it through trials to now train as part of the Female England U14's team.
- the Year 7 Rugby team who won the district North Somerset Tournament
- the Year 9 football team for winning their recent second round match and progressing to the next round of the Somerset Schools Cup.
- Annabelle S in Year 7 who finished 3rd in the North Somerset District minor girls Cross Country competition
- The Year 7 Netball team who finish 8th North Somerset District Tournament
- The Year 8 Netball team who finish 5th North Somerset District Tournament
- The Year 7 and 8 Sports Hall athletics teams who finished in the top five schools in the district with the Year 7 boys finishing 2nd and qualifying for the next round

Students must have the following Sports Kit:

COMPULSORY KIT
PE Polo Shirt (Navy & Gold)
Plain navy sports shorts (not cycling shorts)
Reversible navy and gold rugby shirt
Trainers
Long navy socks – needed when wearing shin pads (White sports socks to be worn otherwise)
Plain navy tracksuit bottoms
A pair of shin pads (for football and hockey)
A gum shield (compulsory for hockey and competitive rugby)
Football boots (no metal studs) for football and rugby
All jewellery must be removed for every lesson, jewellery cannot be taped over.
OPTIONAL KIT
A pair of navy blue sports leggings with printed Nailsea logo
A plain navy blue jumper (no hoodies)
Hoodless waterproof navy coat
Skort

PE uniform

As we enter the winter period please could we ask that students are sent into school with appropriate PE kit for the activity they are participating in. Especially on colder days please can we ask students have more to wear than shorts and t-shirts. Please see the PE uniform below to act as a reference point.

Mrs Wild
Head of Faculty - Health

Photography Competition 2025

This year's photography competition theme, *'Wonderful Water'*, inspired an incredible 92 entries from our Year 7-9 students alone! The judges from the local Rotary Club and Backwell Camera Club were thoroughly impressed with the exceptional quality of submissions, as were we in the Art Department.

From mesmerising reflections and refractions to dynamic splashes, intriguing shadows, and stunning traditional landscapes, our students showcased their remarkable creativity and ingenuity. A huge well done to everyone who took part, and special congratulations to the top three winners in each age group category:

KS4/5:

3rd place: Archie G

2nd place: Eila J

1st place: Harrison P



KS3:

3rd place: Niah M

2nd place: Poppy S

1st place: Freya G

Ms Davies

Head of Faculty – Creative Arts

Careers Sector Fair

This term saw the first of our three 'Careers Sector Fairs' taking place. This one looked at careers in construction, engineering, health & heritage. During the afternoon the fair was open to Years 11, 12 & 13 and after school all students & their families were invited to attend. It was a really helpful and exciting event for our students to meet industry experts. Huge thanks to all of the companies that took part - it's very much appreciated.

COMING SOON!

Careers Sector Fair - March (date tbc)

Accounting/Finance. Professional Services - including Administrative/ HR/ IT/Law. Public Services including Armed Forces/ Emergency Services/ Education

Careers Sector Fair - June (date tbc)

Creative Industries including Performing Arts/ Publishing & Media /Fashion & Beauty. Retail & Merchandising / Hospitality/Leisure/Tourism.

If you would like to offer our young learners a helping hand - please do get in touch, please contact LHumphreys@nailseaschool.com for more details.



Girls Football – Round Up

After defeating Downend School in the first round of the ESFA National Cup the Under 15 girls team were awarded with another home fixture. This time they played Orchard School hoping to get to round 3 and the furthest any Nailsea School girls team has progressed in the competition. The team made a strong start and created some excellent attacks with both strikers Xanthe S and Maddie K going close in the first 10 minutes. The pressure the team were able to create was rewarded a few minutes later and Isabella C broke the deadlock.



The team continued to create scoring opportunities and some excellent passing and possession from the midfield 4 of Isabella C, Maisie M, Phoebe W and Lois M drew their defence out of shape and allowed Xanthe through on goal to net Nailsea's second shortly after. Just before half time a long clearance from Katy L put Nailsea through on goal and an excellent save by Downend was turned out for a corner. The resulting corner was crossed into the box where substitute Em W, having only just come on the pitch, calmly converted it into the top of the net to place Nailsea 3-0 up. Downend made some tactical changes in the 2nd half and applied pressure from the kick off and brought the score back to 3-1 at the start of the 2nd half. They continued to create opportunities and Meadow H had to make some excellent saves to prevent further goals being scored.

