



Academic Newsletter

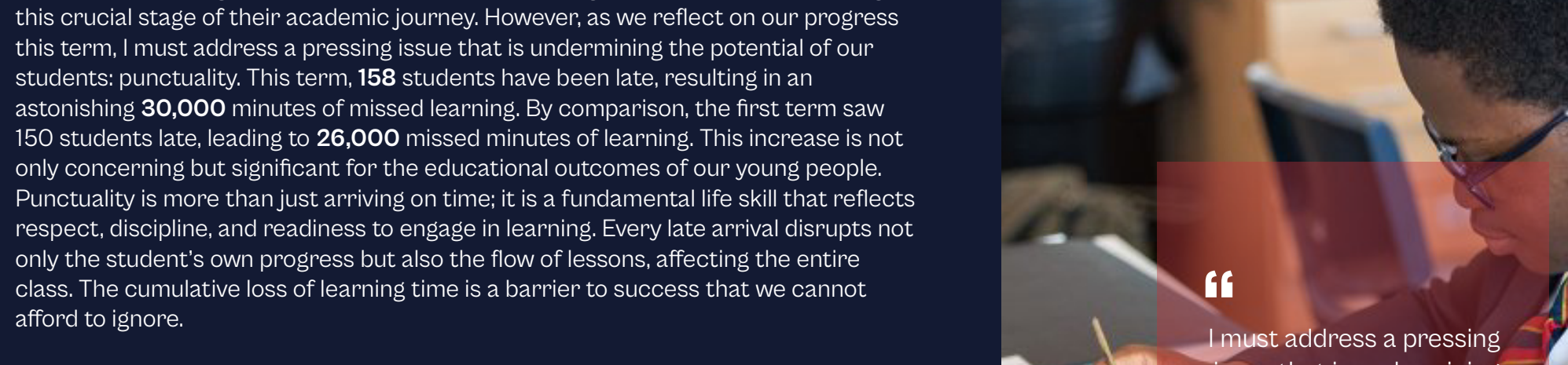
St. Paul's Beacon

"Striving For Academic Excellence"

ISSUE 02 DECEMBER 19th, 2024

Justice Makers | Community of Welcome | Seekers of Truth "You are God's work of Art" – Ephesians 2:10

Attendance in Figures

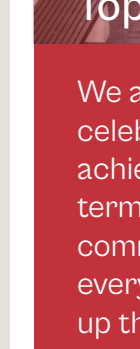


Message from Head of Year 10

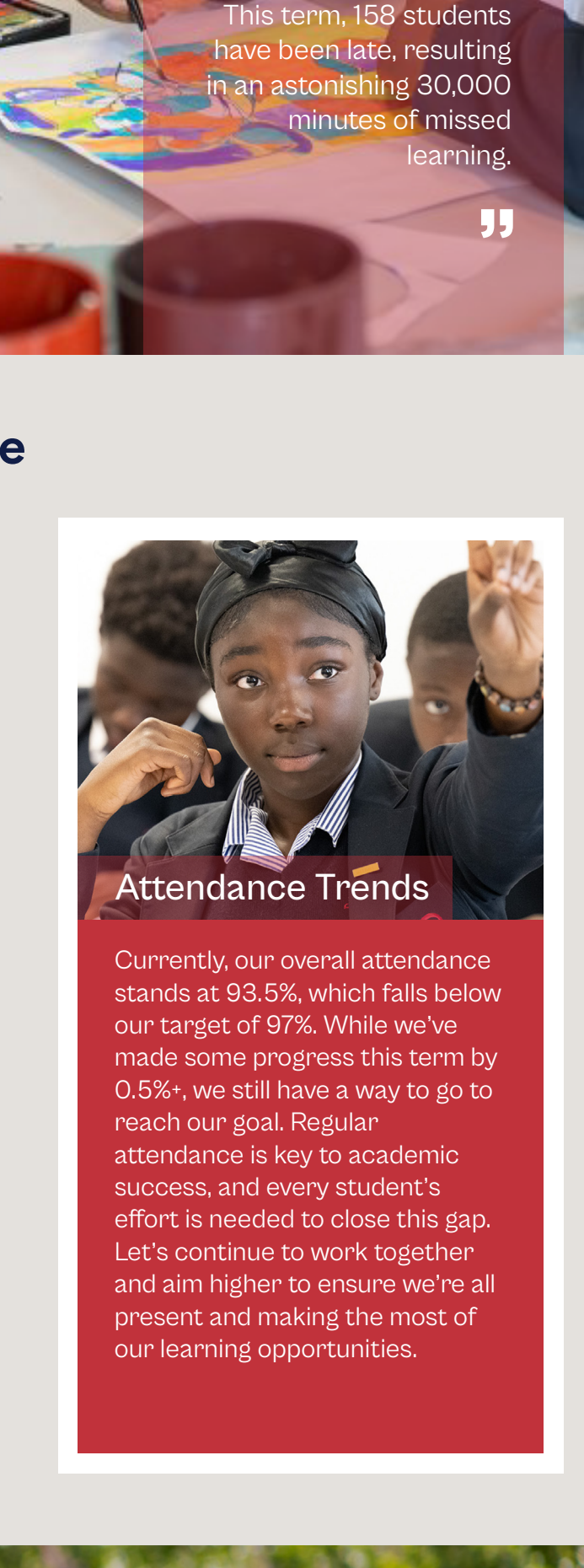
Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this term, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for your unwavering support and partnership in helping our Year 10 students navigate this crucial stage of their academic journey. However, as we reflect on our progress this term, I must address a pressing issue that is undermining the potential of our students: punctuality. This term, 158 students have been late, resulting in an astonishing 30,000 minutes of missed learning. By comparison, the first term saw 150 students late, leading to 26,000 missed minutes of learning. This increase is not only concerning but significant for the educational outcomes of our young people. Punctuality is more than just arriving on time; it is a fundamental life skill that reflects respect, discipline, and readiness to engage in learning. Every late arrival disrupts not only the student's own progress but also the flow of lessons, affecting the entire class. The cumulative loss of learning time is a barrier to success that we cannot afford to ignore.

