

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

We are now only two weeks away from the end of term and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the Easter holiday. Our expectations, however, of staff and students, will remain sky-high, as usual, and lessons will run absolutely as normal up until the day we break up. Year 10 students take their Pre Public Examinations next week and, of course, Year 11 students are only a few weeks away from their final GCSE exams too. People sometimes think schools "relax" or "wind down" towards the end of a term but this is absolutely not the case; your child's learning and his or her future are too important for that and students from across all year groups have two weeks of hard work ahead of them before they can enjoy their holiday.

The Academy will, of course, be closed on 25th and 28th March for Good Friday and Easter Monday meaning that the last two weeks of term will be shorter four day weeks. Please ensure, however, that your child attends each day, as normal, up until Friday 1st April, the day we break up. All students now monitor their own attendance on a weekly basis and we hope that this will encourage and support all students in achieving the criteria for the Year 11 Leavers' Prom or the Blackpool trip, should they wish to go. Whilst it is always really pleasing to see our students enjoy themselves on our rewards trips, we should never lose sight of the fact that the real reward for good attendance, politeness, hard work and honesty is pride, self-fulfilment, success, achievement and opportunity.

Hopefully, all Year 11 students and their parents and carers will have read the information, guidance and advice in last week's Newsflash on preparation for GCSE success. This article was followed up by a letter which all Year 11 students should have received in the post this week. This plan of action has been put together by people who have a track record of working with students to ensure outstanding GCSE results; people with years of experience and who know exactly what students need to do to succeed. Those students who follow this plan will reap their rewards in August and the long term gain will absolutely be worth the relatively very short term sacrifice. Parent with any questions or concerns about GCSE preparation, or the examinations themselves, should contact Mr Frost, Year Leader, or Miss Davies, Year Manager.

The Academy has recently introduced a new initiative to recognise good progress and achievement with students being presented with certificates and badges during Assembly. The initiative has been launched with Years 7, 8 and 10 this week, with Years 9 and 11 to follow next week. I was delighted by the number of Year 7, 8 and 10 students who were nominated by subject teachers and by the students' response; all of them were pleased to receive their certificate and are now wearing their

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badges with pride. Further information about the scheme can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

We received details of our new Year 7 September intake last week and will be meeting with our new students over the summer term. A number of them have been into the Academy over the last few days and all seem excited at making the move from primary to secondary school. Parents who have accompanied them on a tour of the building have been very impressed with the standard of uniform and the calm, positive and purposeful ethos.

Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 6 school weeks left, just 30 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

You should have all read the information in the last edition of Newsflash and in the letter that you will have received in the post this week. If you follow this 'Plan for Success' then, in addition to completing your home and class work to the highest possible standard you will be:

- Identifying the best place to revise and prepare thoroughly at home, preferably with a table or desk to work at and certainly with no distractions.
- collecting together the materials that you are going to need such as paper, index-file cards, highlighter pens, good pencils, a pen, ruler and a professional calculator, blu-tac and post-it notes.
- looking at the best way to organise the revision materials for each subject. As suggested in the plan, it would be best to have a tray for each subject in which you can store exercise books, text books, past exam papers, including your completed Pre Public Examination papers, and any other notes you may have taken in class.
- thinking about how you will organise your home and work life over the next 12 weeks.

Year 10, there are only 45 school weeks until your first GCSE exam in May next year. Your Year 10 Pre Public Exams are an important step on the journey towards success in 2017 and you should now be revising and preparing thoroughly both in home and at school. Your exam timetable is detailed on the next page.

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Date	Morning	Afternoon
Mon 21 st March	Biology, French, Spanish and Physics	Music, Business and H&SC
Tue 22 nd March	Maths, French, Spanish and Chemistry	Dance, Sport
Wed 23 rd March	English and Maths	Geography
Thur 24 th March	Maths, Product Design, Computing and Catering	History

Good luck with your Pre Public Examinations Year 10, we hope they go well for you.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Students visit the Lowry to watch a performance of 'The Merry Wives' as part of their Expressive Arts course.



The Academy holds Year 8 Standardisation and Moderation Week to consider the progress of Year 8 students.

Year 10 GCSE P.E. students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre.

The Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football Team compete in the Premier League Schools' U13 Tournament organised through Manchester City. Results and further details to follow in next week's edition of Newsflash.

The Year 8 Table Tennis team compete in the Greater Manchester Schools' Finals having won the Tameside Cup. Results and further details to follow in next week's edition of Newsflash.

Year 11 GCSE Geography students depart for a weekend residential in North Yorkshire.

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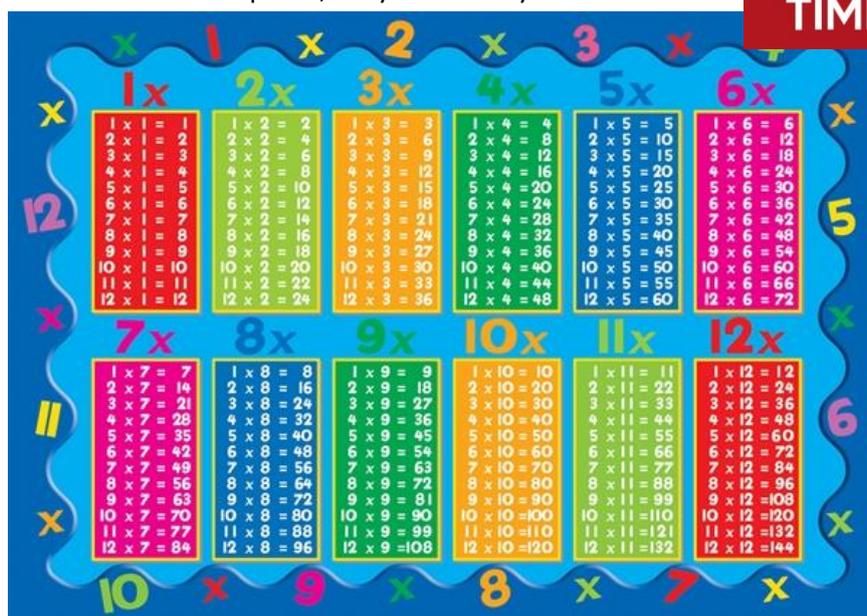
HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to attend this week's Headteacher celebration of achievement:

