

Weekly Bulletin



This half-term's REACH value is: Engage

6 December 2024

From the Head Teacher



I am delighted to share some notable achievements. Our Year 11 students have completed their mock exams, and I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them. The external invigilators have praised them for their exemplary conduct, making us incredibly proud of their hard work, manners and commitment. In Year 7, students have been actively engaged in the Tablet Academy pilot, using laptops to enhance their learning experience. Not only are they benefiting from this initiative, but lessons have also been filmed to support the training of teachers in other schools. A special thank you also goes to the Stoke City Rise Project for organizing a fantastic rewards afternoon, which our students thoroughly enjoyed. It has been another week full of achievements, and I look forward to celebrating even more successes in the weeks ahead.

Student Voice Autumn 2024 Feedback

We are excited to share the highlights from our latest Student Voice survey, which shows clear improvements in key areas. More students are now enjoying their time at school, with a growing number saying they enjoy school most or all of the time. It is also encouraging to see that most students feel their teachers are helping them do their best in lessons and two thirds of students say they feel challenged in lessons all or most of the time. Many students have also noticed positive changes in how issues like bullying are addressed which was reflected in our recent parent voice survey as well.

However, there are areas we are keen to improve further. Some students remain unsure about who their Safeguarding Team members are, so we will work on making this team more visible and accessible. Similarly, while many students are aware of our Head Students, there is room to strengthen how we showcase student leadership across the school.

We are proud of the progress made and are fully committed to building on this momentum to ensure every student feels supported, safe, and inspired to succeed. Our next student voice survey will take place in Summer 2025.

Weekly Bulletin



Follow us



Follow us on Facebook for updates and news for everyone!



Download the Arbor app to keep up to date with Attendance, House Points etc

Engage

Always engage and be positive.



Yule Be Quizzed!

Due to the phenomenal success of our attendance quizzes with students, we thought, why let the kids have all the fun? Now it's YOUR turn!

Check your inbox for an email inviting you to take part in our exclusive Parent Quiz—and here's the icing on the cake (literally): you could win a homemade Christmas cake, baked with love and holiday cheer!

Please submit your entries by Friday 13 December before 1 pm

All quiz champions will be entered into a thrilling raffle to crown the lucky winner!

Don't miss out—put your festive knowledge to the test, and let's see who takes home the prize. Good luck, parents!



House System

As the calendar year draws to a close, we've taken time to reflect on the incredible competitions we've held since September. Over 14 events and activities have brought the curriculum to life, with students showcasing their talents across a range of subjects. From thrilling sports events like the Football and Netball Showdowns to creative challenges such as Castle Building in History and festive celebrations like the 12 Days of Christmas, Oktoberfest, and European Day of Languages in Modern Foreign Languages, every department has contributed to our vibrant house competition program.

Our students are deeply engaged with the school's house system, demonstrating dedication, enthusiasm, and excellence every single day.

HOUSE POINT LEADER BOARD

No.	House	Points
1	Wedgwood	64474
2	Churchill	64432
3	Bridgewater	62404
4	Doulton	61665
5	Moorcroft	60924

Wedgwood has reclaimed the top spot, but the lead is razor-thin with just 42 points in it. Churchill is close behind, keeping the pressure on. The competition is heating up!

Achieve

Aspire to be the best and be prepared to take risks along the way.



Weekly Bulletin



Celebrate your Birthday with us!

*Celebrate your Birthday
with us at School*

★ ★ Your special day just got even better!
Did you know that if you come to school on your birthday,
we've got an extra surprise waiting just for YOU? ★ ★

Head over to Student Reception to claim your sweet
birthday prize—a little token of celebration because YOU
deserve it!

We enjoy seeing our amazing students shine on their
special day, and we're so grateful you've chosen to spend
part of it with us!

Don't miss this chance to make your birthday
unforgettable! Stop by and let us add some extra sparkle
to your day.

🎁 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** from The Attendance Team
Thank you for being here 🎁

**** Don't worry if your child's Birthday falls on a weekend or school holiday, they can still claim their prize! ****

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Year 9 Rise to the Millionaire's Shortbread Challenge!

Our Year 9 students truly embraced the task of making millionaire's shortbread! The challenge of creating caramel—a delicate and skill-intensive process—combined with the focus on presentation, highlights their ability to develop complex culinary techniques. Their success in rising to the challenge is a testament to their hard work, precision, and creativity.

This experience will undoubtedly inspire them to take on even more intricate and rewarding tasks in the kitchen. Fantastic work!



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Arbor Assignments

As we continue developing our use of Arbor Assignments for homework, here's a quick reminder of how it benefits you and your child. Through the Arbor Parent Portal or App, you can easily see what homework has been assigned and when it's due. This transparency makes it easier for you to support your child's learning and deadlines.

Moving forward all assignments set via Arbor will require the student to click Submit via their Arbor portal to remove the homework from their 'to do' list. If they do not click Submit it will appear in their Overdue Assignments list. Only students can change the submission status so they will need to regularly check and up date this. This will help students and parents to keep better track of their outstanding assignments.

If work is not submitted to teachers on time or does not meet the required standard, a detention will be issued in line with the school behaviour policy for late/poor quality homework and parents/carers will receive an email informing them of this.

If you're unsure how to access your Arbor account or have misplaced your login details, please contact the school office for help. For more guidance, visit Arbor Help Centre for Parents.

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020182838-Your-child-s-assignments-on-the-Parent-Portal-and-Parent-App>

Weekly Bulletin



Moorside Recognised for Advancing Gender Balance in Computer Science



Moorside Recognised for Advancing Gender Balance in Computer Science

We are proud to announce that Moorside has been recognised for its commitment to improving gender balance in computer science, a crucial step toward bridging the gap in STEM education.

Computer science is the fastest-growing STEM subject, yet girls remain significantly underrepresented, often due to stereotypes formed during primary school years—a challenge faced nationwide.

In partnership with The National Centre for Computing Education, Moorside has been participating in the 'I Belong' project. This initiative supports teachers and school leaders in identifying barriers to girls' participation in computer science and creating actionable plans to overcome them.

At Moorside, we've implemented a series of workshops designed to inspire and inform our pupils about careers in computing. Students have explored job roles in the tech industry, matched their skills to potential careers, and engaged in hands-on problem-solving through our popular coding club. We were also privileged to host a guest speaker from an IT company, who shared valuable insights into the opportunities available to women in computing.

These efforts are already showing results. For the first time in two years, four girls have chosen computer science as a subject option—a promising sign of change.

The computing department shared, "This is a great achievement in the short time we've been involved. While there is still a long way to go, we are committed to continuing this important work through further training and initiatives. Our goal is to empower more female students, foster positive attitudes towards computing, and ultimately see more girls pursuing computer science qualifications and careers."

At Moorside, we are passionate about creating a more inclusive future in STEM and look forward to building on this success.

Weekly Bulletin



Attendance Competitions

🌟 Amazing News! 🌟

We are thrilled to share that our school ranks in the top 12% nationally! This incredible achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students and staff. Together, we continue to aim high and make excellence our standard. Let's celebrate this milestone and keep striving for even greater success! Please keep pushing attendance **2 weeks to go!!!**



Weekly Bulletin



Tell Us!

We want to hear from you!

Your Feedback Matters!

To improve our programs and support your child better, please take a moment to share your thoughts on:

- What's working well at our school?
- Areas where we could improve.
- Suggestions for workshops or resources you'd like to see.

You can provide your feedback by emailing us:

office@mhs.potteries.ac.uk