



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

RMCG/KRE

25th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of this term I want to thank you again for your support with attendance, uniform and standards. The academy closes to students on Thursday 28th March at 12.45pm with students returning at 8.35am on Tuesday 16th April. The academy has been very busy over the last term with lots of trips and events. We have entertained hundreds of our feeder primary school students this week with performances of The Wizard of Oz, with evening performances for parents, staff and the local community. It is always brilliant to see our students perform and I know how much hard work has gone into this year's show.

We have also seen Year 7 have their residential trip to Keppleway, our World Book Day activities, Red Nose Day, University Trips, Engineering Competitions and the Year 11 Interview Day. Please do visit our website and our Facebook page to see what is going on in the academy. Our Year 11s are working hard towards the summer exams and there is a full programme of revision sessions during the Easter Break. I was really pleased with Year 11 attendance to the Mock Exams. In fact I am pleased with attendance generally, we have the highest attendance in the local area but we could still improve and my ultimate aim is to have a day at school with 100% attendance. It would be lovely to have the whole academy community together.

Thank you for your support with uniform, punctuality and for helping us maintain the toilet pass lists. There is still progress to be made with shoes – they should be black, polishable shoes and we do need to make improvements to the styles of skirts female students are wearing. We will have a mandatory style of skirt for the uniform next year which will be added to the My School Uniform web page soon. This should make it easier for you when purchasing uniform.

Vapes/Vaping

I always try as the Principal of the academy to avoid 'telling' parents what to do when raising your children but in this case I won't. Children should not have vapes. I am deeply concerned about the amount of students in school who appear to own or use vapes regularly. I receive messages from local residents who witness large numbers of students vaping to and from school. We know that we have students who regularly vape and are addicted to it. Disposable vapes will be banned in the UK very soon and this builds on top of current laws where it is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s. The long term health impact of vaping is starting to become clear with evidence showing vaping linked to regular illnesses like persistent coughs, dental problems, sickness and diarrhoea and skin issues. Studies show that many vapes have very harmful substances including lead within the vapour. The main impact in school of this will be that we will have to restrict the use of toilets as this is the area students will congregate to vape. We do not want to do this but I want you to be forewarned that we will be taking stronger action to limit the opportunity for students to use vapes in school with tougher sanctions for those who do. For the avoidance of doubt vapes are not welcome in our academy.

Year 11 Parents

During the Mock Exam period this month we asked Year 11 students to attend school from 8am. This gave us the opportunity to make sure they had something to eat and drink and to start the day with some effective revision activities. From the start of next term we expect Year 11 to attend from 8am to resume this. Attendance to the Mock exams was excellent and we will be having a results evening on Wednesday 24th April.

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Year 7 Parents

The Year 7 Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 17th April. Please do book your slots as soon as they become available.

Weekly Stars

Every week members of staff identify a student who is their 'Weekly Star', this is usually given to a student who has really impressed us or performed above and beyond in their learnings. We have made a change on Arbor so that when this occurs you will receive an automated email so you can share our pride in your child being recognised for their excellence.

Further Parent Communication

Alongside the above we have also set up an automated email for whenever a student has been issued with a second warning in lesson. We are hoping this allows parents to feel more involved in their child's life at the academy and to have more oversight of any matters that occur. There are limitations to the information you will receive (for example you would not get the narrative of what has happened) but it helps to bridge the relationship between home and school.

Fond Farewells

We say goodbye at the end of this term to two members of staff who have been with Morton Academy for a very long time. Mrs Rigg is leaving us to take on the role as Vice Principal of Central Academy, Mrs Rigg has been a respected long standing member of staff for nearly 20 years. I would like to thank her for her care and commitment to students and I know many parents will echo this. We also say goodbye to Ms Fitzgerald who is leaving us after nearly 15 years in the English Department. Ms Fitzgerald is leaving us to move north to Scotland and wedding bells, on behalf of all the staff and students I thank you for your service to our community.

Safeguarding

From April the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the academy is Mr Tyler. If you have any concerns of this nature please feel free to contact him or your child's Head of Year. There are no changes to academy policies or procedures regarding safeguarding.

We will be emailing you copies of your child's interim report in Years 7-9 in the next day, if you require a paper copy please get in touch with Karen.Reay@rrma.org.uk.

Thank you again for your support, I hope our students and families have a peaceful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Richard McGuire

Principal

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