



As we approach the festive season and the end of a busy term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and events that have shaped the past few months.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for their outstanding performance in their recent mock exams. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have truly paid off, and we are immensely proud of your achievements. This is a promising start as we look forward to your continued progress in the months ahead.

A special mention goes out to all our students for their impressive attendance rates. I'm delighted to share that we have consistently maintained attendance above the national average, a testament to the commitment and resilience of our entire school community. Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support in ensuring students make the most of their learning opportunities.

The lead-up to Christmas has been filled with joy and community spirit. Our annual Christmas Fayre was a resounding success, bringing students, families, and staff together for an evening of fun and festivities. Additionally, our Over-55s Christmas Meal was a heartwarming event, as our students extended their kindness and hospitality to members of the local community. These events truly capture the essence of the Christmas season and the generosity of our school.

As we break for Christmas, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this term and look forward to seeing everyone return in January with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Friday 20th December
Last day of Term

Tuesday 7th January
Students return to the academy.

Wednesday 15th January
Year 11 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 22nd January
SEN Passport Evening

Wednesday 5th February
Year 10 Parent's Evening

Monday 24th February
INSET day

Wednesday 26th February
Year 9 Options Evening

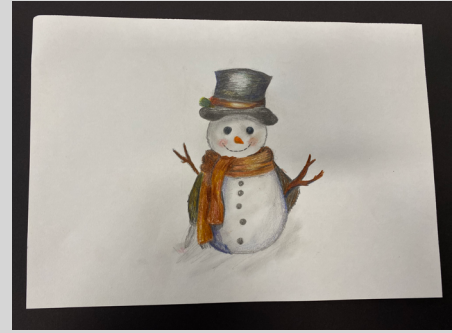
WELCOMING OUR PREFECT TEAM



CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER

Every year, Ormiston Academies Trust runs a Christmas card competition. Students from across the trust academies can submit their festive designs for a chance to become the winner. The winning students receive printed copies of their cards to share with family and friends, along with art supplies and a charitable donation to a cause of their choice.

We proudly announce that Krystal B, Year 8, won! Her design perfectly captures the festive spirit and has won some exciting creative prizes. A donation will be made to Cancer Research UK on behalf of Krystal, her chosen charity - a fantastic and meaningful cause to support. Pictured are Mrs Barker-Brown, Head of Art, Mr Line, Head of Year 8, Krystal and her Art Teacher, Miss Bloom.



STUDENTS ON TRIAL!

As part of the Bar Mock Trial competition students in KS4 had the opportunity to visit Chester Crown Court to defend and prosecute cases of law, competing against other schools.

The competition was judged by real court judges and gave students a taste of what a career in law could look like. Although there was no win, students thoroughly enjoyed the day, found it useful and even made friends with other schools.

Watch out for the Magistrates competition launching after Christmas for 12-14 year olds!



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Last week, Year 10 and 11 students took a trip to Derby Theatre to watch the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol.

Students watched an exciting, magical and vibrant adaptation of Charles Dickens' treasured novel, a key text for GCSE English.

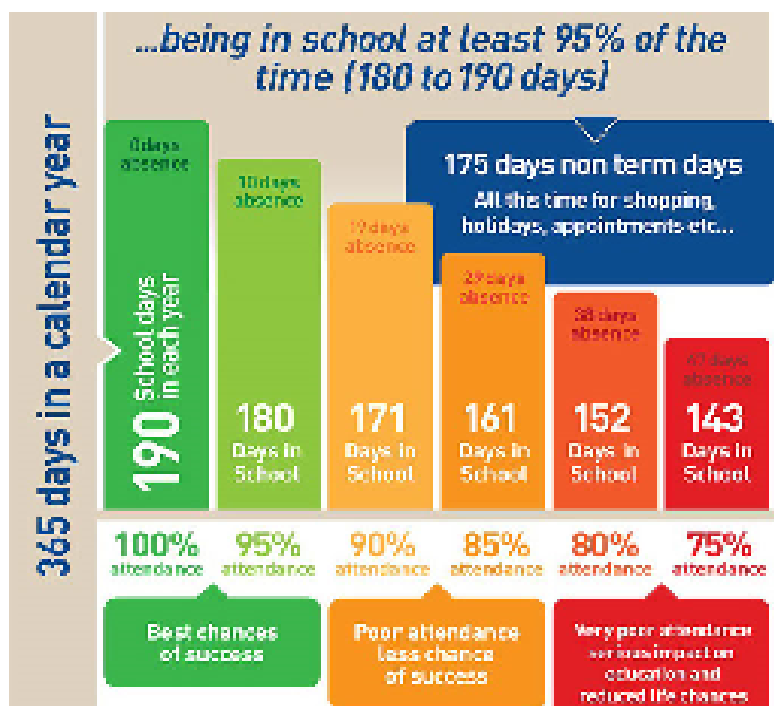
A Christmas Carol is a timeless tale of hope and redemption that follows Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey through his past, present, and future. A wonderful time was had by all!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The 10 days of Christmas attendance focus fortnight was very successful and students engaged with this really well! Thank you to all students who are in school, achieving 100% attendance and were in it to win it! Autumn term 100% rewards were handed out on the last day.

Overall, this term, we've seen an increase in attendance compared to last year and we'd like to thank parents and carers in helping us drive home the importance of attending school and how regular attendance can improve each and every student's outcomes in Year 11, and thereby life choices when they leave. Punctuality to school continues to be monitored as we are seeing a dip in some year groups, but again, thank you to parents and carers who ensure their child arrives to school on time, ready for learning, your support is appreciated.



CADBURY'S CHRISTMAS

The Geography Department took Year 9 Students to Cadbury's World. Students had a great day exploring the story of chocolate and how a global, transnational corporation changes its operations based on its location to suit its customer's needs. The free chocolate was an added bonus!



GET HELP OVER WINTER

We know that the cost of living crisis, fuelled by rising inflation and increasing energy bills, is impacting Stoke-on-Trent residents, businesses and communities.

We are all facing tough financial challenges. If you are struggling, a range of support may be able to help you. The council administers a number of grants, benefits, relief funds and other support. As we approach winter and face cost of living pressure across our communities, Stoke-on-Trent will come together and support the most vulnerable.

We want to ensure that you receive all of the support and benefits you may be entitled to because #helpisathand. Scan the QR code for more details.



