

Moorside News



THE MOORSIDE WAY : THE WAY WE DO IT AT MOORSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

WELCOME TO THE END-OF-TERM EDITION OF MOORSIDE NEWS!



As we reach the close of Term 1, we reflect on a term filled with positivity, progress, and pride across our Moorside community. This edition celebrates the incredible work and achievements of our students, who have embraced new routines designed to ensure they get the very best from their time in school. These structures help us provide strong support so every student can thrive academically and personally.

Inside this issue, you'll find a wealth of information about the awareness weeks that have taken place throughout the term. Moorside News is written by our students, a fantastic opportunity for them to share their voices and showcase their creativity. We are proud of their efforts and the sense of ownership they bring to our school community.

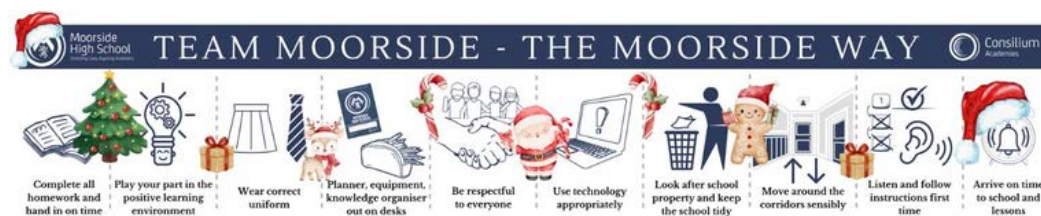
Moorside continues to be the school of choice in the area, with over 560 applications for September 2026 and 237 families selecting us as their first choice. This is a testament to the trust and confidence placed in our vision. We know we are on a journey, and we will never apologise for our high standards and expectations. These are the foundations that enable us to develop socially responsible citizens as part of Team Moorside.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are excited to announce that we will be working with ParentKind, a parent-friendly schools charity. This partnership will help us strengthen our links with parents and carers, ensuring we continue to work together to make Moorside High School a truly great community to be part of.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Howson for his dedication in supporting our students to produce this newsletter. It truly reflects the spirit and ambition of our school.

As the year draws to a close, we want to wish all our students, parents, carers, and staff a relaxing break. Thank you for your continued support, together.

Best Wishes,
Mrs Ryles-Dean



Inside news

- Awareness Events
- Taste of University Life
- Elevate Mentoring
- Festive fun
- Talk Money

and much more....

AWARENESS EVENTS: TERM 1 – #WECARE

This term has been packed with meaningful activities and awareness events that have brought our school community together, promoted important causes, and reinforced our CARE values. This edition is packed with articles sharing the thoughts of the students on these events.

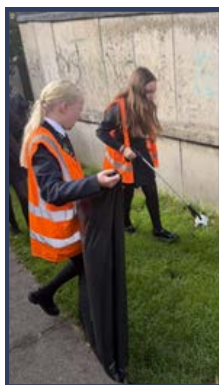
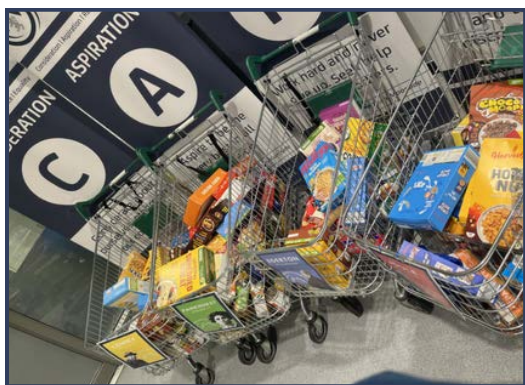
September Highlights

- **National Food Bank Day:** Students learned about food poverty and collected an incredible amount of non-perishable items for local families. Joule House led the way in donations!
- **Macmillan Coffee Morning & Cake Sale:** A fantastic event raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, with students showing generosity and teamwork.
- **Enrichment Fair:** Over 30 clubs showcased opportunities for personal development, from sports to creative and academic pursuits.



October Initiatives

- **National Recycling Week:** Eco Club led a community litter pick, promoting sustainability.
- **World Mental Health Day:** Assemblies, kindness activities, and self-care reflections encouraged positive mental health conversations.
- **National Poetry Day:** Students created poems inspired by our CARE values in the House of Words competition.
- **Wear It Pink Day:** Raising awareness for Breast Cancer Now with themed activities.
- **Harvest Appeal:** Families donated cereal boxes for local food banks, culminating in the fun Cereal Domino Challenge.
- **Tolerance Week:** Assemblies and R Time focused on British Values and respectful dialogue.



CONSIDERATION | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE | EQUALITY

November Awareness

- **Talk Money Week:** Students explored financial wellbeing and shared money-saving ideas.
- **Green Careers Week & Movember:** Sessions highlighted sustainability careers and men's health awareness.
- **Children in Need:** A lively cake sale raised funds for disadvantaged children.
- **Anti-Bullying Week:** Activities promoted kindness, inclusion, and individuality, ending with Odd Socks Day.
- **Remembrance Day:** Assemblies, poppy sales, and a two-minute silence honoured those who served.



December Giving

- **Mission Christmas – Cash for Kids:** Students collected toys for children in need, raising over £900 through festive challenges.
- **Lung Cancer Awareness:** Peer mentors led candy cane sales and raised funds in memory of a loved one.
- **Christmas Jumper Day & Festive Activities:** A joyful end to the term, celebrating community spirit.



So far this year, Moorside has raised over £1730.00 for charities including Macmillan, Breast Cancer Now, Children in Need, and Lung Cancer Awareness—plus an incredible contribution to Mission Christmas from Mrs Settle - £1008.00

Thank you to all students, staff, and families for your generosity and support in making a real difference.

Moorside Goes Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Day!



This half term, Moorside got a splash of pink as staff joined the national 'Wear It Pink' campaign for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Teachers and support staff were spotted in everything from bright pink jumpers to sparkly accessories, showing students how fun, and important, raising awareness can be!

Students got their own chance to join in the action at a lunchtime stall in the atrium, run by our awesome Student Leadership Team and Year 9 Peer Mentors. Pink treats, fun merchandise, and plenty of festive vibes were on offer, with all money raised going to breast cancer research. The stall was buzzing with excitement, and many students couldn't resist picking up a sweet treat or a cute accessory to support the cause.

During Review and Reflect, special slides gave students the lowdown on why the campaign matters and how everyone can get involved in helping their community. It was a perfect mix of learning, giving back, and having a bit of fun!

