



# Ringwood School

## Year 7 Newsletter- Spring Term 1

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year (seems a very long time ago after a seemingly endless January). This half term we have focused on making improvements from term 1 and setting targets from our first progress check. We have seen some amazing examples of students showing constant improvement and it looks like their resolutions will last well beyond January (unlike some of mine). It was lovely to speak to some of you off the back of the Progress Check and we will reward both our top conduct students and scholars after half term.

Our January precept was "The only person we should try to be better than is the person we were yesterday". We spoke to students about not comparing themselves with others but just ensuring that they are each trying to do their own "personal best" each day. Our 10 students of the month typified this and it was a pleasure to reward them and to speak to some of you.

Our clubs continue to be well attended. A big well done to the boys and girls football teams who progressed well in the cup competition and both won the Southampton Schools Football Tournament. Well done to all students who have attended a sports club or represented the school this half term, it's great to see them all having fun and making memories. Non-sports clubs have also seen great attendance: drama, textiles, photography, Eco-club and many more regularly see groups of Year 7's learning new skills and meeting new people.

Understanding that it's always a bit harder after Christmas our February precept is a quote from Stephen Hawking "However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up". In March we will take a quote from Wonder "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" and focus on students being the best version of themselves and showing honesty, integrity and kindness towards each other in their daily interactions. This also links into the themes we focused on in PSHE and Children's Mental Health Week around mutual respect and celebrating that we are all different.

We are mindful that the last two years have been really challenging for families and circumstances may have changed. Did you know that your child could be eligible for **free school meals**? Eligibility can be checked confidentially through the government website. Please click on this [FSM link](#) to check your eligibility.

I am very proud of all they have achieved as we reach the halfway point. I regularly visit lessons and speak to students and teachers and I get the feeling that this year group are really setting themselves up for a strong 5 years. They set the tone with their efforts, enthusiasm and personal interactions and I feel as though the vast majority are buying into this and understand they have the ability to take control of each day as mature, polite and conscientious young men and women. It's great to see them working so hard each day and hear the positives from teachers. They've done extremely well and deserve a well-earned break next week!

I hope you all have a great half term.

Mario Massimino

Head of Y7