



# THE COOPER SCHOOL YEAR 7

We have nearly made it...Christmas is now less than a week away and a long, eight week half-term is almost over!

Firstly, thank you to all those who attended parents' evening last Thursday, we do hope that this time provided a helpful insight into how your child is getting on here at The Cooper School. Between January and July your son or daughter will also receive another progress report (this time with an attainment grade in addition to the three attitude related scores) and also a full report, with teacher comments, to help keep you informed about their progress.

This half-term has seen many highlights, both individually and collectively for our students. It was a great pleasure to lead a celebration assembly on Monday in which many were recognised for their achievements. Of particular note are those students who have excelled in sporting activities, with both the girls' hockey and football teams winning recent Oxfordshire tournaments. Moreover, it is pleasing to see that so many of our students are maintaining their 100% attendance record. There is a clear correlation between high attendance and academic success and so it really is important for our students to remember that every school day counts. A particular highlight of the assembly was awarding two students from each form group a 'superstar' award – chosen by their form tutor for standing out for all the right reasons. Well done, in particular, to those sixteen students.

This term has seen some more talented and imaginative 'Funtastic Friday' creations, including making the best Halloween costume from little more than a bin-bag and also the 'best picture' from a pack of dried spaghetti. This term also saw us raise money for Children in Need and we held a charity penalty shoot-out during one form-time where students took penalties against various staff members. Happily enough I can report that no Year 7s managed to score all three of their penalties against their Head of Year, I am sure they will be determined to alter that statistic next time!



Across this term, and last, form groups have been competing to top the Year 7 leaderboard, with scores made up from both the weekly challenges and positive points awarded by teachers. Mrs Smyth's form (7LSm) were the eventual winners, finishing with 107 points, 13 clear of their nearest rivals. As a reward, all students in the form group gathered to enjoy a congratulatory pizza on Thursday to say well done for all their enthusiasm and efforts.

Thank you for supporting our recent 'Christmas Jumper' day. As part of this, Year 7 hosted a cake sale and this raised a brilliant £123. A big thank you to all those who provided baked goods and for the numerous volunteers who gave up their time to sell the cakes. The selflessness and kindness of many of our Year 7 students is truly inspiring. Thank you also to Mrs Smyth, and many students in form group 7LSm, who helped coordinate the cake sale.

Finally, at this time of year, we can often be bombarded by adverts focussing all on the presents and receiving elements of Christmas. However, Year 7s were prompted in assembly this week to really think about others this Christmas and to say thank you for the kindness, and perhaps gifts, they receive this year. It would be great if they could think about the little things they can do to show someone that they care and appreciate what is done for them.

I do trust that you will all enjoy this festive period and I look forward to seeing all our Year 7s returning to us, happy and healthy, on Tuesday 8th January.

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