

## Happy New Year

We welcomed our pupils back to the new term this week and to a new calendar year. I hope that all of our pupils, parents and guardians had a peaceful, relaxing and happy Christmas and I wish all of our families the very best for 2024. This is an important year for our Year 11 pupils who now begin their last full term at Paignton Academy before their GCSE exams start after the Easter holidays. There are now revision sessions taking place to support our senior pupils who will also complete their final 'mock' examinations before the February half term holidays.

## Final Christmas Assemblies

On the last day of term, we held our final Christmas assemblies and the eagerly awaited Golden Ticket draw. In the lead up to these, we held ten different year group assemblies in the last week, five on each site and over 1000 certificates were handed out! These were awarded for High Attendance, Most Improved Attendance, Subject Excellence Awards, Sparx Maths Achievements, Scientist of the Week, Tutor Awards, Uniform Awards and Attitude to Learning. Students were awarded a Bronze Certificate if they were in the top 50% for effort, a Silver for the top 25%, Gold for being in the top 10% for effort and Platinum for those in the top 5% of their year groups.

In these assemblies, £100 of Amazon vouchers were handed out. Five students were selected to go into the final Golden Ticket draw. They then had the chance to win an array of prizes such as vouchers, body boards, LED light strips, Vue cinema vouchers, Adrenaline Quarry and Splashdown vouchers, Nerf super soakers and heaps of chocolate. The overall grand prize winner was from the Borough Road site and his prize was presented in the joint Goodrington and Elberry assembly by some interesting visitors! Leon won a £270 paddleboard and is pictured below with two other award winners from Goodrington and Preston at Borough Road. Well done to all our winners!



## Student of the Month (November 2023)

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Month:

BOROUGH ROAD		WATERLEAT ROAD	
Student	Nominated by	Student	Nominated by
Jai Sing - 8BB1	Miss Lee	Jolan Ward - 11WB1	Miss Peter
Grace Herworth - 10BP1	Mr Roberts	Harry Baker - 11WP1	Mr Harris
Willow Sherwood - 7BG1	Mr Croxford	Alisha Moorey - 11WG2	Mrs Summers
Hollie Holmes - 11BE1	Miss Freeman	Shaun Nene - 7WE1	Mrs Dale/Miss Tucker

## England Captain Visits Paignton Academy

On the last day of the Autumn term our Netball players were treated to the most special and inspirational visit from the current England Ladies Netball Captain, Fran Williams. With a camera crew and two professional photographers alongside her, our Academy students clearly understood her high profile and the iconic status she holds as England Captain.

As an Academy we would like to express our huge thanks to Lovell Netball, the UK's leading specialist Netball company, based in Paignton who provided this opportunity. Fran Williams was in the area to launch her new role as the Lovell Netball Brand Ambassador and we were extremely lucky to secure a short visit to the Academy as part of her day. Fran captained the England side in December 2023, in their 2 – 1 series win against South Africa, and was also voted the player of the series.

Fran was able to hold a question and answer session with our Academy Netball players, detailing her intense training regime. She also spoke about her resilience to overcome setbacks, how she motivates herself and focuses on striving for her best, every day. Fran was extremely engaging with the students, she was able to talk about how she started Netball and took the time to answer all their questions. Fran was happy to undertake a photoshoot but due to time, we could only arrange a small number of group shots via her agent. However, although pushed for time Fran was happy to stay longer, pose for individual shots with all the students and she was a wonderful role model. To top it all off, Fran then spoke to each student individually and handed out signed photos. The visit ended up being way beyond our expectation. It was such a wonderful, inspirational and amazing opportunity - a superb way to end the year for staff and students alike. Our huge thanks again must go to Fran Williams and Lovell Netball.



## Plymouth Dry Ski Slope



The Plymouth Rewards dry ski slope trip took place on the last Thursday of the Autumn term. We took 36 Year 9 and 10 students, many of whom had not skied before. Brilliant fun was had by all and such improvement was seen from the start of the day. There were some very tired students on the bus home!