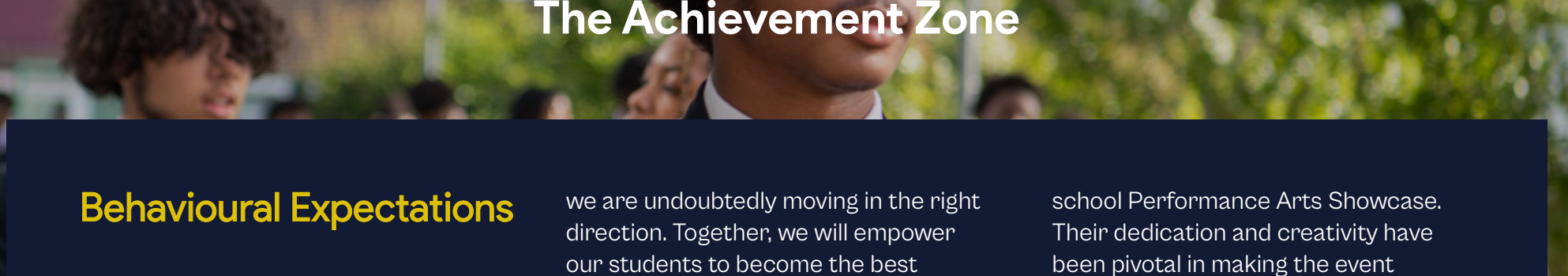
Parents and carers, I urge you to join us in addressing this issue. Start conversations at home about the importance of punctuality, establish clear routines to ensure students arrive on time and reinforce the value of being prepared and ready to learn. As we look to 2025, let us commit to turning this around. Our students deserve the opportunity to maximise their learning time and make the most of their education. With your support, I am confident that we can foster a culture of timeliness and accountability that will set them up for success.



Mr. Louis Klitku
Head of Year 10



Overview on Attendance



Top Attendees

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the students who have achieved 100% attendance this term. Your dedication and commitment to being present every day is commendable. Keep up the fantastic effort as consistent attendance is key to academic success and personal growth. Well done to all our top attendees!

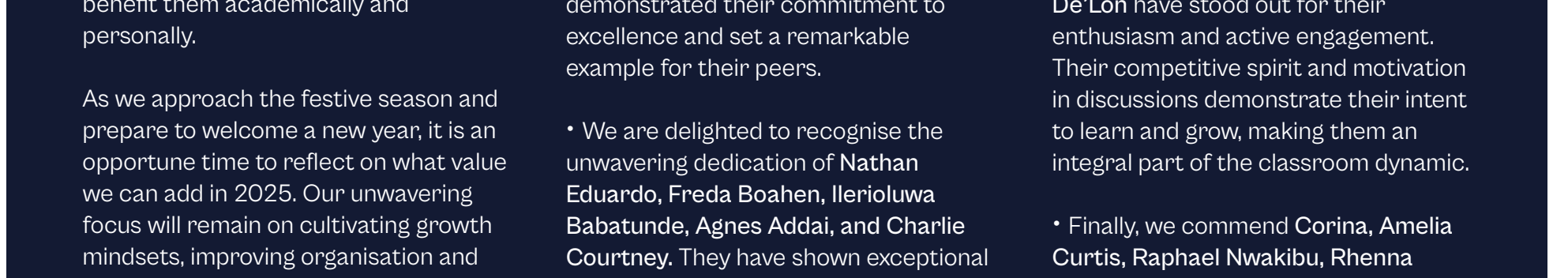
Attendance Challenges

We recognise that maintaining consistent attendance can be difficult at times, but overcoming these challenges is crucial for success. To encourage improvement, we have introduced a segment on attendance during Friday's ShowOuts! Forms with the highest attendance will earn special rewards, including certificates and a class treat. Let's work together to boost attendance across Year 10 – every day in school counts towards your success!

