



Morton Academy

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Part of United Learning

RMCG/KRE

6th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for your support over the last term. As you can tell from our social media platforms it has been an exciting and very busy term. I wanted to give you some updates as we move towards the new year and also to confirm arrangements for the Christmas break. We will follow this with a more interactive celebration newsletter at the end of term.

School Performance Tables:

The first set of performance data was released this week which confirms that Morton Academy continues to be the highest performing school in the city in terms of progress made from Primary School to GCSE results. We have improved to be the third highest school in the county in terms of progress too. We are also really proud to be the school with the strongest rates of progress for students who receive Free School Meals in Cumberland and our progress with students with special educational needs is very strong too. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment to our students and we look forward to improving further.

Year 7:

When we return from Christmas Year 7 will be completing their first mid year assessments. The information collated from this will then be used to set Year 7s by ability. You will receive a report following the assessments with a letter confirming the set your child will be placed in. Students will remain in the same forms for Tutor Time. Year 7 have had a really good start with excellent behaviour and very good attendance.

Year 8:

As with Year 7 we will also be completing the first mid year assessment. This information will then be used to check that students remain in the right sets to support their academic development. Year 8 behaviour has been good so far this term but we have noticed a drop in attendance from the previous year.

Year 9:

As with the other Key Stage 3 years, Year 9 students will be completing their mid year assessments, these again will be used to ensure setting remains correct. In addition to this the results of the assessments will help to guide the Options choices for which the process will begin towards the end of January. This is a pivotal moment in the Morton journey. I am concerned that Year 9 attendance is not as strong as Years 7 and 8. It is vital we see improvements here to help prepare for GCSEs.

Year 10:

The first set of GCSE assessments will be completed after Christmas giving us a clear picture on what work students will need to complete in order to gain the best qualifications they can to help give them as much choice as possible. I have seen a real improvement in attitude but like Year 9 there are some students whose attendance will cause issues in terms of missed knowledge. The key driver of students gaining the grades they need is strong attendance.

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Our performance in the last few years shows that to be the case. Alongside this we need to start ensuring that all of our Year 10s have a clear picture of what their next steps are in terms of Sixth Form, College or Apprenticeships, students with a clear goal always achieve better.

Year 11:

The first set of Mocks have been completed and the next SLT parents' evening will be key to preparing students for the next Mocks. Year 11 attendance has been excellent as is behaviour and attitude. The 8am starts begin again at the start of the new term and interventions after school will increase. The next Mocks are in March and will give a good sense of what grades students will achieve in the summer. My ambition is that we continue on our journey of improving results year on year and data suggests that we are very much on track for this.

End of Term:

The academy will close to students on Friday 20th December at 12pm. Thursday 19th December will be our Christmas Lunch day and all students and staff are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers to school as is tradition. Friday 20th December is scheduled to be a non uniform day too. The academy will reopen to students on Wednesday 8th January at the normal time.

Finally,

On reflection I am very pleased with the first term of this academic year. Alongside our continued performance on the city's league tables we were also very proud to win the Best Secondary School Golden Apple award earlier in the term. We have had one of our most popular ever Year 6/7 application rounds and continue to be one of the most popular schools in the city. Morton's Got Talent was a brilliant event, Year 11 Interview Day was fantastic, we have had trips to all sorts of places and our sports teams have performed admirably. But I am most proud of our students, **every** child who has attended Morton Academy this term has achieved at least one Morton Merit, nearly thirty five thousand house points have been earned. Nine hundred weekly start nominations have been issued with 500 students all earning at least one. I have a wall of certificates of the 12 Principal's Learners of the Week (so far) in my office.

I want to wish you all a pleasant and well earned break when we get further into the month and to thank you all for your support again.

Yours sincerely

Richard McGuire
Principal