

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

### **Boys' underachievement**

On the way into work this morning I listened to a report on the radio which stated that girls are now 75% more likely to go on to University than boys and then explored some of the reasons why. The report suggested that, generally, boys do not work as hard at school, are less likely to do homework, have poorer attendance than girls and are more likely to be late in the morning; in short, the report suggested that many boys lack the routines and habits, aspirations, attitude and commitment to succeed and go on to Higher Education. This, of course, is a generalisation and many thousands of boys each year go on to achieve the highest grades possible at school, college and then University.

The report went onto identify white British boys from 'disadvantaged' backgrounds as those students who were least likely to succeed academically although, in terms of ability, they were just as able and bright as their peers from different cultures or social backgrounds. The reporter on the radio didn't define what she meant by the term 'disadvantaged' but it is usually used to describe urban or inner city areas where unemployment is higher than the national average. This description could apply to many areas of Manchester, including Droylsden, and it is true to say that many schools, including the Academy, are concerned about the progress and underachievement of boys.

### **What can parents do?**

Research shows that encouragement and interest from home are absolutely crucial. Similarly, insistence on the basics of excellent attendance and punctuality, high standards of uniform and completion of homework are vital; these are simple routines and habits which are so important if a child is to get the most out of school, even more so, evidence would suggest, in the case of boys. Many children naturally look for 'wriggle room' and will take advantage of any perceived weakness or opportunity if they can; that is just part of growing up. This is why parents must see these basics as a non-negotiable package of expectations for their child.

When parents 'give in' against one expectation, the rest usually follow. It is no co-incidence that the student who arrives late is usually the one who has not done his or her homework or who has not got their Planner or the correct uniform. If a parent does not support an Academy sanction or detention then further problems will follow as the child knows that he or she can play school off against home and that Mum or Dad will 'give in' and take his or her side. Similarly, students who know that they can take an 'easy' day off will increasingly do so; they know they can get away with it

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and, sooner or later, a four day week becomes the 'norm'. We all know that parenting is not easy and, with a one year old and a four year old at home (the elder one who regularly tries to push the boundaries!), I have already learnt that, in some cases, if I give an inch, I might as well give a mile.

## Examinations

With the start of the written GCSE examinations next week, I would like to formally wish our Year 11 students the best of luck. I hope that your hard work and commitment pays off and I look forward to your results in August. Similarly, I hope that the Academy examinations have gone well for Year 8 students this week and that Year 7 students are well prepared for their examinations which will start in the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
Headteacher

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

### Year 11, the written GCSE exams start next week!

Students taking GCSE Dance and Performing Arts will have had their practical exam this week; we hope that the exams went well and that you are pleased with your performance.

The examination timetable for next week is detailed in the table here:

Date	Time	Exam
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	French Listening (Foundation and Higher)
	9.45 am	French Reading (Foundation and Higher)
	1.30 pm	Core Science Biology (Foundation and Higher)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Core Science Chemistry (Foundation and Higher)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00am	Spanish Listening (Foundation and Higher)
	9.45am	Spanish Reading (Foundation and Higher)
	1.30pm	Sport: Theory of Physical Education

**The Booster timetable is now in place and it is compulsory that students attend every day.** The Booster lessons will provide crucial help and support before each exam. The Booster programme will also ensure that alternative lessons are timetabled as students complete their examinations in some subject areas; these alternative lessons will focus on the remaining subjects that students still have to take so 100% attendance is not only compulsory but also essential to ensure that each child is well prepared.

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Booster lessons will take place in the following subjects next week:

Date	Subject
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Drama
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	French
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Spanish, P.E. and Photography

### IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 10 students who are studying 'The History of Medicine' as part of their GCSE History course visit the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds. The students saw a range of exhibitions and completed a variety of activities which supported their learning in lessons. They all really enjoyed the day and found the Museum both interesting and very informative.



The Cast list for Billy Elliot is announced. Further details can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

Students taking the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award prepare for their expeditions in the Peak District.

The Inclusion Department runs workshops and presentations to support students with their resilience.

Representatives from the Fire Service attend Year 7 Assembly to give a presentation on Fire Safety.

GCSE PE students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre to prepare for their practical assessment.

Year 7 students attend the Gateways Project at Manchester Metropolitan University to find out more about the opportunities and qualifications available through Higher Education.

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## YEAR 8 MATHS' BATTLE

Can you:

..... think of 4 consecutive numbers that add up to 70?

..... simplify  $(5a^3)^2$  or  $\frac{2a^4 \times 6a^7}{3a^5}$  or  $(3a + 8)(4a - 7)$ ?

..... express 0.42 as a fraction?

These were just some of the questions from the recent Year 8 Maths Battle when the the X Half Year Group tried to win back the trophy from the Y Half Year Group, the victors in the previous Year 7 Maths Battle.



Congratulations to Team X, made up of Billy Zhang, Emre Deniz, Abimbola Akinwande, Aaron Bamgbose, Jonathon Le and Autumn Holmes, and Team Y, made up of Imogen Wright, Ethan Jones, Callum McKenna, Thomas Belfield, Sophie Owen, Owain Smith and Liam Noakes, on a keenly contested competition and another mathematically brilliant evening!

..... and the result?

Well done to the X Half Year Group on a narrow victory over their arch rivals! With the competition poised nicely at one win each, the X and Y Half Year Groups from Year 9 will resume the 'Maths' Battle' next week. Watch this space!

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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:

Kacey Devenport	Ellie Cullen	Tyler Kavanagh-Cooper	Erin Hume
	Dorcas Bawuah	Chloe Paine	

## MATHS' PUZZLE

An apology to those who may have struggled with last week's puzzle; unfortunately the question stated that Billy sold the bike for the second time to Chris when it should have said that it was Joe who sold the bike to Chris. The correct version of the question can be found below!



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 Joe sells the bike, again, 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.

## HOMEWORK MATTERS!

**Homework allows students to develop a deeper understanding of topics that they have covered in lessons and research things that they have found really interesting.**

Our parents have said:

*"After finishing his homework on Space, my son researched all about the Solar System and gave his younger brother and sister a lesson on the Sun and the Planets. He used different sized balls like footballs, tennis balls and golf balls to represent the different sized planets. It was really interesting and it kept the younger children quiet for almost an hour!"*

*"My child researched different castles on the internet after building a model castle for his Humanities homework. We are now going to visit Harlech Castle in Wales in the summer holidays."*

*"I think the MyMaths website is really good and I like the way that it gives hints to help and then marks the work. I encourage my daughter to try other questions and revision questions as well as the homework that has been set."*

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## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 7 Exams will be held in the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Parents and carers should have all received a letter about the evening. Please contact Student Services if you have not received a letter or if you have any problems making your appointments through PTO, the on-line booking system.

Table Tennis bats and balls are available to buy from the P.E. Office. Bats cost £3.00 and the balls are £1.00 each.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a meeting of the Governing Body on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The Academy will break up for the Whit half term break on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

The Cast List for Billy Elliot has been announced! Well done to all those who auditioned and congratulations to those students who have gained parts in the production!

### **Billy Elliot Cast List 2016**

Character Name	Lead Role	Understudy Name
Billy Elliot	Daniel Waite	Jimmy North
Mrs Wilkinson	Molly Marshall Hopkins	Kelly Dalton
Jackie Elliot (Dad)	John Kinder	Owain Smith
Tony Elliot (Brother)	Owain Smith	Callum McKenna
Michael	Jimmy North	Chloe Clarke
Debbie	Sophie Frampton-Day	Lily Climance
Mr Braithwaite/Posh Dad	Liam Cook	Daisy Smithson
George (Boxing Coach)	Callum McKenna	Liam Cook
Grandma	Kelly Dalton	Rebecca Roberts
Dead Mum	Billie Quinn	Sadie Samways
Posh Boy/Boxing boy/Kevin	Taylor Stelfox	
Big Davey/Panelist	Daisy Smithson	

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Head of Panel/Clip board woman	Megan Chambers	
Pit Supervisor/Lesley	Chloe Fraser	
Scab/Panelist	Anisha Joshi	
Older Dancer/Older Billy	Joseph Lewis	

Ballet Dancers	Miners	Policeman/Lead Dance
Susan Parkes	John Kinder	Louise Shaw
Tracy Atkinson	Owain Smith	Leah Gregory
Keeley Gibson	Daisy Smithson	Georgia Hutchinson
Alison Summers	Callum McKenna	Pearl Slate
Sharon Percy	Imogen Stone	Alicia Fenton
Karen Davidson	Shannon Tighe	Sophie Fulton
Tina Harmer	Chloe Fraser	Nicole Young
Julie Hope	Melissa Larkin	Leah Foley
Angela Robson	Taylor Stelfox	Keira Whitley
Margaret Gormley	Taliya Nash	Janay Bell
Chloe Clark	Kenzie Rees	Ruth Da Cruz Borrvalho
Sadie Samways	Keira Hill	Anisha Joshi
Lily Climance	Olivia Lucas	Megan Chambers
Lily Ward	Abigail Carroll	Molly Crompton
Serena Sellars	Mia Oldham	
Nikita Joshi	Precious Aro	
Ayushi Patel	Ruby Slate	
Ellie Craven	Charlie MGann	
Phoebe Plant	Lorna Whewell	
Bayleigh Jackson	Niall Devine	
	Nicola Haldane	



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