Martha C went close with 10 minutes remaining but for a fine save from the opposition goalkeeper who cleared the ball long, and despite efforts from the defence to clear the bouncing ball a long-range effort from Downend brought the score back to 3-2. This led to a tense final few minutes and some excellent tackles from Tia F, Ruby W and Isla S prevented Downend from equalising. A well-earned team victory - well done to all players and a particular mention to Lois M who was awarded oppositions POM.

The ESFA National Cup 3rd round placed Nailsea's Under 15 girls team in to uncharted territory. Fortunately they were gifted with another home game in a pitch on the 4g that was quickly becoming a fortress to the team despite the vast size. Chipping Sodbury school were the opposition the team were drawn to face, who had emphatically progressed from their 2nd round match on penalties against a team that had previously reached the quarter finals. Knowing they would be up against strong opposition brought the best out in the team who produced without question their best overall performance to date.

A change of formation saw Martha C, Tia F, Katy L, Ruby W and Lois M start in defence and with Meadow H again in goal proved an impenetrable brick wall throughout the first half despite a torrent of attacks. Nailsea almost broke the deadlock shortly before half time when some smart play between Maisie M, Xanthe S and Isla S set the ball back to Isabella C who played a perfectly weighted ball through for Maddie K to run on to. Maddie took her time and powerfully struck the ball across the goal only to be denied by the woodwork. Momentum swung in Nailsea's favour and they applied further pressure until half time but were unable to convert any chances. The deadlock was broken by Chipping Sodbury shortly after half time, and a superb individual run and finish from their central midfielder resulted in a well-deserved goal. Despite fresh legs and some excellent chances created by Phoebe W and Em W, Nailsea entered the final 10 minutes still behind. A corner taken by Ruby W was almost turned in by Katy L only to be cleared from the line. Nailsea struck the post again with seconds remaining, however, sadly on this occasion it wasn't to be and despite a valiant and resilient effort from all players Chipping Sodbury progressed to the next round 1-0 victors. Huge congratulations for all of the hard work the whole team put in and a shout out to Katy L who was awarded POM for a fine performance in central defence.

The Year 8 and 9 girls football team were drawn to play Kings of Wessex school in the first round of the Somerset Cup. For some of the Year 8's in the team this was their first school fixture playing 11v11 football. The team started well and created some early chances with Eloise T crossing from the left and Cici R connecting with the cross only to find the keeper. The midfield trio of Olivia C, Ava M and Molly J made some excellent passes and disrupted play but with Kings playing a very high defensive line the team were unable to create any goalscoring opportunities. Despite a solid defensive display from Martha C, Ruby W, Tia F, Lily S and Em W Kings proved too quick and physical and were able to score 2 goals in quick succession shortly before half time only to be prevented of a third by a fingertip save from Meadow H. Nailsea pressed in the second half and despite shots from Xanthe S, Olivia C and Eloise T all testing the Kings keeper they were unable to pull a goal back. Kings then scored with a fast counterattack shortly before the final whistle to make the final score 3-0. A huge well done to the whole team who persevered throughout a physical game in tough conditions and congratulations to Eloise T who was awarded opposition POM.



Year 9 Football Success

Georgia Forbes has been selected to play up an age for U15s Premier League football this is an amazing opportunity / challenge for Georgia playing at such a high level.

The Year 9 student has been playing for over 4 years. She plays for South Glos Junior Premier League and Red Falcons Bristol grassroots. She plays up an age for both teams in the Under 15s.

Mrs Wells
PE Teacher

Science Update

Here's what we had going on this term:



STEM Club

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths have teamed up to bring you this fantastic STEM club.

If you are curious and creative and like to try, test, build, discover, compete and invent, then this is the club for you!

All year groups welcome.

WHEN: Wednesdays

TIME: 3pm - 4pm

STEM Club with Mr Bradley continued this term. So far this year they have covered a range of practicals from building batteries with vegetables, codebreaking and chemical puzzles to debunking conspiracy theories and making Christmas Crystal Decorations.

Period 6 - This term's **Period 6 sessions for Year 11** have been a resounding success, with strong attendance contributing to a productive and focused lead-up to the mock exams. These extra sessions have provided valuable opportunities for students to consolidate their knowledge and refine their exam skills.

