



## NEWSLETTER

### A few words from our Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Colleagues

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this academic year. Newsletters will be issued to parents/carers on a termly basis and contain an update from each of our Centres as well as successes from across the Campus.

There have been some changes to the school ready for the start of this year. Our Primary provision is now located on one site at Nailsea and Year 9 students are now based at our site in Weston with our key stage 4 students. This will enable them, to start their GCSE studies earlier.

We had some fantastic results at GCSE in August with all our students achieving at least one GCSE pass at A\*-G and 70.45% achieving at least 3 GCSE's A\*- G. Results in our Pupil Referral Unit were our best ever with 48.1% of students achieving 5 GCSE or equivalent passes at A\*-G which is a rise

of over 20% on last year's results. In Tuition over 75% of our students achieved at least 3 GCSE's at A\*- G. These results are outstanding and a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our staff.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that I will be retiring from my post as Principal at the end of Term 2. This was an extremely difficult decision to make, as I still very much love working with the staff and students in what I think is an amazing school. The process of appointing a new Principal has begun and I can assure you that I will continue to work tirelessly to improve the school during my remaining time.

Best Wishes

Nick Donnelly

Principal



### Prevent Strategy - Extremism and Radicalisation

The Voyage Learning Campus is committed to educating our students to be safe. As part of our programme and in-line with government policy we teach all students about extremism and radicalisation. All staff have been trained in the government prevent strategy, the objectives of which are to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism, the threat we face from those who promote it and preventing people from being drawn into terrorism by ensuring they are given appropriate advice.

To download an information leaflet for parents/carers on extremism and radicalisation please use the link below:

<https://www.victvs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Victvs-Parents-Guide-to-Extremism-and-Radicalisation-PRINT-Ver2.pdf>

Alternatively you can follow the link on our website which can be found in the 'news' section alongside a copy of this newsletter.

#### Find us on the web!

We will shortly be launching a new look website which will be easier to navigate and also to view on a mobile device such as a phone or tablet. In the meantime our website can still be viewed at the following address:

[www.voyagelearningcampus.org.uk](http://www.voyagelearningcampus.org.uk)

#### Important dates for your diary

Last Day of Term	<b>21 Oct</b>
First Day of Next Term	<b>31 Oct</b>
Next Inset day	<b>16 Nov</b>

### News from Assistant Vice Principal Mrs Alyson Mitchard - Nailsea (Primary)

This is another exciting year for Primary as the Primary Unit is now based solely on our site at the Nailsea in the Bungalow and surrounding portacabins. There are three classes within Primary all named after sea creatures; Turtle Class, Dolphin Class and Penguin Class. The children are put into classes to reflect their social, emotional and developmental level and their readiness to return to mainstream school. This means that classes can contain mixed year groups.

This year we have changed our curriculum and now offer a topic based curriculum built around 'Thrive'. More information about Thrive can be found on our website including a copy of the Yearly Curriculum Plan. This term's topic is; 'What makes me special?' which involves the children learning about where they live in Geography and in Science learning about what makes them human and how they are different to animals. A large part of what makes the children special is their families so at the end of term we will be having a 'Coffee Morning' for parents and careers.

At the end of last year we were very lucky to be trained in Theraplay. Theraplay is an intervention to meet children's emotional and social development needs. Theraplay is an adult directed and structured circle time which includes playful co-operative and nurturing activities. Theraplay is 99% interactive and creates an atmosphere of fun, caring, acceptance and encouragement that leads to better social, emotional and even cognitive development. Every morning each class starts the day with Theraplay. Theraplay not only works on developing some important skills, it also really gets the day off to a positive start.

Each Term the children will try a new sport. This term they are having football coaching from 'Future Stars' who provide professional coaches to schools. Next term the children will be going trampolining.

There are lots of changes in Primary and parents & carers are very welcome to come and see what we are doing, at any time.

### News from Lead Teacher Miss Ashlee Copeland - Nailsea (Year 7 & 8)

The year has started well with two new students joining us.

We have introduced Theraplay which has been a great success and has helped the staff to get to know the students better and understand their likes and dislikes. Activities have included Balloon Bop, Thumb Wars and 'How loud can you crunch?'

'Cling Film wrap' was a popular activity, involving students and staff being cocooned in Clingfilm and challenged to 'break out'. This was great fun and really helped students to enhance their social skills, pa-

tience and teamwork.

The students have had the opportunity to go rock climbing, with qualified instructors from Mendip Outdoor Pursuits. This was an amazing activity and enjoyed by all who took part. Kayaking was also a great success and it is good to see the students taking part in activities they may not have thought about or been able to experience before.

On site there has also been some food technology lessons which is always a very popular

choice. Later this month students will visit 'Il Paradiso', to meet the chefs and see how pizzas are made.

#### Prevention & Re-engagement Provision (REAP)

This new provision at Nailsea offers a therapeutic environment and has so far welcomed four new students. Amongst other things the students have enjoyed making cakes and learning photography skills. They also went beachcombing at Sand Point and items which the students found are now being used for craft work.

### E-safety Update

The internet has become an integral part of all of our lives. A world has opened up which offers many positive opportunities.

Children start using computers from a very early age and are increasingly using the Internet more and more at home, in school, on their mobile phones or on a games console.

With this in mind, Internet Safety and knowing how to help protect children and young people online is essential.

It is important that we understand enough about the Internet to keep children safe from harm and it is also important that we equip them with the skills they need to keep themselves safe so they can experience the Internet positively and responsibly.

