

Important dates

Date	Event
18/12/2020	Christmas holidays begin
04/01/2021	Staff Inset Day
05/01/2021	Spring term starts
11 and 12/01/2021	Year 9 injections
20 and 21/01/2021	Bikeability levels 1 and 2
01—12/02/2021	Year 11 mock exams
12/02/2021	Half term holiday starts

House Point Totals – 27th November

	House	Total
1 st	Jacob Jaguars	62751
2 nd	Deronda Ducks	57774
3 rd	Radical Raccoons	57635
4 th	Silas Snakes	53898



Developing a culture of gratitude

Cultivating a culture of gratitude is one of our approaches to building the characters of our pupils and helping them to be a better version of themselves.

Homeira Zakary, Principal of The George Eliot School

Being grateful does not come naturally and is a behaviour that needs to be taught and practised frequently, to become a life-time habit.

There are aspects of society that endorse a sense of entitlement and taking things for granted. We model showing gratitude to our pupils and teach them why, how and what to be grateful for.

We tell them that “It is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy”¹.

We teach our pupils that in adverse times, we stay positive and grateful, not for the adversity, but for the resilience to be able to deal with the difficulties, for our friends, teachers and others who help us to deal with the situations and support us.

Our pupils show their appreciation to their class teachers at the end of each lesson and then again at the end of the day they show their gratitude to someone who has done something for them. This act of gratitude impacts on how they feel about themselves and others. When people are grateful, they become more compassionate, generous and the best they can be.

Our teachers model this behaviour by thanking pupils at the end of each lesson, these are not empty words or taken lightly. They are grateful for having the opportunity to share their knowledge, for having pupils who are engaged and focused. Our teachers show their gratitude regularly to the systems in place which allow them to teach well behaved classes and also develop their resilience and support them when necessary. Appreciation for what we receive and what others do for us improves relationships and starts a cycle of positive feedback.

We have planted the seeds of gratitude and put in place a powerful culture and dedicated staff to nurture them. The fruit will be happier, more focused and fulfilled young people who will serve their community to the best of their ability.

1-David Steindl-rast

This blog post is available by clicking [here](#):

Trust Talk

The official blog of The Midland Academies Trust. Follow us for weekly updates on culture, curriculum, assessment, teaching and much more.



Community Heroes

Each week we will be celebrating one of our school community heroes and the amazing work they have been doing in the local area.



This week we celebrate Naimh in year 9 who is a member of Nuneaton District Amateur Radio Club. Naimh has spent lockdown donating food for packages to support vulnerable families as well doing the shopping for her grandparents.



Warwickshire Family Information Service Newsletter

Please click here to access this week's edition of the family information service newsletter which includes lots of activities to do at home.



Warwickshire Safeguarding information and resources for families

Please visit <https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-am-a-parent-carer> for a wealth of resources and information for parents and carers to support your family's safety and wellbeing.



STAR Awards

Here we celebrate those students going above and beyond with their STAR values to reach and exceed their potential.

Faculty	Self Discipline Award	Tenacity Award	Ambition Award	Responsibility Award
Creative Performance	Niamh - Year 11 - PE - Brilliant self-discipline in VTech PE, attending all intervention sessions.	Pheobe - Year 11 - PE - Showing great tenacity in her VTech PE, making brilliant revision notes for her exam.	McKenzie - Year 11 - PE - Showing brilliant ambition by getting 3 grades above her target grade in PE.	Tom - Year 11 - PE - Always showing positive behaviour within his PE lessons.
Humanities	Self-Discipline: Demi - Being self-disciplined in getting her RE and PSHE remote learning done.	Tenacity: Mya - Showing tenacity in doing extension RE work in remote learning.	Holly - Year 10 - RE - Aiming high with her RE assessment and improving her knowledge.	Amy - Year 10 - RE - For taking responsibility to catch up on missed learning in RE.
Science	Cian - Excellent behaviour in lesson this week!	Connor - Excellent educake work!	Bailey - Outstanding effort!	Lucas - Completing all online work!
Maths and Computer Science	Heidi, Year 10, Maths, Constantly tries her hardest in lesson even when the work gets tricky.	Amelia, Year 10, Maths, has been revising hard and emailing the teacher to follow up on higher content.	Declan, Year 7, Maths, great explanation on examples for when multiplying terms in algebra.	Ginnie, Year 7, Computer Science, asking for additional work to help gain a better understanding of the subject.

Gratitude

This week has all been about **Gratitude** so it seems fitting that the school say some thank yous also.



Thank you to our **parents**, who are kind and patient in their communication at this very busy time. Your support and feedback has been encouraging and appreciative and we have enjoyed this increased close working and communications we have had with you during this difficult time.

Thank you to our **pupils**. Your resilience continues to amaze us all. You come in and make the best of everything, you have adapted to new and different routines, you have shown great maturity and in lessons you continue to work hard and take as much as you can. You have responded well to a change in Homework, a further bid to support you with ICT and making sure we are preparing you to work in different ways. You are kind to each other and respectful in your language.

Thank you to our **staff** who are going above and beyond each day for our pupils and the community that links with this school. Your children are met every day with a smile from staff who continue to motivate and enthuse every single pupil and who continue to never leave anyone behind.

Our culture is changing and we are more able and encouraged to find some good in every day, something that we are grateful for.

Advent

This year, Sunday 29th November saw the start of the period in the church calendar known as *advent*.

The word advent means 'arriving' and speaks of the arrival of Jesus Christ as baby and king. It is the period which leads up to Christmas. It starts on the Sunday nearest to November 30th. Many Advent customs involve counting the days until Christmas begins. Some churches have an advent wreath with five candles, one for each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day and one for the day itself.