The programme will continue into the new year, ensuring students stay on track as they approach their final exams.

Year 7 have been exploring energy and particles, including practical work like separating rock salt and investigating chromatography techniques to deepen their understanding of the material world. Science fair has launched for all of Year 7. We are looking forward to seeing what projects they come up with over Christmas.

Year 8 have focused on breathing, digestion, and energy. They've put theory into practice by testing whether height affects lung volume, combining scientific investigation with real-world applications.

For **Year 9**, the term has centred around energy, chemical bonding, and organisation. A standout moment for some was observing and participating in heart dissections, giving students a detailed look at the heart's structure and function.

In **Year 10 Biology**, students wrapped up their topic on cells, conducting osmosis experiments with potatoes to explore cell transport. They've since moved on to enzymes, investigating catalase activity in tissues such as liver and apple to better understand enzyme theory. In **Physics** students have been studying mechanics and physical models of electricity.

In **Chemistry** this year have been exploring the development of ideas surrounding elements and the way they are arranged in the periodic table. They have also been looking at how atoms are joined in the various types of chemical bonding.

Year 11 students have completed their work on homeostasis, learning how the body maintains stable internal conditions. Triple science students delved deeper, tackling the structure and function of the brain and eye. In **Physics** students have been finishing looking at how different electrical components behave in circuits. In **Chemistry** have been learning about what impacts the speed of reactions and how this can be measured in the laboratory. They have also spent time engaging with the concept of equilibrium and predicting the changes that occur.

In the Sixth Form, **Year 12** biologists explored gas exchange across various organisms, including dissecting locusts to examine insect respiration systems in detail. **Year 13** students turned their focus to genetics, unravelling the causes and effects of mutations and their impact on protein structures.

Year 12 Physicists have been continuing diving into the mechanics topic, exploring more complex ideas such as projectile motion and conservation of momentum. Our **Year 13** students have finished learning about gravitational fields and are moving onto studying nuclear physics.

Year 12 Chemists have begun to develop their understanding of atomic structure further and increase their confidence with new homologous series within Organic Chemistry. **Year 13** have been exploring new organic molecules such as benzene and taking their knowledge of rates and equilibrium much further than Year 12.

Ms Baron-Smith

Co-Head of Faculty – Biology

Musical Christmas

The music department gave two fantastic Christmas performances to the public this year. First came our Year 7 Christmas Song Competition, where each Year 7 class performed a song they have been working on in their music lessons for a panel of judges to decide on their favourite. There were beautiful harmonies, solos, dance routines, backflips, costumes, props and more!

On Wednesday 18th December it was our annual Christmas Concert, which included music from our ensemble groups as well as student bands and soloists - such a wide variety of different performances from our talented students.

This term Year 8 have been finishing off their dance music compositions, which have come together nicely, and Year 9 prepared for their band performances of a song of their choice which took place just before Christmas. Our Year 10 students did some wonderful performances recently and have now started exploring composition further. Year 11 have started to study the set work "Defying Gravity" from Wicked, which is very timely as the film is out now!

Mr Pate

Head of Department - Music



MFL - Spanish Focus

Year 7 – My Life

Year 7 Spanish students are learning all about the topic of *My Life* this term. Can you quiz them by asking them to count from 1-100 in Spanish or as high as possible? They are also learning how to name and identify the members of their family successfully and describe hair and eye colour eloquently.

Year 8 – Digital World

Year 8 Spanish linguists are unpicking everything about the digital world by being able to say what they do on the computer or their phone. They learn to give opinions on different TV and music genres, alongside articulating how they enjoy spending their free time more generally.

Year 9 – Future Plans

We delve deeply into all things career related this term learning how to say what job we would like to do in the future and why. We also discuss different job roles in Spanish. We take time to explore why it is important to learn a language other than our mother tongue and the different job prospects this can open up for us! We cover the challenging concept of the conditional tense so we are able to articulate what we would do in the future. The world is our oyster!

Ms Cahill

Head of Faculty – Modern Foreign Languages



UKMT Maths Challenges

Congratulations to all students that took part in the Senior Maths Challenge this term.

A particular shout out to Brittany and Jake in Year 13 who qualified for and participated in the follow-on Kangaroo round.