Daniel Pickup Zhen Zang Lewis Astle Connor White Lucy Elsworth
Ruth Da Cruz Borralho Uhud Abd Salah Kyle Walker

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Your times tables provide the foundations for numeracy and mathematics, yet, unfortunately, too many students fail to have a real grasp of this vital skill. Ideally, all students should know their times tables by heart and be able to give you the answer, instantaneously, to any multiplication task you give them and, with this in mind, we have introduced 'Times Tables Rock Stars' where Year 7 students will focus on one multiplication table each week during Tutor time. So far, the response by students has been really good and we hope that the initiative will have a positive impact in helping students memorise these important tools. Parents can help too; why not test your children at home!



PROGRESS AWARDS

The Academy has introduced a new award to recognise student progress and achievement.

Each year, in March, subject teachers will be asked to nominate students who they feel have made good progress. Students who are nominated by a number of subject teachers will then be awarded with a certificate and a prestigious badge which can be worn on their Academy blazer.

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Towards the end of each year, subject teachers will be asked to nominate those students they feel have gone on to make significantly more progress over the second half of the academic year and, again, those students who are nominated across a number of subjects, will receive a further certificate and a second badge to mark this achievement.

Year 7 students who work really hard over their five years at the Academy can achieve a total of ten badges over their five years at Droylsden Academy, two for each year they are with us.

The award has been launched across three year groups over this last week and will be launched across the remaining two year groups next week. There has been an excellent response by students and all those who have won an award are wearing their badges with a real sense of pride and achievement. The names of all those students who have been given a Progress Award will appear in next week's edition of Newsflash.

NO LIMITS

Every Friday, after school, around thirty Year 7 and 8 students attend the 'No Limits Performing Arts Club'. The group are currently working towards a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which they will perform at the Contact Theatre in Manchester, in front of a live audience, as part of the national Shakespeare Schools' Festival. To celebrate the launch, the group held a red carpet awards ceremony where the students were presented with their Club Badges and asked to pledge their commitment to the next seven months of rehearsals and hard work.



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'IT'S NOT OK' WEEK OF ACTION

The dangers around children missing from home are being highlighted as part of the latest 'It's Not OK Week of Action', a series of events and activities that run throughout the year which look at the difficult issues around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Evidence shows that there is a clear link between children missing from home and their vulnerability to CSE and, indeed, 95% of child victims have been missing from home at least once.

As part of Project Phoenix's 'It's Not OK' Campaign, Tameside Council is working with partners, including GMP and health organisations, to highlight the risks and links around children missing from home and child sexual exploitation (CSE). Children are being advised on how to stay safe whilst parents and carers are being urged to contact the police if a child stays out later than they should or doesn't come home and their whereabouts is unknown.

There is help and support available. For more information and guidance visit the It's Not OK website at <http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/missing>.

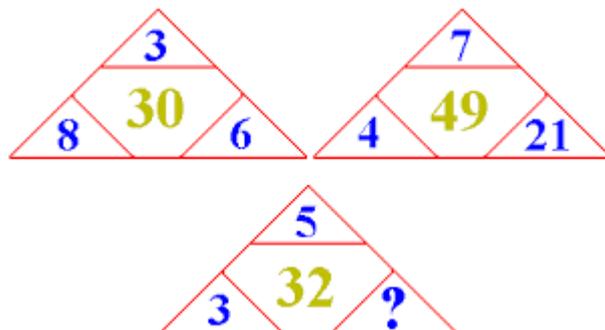
You can also read a case study of a Tameside mother who took action to protect her runaway daughter from CSE at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/pressreleases/itsnotokay2016>.

MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's Maths' puzzle.....

The Merchant

A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a container for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many containers did he ship?



.....and the answer to last week's puzzle!

The missing number is 17.

$$(8 \times 3) + 6 = 30$$

$$(4 \times 7) + 21 = 49$$

$$(5 \times 3) + 17 = 32$$

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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 9 Parent Consultation and Options Evening will be held on Thursday 28th April. Please keep your diary free for this very important evening.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will be closed for Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday on Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March respectively. As Easter is very early this year, we will not actually break up for the Easter holiday until 2.35pm on Friday 1st April.

The next meeting of the Academy Council will be on Wednesday 30th March.

There will be a trip to the Opera House on Thursday 31st March to watch a production of Chicago.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Crafts and activities with a **Sea Creatures** theme for children aged 4 - 11 and their parents and carers. **Free drop-in activity, just come along!**

Droylsden Library

Thursday 14th April, 2:15 – 3:15 pm

Manchester Road, Droylsden, M43 2EP
0161 370 1282



Fantastic Mr Fox



A fun and free
creative writing workshop
run by

**Explore
Learning**

For children in year 2 and
year 3 (age 6 - 8)

Droylsden Library

Thursday 7 April, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Places are limited so please contact the library
to reserve your FREE place.

Manchester Road, Droylsden, M43 6EP
0161 370 1282



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