

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 5 of Newsflash.

As you will be aware from the email or letter you received yesterday, the Academy has been subject to a full OFSTED Inspection; the Inspection took place over two days, Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October. We will receive a full written report during the next month detailing the inspection team's findings, which we will, of course, share with all parents and carers.

You will remember that the Academy had an OFSTED monitoring visit last June; the view of the Inspector was that the Academy had made enough progress to warrant a full Inspection, so we had been expecting a phone call. If the Inspector had been of the view that we had not progressed sufficiently, then we would have had another monitoring visit later this term instead of a full Inspection.

I hope that as many parents and carers as possible had the opportunity to provide feedback for the Inspection Team. We are conscious that the deadline for responses was very tight but this was out of our control. Schools only get half a day's notice of an OFSTED Inspection and, as such, we received notification from the Registered Inspector at lunchtime on Wednesday. Although we did manage to send out emails and post out letters first class by the end of the school day on Wednesday, we do realise that parents and carers had very little time to respond.

Away from OFSTED, I have had the opportunity to show many prospective parents and carers around the Academy over the last few days, this followed on from our very successful Open Evening last week. Each parent has been incredibly impressed, and some very pleasantly surprised, by what they have seen. Bringing about an improvement in any organisation can be a difficult and challenging process; it is certainly a team effort for everyone involved and, once again, I would like to thank you for the part you are continuing to play in driving up standards and expectations which are ensuring that the progress of our students continues to improve.

I hope you and your family have a good weekend and I look forward to presenting the findings of our OFSTED report later in the term when it is officially published.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are already 5 weeks into your final year and there are now only 25 school weeks, just 125 days in school, until your first GCSE exam. Remember that success next summer will be based on the work that you put in now and not just revision over the last few weeks or the night before the exams. Spend time reading through your work from Year 10 to remind yourself of those topics you have already covered. Are there things you don't understand fully? If so, meet with your teacher now, don't leave it until April or May when the pressure is really on. **Success is based on careful planning and preparation over the long term; stay in control.**

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.**

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

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Academy hosts a Reception and Dinner for the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and his guests. Thank you and congratulations to the Catering Team on organising and preparing such an enjoyable and high quality evening; guests were extremely impressed and commented that the event was a credit to everyone involved at the Academy.

Good luck to Owain Smith, Sophie Owen, Abi Akinwande, Rachel Derbyshire, Daniel Waite, Jonathan Le, Jack Gee, Jimmy North and Erin Hulme who took part in a competition run by Good Morning Britain for Action Against Bullying. The students worked tirelessly to create a thought provoking performance on a hard hitting topic. A massive well done from Miss Spacey and Miss Scantlebury.

The Academy holds a MacMillan Coffee Morning and raises £169 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to students, staff and parents for supporting the event.



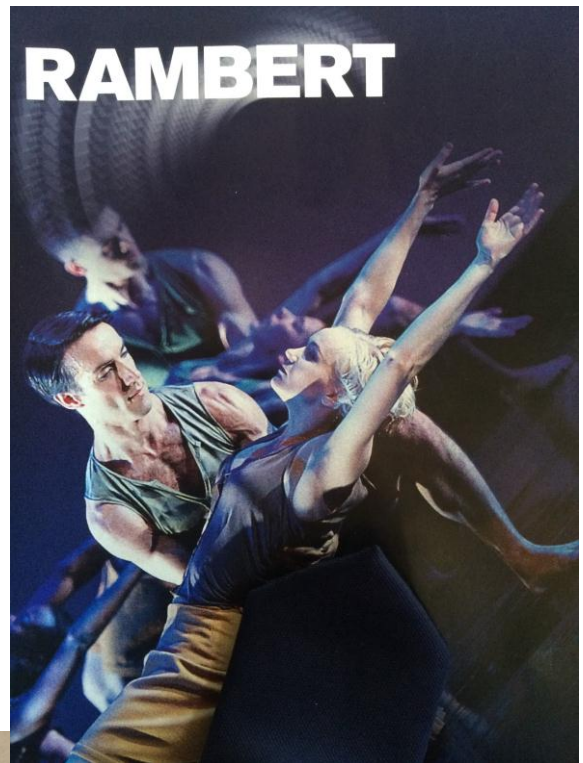
Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

RAMBERT DANCE

Students studying Performance Arts were lucky enough to watch a performance by Rambert Dance, a World famous contemporary dance company, at the Lowry Theatre earlier this week. The company performed two works, one called Three Dancers, based on the life and work of Picasso, and a second called Terra Incognita, based on a mysterious journey through unknown lands.

The Dancers also gave students a class on contemporary ballet technique and talked about what the life of a professional dancer involves.

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful performance and, as usual, our students were an absolute credit to the Academy.



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CONSIDERATION FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

Living near a school can sometimes be difficult for local residents, especially at the start and the end of the school day when many students are dropped off and picked up. We have recently had a couple of complaints that parents and carers are blocking driveways with their cars whilst they are waiting for their child to come out of the Academy at 2.30pm. Whilst it can sometimes be difficult to find a parking space, we would respectfully ask that parents and carers do not park in front of residents' gateways as it is clearly causing a problem for some of our neighbours.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Show My Homework will be launched across the Academy on Monday 5th October. Show My Homework allows parents and students to access homework on a computer, smart phone or tablet. Students will still record their own homework too so please remember to sign your child's Planner each week.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening will be held on Thursday 8th October. Please make your appointments through PTO, our online booking system. If you do not have internet access, a computer will be available in the Academy and you are welcome to come in and use it at any time during school hours. Alternatively, you can call Student Services who will be able to make appointments on your behalf.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will break up for the half term holiday on Friday 23rd October.

Year 7 Parent Teacher Evening will take place on Thursday 19th November. Further information will be sent out before we break up for the half term holiday.

There will be an Awards Evening for the "Class of 2015", the Year 11 cohort who left last summer, on Tuesday 3rd November. Invitations will be sent out to students over the next few weeks.

OUR OPEN EVENING AT THE ACADEMY



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