

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to this week's Newsflash. I hope that your child has had a good week at the Academy and, if they were involved with the Open Evening last night, thank you for allowing them to take part.

Around 250 students gave up their time to attend Open Evening and to help their teachers with displays, activities and performances. They were an absolute credit to you and to the Academy and many of our visitors commented on the friendly faces and how confident, polite and helpful they were. As one parent commented, the Academy is not about the new building and the facilities that we are fortunate to have, it is about the students who come here. I was particularly proud of Natasha Holmes, our Head Girl, Kai Wynne Jones, our Head Boy, and Taylor Stelfox, one of our new students from Year 7, who agreed to speak in front of an audience of around 750 guests. A transcript of their speeches can be found in this edition of Newsflash.

Open Evening was very busy and I was delighted to meet with so many prospective parents and pupils from our local primary schools. The Academy did not have the easiest of starts and certainly, in the past, has not always enjoyed the confidence of the community. I am really pleased that this view is changing, that people recognise the progress that we are making and that Droylsden is now becoming the school of choice for more and more families. Clearly, the improvement in exam performance again this year has helped, but I also hope that people recognise that there is now a permanent and committed leadership team who really are determined to make the Academy an outstanding school. I was also delighted to receive an email from the Headteacher of a local primary school who visited Open Evening, to say how impressed he was with the Academy ethos, the facilities and the exemplary behaviour of the students who he described as real young people and not hand picked robots!

The Open Evening started with a performance from last year's Academy production of *Evita* and I would like to thank Mrs Platt and Mrs Sherlock, along with the cast, for their time and commitment and in giving up their weekend to re-learn their lines and dance routines. Productions at the Academy are genuinely outstanding and the performance last night brought back wonderful memories of the show last year and of *Hairspray* and *Les Miserables* in previous years. Rehearsals for this year's production of *Singing in the Rain* are progressing well with performances scheduled for the first week in December. Further information will be available later this term.

Thank you for reading Newsflash and I hope that you have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson

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## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are now only 26 school weeks, just 130 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Remember your extra “Period 6” study sessions now run every night from 2.35pm to 3.35pm; each of you should have your own personalised timetable. **Attending Period 6 lessons will improve your GCSE grades and the opportunities open to you when you leave the Academy.**

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

**All Year 11 students will be completing Science Controlled Assessments next week. It is essential that all Year 11 students are in every day.**

The first Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

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

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

A belated congratulations to Mr and Mrs Jackson on the birth of their daughter, Elsie Helen.

The Academy holds a MacMillan Coffee Morning for staff, students and parents and carers to help raise funds in support this wonderful organisation.

Year 11 students visit Chester Zoo as part of their GCSE Photography course.

Representatives from Hyde Clarendon College and Tameside College visit the Academy to talk to Year 11 students about the opportunities open to them when they move on to Further Education.

CATS tests take place for Year 7 students.

Year 8 girls have their HPV1 vaccinations.

The Academy holds competitions and activities to celebrate the European Week of Languages.

Year 11 students take part in a GCSE Drama masterclass.

The Academy holds its annual Open Evening.

Film Club opens for this academic year. The club will run every Friday after school and give students the opportunity to watch and review the latest movies.

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## TRIP TO CHESTER ZOO

Year 11 students taking GCSE Photography visited Chester Zoo last week to take photographs for their next unit of coursework where they will be creating magazine covers using "Photoshop" editing and design skills. No-one was eaten and all the students had a roooooooaring time!



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Good evening Ladies, Gentlemen and children. My name is Natasha Holmes and I am the Head Girl of Droylsden Academy.

My name is Kai Wynne Jones. I am the Head Boy of the Academy and, together with Natasha, I would like to welcome you to our Open Evening. We hope you have an informative and enjoyable night.

It only seems like five minutes since we were sitting where you are tonight and considering which school we should choose. Five years later on and here we are in Year 11 and incredibly proud to be talking to you as Head Boy and Head Girl.

So what can we tell you about Droylsden Academy and why are we sure that it was absolutely the right choice for us?

First and foremost I have had five very happy years. With 850 students here, the school is not too big; I feel that my teachers really do know me and I really am part of our community.

The staff have very high expectations of us. They insist on high standards and we work very hard. For their part, they prepare interesting and engaging lessons that have given me a love of learning and the knowledge, skills and drive to succeed. I really enjoy the Sciences and after taking my GCSEs and A Levels hope to go to Medical School and eventually become a Surgeon.

There are lots of extra-curricular activities and clubs you can get involved in. I love sport and, as well as captaining the Football team, have represented the Academy at Badminton. Natasha has represented the Academy at Volleyball, Swimming and Athletics. I want to be a P.E. Teacher and will also be going on to University after my GCSEs and A Levels.

We have both been on many trips and visits which have brought our learning to life and broadened our horizons. In December, I am going to Switzerland with the Science Department to see the Particle Accelerator at CERN and next summer I will be visiting India as part of the World Challenge: a really fantastic opportunity.

As Head Boy and Head Girl, we ensure that we live the Academy values of politeness, hard work and honesty at all times and we hope that we are good ambassadors for our school. These three important values are instilled into each and every one of us every day by our teachers and this is one of the reasons we are both confident that we will achieve our grades next summer.

I have really enjoyed coming to Droylsden Academy and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had. Whilst I will be very sad to leave next year, I am also very excited about my future. I hope that your children are excited about their future too and who knows, two of them may be standing here in five years time as Head Boy and Head Girl of Droylsden Academy at our Open Evening in 2020.



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## OPEN EVENING SPEECH BY TAYLOR STELFOX IN YEAR 7

Good evening, my name is Taylor Stelfox and I am in Year 7. I have been at the Academy for 3 weeks now and have enjoyed every minute.

I think every student must feel a little bit nervous when they start a new school but Mr Mortimer, my Year Leader, and Mrs Beresford, my Year Manager, have been brilliant and helped us all to settle in very quickly. There are 160 other students in my year group. I know a lot of them already and have made new friends very easily.

I have enjoyed my lessons so far even though the teachers expect me to work really hard and always do the best that I can. My favourite lessons are English, French and Science.

We get homework every night and have to hand it in every morning as soon as we arrive at school. If we don't hand it in we get a detention so everyone makes sure that they remember to do it.

Mr Wilson and all my teachers expect me to be polite, to work hard and to be honest to myself and to others. I know that all my teachers want me to do really well and I am very happy that I chose to come to Droylsden Academy.

I hope you enjoy having a look around my school tonight.



## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

**Show My Homework** will be launched across the academy on Monday 5th October. Show My Homework allows parents and students to access homework on a computer, smart phone or tablet. We will write to you with further details next week. Students will still record their own homework too so please remember to sign your child's Planner each week.

**Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening** will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Please make your appointments through PTO, our online booking system. If you do not have internet access, a computer will be available in the Academy and you are welcome to come in and use it at any time during school hours. Alternatively, you can call Student Services who will be able to make appointments on your behalf.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an Expressive Arts trip to the Lowry Theatre watch a performance by the Rambert Dance Troupe on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Congratulations and commiserations to the **U16 Girls 7 – A – Side Football Team** who were runners up in the Tameside Plate.



The boys were also in action this week against New Charter Academy.

**Year 7:** Droylsden 0 v 2 New Charter

**Year 8:** Droylsden 8 v 1 New Charter

On the score sheet: Jake Mason, Dylan Fraine and Daniel Shaw

**Year 9:** Droylsden 2 v 2 New Charter

On the score sheet: Gary Ambatobe and Leighton Jones

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

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