

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

With the GCSE exams almost upon us, there is, inevitably, a huge focus on Year 11 at the moment; their first examination is only a few weeks away and, in June, they will leave us and move on to college or training. Preparation for GCSEs, however, is a marathon and not a sprint and any success they achieve will be based on five year's hard work and not simply the revision and preparation they do over the next few weeks. Too often, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 think that their GCSE exams are so far away that hard work and commitment now have little bearing on attainment and achievement in two, three or four years' time. Nothing could be further from the truth and the skills, values, knowledge and understanding students gain now, will have a direct impact on the grades they will achieve in Year 11. Similarly, there is no limit to progress and success; there is no ceiling or end point that students reach in Year 11 and can then go no further. For instance, having mastered the GCSE mathematics curriculum, our most able mathematicians are now working on AS Maths, studying concepts and principles from the first year of the A Level course.

It is also really important that students understand that hard work and excellence do not come out of a tap that can be turned on and off when you feel like it. Hard work and excellence are both habits and routines that students learn and develop as they move through school. Students who think that they can just "turn it on" when they want to are ill prepared and are rarely able to.

There have been occasions recently when we have been unable to contact parents or carers during the day as phone numbers have changed. Clearly, home circumstances will change from time to time and I would ask that all parents and carers inform Student Services of any amendments to contact or personal details, so that we can update our records accordingly.

We have been sending out Newsflash for exactly a year now and I hope that you have found each edition useful and informative. This is now one of the main ways in which we keep in touch with parents and carers and we would be grateful for any comments or suggestions you may have on how we can improve your weekly news bulletin.

Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash and, on behalf of the staff, I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

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We hope you have read the detailed information you have received on planning and preparation for your GCSE exams, your “plan for success”. If you have, then you will know that we recommend you spend the equivalent of one full week, or seven days, of the Easter holidays on formal planned revision. It is important to note that a day’s revision would consist of the morning session, afternoon session and two hours in the evening.

Clearly, it is absolutely crucial that Year 11 students attend every day between now and their exams. It is particularly important that they are here on Thursday 31st March when they will receive their revision booklet and guidance on how best to use it. The information will also help you plan your revision programme for the Easter holiday.

There will also be additional study sessions at the Academy over the Easter holiday, details of which can be found in the table below. Some sessions will be for certain students only. Clearly, it is important that students take advantage of this opportunity in addition to their own personalised structured revision programme.

Date	Morning (9.30am – 12.00pm)	Afternoon (12.30pm – 3.00pm)
Mon 4 th April	French Spanish	Science (Selected students only)
Tue 5 th April	Music Geography	
Wed 6 th April	Performing Arts	
Thurs 7 th April	Dance	
Fri 8 th April	Product Design Drama Unit 2 TC Exam	Product Design Drama Unit 2 TC Exam (until 4.00pm)
Mon 11 th April	Health and Social Care	
Tue 12 th April	English	English
Wed 13 th April	Maths	
Thur 14 th April	History (until 12.30pm)	
Fri 15 th April	Drama	Drama

Checklist (as detailed in your plan for success)

- Have you thought about and decided where you are going to revise at home?
- Have you got all of the materials you will need?
- Have you organised your revision materials for each subject?

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Year 10 and Year 11 Geography students spent last weekend on the Holderness coastline in East Yorkshire looking at the coastal geomorphology of Flamborough and the Spurn Point Nature Reserve. As well as studying how the landforms were created, students learnt about the sustainable management of coastal habitats and the impact and management of coastal erosion. Everyone enjoyed the weekend and, as usual, the students were impeccably behaved. Thank you to Reece Fletcher for the photographs below.



Talented Year 10 mathematicians attend a Maths Roadshow at Salford University.

Year 8 students visit Manchester Metropolitan University as part of the Gateways programme to find out more about the opportunities and courses available through Higher Education.

Options presentations start for Year 9 students during Assembly time.

Year 10 and 11 students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre as part of their GCSE P.E. Course.

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HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

Nia Crossland Abimbola Akinwande Christelle Lukusa
Maisy Best Lisa Spencer Samantha Charlton

MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle.....