Attendance Trends

Currently, our overall attendance stands at 93.5%, which falls below our target of 97%. While we've made some progress this term by 0.5%, we still have a way to go to reach our goal. Regular attendance is key to academic success, and every student's effort is needed to close this gap. Let's continue to work together and aim high to ensure we're all present and making the most of our learning opportunities.

The Achievement Zone



Behavioural Expectations

In the second half of this term, we have focused relentlessly on improving critical development areas for our Year 10 cohort. I am pleased to share that our collective efforts have yielded significant progress in shifting our collective mindsets and habits for independent learning, incorporating these techniques into their study routines. For subject-specific examples: Use flashcards to recall essential quotations or character traits in English and revisit them weekly. In Mathematics, solve a mix of problems from earlier topics alongside new ones to reinforce connections. In Science, create diagrams or answer quiz questions about processes like photosynthesis or electricity over several sessions. (Click on the hyperlinks)

Student Achievements

This term, we are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of several Year 10 students who embody our This term, we are proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of several Year 10 students who embody our shared values and standards. These students have consistently demonstrated their commitment to excellence and set a remarkable example for their peers.

school Performance Arts Showcase.

Their dedication and creativity have been pivotal in making the event successful. A special mention goes to Junior Barrie, whose focus and presentation in Mathematics since September have been exemplary. His determination to excel in the subject inspires others. Similarly, Savannah has shown remarkable pride and effort in her Geography work, setting a commendable high standard of excellence and focus.

As we approach the festive season and prepare to welcome a new year, it is an opportune time to reflect on what value we can add in 2025. Our unwavering focus will remain on fostering growth mindsets, improving organisation and accountability, and encouraging our students to achieve beyond their comfort zones to push excellence in academics and all aspects of their lives.

We are delighted to recognise the unwavering dedication of Nathan Eduardo, Freda Boahen, Ifeoluwa Babalola, Agnes Adeniji, and Charlie Courtney. They have shown exceptional commitment to their presentation and 100% attendance throughout this academic year. Their pride in wearing the school uniform and meticulous attention to detail reflect the high standards they uphold daily, inspiring those around them.

In Geography lessons, Maya and De'Lon have stood out for their enthusiasm and active engagement. Their competitive spirit and motivation in discussions demonstrate their intent to learn and grow, making them an integral part of the classroom dynamic.

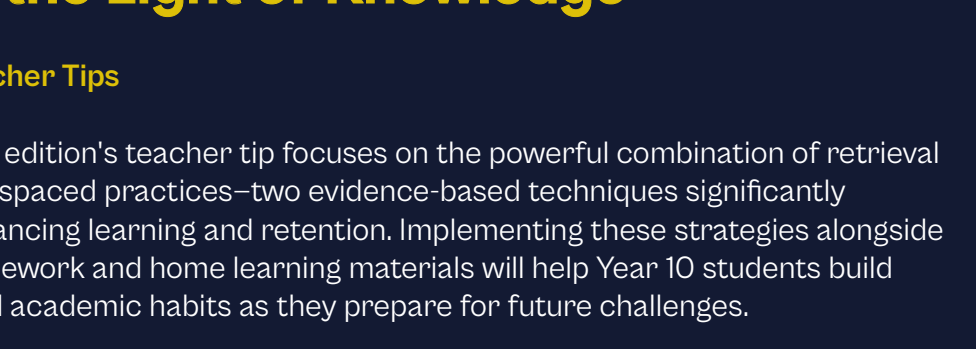
When we return in the new year, our rigour and high expectations will continue. Parents and carers, your support has been vital in helping us achieve these milestones, and we are immensely grateful. While there is still work to raise our standards even higher.

We also congratulate Alisha Bello, Seyifunmi Ayewumini, Aliyah Johnson, and Fatima Shodimu for their outstanding contributions to the whole

These achievements exemplify the excellence we aspire to in all areas of school life.

