

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to edition 11 of Newsflash.

One week on from Remembrance Day and, tragically, we were, once again, standing together as a community, in silence, in memory of those lives and families decimated by the appalling attacks on Paris last weekend. One clear aim of the extremists is to divide communities and create anger, hatred and mistrust; we must not let this happen. We are a happy community, with staff and students from many different countries and backgrounds; there are solid, lifelong and enriching friendship groups across different cultures and religions and, as a school, we will continue to do all we can to encourage tolerance and understanding and a mutual trust and respect. If a parent of a child from any background is concerned that he or she is being influenced by extreme views, please seek the advice and support of the appropriate agencies or your community or, indeed, school.

Behaviour at the Academy has improved significantly over the last year and in our recent OFSTED Inspection was, quite rightly, judged as good; I am confident that by the next Inspection, behaviour will be even better. To make this next step we need to ensure that there are no incidents of low-level poor behaviour in any lessons, behaviours that OFSTED describe, in recent research, as “below the radar”. Such behaviours may include a student not paying full attention, a student putting his or head on the table or turning around, or a student swinging on his or her chair; incidents that may seem relatively minor but which can distract other students and almost certainly mean that the student in question is not fully focussed and on task. Clearly, there is a responsibility on all staff to deliver carefully planned and engaging lessons, not to ignore minor misdemeanours and to apply our behaviour policy with absolute clarity and consistency at all times. Similarly, there is an absolute expectation on all our students that they follow the classroom code of conduct, and on parents and carers that they work with and support staff to ensure that we continue to improve. The Academy is improving because we are all working together; schools only become outstanding and students only make outstanding progress when there is an outstanding relationship between home and school.

We are now only four weeks away from the end of term and I’m sure everyone is looking forward to Christmas. Our expectations, however, of staff and students, will remain sky-high, as usual, and lessons will run absolutely as normal up until the day we break up. People sometimes think schools “relax” towards the end of a term; this is not the case, your child’s learning is too important for that.

Thank you for reading Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 11 weeks into your final year and there are only 19 school weeks left, just 95 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

GCSE Spanish speaking assessments will be taking place next week on 24th and 27th November. The speaking assessment is worth 15% of the final GCSE mark so it is crucial that all students prepare thoroughly for this important exam.

Lesson 6 sessions are now being run in all subjects for individual or small groups of students to focus in on particular topics or need. The sessions run from 2.35pm to 3.35pm and parents will receive a text two days before a designated Period 6 session and, again, the day before the session, if their child is required to attend. Parents will also receive a text message or a phone call if their child does not arrive. These targeted sessions are compulsory and students must attend to complete the work that has been planned specifically for them. Failure to attend a session will result in a one hour detention.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 10 GCSE Drama students watch a performance of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night' at the Lowry Theatre in Salford.

Practical exams take place all week for students studying GCSE Catering.

The Academy highlights issues around bullying as part of national Anti-Bullying Week, with a particular emphasis on cyber bullying and E-safety.

Parent Teacher Evening takes place for Parents and Carers of Year 7 students.

Students taking part in the World Challenge in India next year go camping in Wales, a trip that coincides with the worst weather of the year so far! Well done to Ashleigh Allcroft, Paige Charlton, Natasha Holmes, Charlotte Houson, Kaya Law, Joseph Lewis, Madison Mellor, Toby Shepherd and Millie Williams who all persevered, pulled together as a team and survived the ordeal!



The photo here was taken before the tents blew away!

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



SINGING IN THE RAIN

The Academy's blockbuster production of Singing in the Rain!



There will be performances on:

Tuesday 1st December

Wednesday 2nd December

Thursday 3rd December



Tickets are now on sale at Student Services at a cost of £3.50 for students and concessions and £5.00 for adults. Alternatively, a family ticket that will admit 2 adults and up to 3 children, can be purchased at a cost of £15.00. A great evening of entertainment is guaranteed for all!

THE GREAT INTERGALACTIC STAR WARS QUIZ!

Calling all Jedis, Stormtroopers, Wookies, Droids and Sith! Following on from the successes of the Harry Potter and Dr Who Academy quizzes we will be holding a Star Wars Quiz to celebrate the launch of Star Wars VII! The quiz will take place in the Atrium at 4.00pm on Thursday 10th December. Why not get a team together and encourage a member of staff to join you? For further information, please see our quiz master and event organiser Mrs Godrich in the Learning Resource Centre.



GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW



Remember, someone will win this bike on the day we break up for Christmas. If you have 100% attendance from Monday 9th November until Friday 18th December, it could be you!

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SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Show My Homework is our new-web based homework system that allows parents and students to view all homework set by each teacher within the Academy. We wrote to you earlier in the year with personalised login details which allow you to access your child's homework. If you have had problems accessing Show My Homework please contact the Academy or write a note in your child's planner and we can reissue your personalised details. Please let us know if you would like a member of the Academy IT team to contact you to get Show My Homework up and running on your device.

MATHS PUZZLE NUMBER FOUR!

There are several books on a bookshelf. If one of the books is the 4th from the left and 6th from the right, how many books are there altogether? Remember to hand your answer in to one of the Maths Department.



REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

REMEMBER TO BATHE IN BLISS THIS CHRISTMAS!

BLISS is a new company formed by Ethan Prince, Ellie Walker, Paige Charlton, Monique Brindley, Basmah Ali and Elizabeth Le through the national Young Enterprise programme. The company are making and selling their own luxurious **BLISS** bathbombs, a wonderful Christmas present for all the family! For more information, visit www.blissbathbombs.wix.com/batheinbliss or contact the company on blissbath@gmail.com.



We have recently had a new covered bike-storage shelter built for those students who bring their bikes to school each day. Whilst the Academy cannot be held responsible for any thefts, we hope that the new storage area will be safe and secure. We absolutely recommend that students use this new facility rather than the old bike store by the car park.

....and, of course, always remember to lock your bike up, preferably with a secure D lock.

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Get involved with our extra-curricular clubs and activities!

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be an Expressive Arts trip to see 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Lowry on Wednesday 25th November.

The Dress Rehearsal for the Academy production of 'Singing in the Rain' will be on Sunday 29th November.

GCSE Photography and Textiles students will be visiting the Clothes Show Live in Birmingham on Friday 4th December.

The Academy will break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 18th December.

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