

Weekly Bulletin

This half-term's REACH value is: Engage

22 November 2024



From the Head Teacher



As we wrap up another successful week, I'd like to highlight some fantastic achievements. First, a huge well done to all students for their incredible effort during the mock examinations. The focus and determination shown in this first week has been truly impressive, and we are proud of each of you.

Despite the heavy snow, all students demonstrated excellent behaviour, keeping safe and showing respect for each other. It's great to see everyone supporting one another, no matter the weather.

A special mention also goes to our staff, whose teamwork and dedication have been outstanding. Your collaboration and positive attitude make a real difference in our school.

Finally, we're thrilled to report excellent attendance this week. The commitment of pupils being present and engaged in school is greatly appreciated.

Parent & Carer Voice Questionnaire

Thank you to all those who completed the recent Parent & Carer Voice questionnaire. The responses from this are a vital part of our development process and we aim to respond to all named comments requiring action by 26th November. Comments of thanks submitted via the questionnaire have been passed on to staff and gratefully received.

Our survey results this Autumn were very positive and showed progress towards our goals. Over 88% of parents feel that their child is happy at school and over 90% feel that their child feels safe here at Moorside. Parents continue to be overwhelmingly positive about the range of subjects and personal development clubs we offer to our students. There has also been a pleasing improvement in views shared around bullying; concerns about bullying incidents have reduced and parents feel that incidents which do happen are dealt with more effectively. Similarly, people feel that complaints are dealt with increasingly effectively by the school and that communication has improved overall. The feedback from parents and carers of our SEND students was very positive this term.

This survey revealed that we still have some work to do in terms of communication with home about the curriculum; what students are learning and when and furthermore, around sharing careers information. Many thanks to all those who responded to our survey. Our next survey will take place in the Summer term.

Weekly Bulletin



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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.



Girls Football Match

Well done to the Year 8 netball teams who played in the District Tournament at Fenton Manor on Tuesday.

We got better and better as the matches went on, the blue team finished 2nd in their league and the purple team finished 5th in theirs.

Player of the tournament goes to Ebony for scoring a whopping 14 goals in the tournament! Well done everyone!



House System

Churchill is certainly rising to the challenge of closing the gap for first place. They are now just 169 points away from claiming the top spot.

An incredible achievement: over 268,000 house points have been awarded to our students since the start of the academic year!

Current House Events

ART Xmas Card Competition RE
Spirited Art Competition

December - House Events

MATHS Elf of the Shelf MFL 12 Days of
Christmas HISTORY Castle Building
ENGLISH Design Christmas Story Cover

HOUSE POINT LEADER BOARD

No.	House	Points
1	Wedgwood	55286
2	Churchill	55117
3	Doulton	53456
4	Bridgewater	53202
5	Moorcroft	52564

Achieve

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



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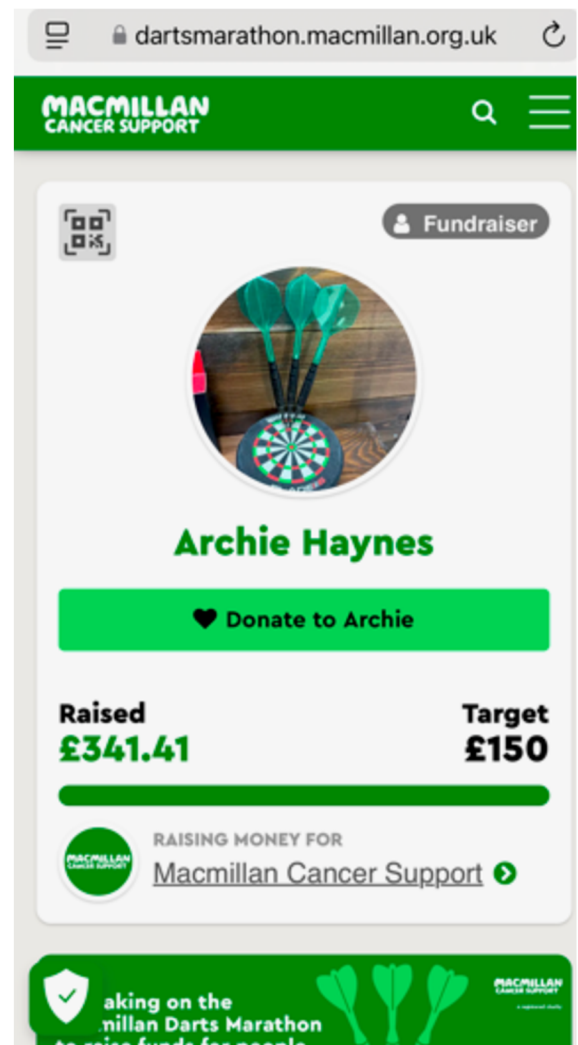
🎯 A Big Shout-Out to Archie! 🎯

Over the weekend, Archie took on an amazing challenge for a great cause. Combining his love for darts with a desire to help others, he organised this event himself and participated in a 12-hour darts marathon as part of a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Not only did Archie complete the marathon, but he also raised £341.41 - and the donations are still rolling in! His hard work, determination, and generosity are truly inspiring.



Let's all give Archie a big round of applause for his incredible achievement and show him our support!



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Do you Qualify? 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.

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

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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.

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Attendance Competitions



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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