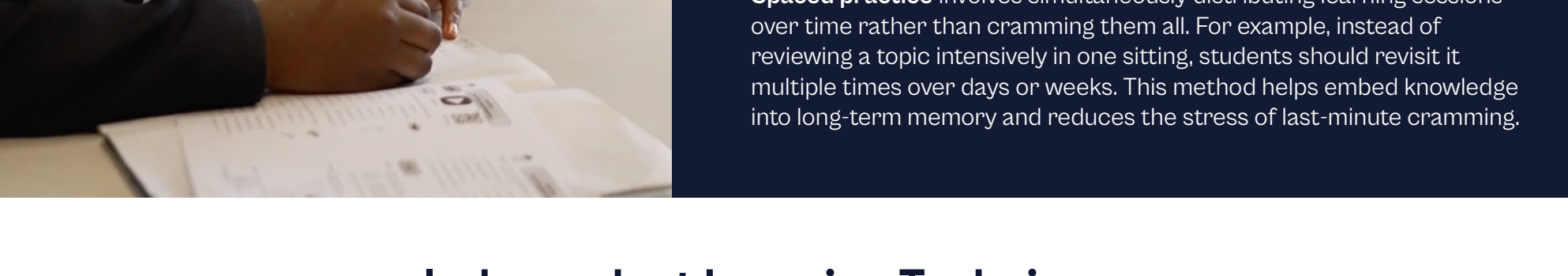
Standards Reinforcement

As we prepare for a new term, our focus remains on ensuring that every child is fully equipped for learning. The most valuable gift you can give your child is the tools they need to succeed academically. Each student should arrive with a pencil case containing black pens, blue pens, pencils, a ruler, highlighters, purple pens, a protractor, a compass, and a scientific calculator. These items are essential for their engagement in lessons and ability to access the full curriculum.



As a learning community, we are committed to fostering a culture of organisation, accountability, and drive. By equipping students with these tools, we are setting them up for success and reinforcing the importance of being prepared for every lesson. Let's work together to create a more focused and productive learning environment, ensuring that 2025 is a year of growth and excellence for all.

In the Light of Knowledge



Teacher Tips

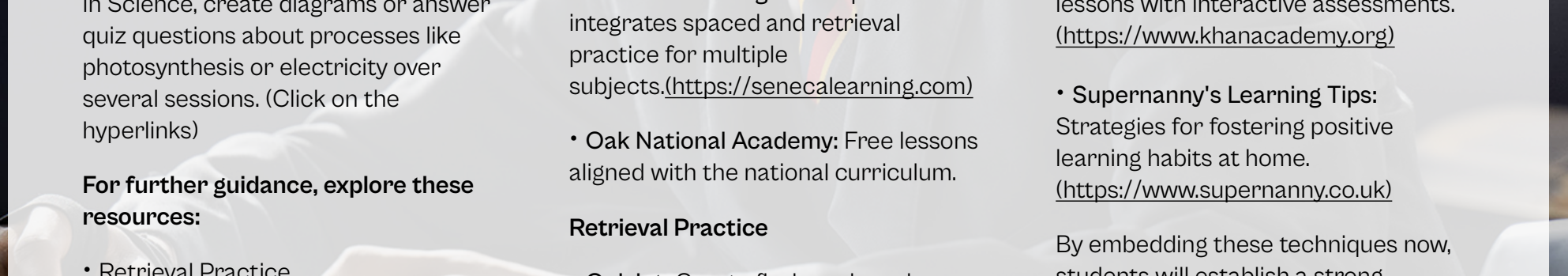
This edition's teacher tip focuses on the powerful combination of retrieval and spaced practice—two evidence-based techniques significantly enhancing learning and retention. Implementing these strategies alongside homework and home learning materials will help Year 10 students build solid academic habits as they prepare for future challenges.

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Retrieval practice involves recalling information from memory without referring to notes or textbooks. This technique strengthens the brain's ability to retrieve information, making it easier to remember in exams. Examples include completing practice questions, using flashcards, or writing answers to questions about a recently covered topic. Students should actively engage with the material and focus on the most challenging areas, ensuring they are consolidating core knowledge.

Spaced practice involves simultaneously distributing learning sessions over time rather than cramming them all. For example, instead of reviewing a topic intensively in one sitting, students should revisit it multiple times over days or weeks. This method helps embed knowledge into long-term memory and reduces the stress of last-minute cramming.

Independent Learning Techniques



Year 10 students are encouraged to dedicate 4-6 hours weekly to independent learning, incorporating these techniques into their study routines. For subject-specific examples:

Spaced Practice (https://www.learningscientists.org)

To further support you and your child, here are additional resources to guide learning at home:

Subject-Specific Resources (https://www.quizletz.com)

- English: SparkNotes: Summaries and analysis of key texts. (https://www.sparknotes.com)

General Study Support

- BBQ Bitesize: Engaging videos, quizzes, and revision tools for all core subjects.

Seneca Learning: A free platform that integrates spaced and retrieval practice for multiple subjects. (https://www.senecalearning.com)

- Oak National Academy: Free lessons aligned with the national curriculum.

