

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to this term's final edition of Newsflash.

Although the Autumn Term is the longest one of the school year, it has gone very quickly. It really does only seem like a couple of weeks since we started the new academic year back in September and, yet, next Friday will be Christmas Day.

As a Headteacher, the end of any term gives you the opportunity to take a step back and reflect on the progress that your school has made, the things that have gone well and the areas that you still need to work on. I am pleased with the progress that we have made this term, and that, together, staff, students and parents, we have responded to the challenges and higher expectations that school improvement demands. I am also pleased that this has been recognised and validated by OFSTED in the October Inspection. However, there is still much to do and, with the implementation of our new Academy Improvement Plan in January, the Spring Term promises to be a very busy one too. In reality, there is never an 'end' to school improvement in any school; no school, even if judged as outstanding, is the 'finished article' and there are always things that you can do better.

There have been many highlights this term. The production of 'Singing in the Rain' really was outstanding and will live in my memory for a long time. Watching the production reminded me of how fortunate and proud I am to be the Head at Droylsden. As well as the production, there have also been many trips to the theatre too to watch 'Rambert Dance', 'Lord of the Flies', 'Sleeping Beauty' and 'Monologues Slam', to name but a few. Away from the stage, students have been camping in Wales and climbing at the Manchester Climbing Centre. We have had a visit from Cricket legend Alec Stewart O.B.E. and there have been visits to Art Galleries, Museums and the Clothes Show at the NEC in Birmingham. As I write this, a group of Year 10 students have just returned from Switzerland where they visited the Particle Accelerator at CERN to witness for themselves how we are pushing back the boundaries of scientific exploration and understanding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment in providing so many opportunities beyond the classroom.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you have a peaceful and relaxing holiday and I look forward to seeing our students back at the Academy on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

With my very best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

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

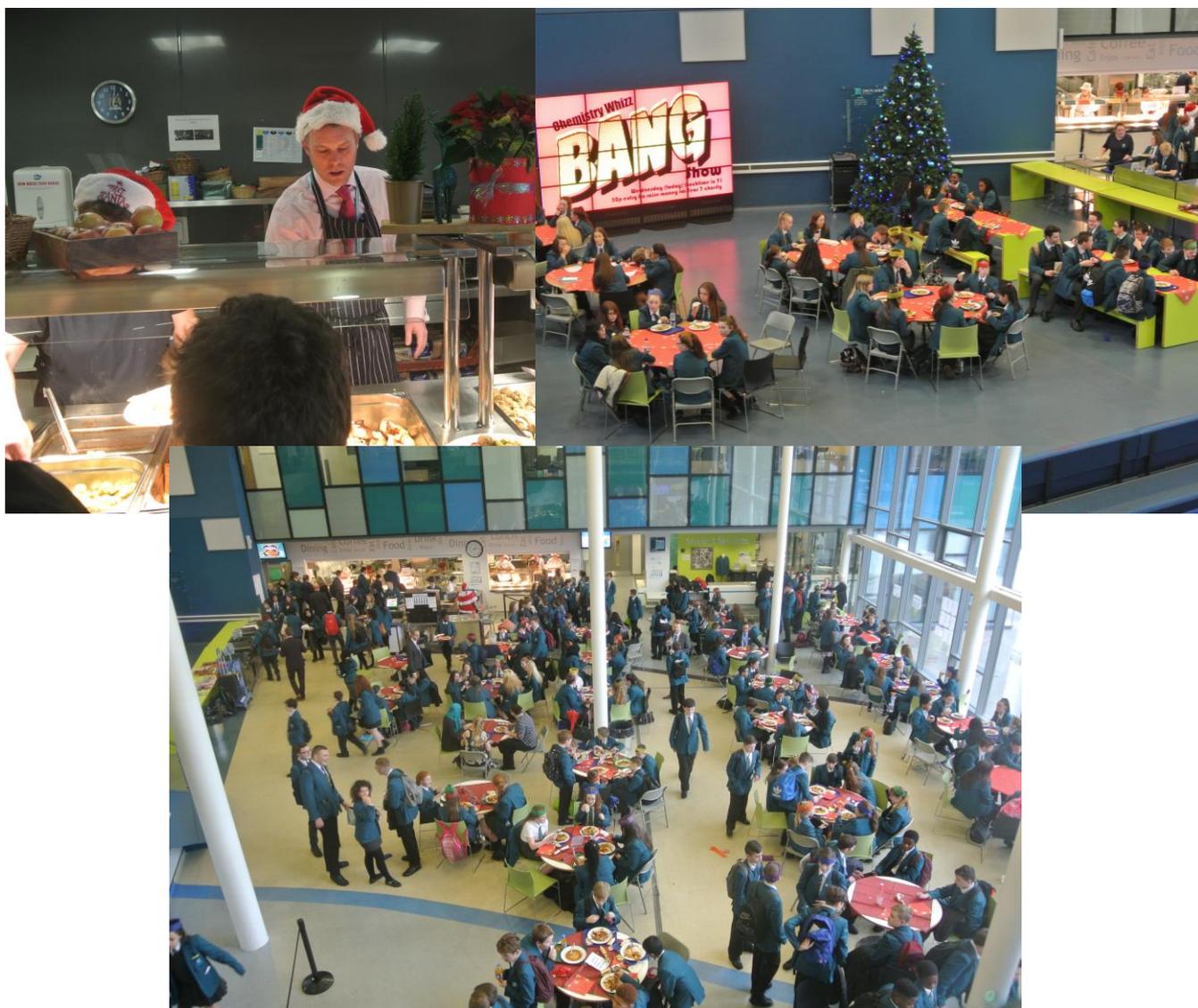
## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, when you return after the Christmas Holiday there will only be 16 school weeks left, just 80 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