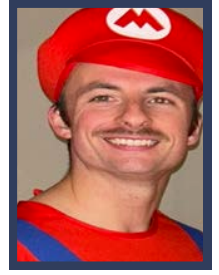
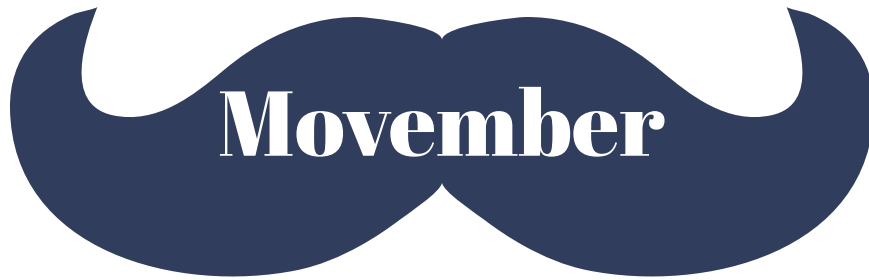
The day proved that fundraising doesn't have to be boring, between pink outfits, tasty treats, and lots of smiles, Moorside showed just how much impact a little colour (and a lot of heart) can make.

By Grace (Year 9)



Information and support for breast cancer are widely available from UK charities like Breast Cancer Now, Macmillan Cancer Support, and Cancer Research UK, offering helplines (e.g., 0808 800 6000 for Breast Cancer Now, 0808 808 00 00 for Macmillan), online forums, peer support (like Breast Cancer Now's "Someone Like Me"), and practical advice on living with the disease, finances, and emotional well-being, with specialist teams also guiding you to local resources.

For more information, please visit breastcancernow.org



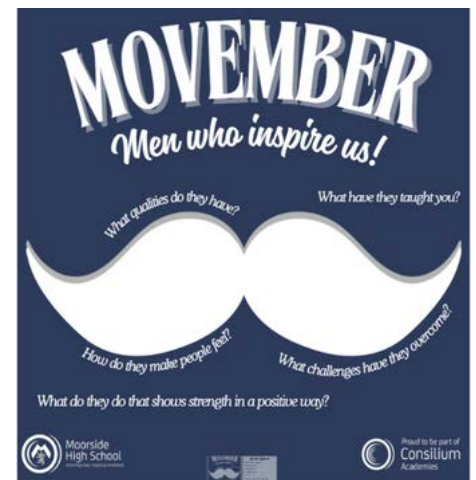
Movember arrived at Moorside, and with it came the most dramatic, emotional and hotly debated competition of the year... every November, people grow moustaches to raise awareness of important men's health issues including mental health, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. But here at Moorside, it has also become the perfect opportunity for a bit of friendly chaos and playful rivalry between a Year 11 pupil and Maths Teacher Mr Birchall.

Every participant enters Movember with the same goal: to raise awareness by proudly growing whatever facial hair nature allows. Some moustaches burst into existence with confidence. Others emerge slowly, shyly, as if unsure whether they want to commit to being seen in public. No matter the style or thickness, each effort helps start conversations about the issues that matter most.

But beneath all the fun and friendly rivalry lies the real message of Movember. The movement reminds us that men and boys often struggle in silence with their mental health. It encourages people to speak up, check in on each other, and understand that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. By filling the school with conversations, even ones about moustaches, we help spread awareness of issues that genuinely matter.

Movember at Moorside is not just about who can grow the best tash, but about supporting one another, raising awareness and reminding everyone that no one has to face their challenges alone. And if we can have a good laugh along the way, even better.

By Kai (Year 9)



Young Minds - Whether you want to understand how you're feeling, find ways to feel better, or support someone who's struggling, we're here to help. [Youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)





MOORSIDE STUDENTS TAKE PART IN TALK MONEY WEEK

This half term, students here at Moorside took part in a special event for Talk Money Week with a “Money Chat Corner” at lunchtime. The event gave pupils the chance to learn more about money, ask questions, and pick up top tips for managing finances, skills that will help them make smart decisions in the future.

At the stall, students filled in postcards sharing their own money experiences, such as something they had saved up for or a helpful money skill or tip they use. The activity encouraged everyone to think about saving, budgeting, and making thoughtful financial choices.

Staff were also invited to get involved by adding their own tips and advice, which were displayed at the stall to inspire students even further. Many pupils said it was a fun and useful way to talk about money in a relaxed, friendly setting.

The event highlighted the importance of financial literacy and gave students practical tools they can use in everyday life. By taking part in Talk Money Week, pupils at Moorside were able to develop important money skills while enjoying a lunchtime activity that sparked discussion, ideas, and helpful advice.

By Kai (Year 9)



Talk Money - In a 2023 Pew Research survey, when asked about their aspirations for their children when they reach adulthood 88% of parents surveyed said it's extremely or very important to them that their children be financially independent. It's no surprise most parents want what's best for their kids, the problem arises when this expectation comes with no guidance.

Not talking to kids about managing money and expecting them to be successful is like throwing your car keys to them on their 16th birthday and saying, 'figure it out.' It's not likely to end well.

For more information and 15 tips for talking with teens about money, visit the following website.

<https://securefutures.org/news-and-stories/15-tips-for-talking-with-your-teen-about-money/>

ANTI BULLYING WEEK AT MOORSIDE: POWER FOR GOOD



Anti Bullying Week is an annual event dedicated to raising awareness about bullying and promoting kindness, respect, and understanding within schools and communities. This year's theme, "Power for Good," reminds us that every person has the ability to make a positive difference through their words, actions, and choices. It encourages pupils and staff to use their influence to support others, challenge unkind behaviour, and create a safe environment for everyone.

At Moorside High School, Anti Bullying Week was marked with a series of celebration assemblies designed to highlight the importance of empathy and to remind students of the support that is available to them. These assemblies helped pupils understand the impact that bullying can have on individuals, while also celebrating the strength that comes from standing together as a community. To promote positivity and a healthy talking environment, the school also hosted a special event called Cake and Kindness for pupils and staff. Tables filled with cakes and treats created a warm and welcoming space where students could relax, talk freely, and enjoy a moment of calm. The event encouraged conversations about wellbeing and helped pupils connect with teachers, pastoral staff, and each other in a friendly and supportive setting. Small acts of kindness, whether offering someone a slice of cake, sharing a smile, or simply listening, helped spread a sense of unity throughout the school.

Anti Bullying Week is not only about recognising the problem of bullying but also about empowering individuals to become part of the solution. At Moorside, students are reminded that speaking up takes courage, but silence allows hurt to continue. Using our Power for Good means stepping in when we see unkindness, checking on friends who may be struggling, and treating everyone with respect, no matter their differences.