Mathematics: Corbettmaths: Tutorials, worksheets, and daily practice activities. (https://www.corbettmaths.com)

- Science: Khan Academy: Detailed lessons with interactive assessments. (https://www.khanacademy.org)

For further guidance, explore these resources:

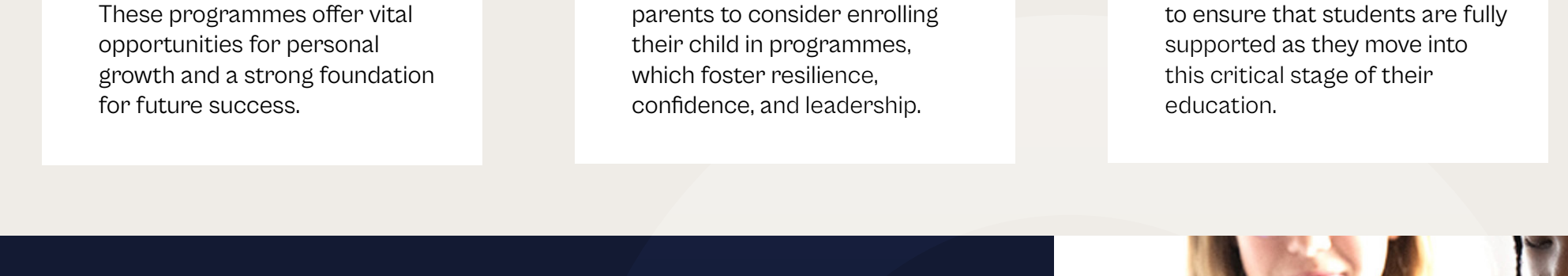
- Retrieval Practice (https://www.retrievalpractice.org)

Quizlet: Create flashcards and quizzes to enhance memory recall.

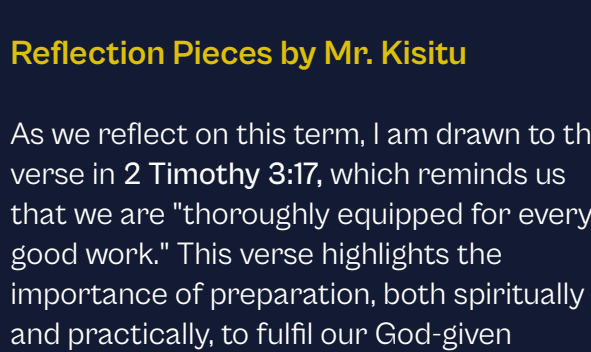
Supernanny's Learning Tips: Strategies for fostering positive learning habits at home. (https://www.supernanny.co.uk)

By embedding these techniques now, students will establish a strong foundation for Year 11.

Beyond the Classroom



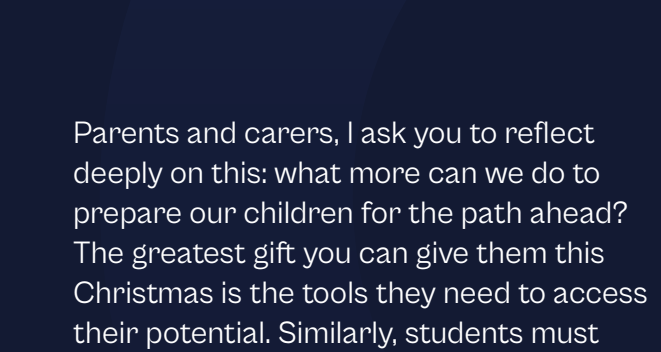
JAN



LVN Programme

In January 2025, the #GirlsWithGoals initiative will expand with the launch of the LVN programme. Building on the success of the original Blossom Programme, this initiative is designed to uplift and empower our female students. It will focus on helping them explore their interests, enhance self-esteem, and develop both short- and long-term goals. These programmes offer vital opportunities for personal growth and a strong foundation for future success.

JAN



EYLA Youth Leadership

We are also thrilled to announce a special assembly during the first week of January 2025 led by Ceryll Murray, Director of EYLA (Lewisham). EYLA's Youth Leadership Programmes offer students extensive benefits, helping them to grow, gain a deeper understanding of themselves, and align their ambitions with long-term goals. We encourage parents to consider enrolling their child in programmes, which foster resilience, confidence, and leadership.

