

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the second edition of Newsflash for this academic year.

I hope that your child has settled back into the routines of Academy life and is living our values of politeness, hard work and honesty. If your child is new to the Academy, I hope that they are finding their way around the building and getting to know their teachers and their new friends. Early indications are that we have made a good start to the year; the standard of uniform is excellent and, at 96.5%, attendance is very good. Similarly, the students are responding to our new expectations, and the new systems and procedures in place, and there is a happy and purposeful feel in lessons and around the building. Thank you to all parents and carers for playing your part in making this happen.

Last year we made a good start on the journey to becoming an excellent school. Excellent schools around the country, and indeed the world, share many similarities. First and foremost, there is always a culture of “No excuses, you can do it”. Similarly, there is strong discipline and an absolute insistence on the basics of politeness, honesty and a real work ethic. Most importantly, in every one of these schools, the expectations placed on staff and students are sky high.

I have worked in many schools throughout my career; they have all been in and around Manchester and some have faced difficulties and challenges. Too often in the past, inner city schools have had low expectations of their students and made excuses for poor progress and exam performance. National data shows that far fewer students from inner city schools go on to University and to compete for the top jobs. We have students at the Academy who are as bright as any you will find in any school anywhere in the country, students who should be tomorrow’s Research Scientists, Lawyers, Doctors, Professors, Dentists, Architects and Chief Executives. Why should we settle for second best? We want to raise the aspirations of all our students and, with our insistence on the highest of standards, the highest of expectations and absolutely no excuses, give them the opportunity to fulfil their potential and be the very best that they can be.

The other similarity that all excellent schools have is a strong bond between home and school and the absolute support of parents. I feel we have that with the vast majority of our parents and, where this is not the case, I hope that, in time, we will gain your trust and respect. Thank you for reading Newsflash; as usual, I hope you will find it interesting and useful.

Mr. P Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are 28 school weeks, just 140 days in school, until your first GCSE exam. Exam preparation is a marathon and not a sprint; it is the hard work and commitment now that will lead to exam success and not last minute revision next May.

Compulsory extra study sessions now run every night from 2.35pm to 3.35pm. We call these study sessions “Period 6 lessons” as they run at the end of the day after Period 5 has finished. The following table shows which lessons are on each evening.

Day	Subjects that will run on that evening
Monday	Art, French, Computing, Photography and Business Studies
Tuesday	Maths and Art
Wednesday	Science and Sport
Thursday	English, Performing Arts, Catering, Product Design, Business Studies and Photography
Friday	Geography, History, Spanish and Art

All Year 11 students now have a personalised Period 6 timetables telling them which lessons to go to each night. Please look at your child’s Period 6 timetable and encourage them to attend these really important study sessions. **Attending Period 6 lessons will improve your child’s GCSE grades and the opportunities open to them when they leave the Academy.**

There will be a Year 11 GCSE Drama Coursework Clinic on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

All Year 11 students will be completing Science Controlled Assessments in the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Mock GCSE exams will take place in the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

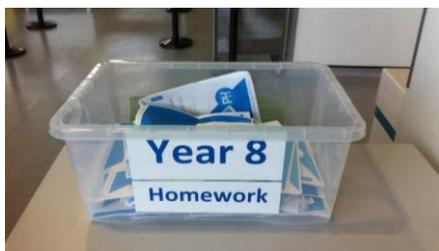
The Academy has opened a new dining area for students who bring a packed lunch to school. These students should not now use the dining room in the Atrium meaning that there are more tables available for the students who buy hot meals.

There is an expectation that, after their dinner, students will relax and get some fresh air outside at lunchtime in the Academy grounds, rather than stay inside the building. However, students wishing to stay inside can go to one of the activity areas. There are a number of activity areas including the Sports Hall, a quiet reading area, the Games areas, the Learning Zone and the Learning Support Centre. Activities available in the Games areas include Chess, Drafts and other board games, Table Tennis, Pool, X Box and the Nintendo Wi.

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## HOMEWORK

The new arrangements for Years 7 and 8 have worked well this week with students handing their homework in as they arrive at school. Over 95% of the students have handed their homework in on time and we have had to issue very few detentions. Thank you to parents and carers for your help in making this happen.



The only problems have arisen where students have forgotten to write their name, or the name of their teacher, on their homework sheet or booklet. Please check and remind them to do this if you can.

Homework should be handed in on the correct day as detailed below. So, for instance, if your child does their Humanities homework over this weekend, they should still hand it in next Tuesday and not on Monday.

Monday	English and Maths
Tuesday	Humanities
Wednesday	Science
Thursday	Languages
Friday	English and Maths

The Maths homework for Friday will be through the on-line "MyMaths" which students can complete on their PC or Tablet or at the Academy Homework Club.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

The following clubs will be up and running next week:

Gardening Club will run on Thursday evening after school. All students are welcome.

STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) will run every Wednesday evening. The club is open to students from Years 7 and 8. Students interested in joining the club should sign up with Mrs Hatton.



The MFL Ambassadors Club will run every Wednesday evening in Room I32, from 2.35pm to 3.15pm, for those students who enjoy Languages and want to develop their skills and expertise.

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Students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme meet every Wednesday evening at 2.35pm.

Science Homework Clinic is available every lunchtime. Laptops, chrome books, advice and assistance are available for all students who would like help or support.

## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Parents and Carers of Year 7 students should have received a letter about “Parentpay” the easy way to pay for school meals, trips and visits. Please contact [parentpay@droylsdenacademy.com](mailto:parentpay@droylsdenacademy.com) if you have any problems activating your account.

Please check your child’s Planner and Manners Cards each week.

Year 7 students will be taking their CATS tests in the week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Most schools use these tests which give teachers a general idea of a student’s cognitive ability. Students need not prepare for these tests.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Alec Stewart O.B.E. the ex-England Cricket Captain will be in the Academy on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September delivering cricket workshops and meeting staff and students.

HPV1 vaccinations will be given to Year 8 girls on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Further information and a consent form will be sent out prior to the vaccinations taking place.

The Academy Open Evening will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## ARTS’ AND SPORTS’ ROUND UP

The Expressive Arts Department will be running a trip for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to see ‘The Chair’ at The Royal Exchange Theatre on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish to attend the trip, or would like more information, please collect a letter from Miss Spacey or Miss Scantlebury. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Expressive Arts Department will also be running a residential trip over the weekend of February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> for students already studying, or considering taking, GCSE Drama and Performing Arts. This is an exciting opportunity to work with theatre professionals who will inspire and enhance your

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knowledge and skills in such things as puppetry, physical theatre and stage design. If you wish to attend the trip, or would like more information, please collect a letter from Miss Spacey or Miss Scantlebury.

England Volleyball coaches will be in the Academy every Tuesday to work with Students from Years 7, 8 and 9.



Other regular after school sports activities that will take place every week include:

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| Monday    | Fitness suite open (all students)                                   |
| Tuesday   | Volleyball (Girls Years 7 to 9), Rugby (all students)               |
| Wednesday | Boys and Girls Football (all Year Groups)                           |
| Thursday  | “A Team” training in the Sports Hall (all students), Year 7 Netball |
| Friday    | Fitness suite open (all students)                                   |

#### **Upcoming Competitions and Matches**

**There are upcoming football matches and cross country and badminton competitions for boys and girls from all year groups. Please see Mr Lees if you are interested in representing the Academy and you would like more information.**

**Match reports and other news from the P.E. Department will appear in the weekly on-line Sports Blog on the Academy website once the season starts.**