As conflicts and challenges in the wider world continue to affect young people, it becomes even more important to build a school environment where everyone feels valued and safe. Through assemblies, special events, and everyday interactions, Moorside aims to teach pupils the long term importance of compassion, communication, and standing against bullying.

By celebrating Anti Bullying Week with so much enthusiasm and care, Moorside High School showed that positive change can begin with something as simple as a conversation or even a slice of cake. When we choose kindness, we choose to use our Power for Good

By Grace (Year 9)



Remembrance Day



Remembrance Sunday is an annual event that takes place on the second Sunday of November to honour the lives of those lost in war around the world. Although it is well known for commemorating World War I and World War II, it recognises all soldiers and civilians who tragically lost their lives in wars and conflicts across the globe.

At Moorside, we celebrated in every way we could. Countless poppies were made by our very own crochet club and sold around school for people to wear, raising £26.02 from crochet poppies alone. A two-minute silence was held at 11:00 to commemorate those we have lost. A group of Year 10 students also visited a ceremony at Peel Green Cemetery to represent the school and learn more about remembrance. Some students even had the chance to meet the Mayoress of Salford, Heather Fletcher, during the service, and one student (well done, Emmeline!) delivered a heartfelt speech during the ceremony.

Remembrance is often symbolised by the poppy. After the fighting in Flanders Fields ended, thousands of poppies grew over the former battlegrounds. Today, different colours represent different forms of remembrance: purple poppies represent animals who were lost, black poppies acknowledge African and Caribbean communities who contributed to the war effort, and red poppies represent fallen soldiers and a commitment to peace. Poppies are typically worn on the left side, on a shirt collar or breast pocket, as the heart is on the left.

Armistice Day is another event dedicated to honouring those who can no longer speak for themselves. It takes place two days after Remembrance Sunday, on the 11th of November. It is customary on Armistice Day to hold ceremonies often attended by important figures such as the Monarch or the Prime Minister. During these events, a two-minute silence is held at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month (11:00, 11/11) all around the world to honour those who served. Armistice Day was named after the agreement made between the Allies and Germany to end the fighting of World War I.

It is important to remember the soldiers who fought and died for our country, as over 80 million people tragically lost their lives in World War I and II combined. Whether they were soldiers on the front line, merchant sailors whose ships hit sea mines, or civilians caught in bombings, no person deserves to have their life cut short.

Today, multiple wars continue around the world, such as the conflict between Israel and Gaza or the war between Russia and Ukraine. This is why it is more important than ever to teach people—young and old—about the cruelty and unfair nature of war. Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day exist to help people understand the horrors of conflict and to ensure that we never forget.

By Callista Williams-Jones



Year 10 Get a Taste of University Life

This half term, a group of Year 10 students got their first taste of life at university with a trip to the University of Manchester. The day gave them a real insight into what studying beyond GCSEs could look like.

Students started with a presentation on student life, courses, and finance before exploring the campus on a guided tour. They got to see lecture halls, libraries, and social spaces, giving them a real feel for university life.

One of the most fun parts of the day was a creative workshop where teams designed their own societies, from fashion and photography to travel and sports. It was a chance to get imaginative and think about how they could make the most of university life.

The visit finished with a Q&A with current students, who shared their experiences, challenges, and why they chose Manchester. Their stories inspired students to start thinking about their own futures and the steps they'll need to take to reach their goals.

The trip has helped Year 10s see what's possible after GCSEs and left many feeling motivated and excited about the next stage of their education.

(By Ralph Year 9)



Pupil's Continue to Create Inclusive Culture: National School Meal Week

This half term, pupils at Moorside High took part in National School Meal Week by writing kind notes and messages to the school's kitchen staff. The initiative was designed to show gratitude for all the hard work that goes into preparing and serving meals for the whole school every day.

Many thanked the kitchen staff not only for the delicious food but also for their friendly smiles and the effort they put into making lunchtime an enjoyable experience.

The kitchen staff were delighted to receive the notes and said how much it meant to them to see their work appreciated. Seeing the smiles and reactions of staff members made it clear to pupils how small gestures of kindness can have a big impact.

The activity also encouraged students to think about the people who support their school community behind the scenes, from cooking meals to keeping the dining areas welcoming and clean. By taking part, pupils learned the value of gratitude and teamwork, and the whole school benefited from a sense of connection and positivity.

National School Meal Week at Moorside was not just about celebrating the food, it was about recognising the people who make school life run smoothly every day.

Thanks to the thoughtful notes and messages, the kitchen staff felt valued and appreciated, and pupils were reminded how a little kindness can brighten someone's day.

By Natasha (Year 9)



Lunch Menus At Moorside



Monday

- Sausage, mash, yorkshire pudding, veg & gravy.
- Cheese quiche, wedges & beans.
- Quorn Katsu curry, rice & naan bread.

Tuesday

- Southern fried chicken, diced potatoes & salad.
- Cheese & potato pie & wedges
- Veggie bolognese, pasta & garlic bread.

Wednesday

- Beef curry with rice & naan bread
- Roast chicken with roast potatoes, veg & gravy.
- Cheese pasta bake

Thursday

- Meatballs with pasta & garlic bread
- Vegan nuggets with wedges
- Veggie burrito with salad

Friday

- Chicken burger with chips
- Beef burger with chips
- Fish, chips & mushy peas
- Fishless fingers with chips

Daily

- Salad bar
- Selection of sandwiches & wraps
- Cold pasta pots
- Jacket potato with filling



Monday

- Meat & Potato pie, wedges, peas & gravy
- Tomato pasta bake with garlic bread
- Quorn curry, rice & naan bread.

Tuesday

- Southern fried chicken, diced potatoes & salad.
- Cheese pasta with garlic bread
- Quorn bolognese tacos & salad

Wednesday

- Beef madras with rice & naan bread
- Roast chicken with roast potatoes, veg & gravy.
- Veggie chilli, rice & tortilla chips

Thursday

- Meatballs with pasta & garlic bread
- Vegan nuggets with wedges & beans
- Quorn lasagne, garlic bread & salad

Friday

- Chicken burger with chips
- Beef burger with chips
- Fish, chips & mushy peas
- Fishless fingers with chips

Daily

- Salad bar
- Selection of sandwiches & wraps
- Cold pasta pots
- Jacket potato with filling

The Evolution of Education and Moorside's role in Modern Learning

Education has always been a vital part of society, a way of passing down knowledge, much like a flame carried on a stick through generations. Schools have long served as the vessels for this flame, ensuring that each new generation receives the wisdom and understanding built by those before them. While many schools follow this traditional model, Moorside stands out for doing more. It not only focuses on academic learning but also encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities.

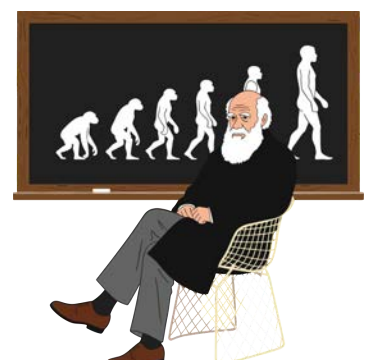
One of the most remarkable aspects of Moorside is its inclusivity and accessibility. As a public school, it ensures that no fees are required, meaning every pupil, regardless of background or income, receives the same level of education. Even students in lower sets study the same curriculum, ensuring equality in learning opportunities. Beyond academics, Moorside supports its pupils by providing resources such as free school meals and access to uniform stock for families in need, ensuring that everyone has an equal chance to succeed.

Education, however, has changed dramatically over the years. Imagine being a woman in 1868, only just beginning to gain access to education, though nowhere near the quality available today. Back then, classrooms relied on chalkboards rather than computers, and learning was often limited and rigid. Computers, which revolutionised teaching methods, were only introduced in the 1980s. Since then, technology has made education more interactive, efficient, and accessible, allowing pupils to learn in ways that would have been unimaginable in the past.

Despite these advancements, the modern education system is not without its challenges. Studies show that 17 percent of young people feel that school has a negative impact on their mental health, with some describing it as “eating them from the inside out.” This highlights that while education aims to prepare us for life, it must also nurture emotional wellbeing. Moorside recognises this, offering pupils a range of clubs and activities related to mental health that promote balance, creativity, and personal development. Participation is encouraged, never forced, helping students find their own interests and grow at their own pace.

Homework, though often unpopular, serves an important purpose in preparing students for the real world. It teaches responsibility, time management, and accountability: skills that are essential in adult life, where failing to complete tasks on time can lead to serious consequences. Similarly, school encourages us to think critically and question the world around us.

By Sadeem and Imogen (Year 8)



The Moorside Model

THE MOORSIDE MODEL: consistent, effective practice.

ENTER WITH EXCELLENCE

- Arrive on time to your lessons
- Come in sensibly and quietly
- Planner, equipment, knowledge organiser out on desks
- Take your Homework out
- Complete the Retrieval Task on the board



EXIT WITH EXCELLENCE

- Pack away and pass your books to the end of the row
- Check for any rubbish near your chair and place in the bin
- Check your uniform is smart and correct
- Stand behind your chair in silence
- When dismissed, leave the lesson quietly and sensibly



TEAM MOORSIDE - THE MOORSIDE WAY



 Complete all homework and hand in on time	 Play your part in the positive learning environment	 Wear correct uniform	 Planner, equipment, knowledge organiser out on desks	 Be respectful to everyone	 Use technology appropriately	 Look after school property and keep the school tidy	 Move around the corridors sensibly	 Listen and follow instructions first time	 Arrive on time to school and lessons
---	---	--------------------------	--	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	---	--	---	--

Tis the Season to Be Crafty:



This year, Moorside launched a festive and creative challenge for all pupils: to design a Christmas card that reflects our CARE values. The competition invited students to showcase not only their artistic talent but also their understanding of what makes Moorside such a special and supportive school community.

Entries poured in from every year group, with designs ranging from traditional winter scenes to modern artwork bursting with colour and imagination. Each card captured a different aspect of CARE, showing how our values inspire pupils in both their learning and their creativity. Staff were blown away by the thought, effort and originality that went into the competition, making the judging process incredibly difficult.

A huge well done to Ava Cheung in Year 8, who has been named the winner of this year's Christmas Card Challenge. Ava's design impressed everyone with its creativity, detail and clear representation of the CARE values. As a proud member of Joule House, Ava has also earned a brilliant 50 House Points for her team as recognition of her fantastic achievement.

Ava's winning design will now be professionally published and sent out to other schools, local organisations and the wider Team Moorside community. It will represent our school throughout the festive season, sharing a message of kindness, unity and ambition with everyone who receives it.

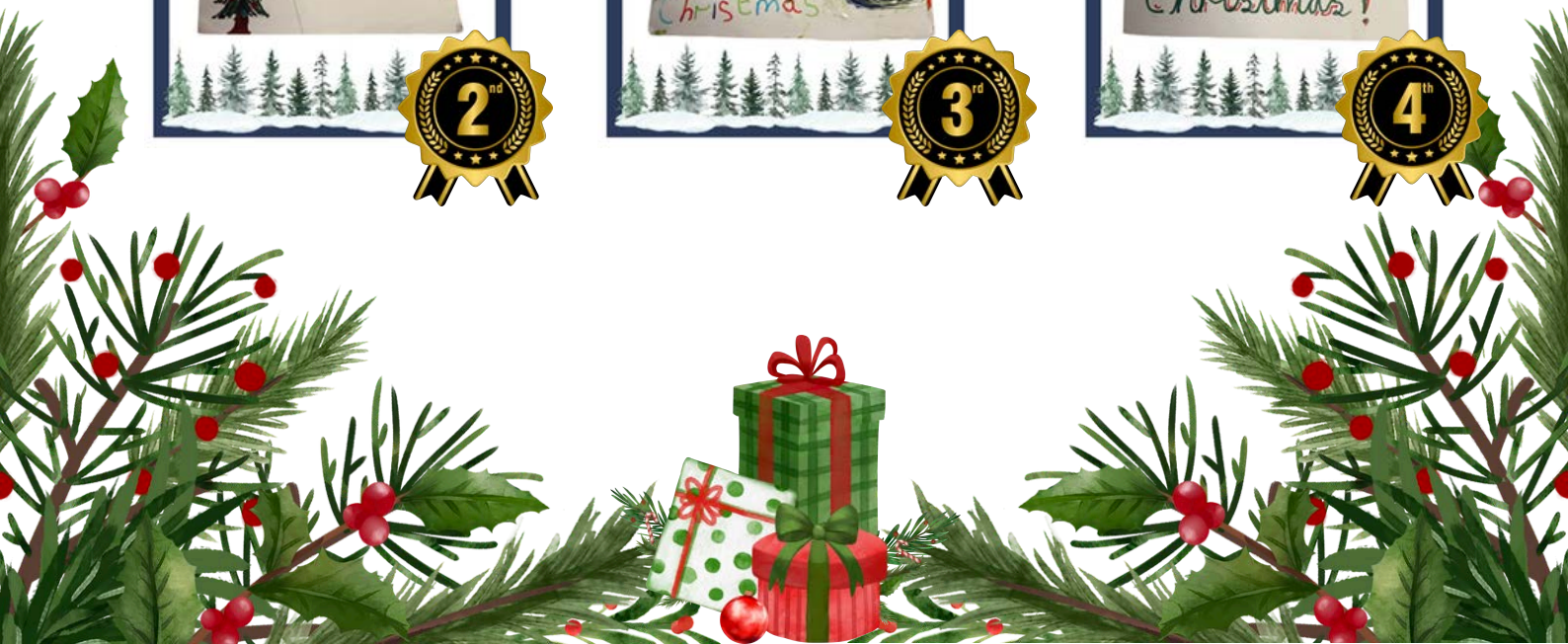
Well done to Ava and to every pupil who took part. The talent on display this year was outstanding, and Moorside is already excited to see what next Christmas brings.