MAR



Parents' Evening

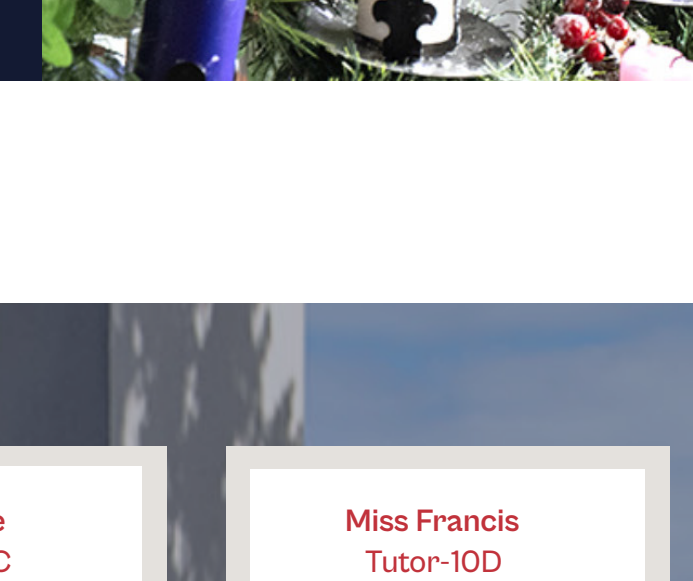
March 2025 marks an important milestone for Year 10 as we prepare for the transition to Year 11 with our Parents' Evening. This pivotal event provides an opportunity for parents, carers, and teachers to collaborate on strategies for academic success and personal development. Additionally, we are planning a dedicated Year 11 Transition Evening later in 2025 to ensure that students are fully supported as they move into this critical stage of their education.

Faith in Action

Reflection Pieces by Mr. Klitku

As we reflect on this term, I am reminded to the verse in 2 Timothy 3:17, which reminds us that we are "thoroughly equipped for every good work." This verse highlights the importance of preparation, both spiritually and practically, to fulfil our God-given purpose. For our Year 10 students, being equipped is not just about having the right attitude but also the tangible tools necessary to succeed in their learning.

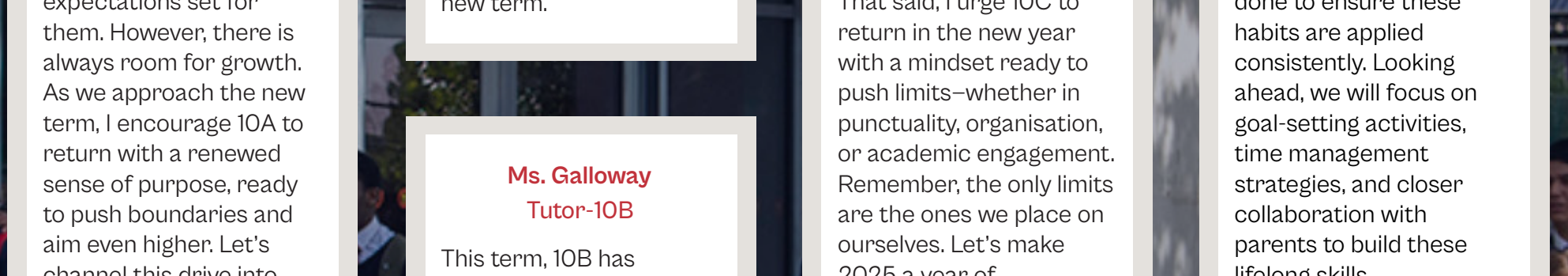
Parents and carers, I ask you to reflect deeply on this: what more can we do to prepare our children for the path ahead? The greatest gift you can give them this Christmas is the tools they need to access their potential. Similarly, students must reflect on their accountability: how are you preparing yourselves for the six lessons ahead each day?



This term has revealed a cultural challenge we must address: too many young people come to school unprepared. They cannot fully engage in their learning without black and blue pens, pencils, rulers, highlighters, purple pens, protractors, compasses, and scientific calculators. This lack of preparation impacts their progress and creates unnecessary barriers to success. How can we expect our students to achieve excellence when they are not equipped to access it?

Are we doing enough as staff to challenge this mindset and ensure our expectations are clear? Collectively, we are called to do better. Let us use this reflection to ask ourselves: are we equipping our young people for the excellence God has intended for them? With renewed focus, faith, and action, we can instill a culture where preparation is the foundation of success.

Form Tutor Insights



Ms. Barrett Tutor-10A

10A has shown great determination this term, embracing challenges and making progress both individually and as a group. It has been a pleasure to see students take more responsibility for their learning and strive to meet the Higher expectations set for them. However, there is always room for growth. As we approach the new term, I encourage 10A to return with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to push boundaries and aim even higher. Let's channel this drive into making 2025 a year of remarkable achievements.

Miss L. Willis Tutor-10H

A big thank you to the students of 10H who have worked hard to build a sense of community. From leading prayers and discussions to supporting the advent appeal, their efforts have been deeply appreciated. I look forward to seeing this spirit grow further in the new term.

