This half-term's REACH value is: RESPECT

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

kay for then not to be forgodyn the day of lare and happiness. For those who died in being

Jens, the blacks, for anyone , was the most territing nights, would ever have

by Connor D

## From the Head Teacher

#### **Coming Up**

This week: Children's Mental Health Week, Y7 Zoolab, Y10 Birmingham Field Trip, Y8 Options Evening Next week: Half-term

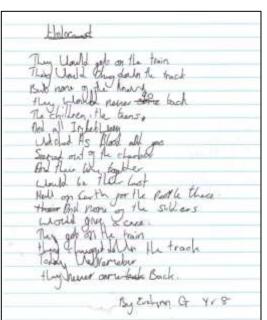
This week we are running our yearly SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis in form time. Following this, representatives from each form will take part in our student conference on Monday, in which we analyse the school's performance and set targets for 2024 – 2025. This is a key part of the year where students have a direct input into the strategic planning of the school. Outcomes from last year's conference sit in our school development plan and are reported to our Governors and the Trust.

Alongside this piece of work, we also run a parallel process with the parent forum. Feedback from parents that attended last year was extremely positive and again outcomes were embedded into the school development plan. All parents are invited to be part of the forum, if you would like to participate, please email Mrs. Alcock, PA to the Head Teacher calcock@mhs.potteries.ac.uk

Have a good and restful weekend.

# Special Mentions

January the 27<sup>th</sup> was Holocaust Memorial Day, a day to remember victims of the holocaust and genocides. Years 7-9 have been exploring poetry about the Holocaust to remember the victims and have written some reflective poetry of their own. The holozourst is aday to renor





This half-term's REACH value is: RESPECT

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

# **School News**

#### **Mental Health Tip:**

Some people find it calming to pay attention to where they are physically. You can try to notice what you can see, hear, touch, and smell around you, going through each sense in turn.

### **Book Review**

Ms Day is reading 'Dark Tales' which is a collection of short stories by her favourite author, Shirley Jackson. The tales are odd and spooky and fit very well in their Southern Gothic genre. She enjoys the quick pace of the



stories as she finds that they keep her interest, and she likes the psychological thriller aspects to the different stories. Year 8 students should keep an eye out for Shirley Jackson in their upcoming Gothic Literature unit of work. She would recommend these stories to older readers due to the genre, and to fans of Netflix's Haunting of Hill House (which is an adaptation of a Jackson novel.)

### **Pathways**

On Thursday 8th February (4.30 - 6.30pm) we will be hosting our Year 8 Parents' Evening. This is designed to build upon our Year 8 Personal Development Day focussed on making choices for Key Stage 4. Our parents & carers event is specifically designed to support students with their option choices; core subject appointments are available (booked via Arbor) and in addition a subject fayre will be held in the Dining Hall, where staff will be happy to give feedback on student progress and information about their KS4 course/s. We look forward to seeing our Year 8 students and their parents and carers at the evening. More information has been sent out to parents/carers via email.

### Lockers

We still have several student lockers available for rental. If you would like to rent a locker, please visit **the locker rental website** to select your locker, and make payment by Debit or Credit Card. Once payment is received, the combination for your locker is sent to you via text or email. Your child will then be issued with a pass to access the lockers at the allotted times.

### **SWOT**

This week students have engaged with form time activities to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Moorside High School and what opportunities they would like to see moving forward. Each form group has 2 form representatives who will attend the annual 'Student Forum' event on 5th February with Mr Robinson and Mrs Plant. Student Forum allows students the platform to represent their form's views regarding the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities at Moorside High School and directly feeds into our School Development Plan

This half-term's REACH value is: RESPECT

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

# Engage

### **Attendance**

To engage and achieve, pupils need to be in school! Pupils must be on site by 8.40am. It is part of the school's daily routine to operate morning punctuality checks. Morning form time registration is a legal obligation and must be attended by all pupils promptly at 8.45am. If pupils arrive to school after the legal close of registration at 9.10am they will receive a 'U = Unauthorised Absence' mark from their form tutor. U marks will impact on the pupil's attendance; therefore, it is imperative that pupils take responsibility for their punctual arrival to form time to avoid impacting their attendance. If the pupil arrives after 9.10am they must report to the Attendance Officer at Student Reception to be signed in for their current session (for example: period 1). It is important to note that schools are unable to change the 'U' mark given to the pupil for being absent for legal registration during form time due to registers closing for this session at 9.10am.

### **Mental Health**

Pupils in Years 7-9 were able to take part in a live broadcast today relating to children's mental health last week.

The Here4You programme brings together the six leading mental health charities:

Young Minds Place2be The Mix Joe's Buddy Line Mind Shout.

By providing children and young people with the tools they need to express themselves, it will allow them to feel empowered. When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and selfesteem.



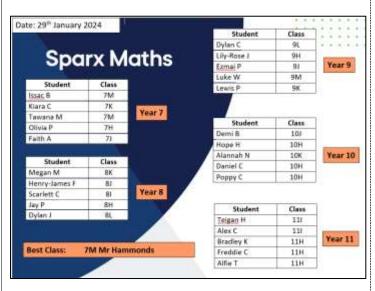


This half-term's REACH value is: RESPECT

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

# Achieve

### **Sparx**



### House

Lots of students have now received their bronze star pin badge for achieving 500 house points –

Rank	House	<b>House Points</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Churchill	94433
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Moorcroft	87497
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doulton	80973
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bridgewater	80457
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wedgwood	68009

it is great to see that those that have not yet achieved them actively engaging and working towards achieving them! Students can earn house points by engaging in lessons, supporting the house system, demonstrating REACH values, and upholding Moorside Manners.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

We have 30 pupils registered for the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year, including 10 who have continued from the Bronze Award onto Silver Award. We are also thrilled to have one of our pupils registered as a DofE Young Leader, to further develop her leadership skills and be an ambassador for our school and the programme. Reminder: Bronze weekly meetings are Tuesday lunchtimes, and Silvers are Friday lunchtimes, both in Room 10.

### **Exams**

Year 10 mock exams are just around the corner in March; please make sure that you are preparing for these at home and completing revision. It is vital that students take these mocks seriously, as they are the best indicator of progress expectations in Year 11.

Year 11 exam timetables for the summer have been posted home and should be arriving soon.