Moorside's Christmas Card Challenge



1st



MOORSIDE'S CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY SHOWCASES FESTIVE FUN AND CHARITY SPIRIT



This December, Moorside High celebrated the festive season with Christmas Jumper Day and a special Christmas Dinner on Thursday 11th December. Students and staff joined in the fun by wearing their most colourful and festive jumpers, spreading holiday cheer throughout the school.

To take part, everyone was encouraged to donate a small food item for the local food bank, a toy for Mission Christmas, or make a money donation to Mrs Settle's Mission Christmas challenge. It was a chance for students to celebrate the season while helping others in the community, combining festive fun with kindness and generosity.

The school hall was buzzing with excitement during the Christmas Dinner, where students enjoyed a traditional festive meal together. Many commented on how much fun it was to see everyone dressed up in Christmas jumpers and enjoying the festive atmosphere. The event not only brought the school together but also reminded everyone of the importance of giving back during the holidays.

Activities like Christmas Jumper Day and the Christmas Dinner show that the school community can have fun while making a positive difference. It was a memorable way to celebrate the end of term, share smiles, and support those in need, making this festive season extra special for everyone involved.

By Francis (Year 9)



PUPILS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER WITH MISSION CHRISTMAS!

This December, Moorside High has been busy spreading festive cheer by supporting Mission Christmas: Cash for Kids.

The campaign helps Santa reach children across the country, especially those who might not get any gifts otherwise. From babies to teenagers, the aim is to make sure every child has a magical Christmas, and our school community has been getting involved in a big way!

Last year, Moorside students and staff showed incredible generosity, and this year the school is upping the excitement with a House competition. Each House is focusing on a different age group, giving everyone a clear mission for their donations:

- Pankhurst House: 0-4 years – perfect for dolls, colouring books, and toys for little ones.
- Lowry House: 5-9 years – games, puzzles, and fun activities to keep young children entertained.
- Egerton House: 10-12 years – stationery, games, and creative gifts for tweens.
- Joule House: 13-16 years – makeup, toiletries, and gifts for teens, who can be the trickiest to buy for!

Students and staff have been encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to the main reception by Friday 12th December. Each gift should be clearly labelled with the child's House, so they can be sent to the right age group.

The campaign is about more than just giving presents—, t's about kindness and the joy of making someone else's Christmas special. From the tiniest toy to gifts for teenagers, every donation counts. Seeing the school come together to help children in need is inspiring, and it's a great reminder that even small acts of generosity can make a huge difference.

Mission Christmas at Moorside isn't just about winning the House competition, it's about spreading smiles, holiday spirit, and showing that our school community cares.



CANDY CANES FOR CHARITY

SPREAD FESTIVE CHEER AT MOORSIDE



This December, students at Moorside High got into the festive spirit while supporting a great cause with the “Candy Canes for Charity” campaign. For a small donation to Lung Cancer Awareness, pupils had the chance to send candy canes with personal messages to friends, teachers, or anyone in school.

The Student Leadership Team and Peer Mentors took on the important job of delivering the candy canes during the week beginning Monday 15th December. Corridors were filled with excitement as students received sweet treats and thoughtful messages from classmates. Some were funny, some were heartfelt, and all of them put a smile on the recipient’s face.

The campaign was more than just a fun festive activity. It gave everyone a chance to show appreciation, kindness, and support, all while raising money for a meaningful cause. Many students commented on how enjoyable it was to see the reactions of friends and teachers when their candy canes were delivered.

Events like this highlight how small gestures can make a big difference. Not only did “Candy Canes for Charity” bring festive cheer, but it also helped bring the school community together, reminding everyone of the importance of giving back and supporting others.

It was a perfect way to celebrate the end of term, spreading smiles, raising funds, and showing that even simple acts of kindness can have a big impact.

By Florry (Year 9)



SILENT REMINDER - “SPREAD THE KINDNESS AT CHRISTMAS”

Christmas is often a very busy period, the nights are dark, the shops are busy and people are stressed, frantically organising in preparation for Christmas day. In light of this, we would like to set you a challenge to be kind to each other this Christmas. Kindness cools down any heated situation, shows people you care, promotes harmony and reminds others that we are all in this together.

Be Kind to your families

Kindness can be shown in many different ways, a meaningful thankyou, the offer of a helping hand or just going that extra mile to make others feel valued. Make sure you find time this Christmas to show your family and friends you appreciate and love them.

Be kind to your friends

Everyone’s experience of Christmas is different. Christmas may not be busy and happy for everyone so spare some time to speak with and meet up with friends. A simple text or phone call to let someone know you are thinking of them this Christmas can go along way to making their day special.

Be Kind to yourself

Being kind to yourself is vital. Maybe Christmas is a difficult time for you for different reasons, you have reflected on a hard year, or perhaps the absence of a loved one hits you hard. During the holidays, pause what you are doing for a minute. Look around and see everything that is good, I assure you there will be lots to be positive about.



YEAR 11 STUDENTS COMPLETE ELEVATE MENTORING SCHEME

Our Year 11 students recently finished the final session of the Elevate mentoring scheme with the team at Squire Patton Boggs in Manchester. The scheme, which has run over the past year, has given students the chance to develop important skills and prepare for life after school.

Throughout the sessions, students explored goal-setting, writing CVs, interview preparation, and different post-16 pathways. They also learned about practical skills such as managing finances and understanding workplace expectations. Many students have said that the scheme has boosted their confidence and helped them feel more ready for the next steps in their education and careers.