A door to door salesman is selling oranges. He goes to the first house and the resident asks for half of all the oranges he has plus half an orange. The salesman then goes up to a second house where the resident asks for half of all the oranges he has left plus half an orange. Finally, the salesman goes up to a third house where the resident asks for half of all the oranges he has left now plus half an orange. Having served the resident of the third house, the salesman has no oranges left. All of the salesman's oranges were whole oranges and he did not cut any in half throughout the day. How many oranges did the salesman start off with?



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

A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a container for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many containers did he ship?

11 containers in total (7 containers of large boxes and 4 containers of small boxes)

QUALIFYING FOR THE YEAR 11 PROM

We hope that all our Year 11 students will qualify for the Prom but, to do so, they must achieve the following criteria:

- Students must achieve 96% attendance over the remainder of Year 11, starting from week beginning Monday 7th March. This means that all students can achieve this criterion, irrespective of what their attendance was prior to 7th March.

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- Students must have no more than 5 lates over the same period.
- Students must receive no exclusions or periods in seclusion over the remainder of Year 11.
- Students must achieve more PRIDE points than Behaviour Points over the remainder of Year 11.

Year 11 students will also be able to earn money off their Prom tickets by attending Lesson 6 study sessions after school.

All Year 11 students are aware of these criteria and will be reminded about them over the remaining weeks leading up to and during the exams.

QUALIFYING FOR THE TRIP TO BLACKPOOL

To qualify for the Blackpool trip, students must achieve the following criteria:

- Either a student's overall attendance from the beginning of the academic year, in September, must be above 96%, or a student must have 100% attendance over the period from Monday 7th March to Friday 17th June. This, again, means that all students can achieve this criteria, irrespective of what their attendance was prior to 7th March.



- Students must receive no exclusions or periods in seclusion from Monday 7th March up until the trip in July.
- Students must have no more than 10 Behaviour Points (including for homework not handed in) from Monday 7th March up until the trip in July.

All students are aware of these criteria and monitor their attendance each week. **We hope that all students who wish to go, will qualify for the trip.** Year Managers will be given some discretion on attendance if an absence is absolutely beyond a student's control.

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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 9 Parent Consultation and Options Evening will be held on Thursday 28th April. Please keep your diary free for this very important evening.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will be closed for Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday on Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March respectively. As Easter is very early this year, we will not actually break up for the Easter holiday until 2.35pm on Friday 1st April.

The next meeting of the Academy Council will be on Wednesday 30th March.

There will be a trip to the Opera House on Thursday 31st March to watch a production of Chicago.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football Team who competed in the Premier League Schools' U13 Tournament, organised through Manchester City, that was held last week.

The team came joint top of their group, with Woodheys High School, with 3 wins and a draw. As Droylsden and Woodheys also had identical goal differences, the two teams had to compete in a play off fixture which ended up 0-0 at full time! This meant that the play off had to go to a "Golden Goal" which unfortunately Woodheys scored five minutes into extra time. Woodheys went on to finish as runners-up in the whole competition which went to show just how well the Droylsden team had played. Well done to all the squad, you were absolutely amazing and very unlucky!



The team included, from left to right, Sian Halkyard (Captain), Kenzie-Leigh Bentley, Ellie Rushby and Dom Larkin on the back row and Mia Eccles, Sana Subhani and Nicole Mulvey on the front row.



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There will be two Girls Soccer Schools, organised through Manchester City, that will run over the Easter Holidays for any girls who are interested.

The first will be held at the Manchester City Football Academy from Monday 4th April to Thursday 7th April.

The second will also be held at the Academy, but during the second week of the holiday from Monday 11th April to Friday 15th April.

Both Soccer Schools will be held on the Community Pitch. Access to the Community Pitch is via Wilson Street, postcode M11 3BS.

The Soccer School is open to girls aged 6 to 16 and will run from 2.00pm to 4.00pm each day.

The event is free of charge.

To book a place on either course please email hannah.hipkin-steele@cityfootball.com or call 0161 438 7844.



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