

20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I come to the end of my first full term as Principal, I am full of pride at the rapid improvements made and I am truly grateful to lead a school full of such wonderful and talented children.

The final week has been full of festive fun with lots of great things happening in and around the academy. Mr Baria delivered a brilliant assembly to all year groups on the theme of compassion at Christmas. Students had to come up to the front and pick various items from Mr Baria's bag of compassion and many of these items involved acts of kindness and thoughtfulness. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and the key message about demonstrating unconditional compassion was very clear.

In terms of our dedicated approach to supporting the wider community, on Tuesday a group of students attended the Christmas dinner for the elderly at the Red Lion. They spent time talking with the older members of our community which they thoroughly appreciated. On Thursday, Mrs George and Mr Lyons took our community action group into the streets around the school to collect litter and tidy up our local environment. It was great to see so many students involved from all year groups and another fantastic demonstration of character.

On Tuesday evening we welcomed hundreds of parents and carers into the Academy to watch our Christmas show. 96 students, from across all year groups, performed a stunning medley of acts that left me with a very full heart. As someone who is deeply passionate about the performing arts, seeing the joy on the children's faces as they performed was wonderful. Thank you to the parents and carers that came to watch and support our children. The performing arts have some very exciting plans to put on further shows.

On Friday, we had a morning of awards assemblies which were a lovely celebration of all the students hard work this term. There were awards for exemplary behaviour, attendance, individual subject awards and awards for students who have best demonstrated our new student pledges. We finished the assemblies by showing the students a Christmas video made by all our staff in which they were singing along to Merry Christmas Everyone by Shakin' Stevens. The children loved to see their staff demonstrating great festive spirit and having a bit of fun to end the autumn term.

On the theme of rewards, we also did the first golden ticket prize draw of the year. The students were all very eager to hear the outcome of the draw and the winners of the big prizes were:

Mia C (Year 10) – GHD hair straighteners

Lukrecija V (Year 7) – TV

Dib B (Year 8) – Mountain bike.

Our top attending forms this term were:

1st place was 7ZHD – Miss Hayward – 95.9%

2nd place was 11ABI – Mrs Briffa – 95.5%

3rd place was 7TRC – Mrs Childs – 95.3%

The highest praise point earners this term were:

Year Groups	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	1 <sup>st</sup> place	Average points
Year 7	Jacob Mc – 240	Cerys F – 292	Iyanuoluwa O – 308	135 points
Year 8	Bradleigh C – 208	Skyla C – 246	Olivia E – 292	102 points
Year 9	Issie P – 246	Delin F – 246	Samuel O – 268	115 points
Year 10	Lacey M – 174	Ishetevonga M – 176	Arabella C – 187	90 points
Year 11	Laney M – 134	Abbie G – 137	Aiden W – 138	64 points

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for your support since taking up the position here at Montsaye. Things are improving rapidly and I really appreciate the messages from parents recognising that.

We return to school on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> January which is a normal school day and not a training day. I look forward to welcoming all the students back.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope you all enjoy precious time with your loved ones.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines  
Principal