Mrs Groves

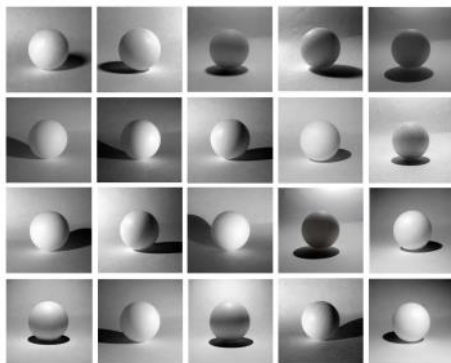
Assistant Head of Department – Maths

Poetry Performance

At the end of Term 1 the English Department held their annual Year 7 Poetry Performance celebration. The afternoon saw every Year 7 class perform a poem of their choice to the rest of the year group and then to parents and carers after school. This year's theme was 'Friends and Family' and the creativity on display was fantastic; we saw stars and planets, giant crabs and even heard a sea-shanty! All the students impressed the judges with their confidence, imagination and teamwork. The judges had a difficult time choosing a winner and the scores were very close. 7E came in third place with their performance of *Praise Song for My Mother* by Grace Nichols. They were just pipped to second place by 7B with their powerful performance of *Alone* by Maya Angelou. Finally, 7G were crowned this year's winners for their brilliant and comical performance of *Shakespeare at School* by Wendy Cope.

The English Department would like to thank all the students in Year 7 for putting on such wonderful performances and all the parents and carers who came along to watch and support the event. It was a lovely way to end Year 7's first term at Nailsea School!

Ms Jones
English Teacher



Art Update

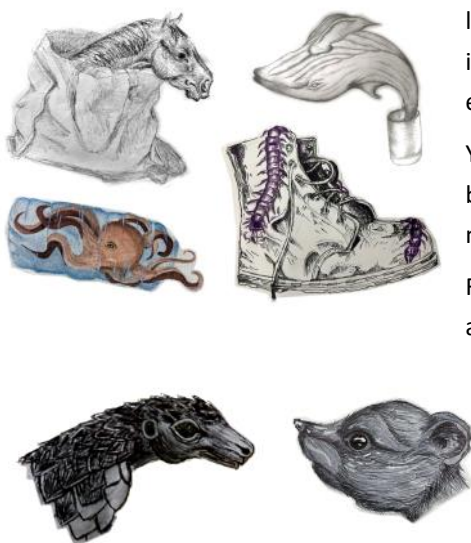
This term has been filled with creative exploration for our KS3 artists. Year 7 students have been delving into the concepts of order and unpredictability, drawing inspiration from sculptor Peter Randall-Page. Year 8 artists have embraced the methodology of Richard Serra's Verb List, adapting shapes with instructions such as to twist, to wrap, and to expand. Meanwhile, Year 9 students have studied street artist ROA, exploring directional mark-making and juxtaposing animal imagery against a variety of contrasting backgrounds.

At KS4, our Year 10 photographers have been learning about commercial photography techniques, including key lighting. They took on a unique challenge: how to light a ping pong ball from as many angles as possible. Their investigations transformed this humble, everyday object into something quite extraordinary.

Year 10 3D artists have been exploring animal habitats and shelters. Inspired by the work of Aki Inomata, the group designed alternative shelters for animals. Who knew a horse in a paper bag could look so comfortable!

Finally, we are very proud of the efforts made by our Y11 and 13 Art, 3D Art and Photography students as they near their coursework deadlines. It takes a lot of perseverance and dedication to reach the highest standards in these subjects, and our students have risen to the challenge.

Ms Davies
Head of Faculty – Creative Arts



Information Technology

This term has been a whirlwind of exciting challenges and impressive achievements for our students in the world of computing and cybersecurity! From international coding competitions to regional cybersecurity showdowns, Nailsea School students have been putting their digital skills to the test and making us incredibly proud.



Bebras Computing Challenge

This November, our brilliant KS3 students joined over 3 million young minds worldwide – including 460,000 here in the UK – to tackle the exciting Bebras Computing Challenge! Think brain-bending puzzles, logic problems, and a whole lot of computational thinking.

But this wasn't just about solving riddles; the Bebras Challenge helps students develop essential skills for the future, like problem-solving, critical thinking, and understanding how computers 'think'.