This year we aim to incorporate a full programme of events with guidance from Childnet.com.

<http://www.childnet.com/blog/201617-e-safety-calendar-for-schools>

The calendar includes key dates such as Safer Internet Day and Anti-Bullying week that will support staff enabling them to use different themes, games and activities to ensure that e-safety is embedded into our curriculum and supports the needs of our students and parents/carers.



### News from Vice Principal Mr Tony Hill - Weston (Year 9, 10 & 11)

It has been an exciting start to the year with the arrival of Year 9 students. This will enable students in Year 9 to begin their GCSE courses earlier, in line with their mainstream peer group.

This year we have had our highest ever exam results with 44% of students achieving 5+ GCSE's at grades A\*-G or equivalent. Also, 100% of our students attaining 1 GCSE or equivalent. These results reflect the hard

work of both last year's Year 11 cohort and their teachers.

Again, this year we have even more courses on offer to our students with the introduction of a number of ASDAN awards in Citizenship and PSHE. This further helps our students to develop their life skills, giving them a head start in moving on towards post-16 education.



### News from Lead Teacher Mrs Nicola Young - Milton (Tuition)

A really warm welcome is extended to all those new to our school community. Our new students have been settling in to their new environment and I continue to be impressed with how well they cope with the change. We have said a fond farewell to our Vice Principal Diane Barker and our previous Year 11 cohort who performed fantastically in their summer exams. The majority of students performed well above estimated grades, and it was a real pleasure to see so many smiling faces on results day in August. All of our Year 11 students successfully transitioned to post-16 courses studying subjects as varied as Music Technology, Engineering, Beauty therapy to Health and Social care. We would like to congratulate our students who secured apprenticeships, these are intensely difficult to secure

and it is a great credit to them that they did so well at their interviews.

This academic year brings many curriculum changes with Year 11 preparing for the New Maths and English GCSEs where the grades will be awarded as numbers. Year 10 students will also begin the new specifications in Science and Biology. The Science faculty look forward to the new practical elements which include increased microscope skills, microbiology investigations and enzyme technology.

Our Key Stage Three students begin an exciting year with a broad curriculum including English, Maths, Science, ICT, Art, Food Technology and PSHE. Some subject areas such as Maths will be extending the

GCSE programme into Year 9 to allow students more time to develop the skills needed for the new specification. Many students have had the opportunity to sow and plant into our new raised beds which have yielded vegetables and fruits over the summer. Cucamelons being a particular favourite of the Year 8 Science group! Food technology continues to be a really popular subject with Year 9 working towards the Jamie Oliver Home cooking skills BTEC qualification. Favourite dishes include the homemade falafel burger and the one pan breakfast.

We look forward to working with you all over the coming academic year and thank you for your support in preparing the students and ensuring they are ready for school every morning.

### Shakespeare 400 Competition

We had a great response to our competition celebrating the fact that Shakespeare has been enriching our lives for over 400 years. Students wrote poems and stories or designed a poster. The winners received a DVD of 'Romeo and Juliet' starring Leonardo De Caprio!

The winners were as follows:

Courtney Edwards—Weston  
Tom Probert, Olivia Parrotte, Kezia Sprague—Milton

The runners up were:

Aaron Jarvis, Tyler Russell Lenehan, Kyran Evans—7 & 8 Nailsea



We have no doubt that Shakespeare would be proud of you all!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Weston-super-Mare  
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01934 425522

Voyage Learning Campus—Milton (Tuition)  
Baytree Road  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS22 8HG  
01934 413725

Voyage Learning Campus—Nailsea (Primary & Year 7 & 8)  
Pound Lane  
Nailsea  
Bristol  
BS48 2NN  
01275 866999 (Primary) or 855240 (Year 7 & 8)

### Whole School Art Exhibition

Students from across the Campus in Key Stages 1 to 4 had their work displayed in a whole school exhibition at our Weston site at the end of Term 6. An article on this also featured in the Weston Mercury. Photos of the students fantastic work can be found on our Art Faculty Instagram account as follows:-



student\_artwork\_vlc

Or alternatively please use your smart phone to scan the QRD code below:-



Year 9 watercolor painting

### Exciting News!



Our Primary provision submitted an application to the 'Tesco's Bags of Help' initiative to receive an award to help develop the outside space with play equipment, a climbing frame and a sensory garden.

Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's 416 regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single use carrier bags. The public vote in store, using the green token system, to decide who should receive the £8,000, £10,000 and £12,000 awards.

We are very excited because our application has been shortlisted so at a minimum we will receive the £8,000 award! Please vote for us using the green tokens in local Tesco stores between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November and please ask your friends and family to do the same – it would be amazing if we could win the £12,000 award!!

### VLC Management Committee

The VLC Management Committee is looking for two volunteers willing to serve as parent / carer representatives on the Management Committee (the equivalent to a Governing Body).

You do not need any prior experience in this role just a willingness to attend meetings on a regular basis.

The Committee meets three times a year for a two hour meeting on one of the Campus sites.

Meetings are held from 4.00 – 6.00 pm and are usually in November, March and July.

If you would be interested in undertaking this role, please contact the PA to the Principal, Anna Chapman on 01934 836296 or by email at the following address:

[Anna.Chapman@voyagelearningcampus.org.uk](mailto:Anna.Chapman@voyagelearningcampus.org.uk)