Alex Villers, who led the programme, said: "It was a pleasure to have the students with us for the four sessions. Their participation has been excellent, and we are hoping that we have passed on a lot of transferable skills ranging from managing finance to interview preparation. We are hoping this has set the students up for the next steps with their career plans."

The Elevate scheme is a great example of how partnerships between schools and local businesses can support students in building skills for the future. The school is now looking forward to welcoming the next group of Year 10 students to take part in the programme in the new year, giving them the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals and start thinking about their own career paths.

(By Ollie Year 9)



Year 10 Christmas Writing Competition.



"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – Charles Dickens

As part of their study of *A Christmas Carol*, our students embraced the spirit of the season by writing speeches on the true meaning of Christmas. On the following pages, you'll find the shortlisted entries—each one full of thought, heart, and festive cheer. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed hearing their ideas!

A big congratulations to everyone who took part and to our finalists for their wonderful creativity.

The winning speech will be revealed in the New Year in our weekly Parent Update—something special to look forward to!

From all of us at Moorside, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, peace, and togetherness.





Now, I think every person in this audience can agree that Christmas day never runs smoothly, even more so when you have got the whole family coming round and you have forgotten who is vegan. We all try so hard individually to make Christmas run as easily as possible, yet it never works. In my opinion, family drama, memories of the Christmas nativity and of course, younger siblings are the true spirit of Christmas, let me tell you why.

Surely we have all experienced a family argument during the winter season and I'm sure, like me, you have the one family member who enjoys one too many mulled wines... But, let's not feel shame. I want to tell you about what happened in my house two years ago. We were having our annual Christmas takeaway, little did we know this would be the start of a 9 month feud between my mum and my auntie. With no talking, or basic communication they both mirrored Scrooge's personality. They were miserable, cold-hearted beings wanting no social connections with each other. This was an obvious shock as both of them were previously mirroring Fred just hours before: kind and benevolent souls who wouldn't let anything ruin their Christmas day.

Moving on from the inevitable Christmas drama, I hope many of you will relate to and share my envy as I discuss my next topic: Primary School nativities. Raise your hand if you were either Mary or Joseph in your school nativity? I'm sure many can relate to the deep anger I felt towards this group of people. The best part I got in my school nativity was that of... a star. I'm sure if you also had this role that you'd also hear your parents say you were the 'star of the show', but we all know that's a lie! Every year, one of my friends got Mary, but it was never me. My mum always told me to be happy that I wasn't the donkey, but I would rather have been the donkey than a ball of fire in the sky.

My final, and probably most relatable, point of this talk is that of younger siblings on Christmas day. Now, I did not only feel drained by my brother on the big day, but also frequently felt overwhelmed by a strong sense of jealousy. My brother always got such big presents, while I got some pink nail polish from my grandma. I can see some of you judging me for being ungrateful, but I specifically asked for green! Raise your hand if you are the older sibling in your family. Can I just say, I feel for you and I always will. The most bizarre part of this is that our parents always look at us with a big grin, expecting us to be so happy that my brother got a Nintendo switch complete with games and I received a fluffy pair of Llama socks.

So, as we draw this talk on Christmas spirit to a close, I hope you have not only related with my ideas about Christmas spirit but you have also been reminded of your own. Remember, you should always appreciate your family and everything you get – no matter how annoying or disappointing they may be sometimes...

Thank you for listening.





I'm here today to express what I truly think about the Christmas spirit. Ask yourself this: what's the first thought that comes to your mind when you think about Christmas? For me, Christmas spirit can be summed up with one simple phrase: family gatherings that always end up in chaos. However, Christmas is also a time for benevolence and gratitude, most lovingly depicted through Fred in a Christmas Carol. Chaos, pig in blankets and chocolate – three phrases to sum up the true meaning of Christmas spirit.

It's about that time of year when families across the world gather to celebrate. For me, Christmas is a time to appreciate one another and to be grateful. Now, surely we've all experienced waking up on Christmas day and have had to wait to open our presents because your mum needs to make a cup of tea. Some of you might also agree with me with this one, everyone is sat around the table playing Monopoly and then before you know it, one thing goes wrong. Someone is annoyed that they are losing and decides to tip the Monopoly board sending the tiny counters and cards scattering and flying everywhere. To me, that is an unforgettable memory that I always think about when I think about Christmas.

Forget presents and Christmas carols – pigs and blankets are the very best part of Christmas celebrations. Let's face it, there is nothing more enjoyable than a Christmas dinner: plates of crispy roast potatoes, towers of pigs in blankets, desserts so full of sugar that the sugar practically twinkles in the candlelight... Don't you feel the same? For some reason, everyone in my family seems to love parsnips and Brussel sprouts, but I don't know how. They're disgusting! It's not all just about the roast dinner though, during the Christmas period I also love to build gingerbread houses as it feels so nostalgic. Picture this: icing dripping everywhere, gum drops on the roof of the house and lots and lots of marshmallows and chocolate. Now, that's something that everyone can agree is fun.

Let's shift our thoughts away from food and family, and onto my final point: the nativity. Being part of the nativity is probably one of the most wholesome and nostalgic parts of my Christmas spirit. When I was younger, I was always so jealous of those who got to play Mary. Surely you'd rather be Mary, rather than the donkey? Thought so. Then again, it's not all that bad being the donkey as it is sort of cool and iconic really, there's only one after all. Well, in my school play at least!

To bring my talk to an end, it's important to remember that whilst some may appreciate presents and gifts, I believe that the true Christmas spirit is a time of celebration and family time. Christmas truly is a time to appreciate those around us and to be thankful for the memories we make. And if all else fails, a yummy Christmas dinner puts everyone in a festive mood.

Thank you for listening as I share my views on the true spirit of Christmas!

By Olivia Seddon (Year 10)





I know you have all heard, or at least read the speech delivered by Scrooge's nephew, Fred, in A Christmas Carol. You know, the one where he blabbers on about the true spirit of Christmas being rooted in charity and family time. Today, however, I am not here to talk about Fred's Christmas spirit, but to tell you about my opinion on the matter. I hope you all leave after this talk with a new take on the festive season, and also, some new priorities for Christmas time.

