



Weekly Bulletin

Curated by M Turley

This half-term's REACH value is: **RESPECT**

13th September 2024

From the Head Teacher

After a fantastic week one, students have continued to raise the bar on exceeding expectations around the school again this week!

We handed out laptops to year 7's this week and they now start their digital curriculum to build the skills needed to maximise the use of the devices. There is a very planned approach to how we use the devices both in and out of lessons, a copy of our new digital curriculum will be emailed to parents and shared shortly on the school website.

Looking forward to next week, many of our students will be helping on the open evening, as a reminder school is finishing early on that day (1:10 pm on the 18th). Full details have been emailed to all parents.

Our trips calendar also launches with Year 8 students attending a Performing Arts trip to Ingestre Hall.

A huge thank you to all students for the hard work and effort they have put in, and thank you to you, for your support in what has been a great start to the year.

Special Mentions

RAF Virtual Careers Event

The RAF are hosting another virtual careers evening on Wednesday 25th Sept from 7.30pm until 9pm. Tickets are free and need to be booked in advance. For more details and to book, please go to [RAF World: Shape Your Future Tickets, Wed 25 Sep 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#).



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School News

School Photos

Please can we remind parents that the school photos, only for the years 7 and 9, will be executed on Monday 16th of September 2024.

Y9 'Always event'

Monday 21st October 2024:

All student in Y9 with over 95% attendance and less than 5 referrals will be invited to attend.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible there!

Mrs Jones

Engage

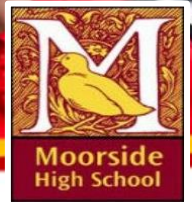
Year 7 Laptop Launch

On Monday Year 7 received their laptops. Over the course of the term we will be building students' confidence and skills by following our [Digital Literacy Learning Journey](#). Our first skill set is basic laptop navigation including; logging on, charging and using the features on devices such as the stylus and touch screen. We will also practice accessing school emails and Arbor.





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Achieve

House System

What a fantastic start to the academic year! It's incredible to see how engaged and motivated the students are, with over 32,000 house points already earned across the school. The house standings are impressively close, showing a great level of competition and teamwork.

Each house has made an impressive contribution, and it looks like the competition is really heating up. Keep up the amazing work, everyone! Huge congratulations to the members of Wedgwood House, who have claimed the number one position on the leader board this week!

RANK	HOUSE	HOUSE POINTS
1	Wedgwood	7295
2	Doulton	7143
3	Churchill	7103
4	Moorcroft	6903
5	Bridgewater	6876



We can't wait to find out who will be crowned the winners of the Moorside Big Music Quiz next week!

Eligibility for Free School Meals

If you receive benefits, you may be able to claim free school meals for your child. School meals are a good way to make sure your child has a healthy meal every day. By eating well at lunchtime, children can remain focussed on their learning.

How does it work?

1. Check if you qualify –please see below
2. Registering is really quick and easy you can apply directly to the local authority online using the following link www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx

Please note that this information is confidential and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.



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So, do you qualify?

The general low-income entitlement criteria is –

- Income Support

- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note the 'new style' job seekers allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income

- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance. Please note the 'new style' employment and support allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income

- eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify

- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- In receipt of the 4-week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)

- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

Further information about Free school meals can be obtained from the school office or from the local authority. The contact details for the local authority are as follows; Local authority Website link

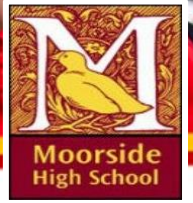
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx

After a fantastic start to lessons this term, we have now launched 'Independent Learning' with all students. This is learning that takes place beyond the classroom; it can be completed anywhere and can include a range of tasks including pre-reading, Sparx learning, making revision resources or a longer creative project.

Staff will now use **Arbor** to set tasks so that these can be easily viewed by all students as well as parents using their Arbor portal log ins.



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All deadlines will continue to be at least 7 days to help everyone to maintain a healthy work life balance. The expectations for the amount of independent learning to be completed in each year group are clearly set out on guidance sheets which have been sent out via Arbor to all parents and students.

More information for parents can be found using the link [Arbor Assignments for Parents](#) and a useful guide to the Arbor student portal can be found [here](#)

The full Independent Learning policy and guidance for 2024-2025 can be found on the school website.

Parent event - 'Supporting your child with their school laptop'

Thursday 26th September

Sessions at 4pm AND 5pm in the Main Hall

As part of the roll out of our one-to-one device programme we are holding an information session for parents/carers with a focus on how to support pupils at home with their devices.

The 30-minute session will cover; an overview of the devices, how to access Office 365 and independent learning tasks including Sparx and a chance to ask any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Food Tech

Please can we remind parents that payments for Food Tech is now on Arbor, to make a payment you can access it through the School Shop in Arbor, under School Products. The children that attend DT Food will need to bring a sealed container.