

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 10 of Newsflash for this academic year.

Last Wednesday was, of course, Remembrance Day when, as a nation, we remembered all those who have laid down their lives in the defence of our country and the freedoms that we, and billions of other people around the World, enjoy. At the Academy, we paused all lessons whilst staff showed a short presentation that reminded our students of the sacrifices that so many of our service men and women, and their families, have made, and continue to make, in conflicts across the World. The Last Post was then played across the public address system before we stood together and observed two minutes of silent reflection. The Droylsden Community has close links with the Armed Services and has, of course, endured its losses and, as such, it was no surprise that this important, solemn and moving occasion was impeccably observed by all our students.

After a lovely late Indian summer, Autumn has arrived this week with wet and windy weather. Students will still be required to go outside over lunchtime, unless it is raining, and, with winter approaching, students should think about bringing their coats for the lunch break and, of course, travelling to and from the Academy in the morning and after school. There are still a range of activities available every lunch time for those students who wish to stay inside.

Lunch time is now working very well. The availability of rooms for packed lunches has taken the pressure off the dining room and all students who buy a meal now have the room and time, and an orderly environment, in which they can sit down and enjoy it. All year groups have now finished their lunch well before the end of the lunch break when the bell sounds for the beginning of Period 5. Thank you to all our students for working with the staff who are on duty and following the procedures and routines in place.

As you are probably aware, the Academy building is open from 7.30am and it is always pleasing to see students arriving from 7.15am onwards and waiting to get in! Some students come for early revision and study sessions and others come simply to meet and have breakfast with friends. On some mornings, there can be up to 400 students in the Dining Room by 8.00am and there is always a really calm and happy atmosphere, a wonderful start to the day.

Thank you for reading Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

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GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 10 weeks into your final year and there are only 20 school weeks left, just 100 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

The pre public exams finish today. We hope that they have gone well and, if not, that you have learnt important lessons that will help you prepare for next summer.

Year 11 students have now completed their timetabled Period 6 lessons in preparation for their pre public exams. Up until Christmas, students will now be required to attend individual Period 6 lessons for targeted work with their teachers. Parents will be notified when their child is due to attend a session, with text messages being sent out two days before and then the day before each one. These lessons will be compulsory and students must attend. The timetable below shows the subjects that will run on each day.

Day	Subjects that will run on that evening
Monday	French and Spanish
Tuesday	Maths and Catering
Wednesday	Computing and Science
Thursday	English, Catering, Product Design, Business Studies, Photography, PE and Health & Social Care
Friday	Geography, History, Textiles and Art

Tameside College will be hosting an Open Evening on Thursday 19th November from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. The Open Evening will be a great opportunity for students and parents or carers to have a look around and get advice on the courses, opportunities and qualifications available.



For more information, please visit the Tameside College website on <http://www.tameside.ac.uk>

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

A local Headteacher visits the Academy to learn about the good practice we have introduced and the improvements we are making. Please see the article in this week's edition of Newsflash.

Year 11 students complete their pre public examinations.

Staff and students go camping in Wales in preparation for the World Challenge, just in time for Storm Abigail!

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TAKING PRIDE IN EVERYTHING WE DO

As you may be aware, students are awarded PRIDE points by staff if they demonstrate the following skills, qualities or achievements in their lessons:

P	Presentation	Taking care with and putting thought into the presentation of my work
R	Resilience	Working hard, persevering and not giving up when things are difficult
I	Independence	Working independently, using my initiative and finding things out for myself
D	Deadlines	Meeting deadlines and completing my work on time
E	Excellence	Producing the very best work that I can

Well done to the following students, who were ranked in the top 10 for each year group for the number of PRIDE achieved over the first half term.

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Student	Points	Student	Points	Student	Points
Kacey Devenport	61	Sophie McGann	64	Britney Pazvakavambwa	61
Jamie Gallagher	59	Demi Scally	54	Paige Leigh-Darraugh	58
Kayla Wright	54	Ese Onowhona	52	Milka Luanga	56
Minahil Arshad	53	Zoe Mills	52	Emily Abram	56
Phoebe Plant	52	Sophie Owen	52	Han Ying Yu	56
Emma Shaw	51	Britney Joyce	50	Emily Hughes	53
Cameron Turner	51	Caitlin Wilding	47	Caitlin Railton	51
Pariya Azadmanesh	50	Rhyce Thomas	45	Lisa Spencer	50
Hafsa Khanom	48	Demi Stringer	45	Dylan Phythian	48
Djessie Lukusa	47	Sian Halkyard	45	Kelly Dalton	48
Holly Stenson	47	Rhianne Kenny	45	Sheona Thomas	48
Olivia Lucas	47				
Luke Bailey	47				

