

Dear parents and carers,

It's been a busy week and the weather has been unpredictable. We've got outside as often as we could. The parent group met onsite on Monday and had a good catch up. On Thursday, Richard Burbage spent the day with us. Richard is joining us as Assistant Headteacher in January from Haymerle school. Deirdre Fitzpatrick, our school improvement partner is spending the day onsite today. Governors enjoyed their visit last Friday. It's so positive to have visitors onsite again.

Our sixth form parents evening will take place via 'phone and zoom on Monday. On Wednesday we have a workshop onsite 10am – 12noon for sixth form parents about transport post 19 facilitated by Suzannah Beasley. Please do join us if you can, On Thursday all parents are welcome to pop in between 9-30am and 10-15am when pupils will be selling enterprise goods in the foyer. Please do support this event if you can – it's the first time we've run an event like this since COVID.

We'll share the dates of our Christmas events next week. Christmas shows will again be via zoom this year. There are lots of events planned!

Have a good weekend


Eileen

Pupils of the Week

7G	Connor— For taking the initiative to independently help his class peers
7J	Mohammed— For excellent independent Maths work
7L	Lucy— For helping with classroom jobs
8J	Isaac— For hard work and independence in Literacy and Numeracy
8R	Marvin— For working hard on signing to support his classmates
9A	Amelie— For interacting well in all her lessons and coping well with changes
Y9	Rigzim— For using strategies to stay in the green zone
10R	Ruky— For excellent participation in Music this week
10RM	Thomas— For working well in lessons and doing well in his mentor sessions
11C	Reggie— For singing his Excellent solo "I did it my way" in whole school assembly
Y11	Zahra— For outstanding work in Literacy recalling the events of the Christmas Pantomime
12C	Bruno— For improving his blending during phonics and reading sessions
12L	Chris— For being more independent when in school
Y12	Israa— For her hard work on Winter Play and in all subjects
13K	Zubair— For always joining in with enthusiasm
13L	Harry— For showing great acting skills
14R	Stephane— For demonstrating good independence using his new AAC
14S	Alfie— For being a great sport and dressing up as Father Christmas

★ Star of the Week ★

Macha 14R—For fantastic work in maths, learning one more and one less.



Huge congratulations to our pupil James, who won a medal at the National British Down's Syndrome Championships in 2 Swimming events!

What we're learning in Music

This term, students have been learning about rhythm, timing and beats. These are very important skills in music. We use counting and number grids to make sure that we can all play in time and can communicate when we start a piece of music, how fast or slow we should play and when to stop. Counting together shows teamwork.

We have been using the djembe drums which are originally from Mali in West Africa and were used for communication over longer distances. 7J and 7L have been working with Sandra from Drum-head every Monday .

We have also been using the Surdo drums which come from Brazil in South America and are used for celebrations and carnivals. We have been developing our rhythmic skills on the xylophones



After half term, we began to learn about patterns through music technology and how we can work independently on creating drumbeats and loops using a computer. Here are some of the free websites that we use to explore and create our own electronic music:



www.incredibox.com



www.musiclab.chromeexperiments.com



www.onlinesequencer.net

We are now getting ready for the Christmas season, planning our performances for the show and thinking about which carols and seasonal songs that we would like to sing. The students have been wonderful during the first term and we are looking forward to learning about chords and melody in terms two and three.

Lee Traquair (Music Teacher)