And guess what? We have some superstar coders in our midst! A huge shout-out to the students featured right who scored in the top 10% nationally – you've made us incredibly proud!

Juniors (Year 7)	Inters (Year 8 and 9)
Della V	Cam L
Noah B	Charlie O
Mia W	Seth W
Enid W	Kira L
Lennon J	Ollie S
Ewan B	Elliot W
Eloise S	Tilda E
Flo W	Flynn H
Poppy S	Eddie A
Naomi W	Summer C
Annabelle S	Sam G
Matilda E	Florence H
Phoebe W	Zara L
William S	Caitlyn O
Daniel K	Amelie B
Lewis S	Jamie R
Aurelia C	Sophie W
Nathan H	Seren S
Ewan H	Lucy B
Tiggy G	Joel W
	Kris Y

Girl Power! Nailsea School Takes on the CyberFirst Girls Competition

Our Year 8 girls proved they have serious tech skills this term by diving headfirst into the CyberFirst Girls Competition! This nationwide challenge put their knowledge to the test across a range of exciting cyber security topics – from cracking codes and solving logic puzzles to exploring the world of artificial intelligence and networking.

Team Queen Coders, made up of the amazing Flo B, Annabelle E, Emily K, and Lucinda N, worked together throughout November to tackle these tough challenges. And the result? They racked up an impressive 4000 points!

While we didn't quite crack the top 10 in the South West this year, the girls' dedication and teamwork were truly inspiring. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and can't wait to see what they achieve in the future!

Cracks the Code at South West Cyber Security Competition!

Our Year 12 and 13 students brought their A-game to the South West Cyber Security Competition this term, proving that Nailsea School is a force to be reckoned with in the world of digital defense!

Two teams, with the awesome names "The Phishermen" and "Cache Us If You Can," battled it out against other schools in a series of challenging computational thinking puzzles. These brainteasers tested their skills in cryptography, logic, and problem-solving – essential skills for any future cybersecurity expert.

...And the results are in! A huge congratulations to "Cache Us If You Can" for securing a spot in the top 100 teams! This is a fantastic achievement, showcasing their talent and determination.

Mrs Wheeler

Head of Department – Information Technology & Business

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, then please do drop us an email with details to fdavies@nailseaschool.com

**YEAR 7**

- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Farzad N, for being an enthusiastic and determined art student.
- ★ Ms Ford in English is nominating Freddie W, for knowledgeable contributions and hard work during our Martin Luther King topic.
- ★ Miss Herring in Science is giving star-status to Jack J, for bringing excellent science facts to the lesson!
- ★ Dr Lloyd in Drama gives a big shout out to Layla A, for always striving for the best standard of work and being a role model for her peers.
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL is really impressed with Noah B, for his incredible accuracy and progress in Spanish so far this year. Muy bien!
- ★ Mr Allen in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Ranya F, for working so hard and always aiming higher.
- ★ Ms Thompson in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Ruby B, for wining the Antarctic flag competition.
- ★ Miss Wild in Health gives a big shout out to Year 7 Netball team, for their level of commitment and enthusiasm in their first district tournament.
- ★ Mr Taylor in Health gives a big shout out to Zach L, for playing up in the Year 8 football team, and winning Man of the Match.

YEAR 8

- ★ Dr Lloyd in Drama is really impressed with Elliot W, for always Aiming Higher and approaching all tasks with tremendous thought and passion.
- ★ Mrs Brewster in Maths is really impressed with Josh C, for showing his working out on his test.
- ★ Mrs Davies in English is really impressed with Josh C for constant improvement and tenacity.
- ★ Mr Boyce in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Katie T, for always producing the most incredible work, thank you!
- ★ Mrs Bicknell in Humanities is really impressed with Kira L, for continuous excellent effort and presentation in classwork.
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL is nominating Maddy H, for always challenging herself in French lessons and consistently being helpful and polite.
- ★ Ms Jacobs in English is giving star-status to Millie F, for a brilliant Gothic description.
- ★ Mr Bradley in Science is really impressed with Phoebe W, for excellent effort and progress.
- ★ Mr Truan in Health is awarding 'star status' to Sid C, for always working to the best of his ability and being a role model for his peers.

