

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 20 of Newsflash for this academic year.

With the half term holiday just one week away, we are now half way through this academic year. The new Improvement Plan is ensuring that we remain focussed on our key priorities and the Academy is continuing to make progress. Feedback would suggest that we are gaining the confidence of the local community which recognises that the Academy is now a better and improving school. We have had almost seventy requests for new student admissions since September; whilst some of these have been from families who have moved into the area, others have been for students who want to transfer from their current school to join us. Although changing schools mid year is never ideal, it is reassuring to know that, increasingly, Droylsden is becoming the school of choice for more and more people.

The reputation and standing of a school within its community is built on many things not least, of course, achievement and examination performance. A key factor that has a significant impact on any school's reputation, however, is the appearance and behaviour of its students in the morning and at the end of the day when they are travelling to and from home. I was delighted to receive a phone call from a member of the public recently who wanted to commend the behaviour of two of our boys on a Metrolink tram who gave up their seats so that he and his wife could sit down for their journey. Our students are, of course, our ambassadors and what may seem like a small gesture such as this can have a real impact on the public's perception of a school and your child. Similarly, the rude or silly behaviour of a small minority can damage a school's reputation and undermine the good work of the majority. Whilst government legislation does give Headteachers the power to discipline and sanction students who misbehave and cause problems in the community, I would ask that all our students always behave in an appropriate manner and remember that, at all times, they are representing the values of Droylsden Academy and, of course, their family.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have emailed the Academy with positive feedback about Newsflash; I am pleased that you are finding the weekly update interesting and informative. Thank you also for the recent comments about the Maths Challenge. The Maths Department are delighted that so many of you enjoy the weekly puzzle including friends, neighbours, work colleagues and other members of your family! Congratulations to Carol Hamlett who submitted a brilliant explanation for the puzzle on how to calculate the area of the unknown shape from last week's edition of Newsflash and, as a result, is now £10 better off! Another challenge can be found later on in this week's edition.

The Year 9 examinations take place next week and I hope that all students are reading through their notes and revising at home. Similarly, with the Pre Public Exams taking place in the week beginning Monday 22nd February, I hope that all Year 11 students are preparing thoroughly too. Further information about the Pre Public exams can be found in GCSE Countdown.

Thank you for reading this week's edition of Newsflash and, as always, I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 11 school weeks left, just 55 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

There will be a programme of revision and study classes over the forthcoming half term holiday as detailed in the table here. These sessions will help your child prepare for their Pre Public Examinations. Please ensure your child takes advantage of this great opportunity.

Time	Monday 15th Feb	Tuesday 16th Feb	Wednesday 17th Feb	Thursday 18th Feb	Friday 19th Feb
Morning 9.30 – 12.00	Maths	Science	English	H&S Care P.E.	Geography Dance
Afternoon 12.30 – 3.00	Art Textiles		History		Music

Year 11 students should already be preparing at home for their Pre Public Examinations after the half term holiday. Last minute revision is absolutely no substitute for a timely, planned programme of thorough preparation. Give yourself every opportunity to succeed and go into your exams feeling confident and reassured.

The Pre Public Examination timetable is detailed in the table below:

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Mon 22 nd Feb	English, Science	Applied Business, Music
Tue 23 rd Feb	Maths, Science	Computing, Computer Science
Wed 24 th Feb	Maths, Science	Catering
Thur 25 th Feb	Textiles, Sport, Product Design	History
Fri 26 th Feb	Geography, Spanish	French, Spanish
Mon 29 th Feb	H&S Care, Spanish, Dance	Sport
Tues 1 st Mar	English Lit, French	

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Droylsden holds its first Great Debate between Form 7D, coached by Mrs Fernandez, and Form 7R, coached by Mr Dalrymple. The two Forms will be arguing for and against the motion that 'War is never justified'. A report will appear in next week's edition of Newsflash.

Year 10 students visit Salford Quays and Manchester City Centre to take photographs for their GCSE coursework portfolio.

The Academy Student Council meets to discuss priorities and feedback from the different Year Councils.

BLISS, the Year 10 Young Enterprise team, 'pitch' their business to representatives of Ernst & Young as part of a Dragon's Den event. The team had to present their business plan, financial plan and product information to the Dragons and found it a really useful and interesting day. The Dragons later said that they were blown away by the standard of presentation and products.



Performing Arts students visit the Manchester Opera House to watch a performance of CATS.



HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to attend this week's Headteacher celebration of achievement:

Jack Godfrey	Nia Crossland	Alisha Silcock	Nathan Wilson	Louie Horan
Lewis Cunningham	Abigail Docker	David Hankinson	Tia Edmundson	

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

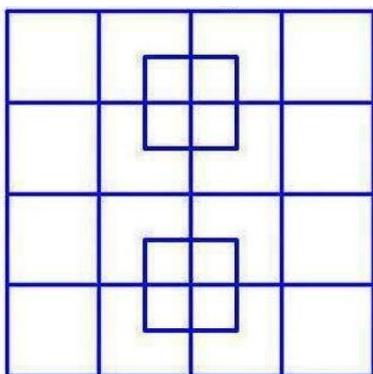
There will be a number of activities and events over next week to celebrate 'Love Your Library Week'. The half term reading challenge is called 'Blind Date with a Book' as students will pick out a wrapped up book, without knowing the title, read it over half term and then complete a book review. All completed review slips will then be entered into a draw with a prize for the winner. There will also be an "I love my School Library because..." opinion wall where students can tell us why they love their library and, on Tuesday and Thursday after school, students can take part in craft sessions where they can make their own bookmarks. In addition, any student who loans a book out over the week will get a sweet!

The Grand Library Book Sale comes to an end on Friday 12th February. There are still great bargains available, both fiction and non-fiction titles, with no book costing more than £1. There are also some posters for sale too.

MATHS PUZZLE

This week's Maths Puzzle.....

Calculate the value of the missing number.



1 3	6 9
6 8	7 3
2 4	? 6
6 4	7 2

..... and the answer to last week's puzzle.

There are **40** squares in the diagram.

9 out of 10 people get this wrong, how did you do?

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Lost property will be on display all next week at Student Services. Encourage your child to come and have a look for anything they may have lost over this half term.

Year 10 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held next week on Thursday 11th February. Letters have been posted out to all parents and carers this week with further information about the evening and details about how to make appointments with staff. Please contact Student Services if there is anything you wish to ask or clarify.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Year 9 examinations will take place next week. **All school exams are important and the results of the Year 9 exams will help to inform possible option choices and Year 10 GCSE groups and sets.** Please ensure your child is preparing thoroughly and revising now.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will break up for the Spring Half Term Holiday on Friday 12th February. The Academy will re-open on Monday 22nd February.

There will be a Year 7 Raising Achievement Event, 'Securing Success for 2020', on the evening of Thursday 10th March. Further information will be available after the half term holiday.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Volleyball

The Year 9/10 Girls team and the Year 7/8 Boys A team both won Bronze Medals at the Tameside Volleyball Championships. The Year 7/8 Boys team was made up just of Year 7 boys so they did particularly well competing against older students.

The Girls team was made up Dorcas Bawuah, Rhoda Sarpong, Djabu Balde, Lauren Pollard and Nicola Haldane.

The Boys team was made up of Aaron Bile, Max Ahmed, Kai Mulqueen and Luke Bailey.

Congratulations also to the Year 7/8 Boys B team who finished the competition in fifth place. The B team was made up of Sam Farrell, Daniel Shaw and Nathan Wilson.



Congratulations also go to the Year 7/8 Girls Team who finished their qualifying group in third place and have now qualified for the finals.

The Girls team was made up of Sadie Samways, Sophie Owen and Wictoria Ruszczyk.

Good luck in the finals!

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Table Tennis

The Year 9/10 Girls team won the Silver Medal and the Year 7/8 Boys A team won the Gold Medal at the Tameside Table Tennis Championships. The Year 7/8 Boys B team narrowly missed out on the Bronze Medal finishing 4th out of 13 teams.

The Girls team was made up of Niamh James, Hannah Robson, Charlotte Renwick and Leah Sheldon.

The Boys A team won all of their 12 matches in the tournament. The team was made up of Sam Farrell, Aulon Berhami, Archie Farrell and Nathan Wilson.

The Boys B team was made up of Tyrese Gilbert, Daniel Shaw, Joe Davies, Moez Azhar and Jack Pirrie.

Sky Sports Living for Sport Project

Team GB Judo Athlete Sophie Cox visited the Academy this week as part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport Project. Sophie, who competed in the Olympics and won a Bronze Medal at the Junior Judo World Cup in 2010, is the Athlete Ambassador who will work with Droylsden and support our A Team. Sophie delivered 3 sessions when she came in, a classroom based lesson on motivation, a fitness session and finally a Judo session which all the students thoroughly enjoyed.