

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 6 of Newsflash.

As you will be aware, the Academy had a full OFSTED Inspection last week. Whilst we are not allowed to share the findings of the report until it is published, we were very pleased with the feedback we received and look forward to giving you more information later in the term. Inspections can be stressful and challenging; there is usually a huge sigh of relief when they are over and there can be a temptation to take the foot off the pedal when the Inspection Team leaves. This will absolutely not be the case at the Academy. Whilst we may be one step further on, on the journey to becoming an outstanding school, there is still lots to do; we will all remain focussed on what we want to achieve and there will be a relentless drive for further improvement.

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to achieve and succeed. Every lesson missed makes progress more difficult and it is no surprise that there is a direct link between a student's attendance and the grades that they achieve at GCSE. Ideally, all students would have 100% attendance although this is not always possible. For this reason, an attendance rate above 97% is considered acceptable. Schools are concerned if a student's attendance drops below 97%. National guidance classifies any student with attendance below 90% as a "Persistent Absentee".

Clearly, there is a legal responsibility on parents and carers to ensure that their child attends regularly and we are sure that we have the absolute support of the vast majority of you in ensuring that your child does, indeed, have excellent attendance. You will shortly receive a letter detailing your child's attendance to date, along with some information that we hope all parents and carers will find useful. Occasionally some students will try and pull a fast one with Mum or Dad, I suppose everyone would prefer to stay in bed sometimes, especially if it is a cold and wet morning. However, if a student does stay off for a day, he or she will miss five hours of learning, time that can never be made up, and fall behind their classmates in five different subjects. If you are ever unsure, send your child in; we can always contact parents or carers and send a child home if they don't feel well.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continuing support over homework. The vast majority of students are now handing their homework in regularly and on time and staff are noticing the difference that this is making to understanding and progress in lessons. The system of collecting in homework for Years 7 and 8 students, as they enter the Academy building each morning, is working particularly well and helping to establish really good learning habits.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

We break up in two weeks time and I can't believe how fast the first half term has gone. I hope that you are pleased with the progress that your child is making and that he or she is happy and settled. Please contact your child's Year Manager if you have any concerns; we would rather address a little problem now than a bigger one further down the line.

I hope that you and your family have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

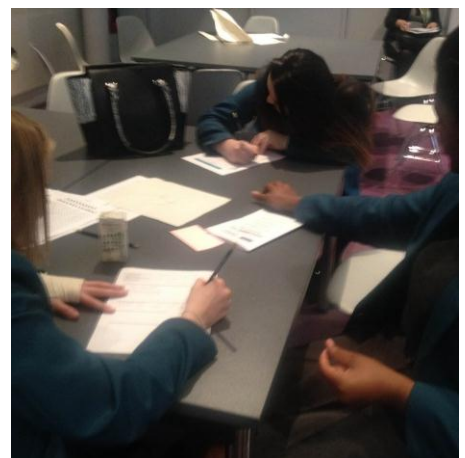
GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 6 weeks into your final year and there are now only 24 school weeks, just 120 days in school, until your first GCSE exam. Hopefully, you all attended Parent Teacher Evening earlier this week and listened carefully to the comments that your teachers made. Act on their advice now, stay in control and stay ahead of the game. **Remember, you are investing in your future.**

Compulsory Lesson 6 sessions have now begun for most Year 11 students in the run up to their first Pre Public or "Mock" Examinations. Your child has been provided with a timetable that indicates which lesson 6 sessions they will be required to attend. Lesson 6 finishes each day at 3.35pm. **Attending Period 6 lessons will improve your GCSE grades and the opportunities open to you when you leave the Academy.**

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

A group of Year 10 students attend a Manchester Gateways event at Manchester Metropolitan University to find out more about undergraduate courses, opportunities and qualifications.



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Year 11 students visit the Skills Show and Exhibition at GMex.

The Maths Department sets its first weekly puzzle. You can find the puzzle in this week's edition of Newsflash; can your family solve it?

Manchester College attend Year 11 Assembly to give a presentation on post 16 courses, opportunities and qualifications.

