

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash. I hope that everyone enjoyed the Bank Holiday Weekend even though everywhere was a little cold and damp.

Year 7 and 8 Academy examinations

Examinations will be held for Year 8 students next week and for Year 7 students in the week beginning Monday 23rd May. These examinations represent important milestones in a child's education and measure both the progress made throughout the year as well as the progress towards each child's Key Stage 3 targets in Year 9. This information is also used to identify strengths and weaknesses and help staff decide on teaching sets and groups for the following academic year in September. More importantly, however, schools know that exams lower down the school help to establish and develop good habits, attitudes and routines, in terms of preparation and commitment, that are needed for public examinations at GCSE, A Level and beyond. The students who are best prepared for their GCSE examinations in Year 11 are almost always the ones who were best prepared for their exams in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10; the good habits and attitudes demonstrated by these students were not learnt over their final year in school, they were developed and embedded over five years. All students in Years 7 and 8 should now be revising for their forthcoming exams and I hope that all parents and carers will encourage their child to prepare thoroughly at home, as well as at school, and achieve the very best that he or she can do.

The secret of success

When I was at school there was always one or two students who seemed to do really well without trying that hard; I suppose, looking back, that they were either geniuses or, and I suspect this was the case, they worked hard at home without us knowing. The rest of us, including me, always had to work hard and the results we achieved reflected the effort that we put in; if we worked hard we succeeded and if we didn't then our results were always disappointing. We constantly reinforce the message about the importance of hard work at the Academy now as the truth is that there really are no short cuts or secrets to success; for the overwhelming majority, if not all, of us we will only get out what we put in and the only way to guarantee success is to put in the effort and hard work required. This, of course, applies to almost all aspects of life and I make no apologies to the students for reaffirming this important message again.

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Billy Elliott

Auditions have taken place for the Academy production of Billy Elliott and the cast list will be announced next week. Good luck to all those students who have auditioned. I am sure that the show will be another outstanding success and I look forward to watching it next December.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there is only 1 school week left, just 5 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Students taking GCSE Art will have had their practical exam this week; we hope that the exam went well and that you are pleased with your performance. Practical exams are due to take place in Dance on 9th May and Performing Arts on 11th May.

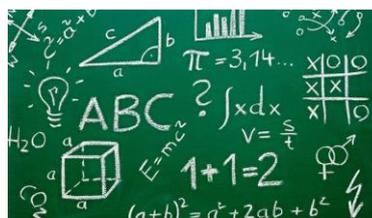
Intervention days have taken place in Science this week; again, we hope that you found the additional support and guidance useful.

The Maths department have bought another really useful resource to help you with your revision; 'justmaths' contains tutorials and worksheets and can be accessed on-line at:

www.justmaths.co.uk/online

Username: DroylsdenStudent

Password: Droylsden



... and remember, for exam style questions and videos, you can use the Pixl App:

School ID: DD1810

Student ID: name in capitals E.G JOEHART

Password:PIXLMATHS

If you need any help with either resource, please see your Mathematics teacher.

Remember, attendance at school every day is absolutely crucial.

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IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 11 Geography GCSE students return from their Field Trip to Yorkshire where they studied geomorphological landforms along the Holderness coastline between Flamborough and Spurn Point and coastal management at Mableton and Hornsea. As always, the students worked hard and were great company.

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to attend a homework celebration lunch in recognition of their effort in Humanities: Cameron Turner, Aaron Fletcher, Sean McIlumn, Chloe Aliceto, Alyssa Mason, Ellie Ashcroft, Keira Hill, Jack Godfrey, Ebony Salmon, Macy Lloyd, Marija Valinciute, Tom Bowers, Kacey Davenport and Cieran Corbett. The Humanities staff are looking forward to hosting another celebration lunch soon.



GCSE PE students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre to continue their preparations for their practical assessments.

YEAR 9 PARENT CONSULTATION AND OPTIONS EVENING

The Academy would like to thank those parents who attended Year 9 Parent Teacher Evening last week. Altogether 145 students out of a total of 180 were represented by parents or carers on the night, a turn-out of 81%. Feedback would suggest that the evening was very useful for parents, students and staff.

Over 50 parents filled in a questionnaire during the evening and we were pleased that:

- 94% of them agreed that their child enjoys school and was happy at the Academy;
- 100% felt that their child was safe and well looked after;
- 98% felt that their child was making good progress;
- 98% felt that their child was taught well;
- 90% felt that behaviour was good;
- 93% felt that they are kept well informed by the Academy and know what is going on; and that
- 96% would feel comfortable about contacting the Academy if they had any concerns.

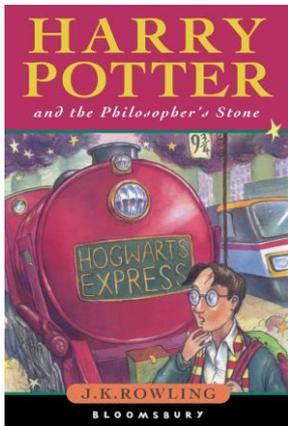
We were also pleased that 94% of respondents stated that they would recommend the Academy to other people if they were asked for their view.

Whilst the Academy is pleased that 81% of parents and carers were able to attend, and appreciate the phone calls and emails from the parents who genuinely couldn't come, we are concerned and disappointed that 35 of our students were not represented at such an important evening where

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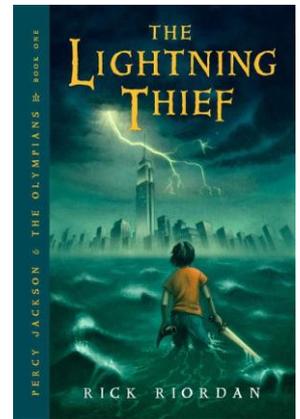
progress, attainment, strengths and learning areas for development were discussed with subject teachers. Evidence clearly shows that students who are actively supported in their education by parents who attend such events as Parent Teacher Evenings do much better.

ENJOY AND CELEBRATE READING AT OUR BOOK FAIR!



The Scholastic Book Fair will be open in the Library from Monday 9th May until Friday 13th May with hundreds of new books for your children to browse and buy. There are over 200 titles to choose from and, with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

Parents can either give their child the money to buy a book or purchase a discounted Gift Voucher through the website bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents. The vouchers can be exchanged for books at the Book Fair and are a great way to ensure that your child doesn't miss out.



Encouraging a child to develop excellent literacy skills through a love of reading is probably one of the single most important things that a parent can do to support their child's learning and progress.

.... and don't forget that for every book your child buys, the more free books we get for our school library!

STAYING SAFE ON SOCIAL NETWORKS – ADVICE FOR PARENTS

At Droylsden Academy we are fully committed to the safeguarding of the young people in our care. We have been advised of a serious safeguarding issue involving students from another local school using a social networking site/app called 'ooVoo'. This site/app allows people to send group messages, images and to video chat.

Several students have reported that they have been contacted by adults that they do not know and have received inappropriate messages and explicit images. Some have also reported that these adults have attempted to video call them directly through the site/app.

We advise that all parents check their child's phone and delete the 'ooVoo' app if it has been downloaded onto the device. Similarly, it is always useful to talk to your child about the safe use of social media. If it comes to your attention that your child has received any inappropriate messages, images or calls then either contact the police or your child's Year Manager for further advice.

As always, we encourage our pupils to exercise caution when speaking with people on-line: only message and communicate with people you know, and who are real friends, and not strangers.

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MATHS' PUZZLE



This week's puzzle.....

Joe buys a bike from Ebay for £80 and then sells it to his friend Billy for £90. Two months later, Joe buys the bike back from Billy for £105. Later that year Billy sells the bike back to Chris, another friend, for £115. How much profit has Joe made altogether and what % profit does this represent on his original purchase from Ebay.

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

You are catching a train from Stockport station to Manchester Piccadilly. A train leaves for Piccadilly every 55 minutes. A man on the platform tells you that the last train left 17 minutes ago and the next train will leave at 9.40am. At what time did the man tell you this?

The man on the platform gave you the information at 9.02am!



HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Homework allows parents to get involved in their child's learning and encourage them to take pride in what they are doing.

Our parents have said:

"If I don't understand some of the work my child brings home, I ask him to explain it to me. This is often really interesting and also shows me whether he really understands it too."

"I really enjoyed watching my son build a castle for his Humanities homework last half term and listening to him tell me what all of the different bits of the castle were for and why they were built like that."

"I prefer checking the Planner to the using the website but if there is nothing written in the Planner on a particular day then I can check Show My Homework online."

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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

The Year 8 Maths Battle will take place in the Atrium on Friday 6th May

..... and watch out for details of the return Maths Battle between the X and Y Half Year Groups in Year 7. The X Half Year Group want their revenge!

Year 8 Exams will be held in week beginning Monday 9th May.

Year 7 Exams will be held in week beginning Monday 23rd May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held on Thursday 26th May. Parents and carers will receive a letter about the evening early next week. Please contact Student Services if you do not receive a letter or if you have any problems making your appointments through PTO, the on-line booking system.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

There will be a theatre visit to see a production of 'The 39 Steps' at the Lowry Theatre on Wednesday 22nd June. The production has been running in the West End for 9 years and is now touring the country. It is a very funny and clever performance with just 4 actors playing all of the 139 roles! Any student who would like a letter about the trip should see Miss Spacey.



Drum roll please..... The Cast list will be announced next Tuesday

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