

A message from our Principal, Mrs Postlethwaite...

As we step into the season of Advent, we begin with the theme of hope. Advent invites us to pause, look forward and recognise the light that can emerge even in the busiest moments of our school lives. Hope is not simply a feeling. It is a commitment to believing that with effort, kindness and perseverance, things can and will get better. It is a fitting theme for this point in the term and for all that we have to celebrate. This issue of our newsletter focuses on celebration. We have so much to be proud of across our school community. Our recent awards evenings were a wonderful reminder of the talent, dedication and character shown by our students. Seeing families, staff and learners come together to honour these achievements was truly uplifting. We are also celebrating the efforts students have made with attendance throughout November and into December. Our attendance competitions have brought great energy and friendly rivalry to tutor groups and year teams. Every improvement in attendance, no matter how small represents a step forward for a student's learning, confidence and future choices. It is something worth recognising. As we continue through Advent, I hope we all carry this sense of celebration with us. Thank you to our students, staff and families for everything you bring to our school community. I wish you a hopeful and joyful start to the season.

- 8th December- Start of Y10 Mocks
- 9th December -Sixth Form Trip to Liverpool
- 17th December - Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
- 18th December- The King's Christmas Concert
- 19th December - Last Day of Term (12:20 finish)
- 5th January- All students return to school at 8:35
- 5th January- Y12/13 external exams start.
- 26th January- Y11 Mocks start





Our Chaplain

Throughout the advent season, Christians often focus on hope, peace, joy and love. I want to focus particularly on the idea of joy! Real joy isn't about putting on a brave face or faking a smile when times are tough. Nor is it about feeling happy all the time as this simply won't be the case. But we can remember the times where something good happened, or when we successfully persevered through challenges. And we can look to the future with hope and look through the lens of joy and celebration.

Within the school this term we have seen so much that can bring us joy - students' achievements, team work and kindness. These are things we can celebrate and we will look back on as reminders that our hard work is worth it, and that there is so much to be thankful for.

Real and lasting joy is deeper than our feelings or putting on a smile. It's an attitude, a choice to be content with what we have and to face circumstances with positivity, hope, celebration and courage. This doesn't mean everything is easy and we will still face challenges. But what will our attitude be like when we face those challenges. Will we choose joy?

For Christians, the lead up to Christmas is exciting and is a reminder of the "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10), that the angels shared about Jesus' birth. Jesus was God in human flesh who lived a full life, did miracles and had great teachings, then died and was resurrected. Christians celebrate that Jesus came to earth to save everybody, to bring the hope of restoration to everybody, and to bring salvation and joy to everybody. So we can remember the things that have brought us joy in the past. And when thinking ahead to the things that are to come, will you choose an attitude of joy?



A message from...

Our Chaplain



Upcoming services:

Sunday 21st December - 4pm - Carols by Candlelight (St Martins, Talke)

Sunday 21st December - 7pm - Carols by Candlelight (St Thomas', Kidsgrove)

Christmas Eve - 4pm - Christingle (St Martins, Talke)

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm - Midnight Communion (St Thomas', Kidsgrove)

Christmas Day - 10.30am - All Age Celebration (St Thomas', Kidsgrove)



Attendance

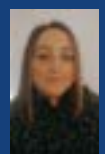


Spotlight on The Attendance Team

Mr Worthington
Assistant Principal & Attendance Champion



Mrs Beswick-Pepper
Attendance & Welfare Officer



Mrs Thorne
Home School Link Worker



Year to date attendance
Y7- 95.1%
Y8- 94.6%
Y9- 91.2%
Y10- 89.4%
Y11- 88.2%





Celebration of Success!

Last week, we rounded off our All In for Advent challenge by celebrating the incredible students who attended every single one of the 20 school days in November and presenting them with their advent calendars!

It was a wonderful week of celebration, recognising the dedication, resilience, and community spirit shown by these students. We are so proud of them for aspiring to attend every day, belonging to a community committed to working together, and demonstrating such care and commitment. It was truly a magical moment for our staff to hand out the calendars!



"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17

This verse felt especially fitting as we watched our students uplift and inspire one another throughout the challenge.



AWARDS EVENING

A huge thank you to all parents, students, families, special guests, and staff who joined us for last week's Awards Evening.

We celebrated attainment, progress, integrity, grace, humility, hard work, charity, giving, kindness, resilience, commitment, and so much more. Our students performed with courage, dignity, beauty, and talent, showcasing the very best of themselves.

We were also inspired by our guest speakers, who reflected on the future of the partnership between staff, schools, and parents, and shared how, together, we can build a better world for our students.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all those who made the evening possible. We hope you returned home safely, having enjoyed a night that highlighted how our students live every moment to the fullest, and how our school community continues to shine with the values and qualities to Aspire, Belong, and Care.

As staff, we are proud beyond words of each young person celebrated for all that they have done, all that they are, and all that they will grow to be.

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11





AWARDS EVENING



"It is wonderful to celebrate the aspiration, handwork, determination and care of our young people."





AWARDS EVENING



"To watch our young people be rewarded for their efforts fills us with pride, joy and hope for all we know they will grow to be and accomplish."



AWARDS EVENING

"Tonight we celebrate our young people who aspire to achieve, belong to a community that supports them, and care deeply about making a difference to their lives and lives of others."





AWARDS EVENING



"To aspire, belong, and care, these are the qualities that turn potential into achievement, and dreams into reality."



AWARDS EVENING



"Awards are more than recognition—they are a testament to what can be achieved when talent meets determination."





AWARDS EVENING



"We applauded those who had aspired beyond expectation, belonged without hesitation, and cared with sincerity, living each day to the fullest."





AWARDS EVENING



**"To share in the celebrations
with our students is a
source of both pride and
privilege."**





AWARDS EVENING



"The awards highlighted those who worked tirelessly, acted with integrity, and made a difference in ways both big and small."





AWARDS EVENING



**"These awards remind us that hard work,
kindness, and commitment leave a lasting mark
on everyone they touch."**





AWARDS EVENING



**"It is an honour to
witness the growth,
commitment and
success of these
wonderful young
people,"**



AWARDS EVENING



"These awards highlighted students behaving with intention, people who have embraced school and life in all its fullness."





AWARDS EVENING



"We looked back on a year of dedication and growth, honoring those who had aspired to excel, found belonging, and cared enough to make a difference."



AWARDS EVENING



"To see our young people shine tonight reminds us that effort, commitment, and heart never go unnoticed."





AWARDS EVENING



"Celebrating achievements like these reminds us that potential is limitless when nurtured with dedication and support."



STUDENT SHOUT OUTS

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." –
1 Thessalonians 5:11



This week's assembly was filled with positivity as Miss Stevens had the joy of reading out a series of Shoutouts to her year group. It was wonderful to hear so many incredible comments about our students. Their hard work, kindness, resilience and achievements truly shone through.

Moments like these help to build a sense of celebration and belonging within our school community, reminding us of the value of lifting each other up.

A huge well done to everyone mentioned, and to all students who continue to make our school a supportive and inspiring place to learn. Keep up the fantastic work!