

LETTER FROM MR WILSON: DROYLSDEN ACADEMY RAPIDLY IMPROVING

Welcome to this week's edition of Newsflash.

We have had a busy week at the Academy with a number of events, trips and activities as well as a monitoring visit by OFSTED. The OFSTED visit was very encouraging. During the day, the visiting HMI observed a number of lessons, spoke with staff and students, looked at student work and observed conduct and behaviour around the building. Although I can't disclose the contents of the draft report, as yet, discussions at the end of the day were very positive and we are pleased at the progress that we are making. I will, of course, share the report with all parents and carers as soon as it is published.

Last Friday night I, and many other staff, attended the Year 11 Prom. It was a really enjoyable evening and I am sure that our students had a night to remember. It was also very pleasing that the staff at the venue commented on how well behaved and polite our students were, something that they, apparently, do not always experience when they host a school event. On Monday evening, I met with the parents of our new intake at Induction Evening and look forward to working in partnership with them over the next five years.

Thank you to Miss Williams for organising the Academy Summer Fair last weekend. I'm sure everyone who attended had an enjoyable day and the proceeds will go towards the cost of the trip to India for those students who are taking part in the Student World Challenge, an amazing opportunity for all of them. Thank you also to Miss Williams for organising this week's Enterprise and Careers week for Year 10.

Next week, on Thursday 16th July, we will be holding our annual Awards Evening when we will recognise and celebrate the successes and achievements of our students. I hope that parents and carers of all nominated children will be able to attend and I look forward to meeting you then.

Although the summer holiday is approaching, learning and progress will remain our absolute priorities until we break up; clearly, it is important that all our students continue to attend every day and work hard.

Please take the time to read through Newsflash; I hope you find it interesting and informative.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

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GCSE COUNTDOWN

There are only 44 weeks until the start of the GCSE examinations for Year 10 students, 32 weeks in the Academy and 12 weeks of school holidays. For the vast majority of our students, the next 44 weeks will shape the opportunities open to them when they leave us next July and for the rest of their lives.

Please encourage your child to attend the after school “Period 6” lessons over the remainder of the term and spend some time over the school holiday looking back through the work they have covered during Year 10; a short 15 to 30 minute session each day will give students a fantastic start to Year 11, help establish really good habits of independent learning and preparation and make a wonderful statement about their commitment to future achievement and success.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 10 students “buddy” a group of Chinese students who are visiting the Academy as part of our link with Changshu Foreign Languages School in Jiangsu Province.

Year 10 GCSE Geography students take part in a three day residential field trip in Llandudno where they study coastal management.



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Students and staff attend the Year 11 Prom at the Marriott Hotel in Worsley; a great night was enjoyed by all.



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Year 9 students visit Manchester Museum as part of the Academy's continuing involvement with 'The Art of Identity', a project, funded by 'Children and the Arts,' that will allow our students to work with local artists and exhibit their work.

The Academy holds an Art Exhibition to exhibit the work completed by Year 11 students as part of their GCSE controlled assessments.

Year 10 students take part in a range of activities linked to Enterprise and Careers. These involve visits to **Tameside** and **Manchester College**, a session with **Young Enterprise** on key employment skills and writing a great CV, a workshop with the **O₂ Digital World** Team on the future digital world of employment and the opportunity of a diagnostic interview with one of the visting representatives from **Positive Steps**.

ACADEMY UNIFORM

Next year, there will be some minor changes made to the Academy Uniform for the older year groups; these changes will only affect the colour of the student tie. From September, the following will apply:

Year 7 students who are joining us in September will all wear a tie with a **yellow stripe**.

Year 8 students will wear a tie with a **blue stripe**. The current Year 7 all have a tie with a blue stripe so they will simply keep the same tie as they move up to Year 8 in September.

Year 9 students will wear a tie with a **pink stripe**. Year 8 students have different coloured ties at the moment depending on the house they were in when they joined the Academy. The Year 8 students who already have a tie with a pink stripe will simply keep the same tie as they move up to Year 9 in September. Year 8 students who don't have a tie with a pink stripe at the moment can exchange their old tie for a new one with the pink stripe.

Year 10 students will wear a tie with a **green stripe**. Year 9 students have different coloured ties at the moment depending on the house they were in when they joined the Academy. The Year 9 students who already have a tie with a green stripe will simply keep the same tie as they move up to Year 10 in September. Year 9 students who don't have a tie with a green stripe at the moment can exchange their old tie for a new one with the green stripe.

Year 11 students will wear a tie with a **light blue stripe**. Year 10 students have different coloured ties at the moment depending on the house they were in when they joined the Academy. The Year 10 students who already have a tie with a light blue stripe will simply keep the same tie as they move up to Year 11 in September. Year 10 students who don't have a tie with a light blue stripe at the moment can exchange their old tie for a new one with the light blue stripe. **Prefect ties** will remain the same with a **thick gold stripe**.



Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 can exchange their old ties for new ones from Thursday next week.

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SUMMER FAIR

A big thank you.....

Thank you to everyone who supported the Academy Summer Fair last weekend. The Academy would also like to thank **O₂** for marketing the event and for their continuing support, **Greggs** who provided bread rolls for the Barbeque and **Tesco, Wilkinsions, Tube Station, Cineworld and Gullivers World** who all provided vouchers or tickets that could be given out as prizes.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

The Academy will be holding its annual **Awards Evening** on **Thursday 16th July**. Parents and carers of all students nominated for an award should have received a letter inviting them to attend. If your child has been nominated, we hope that you will be able to join us on the evening.

Can all students return any Library books by Friday 17th July please as it is time for the annual stock take. Unfortunately, the Library will not be able to loan out any further books whilst the stock take takes place.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will close for the summer holiday at 12.00pm on Tuesday 21st July.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP



Congratulations to Regan Walker on her continuing success.

Regan recently competed in her first Heptathlon, performing in seven events over two days; she finished the competition with 3641 points and in 8th place out of 17 competitors.

It was a very strong field and Regan did exceptionally well to win the 200m, come 2nd in the Long Jump, 5th in the 800m (an event which she hates!) and sixth in the shot putt. She achieved four personal bests over the week end and, at one point, was 4th overall. If it was not for an “off day” with the Javelin, Regan would have finished in the top five.

Regan was competing as part of a four girl team representing Greater Manchester which won the competition convincingly. Regan and her team mates will now go forward to the English National Schools Event in September.

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Last week, the PE department hosted a 7 a side Girls Football tournament for Primary schools from the local area. Greenside, St Stephens, Manchester Road and Poplar Street all took part on, what turned out to be, a very cold and wet night!



The games were refereed by two of our Sports Leaders, Aiden Brown and Kai Wynne Jones, who did an excellent job. Congratulations to all the teams who took part and particularly to Greenside A who were the eventual tournament winners.

For match reports and other news from the P.E. Department please visit the weekly on-line Sports Blog on the Academy website.

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