MATHS CHALLENGE

The Mathematics Department will now be running a weekly challenge, the first of which can be found below. The weekly challenge will be displayed around the Academy and students should simply write down the answer, along with their name and form, and hand it into any of the Maths staff. Any correct answers will be entered into a half termly draw with special prizes for those students whose names are drawn out. The more weekly challenges you enter, the better your chance of winning!

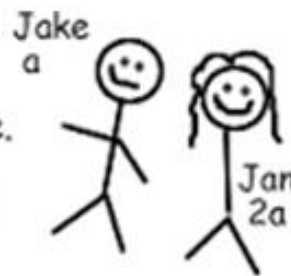
Here's the problem:

Jan is twice as old as Jake.

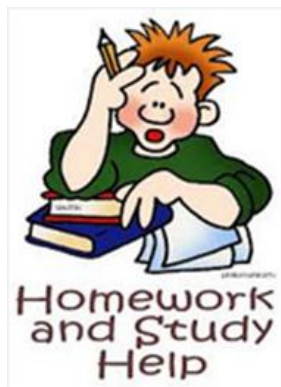
The sum of their ages is 5 times Jake's age less 48.

How old are Jan and Jake?

You have all the information you need to write the equation and solve it!



The Maths Department will also be running a weekly club where there will be laptops and help available with the on-line homework set through the My Maths website. Please encourage your child to attend!



Maths Homework Club
every Wednesday after school
in P14
with Ms Mohammed.
Be there!

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ASPIRATIONS EVENING

As your child progresses through Key Stage 4, it is crucial that they begin to think about life after Droylsden Academy. The employment market is changing rapidly and there is an ever increasing demand for more highly skilled and educated individuals to enter the workforce. Research clearly shows that earning potential increases significantly for those people who achieve good degrees or high level vocational training.

On Tuesday 20th October we are holding our annual “**Careers and Aspirations Evening**” for parents, carers and students from Years 9, 10 and 11. The evening will run from 4.00pm to 7.00pm and you can drop in at any time that is convenient for you. There will be an opportunity for you to speak to a number of local employers, colleges, universities and training providers who will all offer an insight into the world of work and education. Students will be able to find out what employers are looking for and will be able to create their own Curriculum Vitae at a CV drop in session.

This event will allow your child to begin planning for post 16 provision now. Further useful information and links can be found on the Academy website under 'Careers Guidance and Support'.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Show My Homework has now been launched across the Academy. Show My Homework allows parents and students to access homework on a computer, smart phone or tablet. We have written to parents and carers this week with individual login details that now allow you to access your child's homework on-line. Alternatively you can visit our website at droylsdenacademy.com and click on our homework link to access the school's homework calendar.

Please remember to sign your child's Planner regularly and check their Manners card.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a Samba workshop in the Academy on Thursday 15th October. The workshop will be delivered by the Northern Chamber Orchestra.

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.

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Singing in the Rain

The following rehearsals are scheduled up until the half term holiday:

Thursday 8 th October	Whole Cast
Sunday 11 th October	Full Cast (Act 2)
Monday 12 th October	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 15 th October	Whole Cast
Monday 19 th October	Drama – Leads and Lead Acting Chorus (P47) Lead Dance (P49)
Thursday 22 nd October	Whole Cast

Girls Under 14 Football

The Under 14 Girls are competing in a 7-A-Side Competition against five other local schools. They have played the other teams twice, once last week and once this week.

Last week the Team were very unlucky and narrowly lost 3 of their games by just the one goal:

Droylsden 0 V 1 Astley Sports College
 Droylsden 0 V 1 Denton Community College
 Droylsden 0 V 1 Fairfield
 Droylsden 2 V 0 Hyde
 Droylsden 1 V 0 St Thomas Moore

On the score sheet for Droylsden were Sian Halkyard and Dominique Larkin.

This week the girls played really well and won 4 of their matches:

Droylsden 2 V 0 Astley Sports College
 Droylsden 0 V 1 Denton Community College
 Droylsden 2 V 0 Fairfield
 Droylsden 2 V 0 Hyde
 Droylsden 1 V 0 St Thomas Moore

On the score sheet for Droylsden were Sian Halkyard, Lauren Malone and Dominique Larkin.

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