

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to edition 5 of the Newsflash. May I begin by saying what a privilege it is to have been appointed as Headteacher of Droylsden Academy. It is a real honour to be able to lead our school forward on the next part of its journey.

Having worked at the Academy for the last 16 months, I am fully aware of the many strengths that we have. I also see the huge potential that the school has and I am incredibly proud of some of the wonderful achievements that I see on a daily basis. However, we clearly have much work to do. To ensure better progress for your child, there will be a relentless focus on improving the quality of teaching in every classroom and curriculum area. We have raised our expectations of students and we are demanding more from them in lessons and during the school day. As we begin to ask more of your child, we expect them to push themselves, to raise their aspirations and to strive to achieve the very highest grades or levels.

Your child's education and well being are at the heart of everything that we do at the Academy. I firmly believe that all young people should enjoy learning, be actively engaged in their learning and know what experiencing success looks and feels like. I see the relationship between our parents and the Academy as a critical partnership, this is because you are crucial to the success of this school. I believe that by working together, we can make the Academy's journey a very successful one. I look forward to meeting those of you I have not already met and I welcome any comments, ideas or suggestions that you may have.

Enjoy this edition of the Newsflash and thank you for your continued support.

Mr P Wilson

Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

There will be a Geography revision session at the Academy **this Sunday morning, 17th May**, from 9.30am to 12.00pm. Please encourage your child to attend this vital preparation if he/she is taking the Geography GCSE exam.

The following GCSE examinations take place next week:

| Day | Morning (9.00am start) | Afternoon (1.30pm start) |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Monday 18 th May | GCSE English Literature Paper 1 | - |
| Tuesday 19 th May | - | GCSE Geography |
| Wednesday 20 th May | GCSE Persian GCSE Portugese Cambridge National: Business | GCSE Physics |
| Thursday 21 st May | GCSE Maths | GCSE Biology |
| Friday 22 nd May | GCSE English Literature Paper 2 | - |

The Period 6 timetable continues to run every evening at the end of the school day. All Year 11 students should be attending one of their subjects every night.

Year 11 Exam Booster sessions will be running next week. This will involve withdrawing some students from their timetabled lessons to provide additional support for exams taking place the following day.

There will be a full revision programme available for Year 11 students during the half term holiday. Further details, and a timetable showing which subjects will run on each day, will be in next Friday's edition of Newsflash.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Academy's new expectations and protocols for lesson planning are launched with all staff.

A group of Year 7 students visit Manchester University as part of the Gateway Project. The students completed a number of activities and workshops and found out about the opportunities and courses on offer.

Year 10 hold a fundraising week for their chosen charity, STARS. So far they have raised £900 through a range of events including a Fun Run, a Basketball Challenge, a 5-A-Side Football Tournament and an Ice Pop and cake sale. Four members of staff, Miss Sanderson, Ms Wood, Miss Barratt and Miss Davies also competed in the Manchester 10km run to help raise money.

Year 9 students are involved in 'The Art of Identity', an Arts project run in conjunction with Manchester Museum. More information on the project can be found in this edition of Newsflash.



YEAR 8 PARENT TEACHER EVENING

The Academy would like to thank those parents who attended Year 8 Parent Teacher Evening last week. Altogether 128 students out of a total of 182 were represented by parents or carers on the night, a turn-out of 71%. Feedback would suggest that the evening was very useful for parents, students and staff.

Many parents filled in a questionnaire during the evening and we were particularly pleased that:

- 98% of them agreed that their child enjoys school and was happy at the Academy;
- 99% felt that their child was safe and well looked after;
- 91% felt that their child was making good progress;
- 98% felt that their child was taught well; and that
- 93% would recommend the Academy to other people.

In response to other questions, 87% of parents felt that behaviour was good and 87% felt that they are now kept well informed; both of these figures represent significant increases on previous questionnaires.

Whilst the Academy is delighted with the 71% turn-out and appreciate the clear communication from one or two parents who genuinely couldn't make the evening, we remain extremely worried and disappointed that 29% of our students were not represented at such an important evening where progress, attainment, strengths and learning areas for development were openly discussed with subject teachers and parents and carers. The evidence is clear that students who are actively supported in their education by parents who take part in such events do much better.

RAISING THE BAR

This week senior Academy staff have launched a new set of teaching expectations to guide the planning of all lessons; these will provide a consistent way of delivering lessons to ensure that students make the most of each and every hour of learning. This is part of the Academy's ongoing improvement strategy and is a central part of Mr Wilson and Mr Duncan's vision for improving standards and improving the progress that students make. As GCSE examinations are becoming more difficult, it is important that teachers provide students with more challenging work, as well as the support necessary, to thrive in their learning; teachers will have to plan to ensure that this is the case and students should be ready to work harder to make sure that they are ready to be successful. Mr Wilson and Mr Mayell will be speaking to students about these new protocols and expectations in assemblies over the next few weeks.

LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

The new lunchtime arrangements are working well. Following suggestions from students, the lunchtime has been extended by five minutes for those year groups who are on first sitting which has given everyone a little longer to eat their dinner. Students not taking part in lunchtime activities

inside the building should bring a coat with them for when they go outside. Activities available inside include:

- Games rooms (X Box, Nintendo Wii, Pool and Table Tennis)
- TV and Film Room
- KS4 Quiet Area
- KS3 Quiet Area
- Quiet Learning, Reading, Chess and Board Games Zone in the Atrium
- Sports Hall
- Learning Resource Centre

'THE ART OF IDENTITY'

A group of Year 9 students will have the opportunity to exhibit their own work at Manchester Museum through a new project called 'The Art of Identity'. The project, funded by 'Children and the Arts', will allow our students to work with local artists in a series of workshops over the summer term and use the exhibits and artefacts in the Museum as the inspiration for their work. This week, the students worked with the Curator of the Museum and local artist Karen Allerton. Both were impressed by the knowledge, enthusiasm and ability of our students.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Film Club now runs every Tuesday night. As well as watching films, students will have the opportunity to prepare and present their own reviews. In addition to the Year 11 Period 6 study sessions which run every evening, the following clubs now run after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Tuesday | Yr7 STEM Club and Film Club |
| Wednesday | MFL Ambassadors Club and the Duke of Edinburgh Award |
| Thursday | Gardening Club and KS3 Art Club |

The Gardening Club have reported that the tomatoes, strawberries and pumpkins are doing well and that the fruit trees are doing especially well. Next week the club will be designing hanging baskets and planting more seeds.

Students completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award will be practising and applying their navigational skills on their practice walk in the White Peaks, near Bakewell, on 23rd and 24th May.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 10 GCSE Geography students who are intending to go on the residential Field Trip in July should return permission slips and deposits to Student Services as soon as possible.

Can parents please check their child's Planner and Good Manners card regularly and encourage him/her to use them effectively.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 7 Humanities trip to Skipton Castle on 18th May.

Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition departs on 22nd May.

The Academy closes for the half term holiday on 22nd May.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Dance and Drama workshops are held for students interested in auditioning for the Academy production of 'Singing in the Rain'.

For match reports and other news from the P.E. Department please visit the weekly on-line Sports Blog on the Academy website.