

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to Edition 21 of Newsflash for this academic year.

The Leadership Team looks at data and information on a regular basis to see how students, staff and the Academy are performing against a range of measures. We may look at attendance data, how many PRIDE points have been awarded and how many sanctions have been issued, as well as information on the quality of teaching and the progress that students are making across different subjects and year groups. This information is always really useful. It can tell us which strategies are working and having a positive impact; it can also tell us what is not working or where there are concerns. The information allows us to continually monitor the effectiveness of our Improvement Plan and change things as, and when, we need to do.

One concern from our recent audit has been the number of detentions issued by staff to students who have failed to hand in their homework, or who have not completed it to the standard that they are capable of.

Homework is really important; research shows very clearly that students who complete their homework regularly, unsurprisingly, do better, achieve higher grades and have more choices and opportunities when they leave school and move onto Further Education. Students who complete homework practice and reinforce the skills and understanding that they have gained in lessons, they make faster progress and the completed work gives their teacher valuable feedback on what they understand and where they need support.

Perhaps most importantly, completing work at home establishes excellent habits and routines for learning and demonstrates a real commitment to education, achievement and success. It also teaches students the important skills and qualities of independent learning, self-discipline and effective time management and prepares them for the expectations and demands of GCSE and A Level courses.

Students who do not complete their homework are issued with a 30 minute detention and we appreciate the support of parents when we need to use this sanction. Clearly, we would rather that all students completed all of their homework to the best of their ability, and by the date set by the teacher, and that there was no need for any sanctions to be used at all. To this end, I would ask that all parents and carers check Planners and the Show My Homework website regularly and ensure that their child completes the tasks and activities set.

It is also really useful when parents and carers look through their child's homework and talk to them about what they are learning at school. It is a wonderful opportunity to show your child that you are interested in what they are doing and keen for them to do well.

Thank you again for reading Newsflash. I hope that you have a pleasant weekend and that your child enjoys his or her half term break.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 10 school weeks left, just 50 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Year 11 Geography students complete the Higher Level component of the controlled assessment for their GCSE course.

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 15 th Feb	Tuesday 16 th Feb	Wednesday 17 th Feb	Thursday 18 th Feb	Friday 19 th 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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT!

Congratulations to the English Department who have been recognised by Tameside Local Authority for the outstanding work they are doing with Droylsden students.

The Department has been given two awards. The first award was for the significant improvement in GCSE performance from 2014 to 2015, a year in which many schools, nationally, saw their results decline.

The second award was for the outstanding outcomes for students studying English in 2015 with GCSE performance well above national averages against all key measures.

Congratulations to the department and, of course, the students who outperformed their peers from across the country.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 10 students complete a "Get Set" Leadership Day at Rochdale Football Club.

A team of Year 7 students compete in the Tameside Maths Challenge at Copley High School. Further details can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

Year 10 Photography students visit Salford Quays and Year 11 Photography students visit Manchester City Centre to source ideas, material and inspiration for their GCSE coursework portfolios.

National representatives from "Future Leaders" visit Droylsden Academy to look at how we are planning for improvement and excellence. They were highly impressed with the politeness and hard work of students.

Year 9 students take part in the Manchester Gateways programme at Manchester Metropolitan University to find out more about the opportunities that Higher Education can offer.

BLISS, the Academy Young Enterprise team, take part in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at the Trafford Centre.

The Academy holds a Parent Teacher Evening for the Parents and Carers of Year 10 students.

PE students attend the Manchester Climbing Centre for their GCSE P.E. practical assessments.

HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

Jemma Evans	Kai Mulqueen	Chantel Massey	Adam Lilley
Alisha Evans	Ali Yousaf	Isaac Ramshead	Beejal Sonigra

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

A group of Year 7 students represented the Academy at the Tameside Maths Challenge this week. The event was held at Copley Academy and the activities were aimed at challenging the Borough's best young mathematicians. The students who represented Droylsden were Kacey Devenport, Minahil Arshad, Kai Mulqueen, Casey Joyce, Ha Young Cho, Sadie Samways and Joseph Keenan. The two reports below were written by Kacey and Minahil.

Kacey Devenport

"On the 11th of February I took part in a Maths competition with my teammates Casey, Kai and Minahil from our Year 7 Excel Maths class. Although we didn't win, we had a lot of fun.