Now, I've never been one for shopping and turkey at Christmas, but I still think it's essential. Just quickly envision yourself on Christmas day: you've opened your presents, you've thanked everyone, played all your new games and then hear the glorious call of 'Dinner's ready!' only to sit down and see a plate without all the trimmings? Exactly. Instead, remember that salivating smell of turkey, mash, potatoes and of course, gravy! It's just amazing and this is why I'm naming food as one of my three crucial parts of Christmas. Okay, hands up if you've ever had pigs in blankets... of course you all have! They're a staple of the Christmas season. Even the people who claim to be on a diet around the table can't resist and always find room for pigs in blankets. For me, I make sure I have at least 6 or 7 when they're out on the table. I rarely leave enough for others, but can you really blame me?

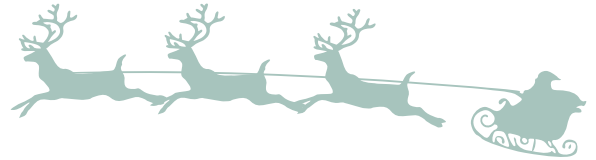
Pigs in blankets are so essential that one year we tried to make our own as part of our fun family activities, but I have no idea what we were thinking. They were horrible. Don't get me wrong, the smell was amazing, but that's where the good things end. Not only did they taste horrendous, but they looked just as bad! Rather than succulent, crispy pigs in blankets, they were sad and drowning in oil. Yeah... never again. But I suppose that's part of the Christmas spirit isn't it – the time spent as a family making them together was the gift itself. It honestly was very fun.

Speaking of gifts, I have presents as the second best part of Christmas. Let's be real, when we were growing up, the only part about Christmas we actually cared about bar the food, was the magic of Satan and his... Well, our presents. To this day, I still don't know how he does it, dropping gifts off to billions of kids in one night. It has to be some sort of Christmas miracle! Judging by your faces, I can see some of you aren't so convinced. Weird. Anyway. Shifting our thoughts away from Santa, waking up on Christmas morning to unwrap gifts was one of, if not, my favourite moment of the entire holiday. I'm sure we all remember the sleepless nights trying to catch Santa in the act, only to fail miserably and fall asleep anyway. I'll always treasure the feeling of anticipation, lay awake wondering what I was going to get under the tree the next day. Obviously I'd written my Christmas list and sent it off to the North Pole, but not knowing if I was on the naughty list or the nice list killed me! I remember times where I'd walk the dog for an extra 20 minutes to gain extra credit before the fateful night.

Thank you for listening!

By Year 10 pupil





As December arrives and the world seems determined to drown us in lights, music and limited-edition drinks, we're encouraged to think about what the 'Christmas spirit' actually means. Even for people who do not celebrate the holiday, the season has a distinctive atmosphere – one that unveils a mixture of generosity, warmth, and the annual attempt to be slightly less grumpy than usual. The true spirit of Christmas, at least in my view, reaches far beyond the presents and decoration; it's rooted in the way we treat one another.

Christmas is often simplified into a frenzy of shopping, wrapping, and panic-buying things that nobody asked for. But the genuine spirit of the message, a moment of patience, or a small act of kindness often carries far more weight than anything placed under a tree. The festive season, at its best, encourages us to lift others in simple, human ways – ways that remind us that compassion does not need ceremony to be meaningful. The season quietly reveals what we often overlook in our day-to-day haste: the simple dignity of kindness.

Dickens captures this beautifully through Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. While Scrooge treats Christmas like a personal inconvenience, Fred approaches it with unwavering good will. His cheerfulness isn't shallow, it's deliberate. He chooses joy, generosity and connection, even when faced with someone determined to resist all three. Fred reveals that the Christmas spirit isn't a reaction to perfect circumstances – it's a mindset. His character suggests that kindness is most powerful when it's offered to the very people who seem least willing to accept.

Furthermore, the season invites reflection. Not the dramatic life-changing sort – just the simple act of noticing the people around us a little more carefully. Yet beneath the glitter and commercial noise, there exists an unyielding threat of humanity that refuses to fade. It encourages us to consider how our behaviour affects others, and how a small effort on our part can create a ripple of goodwill. Even if you ignore every festive tradition on the planet, these values – empathy, connection and thoughts of action – remain universally relevant. They form the quiet backbone of the season, a reminder that community is built not from grand gestures, but from every day consideration.

So, when we talk about the spirit of Christmas, we're not really talking about snow, presents, or questionable jumpers. We're talking about the decision to act with kindness, to be generous in ways that matter, and to create moments of warmth in a world that often feels hurried and detached. It is in these small, almost forgettable moments that the spirit of Christmas unfurls. Whether we celebrate the holiday or not: its message endures: the compassion, patience, and human connection are gifts we can offer at any time of the year. And if all else fails, we can at least try to be a little more like Fred and a little less like someone who hisses at carol singers.

By Zina Khalaf (Year 10)





Wellbeing in Winter

As we say goodbye to textbooks and say hello to the winter half term, it's the perfect time to focus on our wellbeing. The winter season brings chilly weather, holiday cheer, and, of course, a well-deserved break from school. So, let's dive into some tips on how to make the most of this time and keep our mental and physical health in balance.

- 1. Unplug and Recharge:** Let's face it—constant screen time can be draining. Take this opportunity to unplug from the digital world. Put your phone on silent, step away from the computer, and indulge in some screen-free activities. Whether it's reading a book, going for a walk, or trying your hand at a new hobby, disconnecting can do wonders for your mental health.
- 2. Catch Up on Zzz's:** Sleep often takes a backseat during the school year. Now's the chance to catch up on those much-needed sleep. Establish a relaxing bedtime routine, create a cosy sleep environment, and aim for a solid 8 (or 12 if your parents allow it!) hours each night. A well-rested mind is better equipped to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.
- 3. Get Moving:** Winter doesn't have to mean staying in. Engage in some form of physical activity, whether it's a brisk walk, a dance session in your room, or a winter sport. Exercise releases endorphins, those feel-good hormones that can help fight stress and boost your mood. Plus, it's a great way to counterbalance the extra holiday treats!
- 4. Connect with Loved Ones:** The holidays are all about spending time with loved ones. Whether it's family, friends, or even that cousin you only see once a year, make an effort to connect. Share stories, play games, and simply enjoy each other's company. Strong social connections are a key factor of overall wellbeing.
- 5. Reflect and Set Goals:** Take some time to look back on the past year. What were your achievements? What lessons did you learn? Use this time to set realistic and positive goals for the upcoming year. Having a sense of purpose can bring lots of motivation.
- 6. Practice Mindfulness:** The holiday season can sometimes be overwhelming. Practice mindfulness to stay grounded in the present moment. Whether it's through meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the beauty around you, mindfulness can help reduce stress and promote a sense of calm.
- 7. Indulge in Self-Care:** Treat yourself to some well-deserved self-care. Take a long, relaxing bath, pamper yourself with a face mask, or spend an afternoon doing things that bring you joy. Remember, self-care is not selfish—it's a necessary investment in your own wellbeing.

