

10 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the children back on Monday and have spent a lot of the week speaking to them about what they spent their Christmas break doing.

The week started with a reflection of all the positives from last term as well as a reminder about expectations. The significant majority of students returned with immaculate uniform and were raring to go in terms of getting on with their learning which was great to see. This positive start was reflected in the number of praise points being awarded with more than a thousand being awarded every day excluding Monday which hasn't been the case previously – well done to all students for the positive start!

I also had the pleasure of leading assemblies for all year groups where we explored why we have respect for different people and the close alignment with personal values. All students were invited to vote via an emoji as to who they had more respect for out of various pairs of people from Marcus Rashford and Mary Earps to Charles Darwin and Marie Curie. A number of students then volunteered to give their reasons for why they made their decisions and there were some fantastic answers given. I then finished the assembly with the story of two people who I respect for different reasons the first being Russell Cook and the second being Kevin Sinfield. As always, it was great to see all students listening intently with far more students becoming more confident in contributing answers and ideas.

This week saw the introduction of blue pens for all independent work so that students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a way that stands out. There have been some great examples of this many of which have been shared via social media platforms for your perusal. Students can now use their praise points to buy pens from our rewards shop.

On Thursday, our combined cadet force were proud to be back wearing their various uniforms and I wanted to give a special mention to Jessica D, Daniel A, Liam L, Rehan F, Oscar C, Poppie M, Lucy F and Harry G who all planned and delivered a 15 minute theory lesson on badges of rank to new cadets to pass their Basic Induction Course (BIC). I know this would have been a daunting experience for all of them, but they all did a great job and demonstrated excellent character.

During last term we introduced an attendance league for all form groups with rewards for promotion between the different leagues. This has been very well received by students and the most recent league update was shared on Friday. The premier league for attendance as it stands currently is:

Premier League		
1	7JOB	96.1%
2	7TRC	95.4%
3	11ABI	95.3%
4	7ZHD	95.2%
5	12MGT	95.0%
6	10IJA	95.0%
7	13PJS	94.5%
8	13JWA	94.5%
9	7KL	94.4%
10	8AWH	94.2%

The highest praise point earners this week were as follows:

Year Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	1 <sup>st</sup> place	Average Points
7	Harry J – 21	Cery F – 22	Ashley M – 23	9 points
8	Frankie-Jay C – 22	Chloe G – 26	Olivia E – 26	7 points
9	Matteo M – 19	Max G – 19	Lewis C – 24	6 points
10	Charlie H – 21	Lucy F – 21	Arabella C – 29	6 points
11	Abbie G – 14	Lainey M – 15	Alex D – 16	4 points

Looking ahead to next week, our Year 10 boys football team travel to Caroline Chisholm School on Monday afternoon in the next round of the county cup. On Thursday, we are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers into school for our Year 11 parents' evening. This is an important opportunity to get feedback from all your son or daughter's individual teachers regarding their areas of strength and areas for development.

I hope you have a restful weekend and manage to stay nice and warm despite the cold snap.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines  
Principal