We had several challenges to complete including Origami. We had to create a ball out of paper, using pentagons and hexagons. Folding the paper was surprisingly complicated and difficult at first but we got the hang of it eventually. The Origami ball we made represented a space station as the theme for the day was space. We were also asked to make a representation of a space station using a sphere puzzle which was really difficult and only a couple of teams from the 14 schools managed it.

Other challenges involved binary, decoding and loci. We had to write answers to the equations using binary and then decode the message to find the alien murderer. We then had to use loci to locate where the murderer was.

Some questions and tasks were difficult and it was exciting when we completed something, especially the decoding activity as this took a while. We all enjoyed our time at the competition and learned a lot. We hope to represent Droylsden Academy at events like this again in the future."

Minahil Arshad

"Our trip to Copley Academy for the Maths Challenge was really competitive and lots of fun and we had a great time! The activities were interesting and more complex than normal so it was a real challenge. The theme of the challenge was space and the galaxy and we had to find out who killed an alien and why. First we had to crack a code and then we had to find out about the murder and the murderer; who, when and why? We had to work super hard. We had to win this!

After break we made paper airplanes. Phew! We got a booklet on how to make the airplanes which really helped. It was really funny because there were planes everywhere! This was the fun part because after lunch came the real challenge where we had to make a big space station out of paper hexagons and pentagons! Another member of the team had to fit wooden blocks together into a sphere. This was really hard and no group could do it!

Overall we came in 3rd place out of 14 schools! I think it was a really good day as it was different to our normal activities. In my opinion I think we should do fun and complex activities like that at school as well. We learned a lot from it and all that practice and hard work paid off!"



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YEAR 10 SCIENCE

All year 10 pupils will be completing their practical Science Coursework when they return from the half term holiday. If your child is in the X band of the year, then they will be completing their practical work on **Monday 22nd February** during lessons 2, 3 and 4. If your child is in the Y band of the year, then they will complete their practical work on **Tuesday 23rd February** during lessons 2, 3 and 4. This coursework is worth 25% of their GCSE examination grade and so **it is essential that all students are present on these days**. Your child will have been told about the arrangements by their Science teacher so they will know which day they are completing their coursework on. The written part of this coursework will be completed on **Friday 4th March during lessons 4 and 5**.



YEAR 8 HUMANITIES

Year 8 students have been learning about the American Civil Rights movement in their Humanities lessons, particularly the work of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

The students have discussed the contrasting methods adopted by both men to further the cause of civil rights and equality and Mr Jackson has been extremely impressed with their work and the maturity they have shown during these discussions and debates.

The students have been able to argue their own points and challenge and question the views and opinions of others in an articulate, rational and reasoned way. The standard of discussion has been outstanding and Mr Jackson has been very impressed and proud of the work that the students have produced and the empathy and compassion they have shown.

The photograph shows Harris Mayanja and a picture of Civil Rights Activist Malcolm X.



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PARKING CONCERNS

Whilst the Academy recognises that it can be difficult for parents and carers to park at the beginning and the end of the day when they are dropping children off or collecting them, we, and the Police, would ask that people do not park on the pavement or double yellow lines. Manor Road can be very busy and we are very worried that there will be an accident. Please can parents park a little further away from the Academy site if necessary and arrange to meet their children there instead.

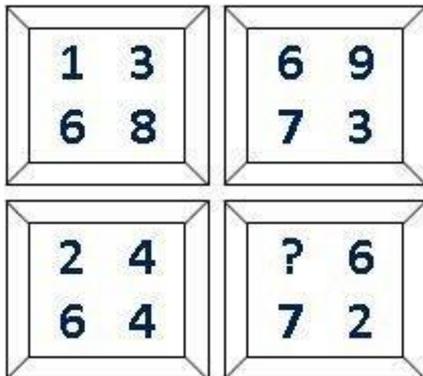


MATHS PUZZLE

This week's Maths Puzzle.....

A fair dice without any bias is thrown twice and the two numbers added together.

What is the probability that the sum of the two numbers added together is equal to 6?



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

The question mark should be replaced by the number 4.

$3 \times 6 = 18$, $9 \times 7 = 63$, $4 \times 6 = 24$ so.....

$6 \times 7 = \underline{42}$

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 9 Parent Teacher Evening will be on Thursday 28th April. Further information will be sent out to parents and carers next half term.

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