

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 7 of Newsflash.

As you will be aware, we have introduced a number of new initiatives over the last few months aimed at improving the learning culture within the Academy and the progress that our students make. One initiative has been the weekly Headteacher's Celebration of Achievement where I have had the opportunity to meet with a group of students who have been chosen by their respective Year Leaders and Year Managers for making good progress, making a positive contribution to the Academy or for demonstrating a real commitment to our values over the preceding week. As well as congratulating and thanking the students, we have an open discussion about Academy life and I ask for any ideas and suggestions they may have on what we can do to improve further.

So far I have met with over 100 students and have really enjoyed talking with them. It has been really useful to get their perspective on a range of issues and I have been given lots of good ideas. The students are always very honest and we do encourage an openness where they will tell us what they really think and not just what they think we may want to hear.

Sometimes, as Headteacher, you inevitably have to deal with some difficult situations when students have made the wrong choices. My weekly celebration meetings, however, always remind that the overwhelming majority of our students love school, get things right day in and day out and make a wonderful contribution to Academy life. Similarly, the meetings always remind me why I became a teacher and how privileged I am to lead Droylsden Academy. The meetings are one of the highlights of the week and can be far more interesting, and certainly more fun, than meetings with the Senior Leadership Team!

Last week we held our first consultation evening of this academic year for the parents and carers of Year 11 students. Over the last year, attendance at Parent Teacher Evenings has improved consistently with every evening we have held and, last week, 80% of the Year 11 cohort were represented. Many parents and carers who attended completed a questionnaire and an analysis of the findings will be included in next week's edition of Newsflash.

Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash; I hope you find it interesting and informative.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 7 weeks into your final year and there are only 23 school weeks left, just 115 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

**GCSE French speaking exams will take place next week. Please encourage your child to prepare fully for this important part of their course.**

Compulsory Lesson 6 sessions have now begun for most Year 11 students. 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.**

Your mock examinations take place in the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The mock timetable, showing which exams are on which days, is shown below. Further details about the arrangements for the exams will be available nearer the time.

Date	Time	Exam	Duration
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8.45am	Maths (non-calculator)	1hr 45mins
	11.00am	Core Science	1 hr 45 mins
	1.30pm	Health and Social Care	1hr 30 mins
	1.30pm	Business	1 hr 30 mins
	1.30pm	Music	1hr 30 mins
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8.45am	Maths (calculator)	1 hr 45 mins
	11.00am	Additional Science	1 hr 45 mins
	12.00pm	French Listening (Foundation)	45 mins
	1.30pm	Computing and Computer Science	1 hr 30 mins
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8.45am	English	2 hrs 15 mins
	12.00pm	Dance	1 hr
	1.30pm	Catering	1 hr 15 mins
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8.45am	Textiles	2 hrs
	8.45am	Sport (written)	1 hr 30 mins
	11.00am	Product Design	2 hrs
	1.30pm	History (American West)	1 hr 15 mins
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8.45am	Geography	1 hr 30 mins
	11.00am	Spanish Listening (Foundation)	45 mins
	12.00pm	French Reading (Foundation)	45 mins
	12.00pm	Spanish Reading (Foundation)	45 mins

Year 11 students enjoy a practical and “hands on” visit to the Skills Show and Exhibition at GMex.



Students from Years 7 and 8 enjoy a Samba workshop delivered by members of the Northern Chamber Orchestra.



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### EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The following clubs and activities now run after school each week. Please encourage your child to get involved.

Day	Club or Activity
Monday	Homework Club Fitness Club
Tuesday	Homework Club Volleyball (Girls from Yrs 7 to 9) Rugby (Boys and Girls from all Year Groups) Football training (Yr 10) Duke of Edinburgh Award
Wednesday	Homework Club Maths Club GCSE/BTEC Science catch up (Yr 11) A Team training (Boys and Girls from all Year Groups) MFL Ambassador Club STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
Thursday	Homework Club Gardening Club Football training (Yrs 7 and 9) Art drop-in session (Yrs 7 to 9)
Friday	Homework Club Film Club

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## TRIP TO THE ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE

A group of students visited the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester this week to watch a performance of 'The Chair'. It was a two man show which used lots of theatrical techniques including lighting and sound effects as well as audience participation involving our very own Emma Shaw! The techniques combined to create a wonderfully eerie atmosphere!

Students then took part in a workshop with the actors and director afterwards. As part of the workshop, Abi Akinwande and James Gilbert took to the stage and Megan Walker took part in a focus exercise before the whole group performed an ensemble piece. The Royal Exchange is a brilliant venue and we all had a really enjoyable and interesting day out.



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## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Year 7 Parent Teacher Evening will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Invitations will be sent out to students over the next few weeks.

## AND THE ANSWER WAS.....

Last week’s Maths puzzle

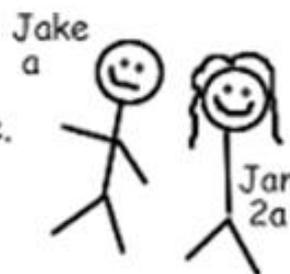
Here's the problem:

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!



Jake is 24 and Jan is 48!

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## THIS WEEK'S MATHS PUZZLE

Place the tip of your pencil on any dot as your starting point. You must draw 4 straight lines without taking your pencil off the page. Each new line must start where the last line finished. Each dot must have a line going through it. It may be worth sketching the box and the dots to practice. Clue... your lines can go through a dot and out of the box so each line does not have to finish on a dot.

