



Morton Academy
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Newsletter

14th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Once again, I write to you at the end of what has been an incredibly busy yet successful term. Students at the Academy have been working hard taking their first key assessments of the year and staff have been working hard to get them marked so we can start the next term with fresh purpose for what needs to be achieved and improved.

It has been a pleasure to see our Year 7 students manage the transition to secondary school so well, they have applied themselves to their studies, taken up the co-curriculum offer and made lots of new friends. They deserve to be proud of what they have accomplished in their first term here at Morton Academy.

As always, it is not just in academic terms that we have been busy. Our students and staff have been involved in a range of activities over the term. This term saw the launch of our Co-Curriculum. The Academy wants to provide the widest and best opportunities for our students to enjoy and achieve. Whilst the Academy obviously recognises the importance of academia and achieving the best exam results that the students possibly can; we also think that it is vital to extend our students' experience to cover areas that are not currently on the curriculum. These are exciting clubs that function alongside our curriculum and include: Musical Theatre, Fly Fishing, Film Review Club, Couch to 5k running club, Cake Decorating Club, Film Making Club, Outdoors Skills Club and a wide variety of other exciting experiences. There will be another menu of clubs available in January. I'd like to thank staff for their time and dedication to these activities and I hope your children are enjoying this addition to their experience of academy life.

In the first half of this term, we welcomed BAE Systems to the Academy to deliver an exciting STEM Roadshow. The Roadshow was devised in response to the Government's acknowledgement that there is already a shortfall of 'home grown' scientists and engineers to meet the needs of the country and by capturing the interest of young people aged 10 - 13, we can hopefully increase the numbers that take

STEM subjects and ultimately increase the pool of talent in years to come.

The Year 11 students attended a Healthcare and Bluelight event at The University of Cumbria. The students had the opportunity to find out more about careers in some of our crucial front line services. This included interactive workshops to give students an opportunity to understand what it is like to study for a health profession. Students came away from the event inspired to pursue a related career. Given the shortages in nursing, medicine and some allied health positions, along with an ever growing and ageing population in Cumbria it has never been more important for us to help secure a workforce of the future.

Following the half term break in October, we hosted a Careers Fair in the atrium where all our year 10 and 11 students had the opportunity to find out about a range of local employers, organisations and training providers. The Academy welcomed The Army, Carlisle College, The University of Cumbria, Premier Inn, The Civil Service, Tesco, Gen 2, RWP, Dodd and Co, Nestle and Direct Rail Services. Students asked questions and learned first-hand from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. The fair aimed to broaden horizons and also awareness of new jobs emerging and which sectors are set to grow in the future.

We have also taken large groups of Year 11 students to both our 6th Form at Central Academy and Carlisle College. I'm very keen to ensure our students have a full experience of what options and opportunities are open to them when they leave.

Currently our Expressive Arts department, in partnership with Tullie House, are working with contemporary artist Mark Gibbs. Mark, who is currently exhibiting in Tullie House's New Light Exhibition, is delivering a masterclass to a group of gifted and talented year 9 students. Students are enjoying an in-depth exploration of Mark's working process with the students then creating their own drawings and wire sculptures. The masterclass continues and the work that the students produce will go towards their accreditation Level One Bronze Art Award.



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Student Council have been very busy so far this term as they lead on the whole school approach to SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural) education. They have created a diversity display and helped to raise awareness and funds for the LGBT+ community during 'Schools Diversity Week' by selling ribbons, placing posters and taking part in workshops.

They devised and delivered the 'Choose Kind' campaign to raise awareness during 'Anti-bullying Week'. Positive messages and compliments were shared with staff members and students alike.

They also took part in 'Make Your Mark', the UK's largest Youth Consultation which gives young people across the country a say on what is to be debated in the House of Commons. This also allowed the council to identify which issues matter most to our students and promote British Values of democracy.

Members were proud to take an active role in the School Remembrance Service which commemorated the centenary of WW1, after which they led the whole school project which culminated in a poppy display, each flower remembering a soldier who lost their life during the conflict.

Currently, some of the members are working on their manifestos in a bid to become Head Boy or Head Girl. The whole school will take part in a formal election process in the new year.

We are very proud of the work our School Council do along with Mrs Mulholland.

Thank you to all who got involved with the fundraising efforts by our Year 7 and Year 8 students this term. The year 7 students have been raising money to purchase dementia games for the residents of Morton Cottage who will deliver them at the end of term along with Christmas cards and our choir will be singing. The year 8 students have gathered together donations for Carlisle Key to support young people

who may find themselves homeless over the Christmas period. It is heart-warming to see our students demonstrating the characteristics of respect, service and charity at this time of year.

There is much to look forward to in 2019. Rehearsals are under way for the performance of 'Grease' next year. I believe, very much, that school performances are a wonderful way of bringing the academy community together to celebrate the hard work and dedication of students and staff. I'd like to thank Miss Wilkinson and Miss Cuthbert for their hard work.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to a member of staff who leaves us at the end of this term. Lisa Pettifer, Subject Leader for English, has decided to leave Morton Academy. We wish her all the best for the future. I am delighted to inform you that Victoria Sabuda will be joining Morton Academy in January as a Director of English. Victoria brings much experience and an incredibly impressive track record in terms of student support and outcomes.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Academy will close to students at 12.40pm on Friday 21st December 2018. Grab bags will be available at break time for students on free school meals. The Academy will re-open to students at 8.30am on Wednesday 9th January 2019.

Kind regards

Richard McGuire
Principal



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