

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the first edition of Newsflash for the new term. I hope that you and your family had a lovely Christmas. I have really enjoyed the break and spending time with my family, although with two young children and all the excitement that Christmas brings, I am now pleased to be back at work! I hope that all our students enjoyed their break too and have returned ready for another term of hard work, progress and personal achievement.

The Academy re-opened for staff last Monday with a training day where we focussed on the new Academy Improvement Plan which will run from January 2016 until July 2017. As a staff, we spent time looking at the progress that we have made so far and the challenges we need to address to make further improvement. There were then four workshops where staff considered the key issues of literacy, using assessment to drive teaching, teaching and learning and the Academy culture. The recurring theme across all four workshops was hard work both for staff and students.

Developing sound literacy skills is of course absolutely crucial to a child's development and progress; students need to be able to read, write, speak, listen and express themselves if they are to access the curriculum and make progress in all subjects, not just English. I am sometimes asked, if there was just one thing that parents could do to support their child's learning, what would it be? Clearly, we hope that all parents will take an interest in their child's learning and encourage them to work hard. However, one of the most important ways in which any parent can help their child is by encouraging them to read at home whether this be books, magazines or a newspaper.

Clearly, attendance at school is essential if students are to learn and make progress. We currently have around 850 students on roll; 554 of them have attendance rates above 96% so far this year with 261 having 100% attendance. Unfortunately, 134 students are classed as persistent absentees with attendance below 90%. Whilst a number of our persistent absentees are genuinely unable to attend regularly through no fault of their own, many are allowed to stay off for no good reason and their attendance is a real concern. **A letter about attendance will be coming out to all parents and carers next week; please read this letter.** Clearly, we hope that all those parents who do everything they can to ensure their children attend will read the letter in the spirit in which it is intended.

Thank you for reading Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have a pleasant weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

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## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, now that you have returned from the Christmas Holiday, there are only 15 school weeks left, just 75 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

You are now on the final lap of your five years at Droylsden Academy and, for most of you, your future opportunities will depend on what happens over the next six months. **There are no short cuts or easy routes to exam success. Those of you who commit to your studies, work hard and prepare thoroughly will do well; those of you who don't will not.** Take control of your future now.

Students have now been issued with timetables which include the evenings and subjects that they are required to attend for lesson 6. If a lesson 6 is on your child's timetable, then the lesson is compulsory and he or she must attend. Please look at your child's timetable over the weekend to check which days they will be staying late after school next week.

Year 11 GCSE Music coursework recordings will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Academy re-opened for students on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, following the Christmas break. Welcome back, the staff hope you all have a happy, successful and rewarding term.

Students visit the Royal Exchange Theatre to watch a performance of "Into the Woods".



GCSE PE students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre to develop and practice their skills as part of their practical coursework assessment.

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## LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

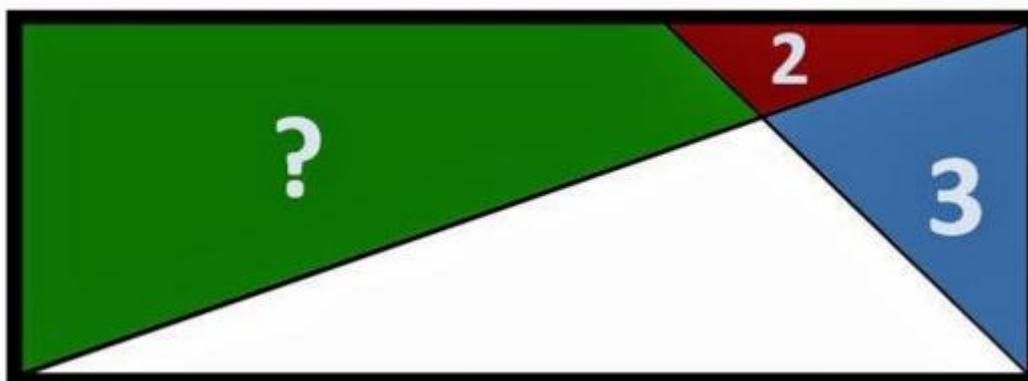
The following lunchtime activities will be available to students every day over the coming term.

Sports Hall	Basketball and Table Tennis
Astroturf	Football
Games Room (Perform)	Pool or Snooker, Xbox and the Nintendo Wii
TEST	KS4 homework and revision
T11	KS4 ICT
IDEA	Quiet talking and reading area
MAKE	KS3 homework and revision
MAKE	Xbox
Atrium Quiet Zone	Newspapers and magazines, chess, drafts and other board games
Learning Resource Centre	Reading and some ICT facilities available

Students not taking part in lunchtime activities will be required to go outside over lunchtime, unless it is raining, and with the colder months upon us, should ensure they bring a coat to school.

## MATHS PUZZLE

Can you calculate the area of the part of the rectangle which is shaded green?



## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Congratulations to Solomon Akinro in Year 10 who won the Mountain Bike in the Grand Christmas Attendance Draw!

Please check your child's Planner and the "Show my Homework" website regularly.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a Year 11 Parent Partnership Evening on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

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The Academy will break up for the half term holiday on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Details of all term times and holiday dates can be found on the Academy website.

## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Congratulations to the U13 Girls Football Team who won the bronze medal in the recent School Games Qualifier at the end of last term. The results for the qualifiers were as follows:

Droylsden 0 v 0 All Saints

Droylsden 0 v 0 St Thomas Moore

Droylsden 1 v 1 Mossley Hollins  
(Mia Eccles)

Droylsden 0 v 2 Denton College

Droylsden 4 v 0 Copley  
(Sana Subhani 1, Kenzie-Leigh Bentley 3)

Droylsden 1 v 0 Fairfield  
(Sana Subhani)

Droylsden 0 v 0 Hyde

Droylsden 1 v 0 Alder  
(Sana Subhani)



The squad members in the photo are, from left to right, Sana Subhani, Ellie Rushby, Mia Linney, Dominique Larkin, Nicole Mulvey, Sian Halkyard, Mia Eccles, Emily Garner, Ha Young Cho and Kenzie-Leigh Bentley.

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