



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

KW/KRE

1st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we begin the month of December, I would like to share this year's plan for our annual Mortonmas.

Mortonmas is our school community's celebration of the festive season, where students and staff participate in twelve days of challenges and activities during the final twelve school days of 2023. These include artistic competitions, community events, and awards for attendance, behaviour and house points. Some of these activities/events, particularly the competitions, will take place during tutor time in the morning. These can then be extended upon at home and submitted to our Student Council before the deadline on the 15th December. Other activities will involve all students being invited to participate in events at certain times of the day.

Thursday 7th December – Festive Tutor and Author Visit

The 7th December will see the official launch of Mortonmas. Students have been tasked with decorating their tutor classroom in the most vibrant way possible. This could be through decorating a Christmas tree, designing a display board, or just generally making the classroom as Christmassy as possible. Our Student Council will visit and judge each tutor classroom on Friday 15th December before crowning the winners!

On this day, we are also very lucky to welcome Tom Palmer to the Academy to meet with our Year 8 students. Tom is the author of sixty children's books and the multi-award-winning author of many books for young readers, including the Young Quills Award winner 'After the War' and FCBG Children's Book Award winners 'Armistice Runner' and 'D-Day Dog'. In 2019 Tom was awarded the National Literacy Trust's Ruth Rendell Award in recognition of his significant contribution to literacy work in the UK. There will be an opportunity for all year groups to purchase one of Tom's books during a book signing that will take place during Period 3 and after school.

Friday 8th December – Christmas Card Competition (Deadline 15th December)

Does your child have a creative flair and a love of Christmas? We are looking for a wide range of Christmas card designs, submitted from as many students as possible. The submitted design can be in pencil, pen or paint, with the design having a festive theme. At the request of our Student Council, we encourage an additional optional theme of the competition to be that of inclusivity in support of PiNC eg a snowman holding a pride flag. PiNC (Pride in North Cumbria) are community charity that work with LGBTQ+ youth and often come into school to visit our Pride Club.

Monday 11th December – GoogleDoodle Competition (Deadline 15th December)

GoogleDoodles are the fun, surprising, and sometimes spontaneous changes that are made to the Google logo to celebrate holidays, anniversaries, and the lives of famous people. This year our GoogleDoodle competition will be part of the 'Festive Tutor' event and entries will be per tutor group.

/cont'd

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Tuesday 12th December – Santa Hat Walk and Dash

All students will be invited to take part in a festive walk and dash around the perimeter paths of our beautiful Academy. Awards will be given for the boy and girl who finish the dash first and for the best Christmas hats. More information about this event will be shared nearer the time.

Wednesday 13th December – Are you smarter than a Mortoner?

At the request of the Student Council, six randomly selected Mortoners from each tutor group will have the opportunity to outwit their all-knowing Head of Year in front of their peers in the theatre. All students should prepare for a battle in brain-busting general knowledge, and from the information in their Morton Academy Knowledge Organiser.

Thursday 14th December – Seasonal Poem Competition (Deadline 15th December)

During tutor time, students will be writing a seasonal poem. This could be a poem about Christmas, the weather, the season, historical events, or the presents! Students can choose which kind of poem they wish to write, such as an acrostic poem, a haiku, a sonnet or a limerick. Entries for the competition need to be handed in before the end of break time on the 15th December.

Friday 15th December – Competition Deadline

The Student Council will be touring the building at the start of the day, judging each tutor classroom for the 'Festive Tutor' competition. All other competition entries are to be submitted no later than break time (10.40 – 11.05am) on this day so tutor time could be used for those last minute touches to competition entries. The Student Council, alongside various members of staff, will be meeting to discuss the entries and decide on the winning designs. All entries to competitions can be submitted to the Student Council in the Library before this day, if preferred.

Monday 18th December – Mortonmas Loteria de Navidad

All students that arrive to the Academy on time on this day will receive a ticket for our Morton Loteria de Navidad as they enter the Academy. Students will then be educated during tutor time on the importance of Lotería de Navidad in Spain. The Lotería de Navidad (The Christmas Lottery) is an annual event. It is a tradition that started in 1812 and has been running for over 200 years. We will be hosting our very own version of this event that will be broadcast over Teams to all classrooms during Period 3. Everybody will be in it to win it! The core values surrounding the Lotería de Navidad are kindness and sharing, but it really is the luck of the draw!

Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Foodbank (Carlisle Foodbank) and Year 7 'The Big Christmas Sing'

Carlisle Foodbank provide three days emergency food aid for people in crisis who have been identified and referred by agencies working in the local community. This year, our Student Council would like to continue to support our local community in this way and have asked if we can collectively gather as much as possible for Carlisle Foodbank. Tutor rooms will contain Bags for Life throughout December for students and staff to donate. On the 19th December, all donations will be collated and transported to Carlisle Food Bank.

Our wonderful Year 7 students will also be participating in 'The Big Christmas Sing'. More information regarding this activity will be communicated nearer the time.

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Wednesday 20th December – Morton Cinema (Christmas Movie)

One of the prizes on offer during Mortonmas is a 'Morton Cinema Ticket'. If your child wins a 'Morton Cinema Ticket' during our Mortonmas activities/events, they will be invited to attend the showing of a Christmas movie in our theatre with a friend of their choosing. This will take place during Period 3 on this day.

Thursday 21st December – Christmas Extravaganza Day!

Christmas jumpers and Christmas dinner! Students will be encouraged to proudly wear their Christmas jumpers to the Academy. £1 will be requested from all involved, with all proceedings raised being used in the near future for student events and rewards. All students will also be invited to partake in a Christmas lunch. More information on both Christmas jumpers and the arrangements from Christmas Dinners will be shared over the coming days.

Friday 22nd December – Mortonmas Closing Celebrations

Mr McGuire will host the annual 'The Big Morton Quiz of the Year', featuring the distinguished 'Magic Hat'. In addition to this, individual awards will be issued to students who have been outstanding in the following areas: Attendance, Behaviour and House Points.

I am sure you will agree that events such as Mortonmas are not only a great way for our school community to celebrate the festive season, but also a fantastic opportunity for your child to develop their character and showcase our Academy core values of Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Respect and Enthusiasm. For events such as the Christmas Extravaganza Day, which involves our Christmas dinner and jumpers, we will communicate the finer details nearer the time.

Yours sincerely

Karl Wilson

Karl Wilson
Assistant Principal