



DROYLSDEN
Academy

Newsletter

Inspiring minds

October 2011/ Issue No. 27

Principal: Mr D Davies

Dear Parent/Carer

The Autumn term is always a busy time in schools; as soon as the delight from the exam results of the previous year is over, we start planning on how to do even better with our current Year 11. As a Leadership Team we have been identifying the priorities for the Academy in the next 2 years. These are:

Leadership at all Levels
Learning and Teaching
Inclusion
Student Leadership

Of course, a lot of work is also taken up with ensuring that we are prepared for our move to the new building in January. By now, almost all students have visited the site and had a glimpse of the internal spaces. We were also fortunate to have the building partially on view for our Open Evening last month, which was extremely well attended. The decision to keep Year 9 students at Cryer Street has been the right one, although with over 650 students, that site is now rather crowded. At least there is only now a short time before we move. As stated in previous Newsletters, we will organize open evenings for parents/carers to also come and visit the new facilities once we are open properly.

After half term we will be commencing Year 11 GCSE examinations (followed by further entries in January). Statements of Entry have been posted home to students who have been entered for these exams - Wednesday 9th November (1.30 pm) and Monday 14th November (9.00 am). Students are reminded that they are responsible for providing their own maths equipment for these exams, all maths equipment can be purchased from the Maths Department. Good luck to all those students. Following remarks, our final figure for the class of 2011 is 87% (5A*-C) and 55% with English and Maths. I am really proud of the students and staff who have done so well, especially with the increase in Boys' attainment, from 23% (2009, before Academy) to 46% this year. Well done—but of course we expect more from the class of 2012! Please could I remind parents/carers of our rules on Mobile Phones and MP3 players. If these are seen anywhere in the Academy, they will be confiscated. Likewise, the blazer is an essential part of the Academy Uniform and should be worn at all times. The majority of our students look smart and impressive—some are letting us down. Again, students without the correct uniform, will be sent home to change. I appreciate your support.

I am now in the process of nominating students for a *Pride of Tameside Award* (14+). Sometimes I do not get to hear about some of the wonderful things that students are involved in out of school. If your child is making a valuable contribution within the community or has overcome significant hurdles to achieve success, then please let me know.

Our focus on Reading continues. Last month we held several events to support the Roald Dahl Children's Foundation Charity. We will also be taking part in Readathon again this year. Readathon is the UK's national sponsored reading event, encouraging children to read for pleasure, whilst raising money for seriously ill children. Students can sign up and collect a sponsor card from the Librarians at Cryer Street and Manor Road from Monday 17th October and return all sponsor cards and money by Friday 4th November. We also continue to promote Healthy Eating at the Academy. Please remember that we offer a free breakfast service for all students (7.45am—8.15am) and also free fruit is available. We do not allow fizzy drinks and these should not be brought in to the Academy.

We now have 250 parents/carers who have signed up to receiving my Newsletter electronically. Please contact bfish@droylsdenacademy.com if you would also like to receive further copies by email.

Finally, I am delighted with the way in which Year 7 have settled in to the Academy. Many parents/carers attended our 'settling in' evening which was very positive. Likewise our new sixth form students have made a significant impression since September—well done.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

Best wishes

D J Davies
Principal
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Calendar

1/2 term Holidays—Academy closes
Friday 21st October. Reopens Monday 31st October
Maths GCSE Paper 1—Wednesday 9th November
Maths GCSE Paper 2—Monday 14th November
The Academy will close for students on Friday 16th
December (22nd December for Staff)