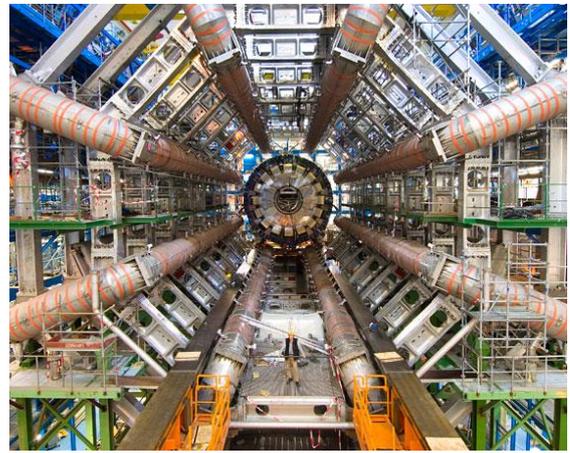
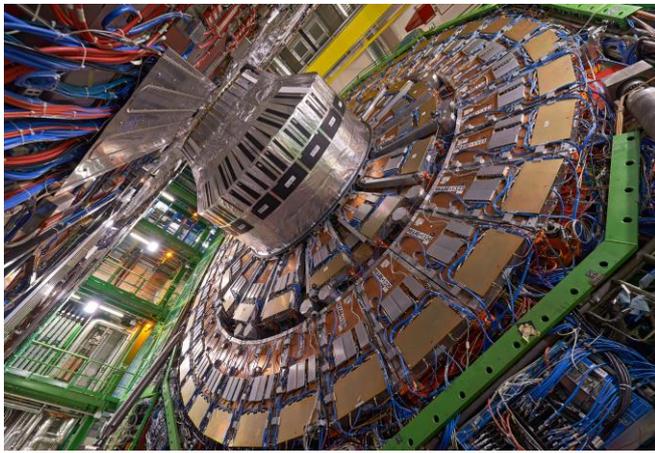
All the teaching staff would like to wish our Year 11 cohort a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year. We hope that you have a relaxing break and return in January ready for the final push leading up to the examinations in May and June. We hope that with commitment, hard work and thorough preparation, you will meet and exceed your target grades and that 2016 will be a year to remember.

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Droylsden Academy enjoys Christmas Dinner and the catering team are lucky (or should that be unlucky?) to benefit from the skill and expertise of a Celebrity Chef, the Headteacher himself!



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A group of Year 10 students visit the Particle Accelerator at CERN in Switzerland.



### MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

Well done to all our contestants who took part in the Grand Intergalactic Star Wars Quiz and particularly to Team Jawa, the eventual winners!

Team Jawa: Mr Jackson, Ben Stopford, Harvey Saxon-Travis, Michael Neglia, Jacob Allen and Will Clare.

Team Wookiee: Mr Tiley, Kyle Walker, Taylor Stelfox, Nia Crossland, Luke Shepley and Ryan Lees.

Team Stormtroopers: Mr Connley, Daniel Pickup, Tom Bowers, Ben Orme, Kaci Read and Shouanna Johnson.

Team Sith: Mr Sayers, Scott Frew, Liam Howe, Bobby Gough, Jack Gilmore and Jamie Rawson.

How would you have done?

1. What name did Darth Vader have before he turned to the Dark Side?
2. What the full name of Luke Skywalker's sister?
3. What designation of droid was C-3PO?



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4. Which bounty hunter tracks down Han Solo and returns him to Jabba the Hutt in The Empire Strikes Back?
5. Which planet is Yoda exiled to?
6. Which character kills Emperor Palpatine?
7. Which Sith Master and Apprentice appear in The Phantom Menace?
8. What colour is Mace Windu's light sabre?
9. Who is Queen of Naboo?
10. Which character was replaced by CGI in the 20th Anniversary edition of Star Wars IV: A New Hope?

Thank you to Mrs Godrich for researching the questions and organising and hosting the evening.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will break up for the Christmas Holiday at 12.00 noon on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. It will re-open for staff on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and, for students, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

There will be an Expressive Arts trip to watch a performance of 'Into the Woods' at the Lowry Theatre on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

There will be a Year 11 Parent Partnership Evening on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

#### AND FINALLY.....

On behalf of the whole Academy Community, Mr Duncan and Mr Wilson would like to wish parents, carers, students and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.