

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the final edition of Newsflash for this academic year. I hope you have found this new weekly communication useful; feedback would suggest that parents and carers now feel well informed about everything that is going on. Any suggestions about how communication between home and the Academy can be further improved will, of course, always be very welcome.

It really has been a very busy year. I have really enjoyed my first term as Head teacher and was delighted by the confirmation from OFSTED that the Academy is now making good progress and moving in the right direction. You will be receiving a letter from me shortly which will give you further details about the outcomes of the visit by HMI; I hope that you too will find this encouraging and helpful. I am, however, mindful of the areas that we still need to work on and, along with the Leadership Team and all the staff in the Academy, am determined that we will continue to improve; clearly, our ultimate goal is to be an outstanding school which has the absolute trust and respect of the community that it serves. Thank you for your continuing support.

People often think that the final week of term is a “wind down” but nothing could be further from the truth. Students are continuing to work hard and, indeed, Year 10 students have been working on important controlled assessments for their Science GCSE all week; today, Friday, they will be writing up their reports in the exam hall under exam conditions. Similarly, we enjoyed meeting our visitors from China and hope that this will represent the start of a positive and productive relationship between our two schools. Award’s Evening last night was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the successes and achievements of our students and I would particularly like to congratulate Paige Charlton, again, on her nomination for the Headteacher Award.

We, of course, break up next Tuesday at 12.00pm. The Academy will re-open for students on Thursday 3rd September. The new Year 7 students should arrive for 8.30am and Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should arrive for 9.30am. In the meantime, on behalf of the Academy, I hope that you, and your families, have a lovely summer break and that in September, when we return, our community, continues to reflect our core values of politeness, honesty and hard work.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

BIG IMPROVEMENT FOR NEXT YEAR

Please see the separate letter which has been sent to all parents and carers by post.

GCSE COUNTDOWN

There are only 43 weeks until the start of the GCSE examinations for Year 10 students, 31 weeks in the Academy and 12 weeks of school holidays. Please encourage your child to 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

The Academy holds its annual Awards Evening to celebrate student successes and achievements over the last academic year. Further details can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

A group of students fly out to Barcelona to explore the sites and experience the culture of the Catalan capital.

Year 10 students complete their GCSE Science controlled assessments.

300 students head for Blackpool on Droylsden's big day out at the Pleasure Beach.

GCSE ART EXHIBITION

The Academy held an Art Exhibition earlier this week where students and parents could view some of the amazing work completed on the GCSE course over the last year. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, we hope you enjoyed the exhibition and your visit to the Academy.



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.... and a big thank you to the Year 10 GCSE Catering students who prepared a fantastic buffet for the visitors to the exhibition. They catered for over 100 guests and did a really wonderful job; they even washed up the dishes afterwards!



AWARDS EVENING

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated and recognised for progress or excellence, or for their contribution to the Academy, over the last academic year.

English

Progress: Britney Joyce, Djabu Balde, Maison Taylor and Sami Sakhi

Excellence: Sophie Owen, Freya Holt, Chloe Fraser and Rebecca Donnolly

Applied Technology

Progress: Finlay Phillips, Mamte Ghalle, Maison Taylor and Lily Wilson

Excellence: Rachel Derbyshire, James Hesketh, Chloe Bates and Charles Jackson-Goyea

Expressive and Performing Arts

Progress: Sophie Frampton-Day, Devon Mulvey, Callum Holmes and Ellie Holt

Excellence: Daniel Waite, Kelly Dalton, Megan Chambers and Madison Mellor

Art

Progress: Owain Smith, Dorcas Bawuah, Rupak Rai and Jade Cope

Excellence: Rachel Derbyshire, Yoma Natufe, Davina Mistry and Courtney Morris

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Humanities

Progress: Jack Gee, Owen Shemeld, Ellie Baxendale and Charles Jackson-Goyea

Excellence: Rachel Derbyshire, Paige Leigh-Darraugh, Paige Charlton and Regan Walker

