



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
Friday 20th December 2024

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Dear parents and carers,

We have eventually reached the end of a long but very successful term. The final week has been action packed! I have summarised all of the key events below.

Farewell to Mr Heapy and Mrs Raza

Today we say a fond farewell to two of our brilliant teachers. Mr Heapy leaves after nearly two years teaching Spanish in the Creativity Faculty. He is moving on to a career in the Civil Service. Mrs Raza began her role as Teacher in Charge of Geography during the turbulent years of the pandemic and now plans to dedicate more time to her role as one of the Chief Examiners for the WJEC exam board. I thank Mr Heapy and Mrs Raza for their dedicated service and wish them well for the future.

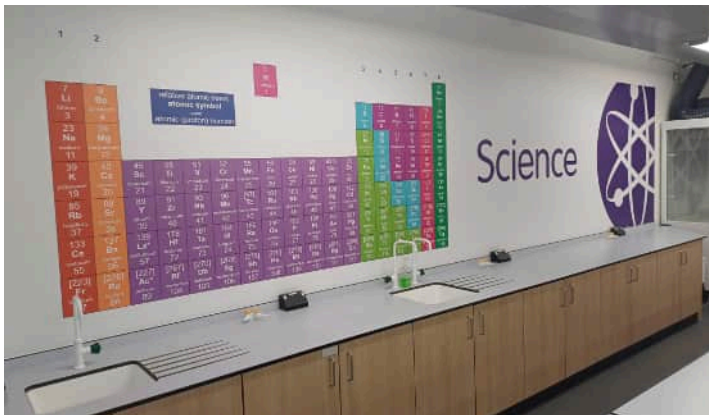
Rewards

The final Hot Chocolate rewards of the calendar year were given to students who have gone above and beyond in extra-curricular activities. 15 students were recognised for their contribution to drama club, school band, choir or sport. What a brilliant group of students for me to spend Friday break time with. They are all a credit to their families and to our school.



Science Wall Art

Our science labs have had a face-lift this week. All of our 6 labs have had life-sized periodic tables installed on the walls for students to refer to in their lessons. The wall art has really brightened the bare walls and has enhanced the learning environment. If we can find sufficient funds, we hope to be able to replicate something similar in other faculties. Thanks to Aaron and the team at Creation Signs for their work on this project.



Calendar

**January
and
February
2025**

6th January

School reopens

22nd January

Y10 Parents' Evening
4pm to 6pm

5th February

Drama Theatre Trip

14th February

Lisbon Trip

14th February

School closes for half
term break

24th February

School reopens

26th February

Y7 Parents' Evening
4pm to 6pm

Rossendale Hospice Charity Fundraising

Congratulations and thanks to Mr Hanif and our year 10 Enterprise Group who arranged two events this week to raise funds for the Rossendale Hospice. On Tuesday, we had the Staff Dress-Up Day and on Wednesday we had the Charity Bake Sale. Both events were a huge success and raised hundreds of pounds for a vital local charity. Thanks again to students, staff, parents and carers for your support with these initiatives.



Staff versus students

The final rounds of our Staff versus Students competitions took place on Wednesday evening. I can now tell you that the champions for 2024 are the students. Our year 11 students and staff had a fantastic evening of competitions with activities including anything from table tennis to non-celebrity bake-off. The evening concluded with takeaway pizza for all.



Christmas concert

Straight after the Staff versus Students competitions ended, we went straight into our annual Christmas Concert, which was a fantastic evening. There was a variety of sacred and secular music and there was most definitely something to suit everyone's tastes. The highlight as always was our school wind band which goes from strength to strength under the direction of Mrs Goff. The band played for the first time using their new band banners which were kindly made by Mrs Williams and Mrs Mills. The proceeds from the concert have been shared between Papyrus, Rossendale Hospice and the Music Department. Thanks to all staff and volunteers who helped during the evening and congratulations to all of our students who performed so successfully.



Papyrus Charity Fundraising

Thank you to all students and staff who wore Christmas-themed jumpers and hats yesterday. Whilst some students opted for tasteful winter jumpers, others opted for more outrageous fashion choices such as Grinch jumpers and turkey shaped hats. I wore my new Manchester City Christmas jumper which was not appreciated by all students. All of the money raised will be donated to Papyrus suicide prevention charity. Many thanks to all students, staff, parents and carers for your contributions to this worthy cause.



Christmas dinner

Also yesterday was our annual school Christmas Dinner. Somehow, our amazing catering team managed to provide Christmas-themed lunches for over 550 students and staff within the space of 90 minutes. What an incredible achievement.



Alumni Success

It is always a pleasure to be able to report how well our former students are doing. It has recently been brought to my attention that Ryan Thomas, who left in 2022 was awarded the subject prize for Theology, Philosophy and Ethics at Rochdale Sixth Form. He was commended for being an outstanding student, consistently engaging in class discussions and demonstrating a strong enthusiasm for the subject. Congratulations to Ryan.

Commendation assemblies

The term ended with our traditional Commendation Assemblies. It was an absolute pleasure for me to award various certificates and prizes to students in all year groups celebrating their work throughout the term. Prizes were given for effort and achievement so that all students could have the chance to be recognised. I hope the students come back on January 6th wearing their Commendation Stars on the lapels of their blazers with pride. Thank you to our amazing team of Governors who gave their time so generously yet again, to formally present the awards to the children.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher