

Headteacher: Mrs Donna Mitchell

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Friday 13 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject Recognition Awards for this week

Well done to all the students in the list below.

Subject	Awards go to	
English	Eva S (Y7)	Weronika M (Y11)
Mathematics	Scarlet B (Y7)	Oscar M (Y11)
Science	Enya M (Y11)	Joshua S (Y9) and Olivia B (Y7)
RE	Archie H (Y7) and Esmay K (Y7)	George T (Y10) and Aidan O (Y10)
PE	Lily P (Y7)	Aras G (Y8)
Computing	Alisha P (Y7) & Jackson C (Y8)	Breeze P (Y11)& William W (Y8)
Food Technology	Leah B (Y9)	Alesha D (Y10)
French	Louise T (Y9)	Laurence M (Y11)
History	Alfie G (Y8)	Xanthe W (Y11)
Geography	Ruby W (Y8)	Enya M (Y11)
Music	Freddy B (Y7)	Eleanor Q (Y11)

This week...

Diana Mentoring Award

Thank you to the team at Drax Power station for kindly hosting a workplace visit for our Year 9 students who are undertaking the Diana Mentoring Award. They were

taken on an extensive tour and were able to see the inner-workings of one of Europe's largest power stations!

All the students went with a positive attitude, were engaged (especially with Spark the Robodog), they asked questions and were very polite and respectful to all Drax Guides. The staff who carried out the tour commented on how well they conducted themselves and they were the best group of students they have had in a long time.



"On the 10th December, together with Ms Gibert and Mrs Selway, a group of Y8 and Y9 students went to Notre Dame Catholic College in Leeds. We spent our day finding out about the history of French culture and the films made in France. We had a lovely lunch halfway through the day and after that we continued our journey of discovery through French music and translation. We met lots of interesting people from different universities around the UK. Overall, it was a really good experience."



Campfire Activity



Mrs Howard ran a campfire activity for some students today. Lots of fun was had by all (including making hot chocolate, toasting marshmallows, archery and some 'fake snowballing'!) It is lovely to see our students and staff enjoying these outdoor activities and learning some new skills.

Wellbeing in Mind - Parent Event

We had lots of positive feedback from parents who attended this session. We will be planning more sessions in the new year to help and support parents and their families over the coming months.

If you or your child needs any support please do not hesitate to contact us, we are here to help.

Please Turn over the page...

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Next week reminders...

Monday 16th December Last day of Year 11 mock exams.

We have staff training on Monday after school so there will be no homework club.

Tuesday 17th December Christmas 'Coffee & Carols' Morning: from 11.30 to 12.30.

We look forward to seeing everyone who has booked a place.

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner and **Non-Uniform day**. Christmas dinner is all organised! Each Year group has a separate sitting and will be sat with their friends. Those who have ardered a Christmas dinner will be given a ticket on the day. Donations of £1 for the non-uniform day have been collected, thanks for supporting this fundraising event.

Thursday 19th December – Rewards afternoon

We have a range of activities planned to reward students who have worked hard and have a good attitude to school and learning. This includes a movie, art, bingo, sport, computing and cooking.

Friday 20th December – last day of term. Normal finish at 3pm. There will be no homework club on this day. We will start the day with our Christmas liturgy and celebration assemblies. Lessons will then be as normal before ending the day with some form time and a Christmas quiz!

Update – school closure.

Thanks for contacting us with queries earlier in the week, it really helped to gather a full picture of what was happening! There was a delay with the local authorities sending the information out but, after chasing these on Monday, the large majority of families now have confirmation letters.

The receiving schools are starting to get in touch with proposed starting dates. Some schools have induction meetings and events next week for those starting in January, they will contact you with information. It would be really helpful if you could send us an email when you know an official start date, we can then check this against the information we have from the local authorities and keep a track on student movement. Some students are having a longer transition over to their new school, some are starting later next year when the schools have additional staffing in place. Some are waiting till the end of the year. Each situation is different so please get in touch with the receiving school for their particular arrangements for each year

There is a meeting next week with the DFE, local authorities and local school trusts to discuss placements of students with EHCPs and give an update on the outcomes of the consultations. If your caseworker has been in touch with the outcome of the consultations for your child please let us know. Thanks to those who have done this already, please don't assume that we have been given this information!

Supporting our students...

I have spoken to all students this afternoon to reassure them about the next steps. I talked about the arrangements that we already know about for joining the new schools and also about the next two terms for those staying with us. I told them how we are meeting with representatives of each school to tell them about each of them and to pass over important information. This includes letting them know about friendship groups, academic ability and any support that is needed.

Our final week of this term will be a chance for us to have some final celebrations and create some special memories for students who leave at the end of term. As we did with other students who have left, we will ask them to embrace every new opportunity in their new school family and continue to be the amazing young people they are.

Finally this week...

We just want to say a big thank you for all your support with our advent appeals. We have gathered lots of donations for the local food banks, World Gifts, toy and 'mother and baby' appeals. We are accepting donations up to Thursday next week, every item is much appreciated.

As we approach Christmas, and the hustle and bustle of the season, I hope you continue to find some moments of calm!

"Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush." —Anonymous

Mrs D. Mitchell Headteacher

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