Year 10		Year 11	
Student	Points	Student	Points
Dylan Quinn	51	Rebecca Scrivner	36
Jordan Stringer	48	Chang Yang	35
Loreto Duarte	48	Lucy Cryer	35
Jemmeellie Chambers	47	Eleanor Mortimer	35
George Ncube	46	Kaiynath Rabnawaz	35
Toby Shepherd	46	Jeel Shukla	34
Callum Taylor	46	Ilsa Khalil	33
Kade Dolan	45	Jade Turner	33
Emily Beswick	45	Sehar Ahmed	32
Amber Gerrie	42	Kenneth Allen	32
		Shannon Lilley	32
		Tia Jaye Nash	32
		Jessica Tomlinson	32

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DROYLSDEN ACADEMY SHARES GOOD PRACTICE: FACT-FINDING VISIT FROM LOCAL HEADTEACHER

On Monday 9th November a local headteacher visited Droylsden Academy to see for himself how we had brought on-going improvements to the behaviour, ethos and leadership of the Academy. The visitor had read our October Ofsted report and had wanted to meet some of our students and staff, visit classrooms and tour the school to take back some learning points to his own school. He left most impressed with our improvements and, again, behaviour was excellent on the day.

The Academy made it clear to the headteacher that there is still so much we have to improve but he was able to see for himself just how determined our students, staff and parents are to get this right so that we can provide, each year, a better education than the year before. He was very taken with our plans and the early gains we have had.

This improvement will only continue with a relentless focus on politeness, hard work and honesty by the three key groups in school (students, staff and parents). Our focus this term is on further improving the quality of teaching and assessment and stepping-up the commitment of our learners to their studies in class and at home. None of us should waver from this ambition. We should all be proud that other schools now wish to learn from us.

WIN A BICYCLE FOR CHRISTMAS!

It is sometimes argued in the Press and the Media that there are more rewards and incentives for students who get things wrong at school than for students who come in every day, work hard and behave well. At the Academy we try to reward the overwhelming majority of our students who get things right, day in and day out, and this is why trips like the visit to Blackpool are only open to students who behave and attend well.



We have recently been given a brand new bicycle and have decided that it will be given away to one of our students in our Grand Christmas Draw. To qualify for the draw, a student must have 100% attendance from Monday 9th November until the end of term. The draw will take place on Friday 19th December at breaktime in the Atrium.

Someone will win this bike on the day we break up for Christmas. Make sure you are in school every day over the last six weeks of term and it could be you!

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HOMEWORK HOLIDAY WEEK!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 receive seven pieces of homework each week, two pieces for English, two pieces for Maths and then one piece each for Science, Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages. This means that every day, students have at least one piece of homework to hand in. Last week was our Homework Project Week where students completed homework for another subject area within school as well.

Every term we have one Homework Holiday Week where students in Years 7, 8 and 9 do not receive any homework. We hope that this break allows students more time to participate in other activities that interest them, whether that be sporting, creative or academic. Next week, from Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November, will be our Homework Holiday Week for the Autumn Term.

From Monday 23rd November, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive homework according to their homework calendar as usual.

Details of your child's homework can be found by looking at the homework calendar on the school website or by looking in your child's Planner. Please ensure that the Planner is signed each week so that Form Tutors know that you have seen it when they have their weekly check.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Although bullying can be an issue in all schools, it is never acceptable. Evidence from our students and from OFSTED would suggest that bullying is less common at Droylsden than many other schools; it would also suggest students feel that, when bullying does occur, it is dealt with appropriately. Whilst we are always concerned at any incidents of bullying, we are pleased that students feel confident that there is help available when there are problems.

Next week is national Anti-Bullying Week when the issue will be discussed at Assemblies and in Form Time. Students will be reminded that they must report any incidents of bullying so that we can deal with it. They will also be reminded that ignoring an incident of bullying will not make it go away. We will also reassure students that we will always discuss with them the best way of dealing with an incident so that we can resolve it in a way that they are comfortable with.

We all have the right to be happy and safe at school; if you are being bullied, either speak to a member of staff or use DART, our on-line confidential reporting system, so that, together, we can sort it out.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 7 Parent Teacher Evening is on Thursday 19th November. All Parents and Carers should have received a letter with further details about the evening. Please contact Mr Wakefield in Student Services if you have not received a letter or if you have any problems using PTO, the on-line booking system for making appointments.

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Don't miss the Academy's blockbuster production of Singing in the Rain!



There will be performances on:

Tuesday 1st December

Wednesday 2nd December

Thursday 3rd December



Tickets are now on sale at Student Services at a cost of £3.50 for students and concessions and £5.00 for adults. Alternatively, a family ticket that will admit 2 adults and up to 3 children, can be purchased at a cost of £15.00. A great evening of entertainment is guaranteed for all!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an Expressive Arts trip to see Sleeping Beauty at the Lowry on Wednesday 25th November.

The Dress Rehearsal for the Academy production of Singing in the Rain will be on Sunday 29th November.

GCSE Photography and Textiles students will be visiting the Clothes Show Live in Birmingham on Friday 4th December.

The Academy will break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 18th December.

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