

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 3 of Newsflash for this academic year.

I hope that all our new Year 7 students have settled into the routines of Academy life, are making new friends and are getting to know their way around the building. I have been into many of their lessons and have been pleased to see classes of happy and hardworking students. Similarly, Mr Mortimer, their Year Leader, and Mrs Beresford, their Year Manager, have been delighted with the start to the year. We have very high expectations of the class of 2020, as indeed we do of all our students, and I am really looking forward to their successes and achievements over the next five years.

We have our Open Evening next week, a very important night for the Academy and one in which we can showcase the progress that we are making. There are many students helping with the event and I would like to thank parents and carers, in advance, for allowing their children to take part. Although we are fortunate to have a wonderful new building, it is the students that make the Academy and I am really pleased that parents of Year 5 and 6 children, and other members of the community, will have the opportunity to meet and talk with so many of them about their work and life at our school. I would also like to thank Kia Wynne Jones, our Head Boy, Natasha Holmes, our Head Girl, and Taylor Stelfox, one of our new students in Year 7, for agreeing to talk to all our visitors as part of the introductory speeches; not everyone has the confidence to speak in front of such a large audience and I am sure they will do a wonderful job. Open Evening will be very busy and unfortunately, for this reason, we must insist that unless your child is helping out with an activity, he or she does not visit the Academy on the night to look around.

As reported last week, the new homework procedures for Years 7 and 8 are working really well. Students have soon got into the habit of completing the work set and handing it in each morning as they arrive at the Academy. This week there has been a 95% completion rate and fewer and fewer detentions are issued each day. I am confident that, in the not too distant future, we will have our first 100% day, watch this space!

Thank you, again, for supporting our new rigorous expectations around behaviour and learning and please enjoy reading this edition of Newsflash.

Best wishes

Mr. P Wilson  
**Headteacher**

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## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are now only 27 school weeks, just 135 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Remember your extra “Period 6” study sessions now run every night from 2.35pm to 3.35pm; each of you should have your own personalised timetable. **Attending Period 6 lessons will improve your GCSE grades and the opportunities open to you when you leave the Academy.**

There will be a Year 11 GCSE Drama Coursework Clinic on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

All Year 11 students will be completing Science Controlled Assessments in the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

The first Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Mock GCSE exams will take place in the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Alec Stewart O.B.E. visits the Academy. Further information and photographs can be found later in this edition.

Chess Club is now up and running again. The Club is on every Tuesday and Thursday after school. News of competitions will appear in future editions of Newsflash.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Droylsden Academy will be celebrating the European Day of Languages next week on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September when students will be encouraged to think about learning another language and appreciate the wide variety of cultures across our continent. Staff and students will be invited to join in the day by sharing their experiences of language learning.



Students will also take part in language themed activities and competitions throughout the week and the Academy Language Ambassadors will be recruiting new members to join their team. Students should see Miss Collins if they would like any further information or if they would like to apply to become a Language Ambassador.

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## ALEC STEWART O.B.E. VISITS THE ACADEMY

Cricketing legend Alec Stewart O.B.E. visited the Academy this week to coach students in Years 7 and 8. Alec is the most capped English cricketer of all time, playing 133 test matches for his country. He scored 8463 runs, at an average of 40, and also captained the England team. The students really enjoyed meeting and working with Alec who, equally, was impressed by their performance and potential.



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## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Will students who have been asked to help out at next week's Open Evening please return the parental consent slips by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### Homework

Thank you for your continued support with your child's homework. Homework is very powerful in improving a child's learning and those who regularly complete homework learn faster and achieve more. Your child will be set homework every day; this means that every student should be handing in at least one piece of homework every day too. In Years 7 and 8, students hand in their homework as they enter the Academy. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 hand it in to their class teachers during lessons. Students who fail to hand in homework on time receive a thirty minute detention.

We will be launching the "Show My Homework" website and app from Monday 5th October 2015. Show My Homework allows parents and students to access homework on a computer, smart phone or tablet. We will write to you with further details about this in the coming weeks.

### Planners

Please check and remember to sign your child's Planner each week so that both home and school are working together in stressing the importance of homework to our students.

Please accept our apologies for the error made by the printers which had affected some Year 7 and 11 Planners. Replacements have now issued to those students affected; it would be helpful if parents could sign their child's new Planner so that it is up to date.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be two Year 11 Parent Teacher Evenings this year when parents and carers can check on the progress that their child is making. **The first one will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 4.00pm until 7.00pm.** Further details will be posted out to Parents and Carers next week.

We will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 9.00am to 10.30am. Parents and carers are very welcome to attend and support the event.



## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

### Singing in the Rain

The following rehearsals will take place over this half term:

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Whole Cast
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Whole Cast
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Rehearsal for Open Evening
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Whole Cast
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Whole Cast
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Full Cast (Act 2)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Whole Cast
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Whole Cast



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