Our Year 7 end of term talent contest showcased an amazing selection of talented students before we finished school for the Christmas break.

Abubaker was crowned the winner, closely followed by Catherine, Gabriel, Ahmed and Kalam, but everyone was outstanding. Well done to all our talented contestants for taking part!
Our Stride students have been getting acquainted with the new greenhouse on the school allotment, thanks to Mrs Mason who applied for funding for the greenhouse before Christmas. The greenhouse has been supplied and constructed by a company called First Tunnels.

This now means that students will be able to plant bulbs and vegetable seeds, such as carrots, sweet peas and broad beans, plus tomatoes in growbags.

First tunnels also supplied a heater to keep the seedlings from getting damaged by the cold through the winter.

Mrs Mason said: “I applied for funding for the greenhouse because I thought it would be good for our students to understand more about starting gardening from scratch.”

The students are already familiar with growing bulbs and seeds in a greenhouse as there is one at the Alexandra Road South Allotment in Whalley Range, where they have started working every fortnight.

The students were working on the allotment last week, to make sure all the seeds they have already planted outside were coming along ok, despite the colder weather. So far, frost has not affected the broad beans and onions, which are already coming through!
Congratulations to our Year 9 student Lanik and Year 8 student Ida who have been presented with a Star Award by Challenge 4 Change.

They were singled out for doing a phenomenal job helping out as volunteers with students from Castle Hill High School. Well done girls on a fantastic achievement!

Thanking those involved, Julie Jones, Head of Sixth Form at Castle Hill High School, said:

“We are a special needs school with students that are older than yours and with a variety of needs. Your students, and in particular Lanik and Ida, were quick to get involved in the activities themselves and then, in turn, involve our students.”

Lanik and Ida are part of a group of eight Academy students who are taking part in a 12 week junior instructor and employability programme, run by Challenge 4 Change and Perform 2 Prevent. Students are put through a progressive modular programme, which will develop their work related knowledge, skills and abilities, such as delivering small, supervised sessions at Challenge 4 Change’s indoor urban activity centre.

Dean Lynch, Challenge 4 Change Project Manager and Director of Perform 2 Prevent said: “I’m extremely impressed with Lanik and Ida’s attitude and work ethic. They’re both natural leaders who have a bright future. What stood out more than anything was their eagerness to work with and support the students from Castle Hill.”
Well done to this week’s Stars of the Week.....

Yours sincerely,
Mr Eldon, Principal.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reg</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaneeza Yasin</td>
<td>7GEB</td>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>For her excellent behaviour and attitude to learning this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nabil Muhamed</td>
<td>7MMI</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Nabil has come back from the holidays energised and ready to work hard. He has an excellent attitude and behaviour for learning, manners and work ethic! Well done Nabil.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fahd Hilal</td>
<td>9SBU</td>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>For his EXTRA efforts in Reading and general desire to improve and do his best.</td>
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