

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

I wish you and your families a fantastic Christmas Holiday, from all of us at Great Academy Ashton. I wanted to take this opportunity to once again say thank you for your ongoing support.

### Recognition vs Reward

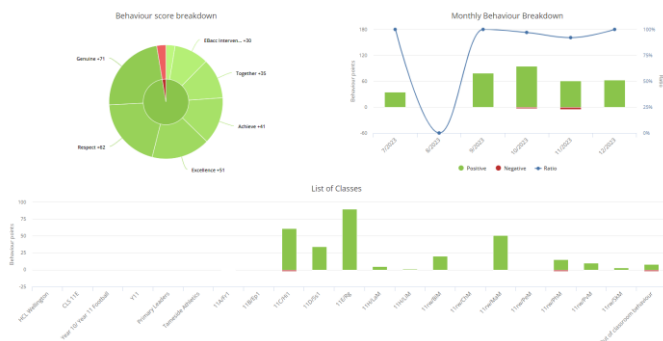
We are looking to change the emphasis and school culture from a focus on extrinsic reward (e.g. gifts and certificates) to a more intrinsic focus around recognition. We want to ensure that all of our students receive recognition for what they do each and every day so well. We have brilliant students in our year groups - we wish to refocus on a full and inclusive celebration of all of our GREAT students. The vast majority of students come in, fully equipped, work hard and this is their time to be recognised. This is why we are hoping to recognise students and not just reward. Recognition is more important than reward as the student understands why they are being picked out, praised and celebrated.

### Classcharts App

Please be encouraged to use the classcharts app, this is our method of communicating how well your child is doing; how genuine, respectful they are being. Every day the teachers and support staff recognise students, by allocating them GREAT points. The app shows a breakdown of each GREAT point achieved, as well as any areas for development or where your child has not demonstrated great values. On the app you will see how your child is demonstrating excellence, achieving in class and showing togetherness with fellow students or staff. Many teachers reward whole classes for collectively working hard, many will pick individual students who have joined in and participated well in a lesson.

The app breaks down:

- Which values they are earning more GREAT points in
- Which week your child has been more successful
- Which lessons they are doing better in – and which they are struggling more.



## Celebration Week

This last week all students had the opportunity to have a Christmas Dinner; we had some fun pulling crackers, wearing our party hats and spending time with our friends at lunch. The children were respectful and tidied up after themselves, showing their great values of together and respect.

The week beginning 18th December our annual Christmas Celebration Assemblies take place. In a change to our usual proceedings, this year we have ensured that all student nominations from teachers come with a present - chocolate, £10 gift card etc... This was to ensure that teachers are able to gift, and hand over the subject certificate. For each subject there will be one student nomination for achievement and one for effort – making sure everyone can receive a nomination, no matter their ability.

In another change this year Form Tutors will stand at the front of the assembly and read out their form tutor award and their justification - hearing why a child has been chosen is far more powerful than just hearing our name read out. We are placing a massive emphasis on recognition on every award we give. It is not the what, or who – it is the why have they been chosen that every should hear. To make subject nominations extra special we have also insisted that every subject nomination must be accompanied with an explanation as to why they have been chosen, with positive words and justification - this should feature heavily throughout.

## Selection Boxes

Your child will receive a selection box in the celebration assembly if they fulfil the following criteria. As you can see from the list we are ensuring the students who do the right thing every single day are rewarded with the prize. It's also important to note that if your child hasn't been successful this time around, that they make sure that next time they fit the criteria for winning.

Great Academy Ashton  
Inspiring Children

20th November-  
15th December 2023

**ALL Students:  
receive an  
end of term  
present**

IF ...

- ✗ No more than 2 central corrections
- ✗ No more than 3 lates to school
- ✗ No more than 3 lates to lesson
- ✗ No compliance classroom
- ✗ No internal / external trunco
- ✗ No more than 1 mobile phone
- ✗ No internal isolation
- ✗ No behaviour placement
- ✗ No suspension

### GREAT Prize Draw

Each year group has been allocated £400 to spend on prizes for the year group, these prizes are to be won in a ticketed prize draw. Each GREAT point is allocated a ticket number, and these are drawn using the random number generator. This means that the more GREAT points your child earns the more chance they have to win a prize.

Some of the prizes this time around are cinema nights in, portable Bluetooth speakers, bath sets, headphones and JD sports vouchers.

### Schedule:

Monday 18th December - Year 11

Tuesday 19th December - Year 10

Wednesday 20th December - Year 9

Thursday 21st December - Year 8

Thursday 21st December - Year 7

We are inviting form tutors and staff into the assembly to celebrate with the students, who simply do the right thing day in day out. Please ask your child if they enjoyed their celebration assembly or if they were successful in winning an award or nomination. I have listed the dates above, so you know which day to ask your child.

To conclude, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past 4 months. Just looking ahead, in January we are relaunching the GREAT Values badges; where students are tasked with earning values badges based on tasks and activities they do inside and outside of school. We are also to be launching focussed postcard weeks; please keep an eye out for your children bringing these home.

Have a wonderful Christmas break from all of us who work in Pastoral at Great Academy Ashton.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Anthony Jacques  
Assistant Principal - Behaviour Culture and Engagement