

07 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

The penultimate week of the term has been a chilly one but the cold weather did nothing to dampen our spirits around the academy. There is lots to share with you but I wanted to start by thanking those of you that have taken the time to complete the parent/carers survey for us. In total there have been 270 responses so far and when the survey closes, I will share the outcomes with you and explain the next steps for gathering specific feedback on the areas for improvement.

Our second ever WOW day took place last Friday and it was heart-warming to see the children all smiling and enjoying the day. The day started with music playing out down the driveway with the children all choosing a golden ticket from the box and hoping to be one of the lucky winners. The music continued at break and lunchtimes with further opportunities to draw tickets from boxes before the prize winners were drawn at the end of the day. All students were then given a chocolate bar on the way out as we wished them all a happy weekend.

Mr Haig led assemblies for all year groups this week which centred on Pledge 3 'We are a telling school, so we are never a bystander' and explained our anti-bullying agenda. He explored the difference between one-off incidents and the characteristics of bullying such as it being repetitive and sustained as well as often involving an imbalance of power. Students were reminded of the different ways they can report any concerns including the SHARP system which is anonymous and can be accessed directly through the school website. Leading on from the assembly, Mrs George also presented our new anti-bullying ambassadors with their gold ties which they have all been wearing with pride.

On the theme of student pledges, it fills me with pride to see so many of our children keen to tell me the pledges that they have learned by heart. There are an increasing number of children that can list all 5 pledges in order and have been earning lots of golden tickets as a result.

On Wednesday, a number of our Year 11 students went to the Corn Exchange to watch a performance of Macbeth which is one of the two texts they are studying for their GCSE literature exam. It was a great opportunity for them to see the play live and help consolidate their understanding of the plot and key themes. Following on with the theme of Year 11 trips linked to their GCSE examinations, our Year 11 geographers went to the Rushden Lakes complex to complete some important fieldwork and hone their skills ahead of the exams in the Summer.

On Friday morning, I was visiting lessons and went into a Year 10 food lesson where the students were all learning how to pare a whole chicken into its various parts such as the winglets, wings and legs. I was very impressed with the knife skills and the students all seemed to be thoroughly enjoying it, so if your son or daughter was in this lesson you can definitely make use of their newfound skills at home!

Things are hotting up in the attendance leagues as we approach the final week of term and the current league standings are as follows with multiple forms pushing for promotion and fighting to avoid relegation:

Premiership		
1	11ABI	97.50%
2	7JOB	97.50%
3	10IJA	95.70%
4	7TRC	95.40%
5	8DAS	95.40%
6	9SCO	94.30%
7	13PJS	93.60%
8	13JWA	93.30%
9	9SC1	91.90%
10	11SLY	89.50%

Championship		
1	11PHM	96.50%
2	9VPA	94.60%
3	12MGT	94.00%
4	8AWH	93.20%
5	10SEC	93.10%
6	7KL	92.10%
7	7ZHD	91.70%
8	9ELB	91.50%
9	10AJT	86.80%

League 1		
1	7EJG	94.60%
2	9LUC	94.30%
3	7JEL	94.00%
4	8ERO	93.30%
5	10MS	92.50%
6	11CDA	92.30%
7	9LHM	92.20%
8	8GDB	90.80%
9	11MAS	88.70%

League 2		
1	10NG	93.10%
2	8JJW	91.90%
3	10SPU	91.80%
4	7REL	91.30%
5	8MCO	91.10%
6	10LFE	90.60%
7	11FAL	89.30%
8	9RL	89.20%
9	8EBL	88.80%

The top praise point earners this week were:

Year Group	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average
7	Eva S – 23	Jacob M – 33	Cerys F – 46	8 points
8	Demi W – 29	Tommie B – 31	Frankie-Jay C – 43	6 points
9	Olivia L – 17	Lottie P – 22	Oliver H – 22	6 points
10	Olivia B-P – 19	Alfie S – 20	Edison B – 20	7 points
11	Alex D – 14	Darcie M – 17	Ava W – 18	6 points

Looking ahead to next week, on Tuesday, it is our Year 10 Character Day and Mrs George has worked hard to put together a fantastic day of character developing activities for all of Year 10 to enjoy. The Year 11 day, earlier in the year, was a very positive day and I look forward to sharing some of the highlights with you from the Year 10 day, at the end of the week.

Also next week, we have Year 9 parents' evening on Thursday which will give the parents and carers of Year 9 students the opportunity to meet face to face with teachers to get an update on you how your child is progressing.

With the tragic events that occurred at Sheffield's All Saints Catholic High School, I wanted to make you aware that we will be practising our lockdown procedure one day next week. All children will be reminded about what they need to do during the practice but I just wanted to give you all advance warning that it will be taking place and why. Lockdown procedures are commonplace in all schools now as part of the wider safeguarding agenda.

Have a warm and pleasant weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines
Principal