Mathematics

Progress: Angel Eyaife-Eyaife, Rhoda Sarpong, Lauren Pollard and Leah Sutton

Excellence: Dean Charlton, Connor Nicholson, Basmah Ali and Jeel Shukla

Modern Foreign Languages

Progress: Sam Farrell, Anisha Joshi, Ethan Prince and Jade Turner

Excellence: Maisy Best, Cassia Myers, Elizabeth Le and Rebecca Donnolly

Science

Progress: Tyrese Gilbert, Tyler Kavanagh-Cooper, Harry Wright and Dylan Higgins

Excellence: Sam Ogden, Molly Palmer, Michael Neglia and Tia Nash

Sports and Healthy Lifestyles

Progress: Joseph Davies, Ellie Richardson, Lauren Pollard and Jack Chilton

Excellence: Sam Farrell, Dorcas Bawuah and Chang Yang

Recognition Awards

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Attendance
Daniel Waite	Cavan White	Arooj Shan	Louie Horan	Ellie Mortimer
Imogen Wright	Rhoda Sarpong	Ryan Lilley	Regan Walker	

Inclusion Awards

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Niall Howarth	Ross Evans	Jemmeellie Chambers	Callum Mills

The Headteachers Award for the academic year 2014 to 2015 went to:

Paige Charlton

Congratulations from the Head, Governors and all the staff on this wonderful achievement.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended. We are sure that you are as proud of your children as we are.

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NURSERY NURSING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Sapphire King, Laura Semourson, Jeanette Cissay, Molly Marshall-Hopkins, Molly Crompton, Shania Duffty, Louise Sutton and Leah Victory for successfully completing the Teens and Toddlers Programme.

The students spent 18 weeks mentoring a toddler in a local nursery. The girls worked extremely hard and all of them achieved a Level 1 Qualification in Interpersonal Skills. They were awarded their certificates at an Awards Ceremony at Dukinfield Town Hall earlier this month and were described by the course organisers as 'wonderful students who are a credit to the Academy'.



HOMEWORK

Homework is an essential part of a child's learning and progression whilst in Secondary School. It is used to consolidate learning in the classroom and to maintain essential knowledge and skills that all students require to prepare them for their GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. Sometimes homework provides stretch and challenge for students and at other times it may be used to give additional practice on a skill that a student needs to develop further, but homework is always important. Recent international research shows that consistent completion of homework activities can accelerate a student's progress by almost 6 months.

This is why our Homework policy at Droylsden Academy is changing. Every day, students in all year groups will be expected to complete and hand in homework. Failure to hand in homework when required will result in the immediate issue of a 30 minute detention for students.

For students in Years 7 and 8, homework will be handed in as they enter the Academy each morning, according to the homework timetable. Homework for students in Year 7 and 8 in the prestigious EBACC subjects (English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages) will be issued via a homework pack that students will receive at the start of each half term. Details of the homework calendar will be in student planners and posted on the Academy website. Class teachers

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in Maths and English will also set an additional homework activity each week. Other subjects will issue homework each term in a dedicated week, where EBACC homework will not be set. Students will also benefit from a 'Homework Holiday' for one week every term where no homework is set, allowing students extra time to pursue their hobbies and interests.

Students in Year 9 will have their homework set in lessons and hand in homework to their class teachers in accordance with the homework timetable. Weekly homework will be set in EBACC subjects (English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages). Again, other subjects will issue homework each term in a dedicated week and Year 9 students will benefit from a 'Homework Holiday' for one week every term.

Year 10 and 11 students will have their homework set for all examined subjects in lessons and hand it in to their class teachers in accordance with the homework timetable.

There will be opportunities for students to complete homework in school, either in the quiet study zone at lunchtime or after school. In September, we will share details of our new online homework package, 'Show My Homework', which allows parents and students to see the homework set by teachers and the deadlines for completion.

THE ACADEMY MARKET GARDEN

The catering team have started growing their own produce in the Academy garden and serving it up at lunch time! Many of the students have really enjoyed their healthy home grown meals and have also seen just how easy it can be to grow your own vegetables. Any students who are interested in developing the market garden next year can get involved and may even save their parents a few pounds on the shopping bill!



REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Please make sure all Library books are returned to the Learning Resource Centre before the end of term.

Those students who need a new tie with the right colour for their year group can now exchange their old one for a new one at Student Services.

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

The Academy will re-open for students on Thursday 3rd September. The new Year 7 students should arrive for 8.30am and Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should arrive for 9.30am.

We hope that all students and staff have a lovely summer holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

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