Ms. Akpe Tutor-10C

It has been a pleasure working with 10C this term and seeing the sparks of ambition and progress among the group. Some students have truly begun to recognise their capacity for success, and it has been rewarding to watch them grow in confidence. That said, I urge 10C to return in the new year with a mindset ready to push limits—whether in punctuality, organisation, or academic engagement. Remember, the only limits are the ones we place on ourselves. Let's make 2025 a year of determination, ambition, and exceptional growth.

Miss Francis Tutor-10D

This term, 10D has made strides in improving organisation and planning through the use of planners. With some students stepping up to demonstrate their initiative outside the classroom, it has been inspiring to see their resilience and willingness to take on challenges, particularly as they begin to understand the importance of hardwork and consistency.

Ms. Galloway Tutor-10B

This term, 10B has demonstrated resilience and a growing willingness to embrace change. I am particularly proud of the way some students have stepped up to take ownership of their goals, whether it's through improving their punctuality, engagement in lessons, or supporting their peers. As we look to the year ahead, I challenge 10B to come back with even more focus and determination, setting personal goals that stretch their potential. Together, we can achieve even greater success by striving for excellence in every aspect of school life.

Mr. A. Fahy Tutor-10F

Congratulations to 10F for a positive start to the year! With our high standards and strong form identity, we're striving to win the best form award for a third consecutive year. I'm especially proud of the students who have ranked in the top ten for behaviour over the past two years. Let's continue this excellent momentum!

Miss Dixon Tutor-10E

10E has started this term with many students stepping up to demonstrate their initiative outside the classroom. It has been inspiring to see their resilience and willingness to take on challenges, particularly as they begin to understand the importance of hardwork and consistency.

Mr. Barrett Tutor-10G

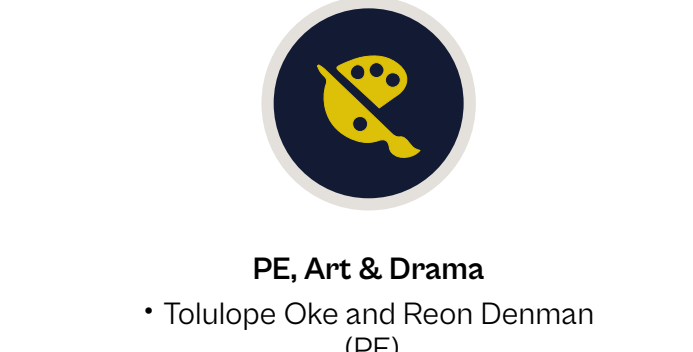
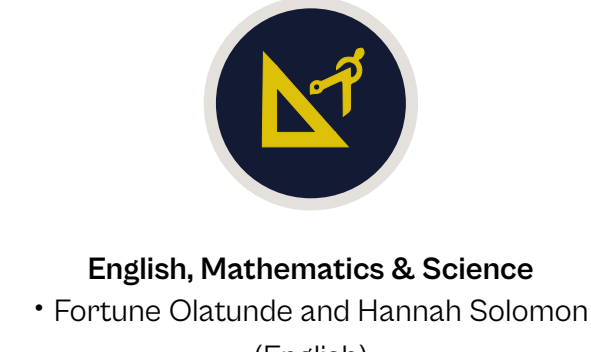
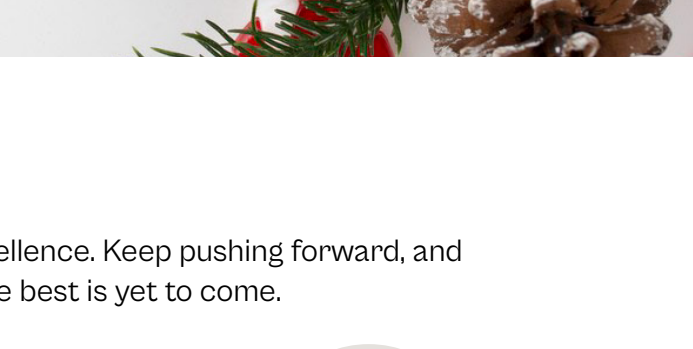
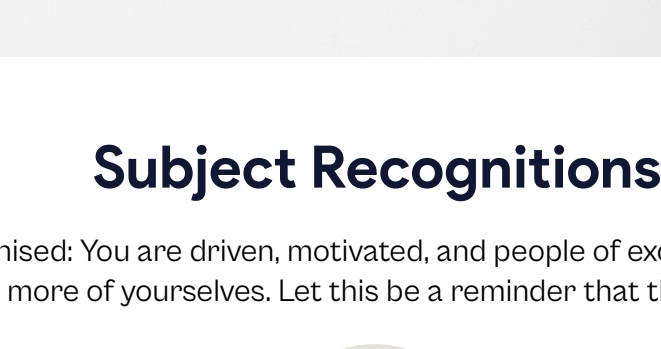
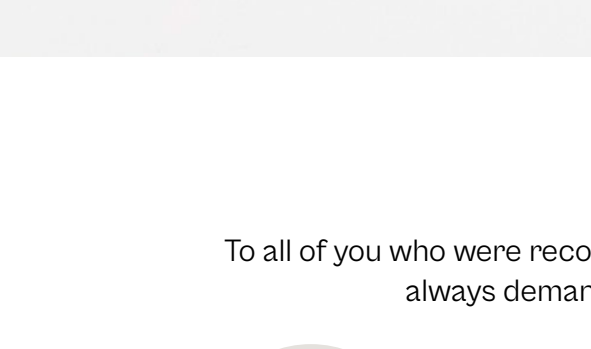
10G is a pleasure to work with. Their behaviour and uniform standards are commendable, but punctuality needs improvement—everyone should aim to be at the line before the whistle every day. I've noticed many students maturing this term, which is an encouraging and signals a bright future for them.