YEAR 9

- ★ Mrs Davies in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Arlo R, for incredible commitment to learning Geography and History.
- ★ Dr Lloyd in Drama is giving star-status to Arthur M, for always striving for the very best standard of work.
- ★ Miss Rigby in Maths is really impressed with Charlie T-B and Ollie L, for working so hard and always aiming higher.
- ★ Ms Cowling in English gives a big shout out to Florence H, for always being helpful, focused and kind.
- ★ Ms Thompson in Humanities says "you are a star" Flynn H, for always trying his best even with a broken hand!
- ★ Ms Hancock-Martin in Art & Photography gives a big shout out to Jacob T, for an outstanding homework study.
- ★ Mr Miles in Health was so impressed with Louie S, for making his debut for the Year 9 football team and scoring two goals!!
- ★ Miss Cahill in MFL is nominating Molly W, for always attempting Aim Higher tasks and being so kind and helpful.
- ★ Mrs Davies in Humanities is really impressed with Oscar H, for great concentration and involvement in Geography and History.
- ★ Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Zach BS, Alex H, Logan M and Arthur M, for an excellent science investigation into the effect of exercise on heart rate.

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**YEAR 10**

- ★ Ms Thompson in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Archie G, for the excellent start he has made to GCSE Geography.
- ★ Miss Britton in Media is awarding 'star status' to Bonnie L, for her excellent participation in media lessons.
- ★ Ms Jacobs in English is really impressed with Harvey W, for working very hard producing a brilliant response in his Leave Taking assessment.
- ★ Miss Dee in Science is really impressed with Jaimie H, for your excellent classwork in Chemistry - Well done!
- ★ Mr Allen in Maths is giving star-status to Katy L, for some excellent maths that can be built upon for GCSE.
- ★ Mr Bennetts in MFL is really impressed with Louis B, for always completing Aim Highers, constantly pushing himself and asking excellent questions.
- ★ Mr Truan in Health is really impressed with Luke S, for his dedication not only to his own studies, but also supporting others to improve their understanding.
- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is giving star-status to Marni C, for always striving to invent, create and develop her work.

YEAR 11

- ★ Miss Timmins in Humanities is really impressed with Amber S, Bertie E, Luke B, Al W, Sam S, Emily L, for commitment to their GCSE by attending Period 6 regularly.
- ★ Mrs Jones in English says "you are a star" Beth M, for your fantastic effort in class and revision!
- ★ Mrs Elliott in Humanities is awarding 'star status' to Dec M, Lucy P and Mae S, for the focus and determination in preparing for their mock exam.
- ★ Mr Miles in Health is really impressed with Isaac M, for his continued perseverance to strive to improve in GCSE PE lessons.
- ★ Mr Allen in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Molly K, for consistently taking pride in her work.
- ★ Mrs Barron-Smith in Science is giving star-status to Peter C and Mae S, for effort and improvement in the Science assessments.
- ★ Ms Davies in Art & Photography is really impressed with Sam A, for being so focused and determined to finish his coursework unit to the best possible standard.
- ★ Mrs O'Reilly in MFL is really impressed with Sienna B, for her amazing effort in learning the Spanish language.
- ★ Miss Britton in Media commends the class of 2025, for their hard work and dedication to the mock revision.

YEAR 12

- ★ Miss Cartwright in Health gives a big shout out to Edie D, for completing a superb first ever 16 marker in Psychology!
- ★ Miss Cahill in MFL commends Leanne C, for methodical approach to reading comprehensions and going the extra mile to look up unknown vocabulary.
- ★ Miss Creswick in English is really impressed with Maisie M for amazing effort and focus.
- ★ Mrs Groves in Maths is giving star-status to Mikail, for amazing focus and always aiming high!
- ★ Miss Herring in Science gives a big shout out to Ronnie O, for being a fantastic help and a really positive influence in Year 7 science lessons.

YEAR 13

- ★ Mrs Barron-Smith in Science is giving star-status to Anaska L, for consistent effort and hard work through Year 12 and 13.
- ★ Mrs Groves in Maths is awarding 'star status' to Brittany P, for achieving a Merit in the Senior Kangaroo Mathematics Challenge.
- ★ Mr Paillier in MFL is nominating Georgia L, for some high-quality translations for Spanish paper 1.
- ★ Mrs Gardiner in Health is really impressed with Ruby D, for her excellent effort with her PE coursework.
- ★ Miss Britton in Media is really impressed with the class of Year 13, for their commitment to the mock preparations.