



**Engage Develop Aspire Communicate**  
**Our vision**  
**Working towards successful futures**

Principal's message to families – 9.2.2024

**Next weeks Lower school word of the week is - [share](#)**  
**The Upper school word of the week is – [co-operate](#)**

What a way to end a half term in February-with a snow day! Tim sure you'll all join with me in saying a big thank you to everyone involved in getting our children home safely yesterday and to the residential staff who enabled those with too far to travel, to stay at school.

We started with our celebration assembly though, which was amazing as ever. Each time there are more and more children (and staff) receiving certificates! Ask your children if they remember what the staff got their certificates for! I'd love to hear which they remember.

Despite this weather blip in the week, several pupils across school and including Chimes have managed to complete their **speaking and listening assessments**. I was privileged to be part of the team involved in this for one of our pupils and I have to say it was amazing. I learnt some new fact about a combination of art, history, including some politics! Such confidence shown here from our young people with the most complex of communication challenges, and such skill from staff to support and enable them.

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness week this week we have had activities in form groups, hot chocolate break time on Wednesday (MUCH appreciated!) and Dress to Express today. Have a look at the photos on our Facebook page to see how everyone expressed themselves...

Our sensory bus is now in full use with a full timetable in place now! Ask your (younger) children if they've had a chance to go in it yet.

6th form across school have been cutting & clearing Rainworth Heathland using a variety of equipment. This will preserve existing heather & building natural hedges, make ready for re seeding after half term.

Paul Craste & students have worked in partnership with Mansfield District Council who have visited the site & expressed their delight in the progress of students from DHS.



Spring 2...looking forward...

On Monday 19th February, Dawn House pupils will be taking part in an annual swimming gala, hosted at Hucknall Leisure Centre. Pupils from across KS3 and KS4 will take part in races against pupils from across Nottinghamshire. The event is always very popular and last year Dawn House left with lots of medals, and this year we will be aiming to win even more.

Moving forwards we are trialling a new process for parent contact from form tutors. I will send more information about what you should expect in the new half term and would be interested in feedback. We intend to trial this until the end of the Summer.

I will also share information about our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday plans- many generated by our Pupil Leadership Group. What great ideas they had!

The payment for your child's Food Tech supplies opens on Weduc during next week. I know you will all enjoy the meals and treats brought home by your children so please do add your contributions so that this can continue.

Have a great half term,  
Jenny

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If your child leaves home in the morning a little unsettled and you want to quickly tell us, so we know to expect a tricky start to the day, a quick email (that we can follow up later) to the tutor and/or core team with '**Handle with Care**' in the email title will ensure that we are aware.