Celebrating Excellence: Christmas Rewards Assembly

Let us take a moment to celebrate and highlight the remarkable students who have been recognised for their progress and achievement during our Christmas Rewards Assembly. You truly embody our pursuit of excellence. Your efforts are a testament to your hard work and commitment, reflecting the success of your labour.

While you may not yet have achieved anything tangible, this recognition is a step in the right direction—a powerful reminder that the journey to greatness is built on consistent effort and dedication. Please do not let your standards slip, because excellence is who you are.

Thank you for being pillars of excellence in this year group.



Subject Recognitions

To all of you who were recognised: You are driven, motivated, and people of excellence. Keep pushing forward, and always demand more of yourselves. Let this be a reminder that the best is yet to come.

English, Mathematics & Science

- Fortune Olatunde and Hannah Solomon
- Dasi/Nya Sule-Williams and Miriam Palyis (Mathematics)
- Emmanuel Okolo and Maryam Inusa (Science)

Geography, History & Religious Studies

- Aisha Bello and Shadia Dugbo (Geography)
- Olive De Barcellos and Elyas Ghafor (History)
- Johanne Salvation (Espano) and De'Lon Manirakiza (Religious Studies)

PE, Art & Drama

- Tolulope Oke and Reon Denman (PE)
- Tia Lelacheur and David Geraldo (Art)
- Charlie Courtney and David Zaluck (Drama)

Spanish, Computer Science & Music

- Alisha Bello and Naomi Gornia (Spanish)
- Bianca Colborne and Alisha Bello (Computer Science)
- Ademide Bamodu and Johann Cuitaco (Music)

Media Studies and Business

- Patrycja Pletkiewicz and Elijah Amoné (Media Studies)
- Kenet Pricilla and Shelton Obi (Business)

ICT & Food Technology

- Denis Almeida and Collins Andrew (ICT)
- Agnes Addai and Grace Gillen (Food Technology)

Message from the Pastoral Team

The start of a new year is not just a time for resolutions; it's a chance to step into the challenges and continue growing.

Ms. President (Deputy Head of Year)

This term, students have shown continued progression in their work, which we celebrated in our rewards assembly. Their dedication to the opportunities provided by the academy has been equally commendable. During this season of Advent, it has been especially rewarding to witness students come together as a whole school, preparing and demonstrating the values embodied in God's Work of Art. As a pastoral team, we are proud of how far the students have come, but we remain ambitious for what they can achieve. We hope to see the students strive even more with abundance in 2025, continuing their journey of growth and excellence.

Nathaniel (Learning Mentor)

As we step into the new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey together and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Each of you has shown remarkable resilience and determination, and I am truly proud of the progress you've made. The start of a new year is not just a time for resolutions; it's a chance to set new goals, embrace challenges, and continue growing. Now is the perfect time to reflect on what you have learned, identify areas for improvement, and commit to becoming the best version of yourselves.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we approach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a year of transition and change. Throughout this journey, I have seen a renewed willingness in our Year 10 students to embrace change for the better. They are steadily aligning themselves with better habits, stronger attitudes, and a continual desire for self-improvement. The journey to excellence is never straightforward, but this term has shown enough evidence to affirm that Year 10 truly embodies elements of excellence.

During this Christmas break, I encourage you to reflect on the spiritual and devout meaning of this special season. It is a time to rest, rejuvenate, and make joyful memories with your families. Use this opportunity to cherish togetherness and prepare for the year ahead. As we return in 2025, I urge all Year 10 students to come back with a greater rigour, sharper focus, and renewed drive. Let's make 2025 a year where you will surprise yourselves with what you can achieve. You have already shown us glimpses of your potential, and I am confident that, with the right mindset, you will continue to rise to new heights.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful festive period.

Principal – Mrs S. Ward