As we embark on this winter break, let's prioritise our mental and physical health. By incorporating these tips into our daily routine, we can ensure a well-rounded and fulfilling holiday season. Here's to a joyful break and a rejuvenated return to school in the new year!



Take care
OF
YOURSELF



2026		JANUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

BACK TO SCHOOL

MONDAY 5TH

JANUARY 2026



Attendance Matters

#TEAM MOORSIDE

100% 0 DAYS 0 LESSONS MISSED

99% 1 DAY 5 LESSONS MISSED

98% 3 DAYS 15 LESSONS MISSED

97% 1 WEEK 25 LESSONS MISSED

96% 1.5 WEEKS 37.5 LESSONS MISSED

94% 2 WEEKS 50 LESSONS MISSED

93% 2.5 WEEKS 62.5 LESSONS MISSED

92% 3 WEEKS 75 LESSONS MISSED

90% 3.5 WEEKS 82.5 LESSONS MISSED

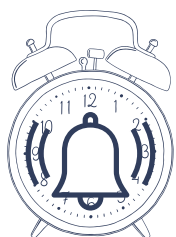
Maximise your potential, attend school everyday.

#WeCare #TheMoorsideWay

We expect all students to attend school on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child's regular attendance to school (Section 444, Education Act 1994). Above 96% attendance is seen as a good level of attendance and the Department for Education sets a minimum expectation of 94% attendance for all students.

Less than 92% becomes a concern and students will be closely monitored by the school's Attendance Officer. You may be invited in for a formal meeting with the school. Less than 90% will result in referral to the Local Authority Attendance Officer, which could lead to prosecution.

Holidays will not be authorised unless circumstances are exceptional.



Any student arriving late to school will be given a late detention. The duration will escalate in time if the poor punctuality persists. If a student arrives after the register closes, this will result in them losing their a.m. mark and receiving a U code in line with government guidance. Registers close 30minutes after the start of the day.



Moorside High School
Inspiring the future generation

#TEAM MOORSIDE - THE MOORSIDE WAY



Consilium Academies



Complete all homework and hand in on time



Play your part in the positive learning environment



Wear correct uniform



Planner, equipment, knowledge organiser out on desks



Be respectful to everyone



Use technology appropriately



Look after school property and keep the school tidy



Move around the corridors sensibly



Listen and follow instructions first time



Arrive on time to school and lessons

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

It is no secret, that non-attendance is one of the single biggest blockers to achievement, which is why improving the attendance of our students remains a whole school priority.

Good attendance at school is crucial for several reasons:

- **Academic Achievement:** Regular attendance is strongly linked to higher academic performance. There is no substitute for high quality face to face teaching.
- **Long-term Impact:** The effects of good attendance extend beyond school years. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to pursue higher education and have better career prospects.
- **Preparing for Adulthood:** Being present in school allows students to develop essential life skills, such as time management, responsibility, and social interaction. These skills are critical for success both within and out of the classroom.
- **Well-being:** Regular attendance helps students build and maintain relationships with peers and teachers, which is important for their social and emotional development.
- **Future Opportunities:** Consistent attendance can influence future opportunities, including college admissions and job prospects. Employers and educational institutions often look at attendance records as an indicator of reliability and commitment.

Maintaining good attendance at school is essential for academic success, personal development, and future opportunities. As a school, we believe that the secret to success for our students is working together and in partnership with our families. If you are struggling to encourage your child to attend, please do reach out for support. We have dedicated staff who are here to help and support. If you require any support, please do contact us at MHSinfo@consilium-at.com



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



BACK TO SCHOOL JANUARY UNIFORM REMINDERS

No trainers or
trainer style
shoes



Sensible
school bag



No hooded tops



Not wearing the correct uniform will result in a consequence being issued. Parents/Carers will be informed via ClassCharts if this is the case. #TheMoorsideWay #DressSmartThinkSmart



Pencil Case



Student Planner



Knowledge Organiser



Reading Book and
Reading Ruler



Do not forget, we have our Pre-Loved uniform recycling scheme and have had many items of good quality uniform handed in for re-use. If you would like to enquire about these and find out what is available please email MHSinfo@consilium-at.com All items are available free of charge and we find many students and families bring items to swap, which really helps everyone out. We have done as much as possible to continue to keep the cost of our uniform down. Students do not have to wear a branded PE kit as long as the items they are wearing are navy blue. We have also provided our new Year 7 and Year 11 students with a new tie. Should you require any support with the purchase of the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us at MHSinfo@consilium-at.com where we will be happy to help.

Who to contact...

Safeguarding/child protection issues

The Bridge Partnership can be contacted by telephone on 0161 603 4500 from 8.30am to 4.30pm. If you need to speak to somebody about your referral of concern outside these hours, please call the Emergency Duty Team on 0161 794 8888.

All referrals and request for support concerning the welfare or safety of a child must go through the Bridge Partnership via their online portal:

<http://childrensportalehm.salford.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>



Contacting Moorside High School

Moorside High School will be closed over the Christmas break, and will re-open on Monday 5th January at 08:25 for students.

Should you require any support over the Christmas break, you can use the anonymous online reporting tool - SHARP, which can be accessed via the school website or the Speak Up, Speak Out platform.

The SHARP System

The MHS Info email inbox, will be monitored less frequently over the break, so responses to concerns raised via this platform may take a little longer to receive a response.

 A campaign poster with a dark blue background. At the top right is the 'Consilium Academies' logo. A large white speech bubble in the center contains the text 'SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT' in bold blue letters. To its left, a smaller white speech bubble says 'Something not right, or have a good idea, would you like to make a difference...'. Below these, a white banner reads 'SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT #TEAMMOORSIDE'. A QR code is located in the bottom right area. A small speech bubble with a checkmark says 'TALK TO US'. At the bottom, a row of white silhouettes of people is shown, with one person holding a megaphone. A large, faint circular logo with a lion is visible in the background on the right.

Something not right, or have a good idea, would you like to make a difference...

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT #TEAMMOORSIDE

TALK TO US

Your name & email will be registered when you log a comment



Merry
Christmas

From
Team Moorside



Contact us:

Email: MHSinfo@consilium-at.com

Phone: 0161 804 4022

Website: www.moorsidehigh.co.uk



Moorside
High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions