



DROYLSDEN
Academy

Newsletter

Inspiring minds

November 2011 / Issue No. 28

Principal: Mr D Davies

Dear Parent/Carer

As this Newsletter goes out, most Year 11 will be sitting their Maths GCSE exams. I have been really impressed with the positive attitude of the Year group, even though there was quite a few nerves in the exam room last week. Students will sit their English GCSE in January. As you will be aware that this coincides with the move in to the new build. All Year 11 students who are sitting the exam in January will receive a separate letter with this Newsletter that outlines both revision sessions and the arrangements for the day for the exam itself. Can I also remind parents/carers that there will be GCSE and AS examinations commencing on the 14th May, finishing on the 28th June. No holidays, other than those in the official half term break should be booked. The Academy closes at 2.30 pm on Friday 1st June and re-opens on Monday 11th June for the Whitsun half term break.

This term we have launched a new scheme to reward students for their Manners and Respect. All staff have a number of cards which they may issue to students at any time. When students receive a card, they hand it in to reception and when they have enough, they have the opportunity to trade them in for a prize or voucher. For 4 cards students will receive a pen set, for 5 it's a Maths set and 6 gets them a set of coloured pencils. If students choose to save up more cards the value of the prizes increases to earphones, a football and an iPod docking station. Vouchers for JD Sports, Game, Argos, Top Shop and Claire's are also on offer this term. See the web site for a full list of the prizes on offer.

Students from the Academy have been nominated for a *Pride of Thameside Youth Achievement Award* for 2011; the awards are sponsored by Thameside College and Thameside MBC. There are various categories for the nominations the students have been nominated for GCSE Achievement Student of the Year, Special Award for National Recognition and Achievement, Young Persons Community Engagement Award, Young Persons Award for Personal Achievement and Success and Young Volunteer of the Year 14 - 19. Our nominations are: *Ben Thomson, Cora Lynn, Jessica Davies, Kolima Rahman, Lucy Heslop, Rebecca Tunney* and the Droylsden band, Long Vue - *Ben Lomas, Jack Clare, Luke Gallagher* and *Cameron Hall*

Winners will be announced at the end of November, followed by an award ceremony in December at Dukinfield

Town Hall. We wish all of them all good luck—though they are already winners with us.

News in brief:

- The Languages department are launching their Pen Pal Project with Years 7, 8 and 9. The department will also be running a trip to Bruges for all Years—18th–21st July.
- Autumn Readathon continues. Well done to *Jordan Johnson* in Year 7 who has raised the most money.
- After competing in 3 weeks of heats at Copley High School, 5 pupils from the Academy advanced to and took part in the Thameside Under 14's Table Tennis Competition Final at Alder High School on Wednesday 19th October. Droylsden Academy played 6 matches in total against Hyde Technology School, Alder High School and Copley High School with Droylsden Academy winning 6 out of 6. Droylsden were crowned champions with *Reece Horan, Sam Benson, Brian Blencowe, Lewis Edwards* and *Byron Maugham* proudly collecting their medals. The Academy hopes that this victory will inspire more students to play table tennis.
- Most of Year 7 have now been on their residential to Castleton.

Work remains on schedule for our new build. It really is a stunning building and staff and students should be proud to be part of such an investment in education. As you will be aware, there will be an extended closure for students over the Christmas period; should this cause problems with child care/work arrangements, please contact Mrs B Fish—bfish@droylsdenacademy.com—and we will try and help by providing crèche facilities for students when staff are in the Academy.

Finally, this week we will be formally saying good bye to last year's Year 11 at our Presentation Evening at the spectacular Gorton Monastery. The class of 2011 did exceptionally well—our results (following some remarks) are now confirmed as 89 % of students achieving 5 A*-C with 55% including English and Maths. Well done to all. Best wishes

D J Davies
Principal
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Calendar

Christmas Holiday—Academy closes for students Friday 16th December, returns Thursday 12th January