



# Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

KW/LW

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

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 2024. 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 13<sup>th</sup> December. Other activities will involve all students being invited to participate in events at certain times of the day.

### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Festive Tutor**

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> December before crowning the winners!

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Card Competition (Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> 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 a community charity that work with LGBTQ+ youth and often come into school to visit our Pride Club.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – GoogleDoodle Competition (Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Foodbank (Carlisle Foodbank)**

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 the start of December for students and staff to donate. On the 10<sup>th</sup> December, all donations will be collated and transported to Carlisle Food Bank.

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## **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – ‘Morty’ the Elf Christmas Tree Competition (Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> December)**

All students will be invited to take part in a Christmas tree bauble competition, created by our very own elf, Morty! Morty has been sent from the North Pole to spread festive cheer with the delivery of a Christmas tree. All was going well when our reception staff started to put the tree up, until it was realised that he had forgotten to pack the baubles! Morty has requested our students help to decorate the tree with their own creations. Student designs can be made from anything...the more creative, the better!

## **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Seasonal Poem Competition (Deadline 13<sup>th</sup> 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 to the Library before the end of break time on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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’ and ‘GoogleDoodle’ competitions. 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 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 7 Choir in Day**

On this day, Year 7 will learn and perform part of a song. This year, they will be doing a mash up of Christmas songs. They will rehearse as individual classes and groups, and then all of Year 7 will come together after lunch to fill the theatre with sound!

## **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 or their tutor group (if won during a tutor competition). This will take place during Period 3 on this day.

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## **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Evening) – Community Carols**

During the evening, Morton Academy warmly welcomes you and your families to join us in celebrating Christmas by singing carols around the tree. This will take place from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, with doors opening from 5.40pm. It is free entry, and there will be opportunities to purchase hot drinks and mince pies during the event. There will be various pupil performances (including our special guests from Yewdale Primary School), congregational carols and some festive readings. Please come along and join in the festivities!

## **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Everybody will be in it to win it, but must be in the Academy on time to receive their ticket. The core values surrounding the Lotería de Navidad are kindness and sharing, but it really is the luck of the draw!

## **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Our Weekly Star Award winners will also be announced on this day.

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

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