

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the final Newsflash of the Spring Term.

It has been another busy term at the Academy with lots of events and activities taking place including visits to the theatre, residential weekends away, Field Trips and sporting competitions. At the time of writing, a group of students are on their way to the Palace Theatre to watch a production of 'Chicago' and another group of Year 10 students are preparing for their trip to Frankfurt where they will study German Business and Commerce as part of their GCSE Business Studies Course. This trip leaves tomorrow, Friday, and I hope that they will have an interesting and enjoyable visit.

As well as trips and visits, the Academy continues to offer a full weekly extra-curricular programme of activities that students can join in with, whether that be STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Expressive Arts, Sport, Gardening Club, Bike Club or the Duke of Edinburgh Award. A full list of extra-curricular activities for the Summer Term will appear in the first edition of Newsflash after the Easter break.

Anyone who watched the Academy production of 'Singing in the Rain' last December will know that we have outstanding provision for the Performing Arts and some very talented students. A decision on our next production had been eagerly awaited and it was finally announced this week that, this year, the Academy will perform 'Billy Elliott'. Interest in the Performing Arts at the Academy is huge and it was no surprise that around 200 students waited in the Atrium after school to watch the countdown to the announcement on the big screen. 'Billy Elliott' will be another really challenging show to produce and perform but, as with 'Singing in the Rain' and 'Evita' and 'Les Miserables' before this, I am sure it will be another outstanding success which will really showcase the talents of our students. Auditions and rehearsals start straight after the Easter holiday and I would like to wish everyone involved the very best of luck.

As well as the Academy extra-curricular programme, staff continue to provide a range of additional study sessions before and after school and at lunchtime. There are formal timetabled after school sessions for literacy and numeracy and, of course, 'Lesson 6' provision for Year 11 students every evening. There is another programme of study support which will run for Year 11 students over the Easter holiday and further details can be found inside this edition of Newsflash.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff who offer additional 'out of hours' provision and encourage all students to get involved.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash. I hope all our students have had a successful term at the Academy and look forward to seeing them again after the Easter holiday.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

All students will have received their revision booklet this week. Please look through the booklet with your child and encourage him/her to follow the advice and guidance it contains.

As you will know, your 'plan for success' recommends that 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.

There will 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

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Checklist (as detailed in your plan for success)

By now, you should have:

- thought about and decided where you are going to revise at home;
- collected together everything you will need; and
- organised your revision materials for each subject.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 7 students visit Lancaster University, as part of the Excel programme, and attend their first lecture!



Year 10 students compete in the STEM Challenge (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) against other local high schools.

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Students from the Academy visit the Palace Theatre to watch a production of 'Chicago'.

Options presentations continue 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.

The Academy holds Standardisation and Moderation meetings to consider the work of Year 7 and Year 10 students.

Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students visit Frankfurt to get first-hand experience of German Business and Commerce.

MATHS' CHALLENGE

The Academy's first Maths' Challenge will take place on Friday 22nd April for Year 7 students. Mr Tiley will lead the team from the X Half Year and Miss Toseland will lead the team from the Y Half Year, with the students having one opportunity to "phone a friend", a non-Maths or Science Teacher, in the audience if they need help. As well as playing for the trophy, the students will be crowned Maths' Champions for their half year and inducted into the Academy's Maths' Hall of Fame and, as honours go, they don't get much **bigger** than that!



The quiz will be repeated with all Years Groups and, along with our regular Quiz Master, Mr Swingler, we hope that students and staff from across the Academy will come along to watch and support the event too!

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HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Comments from parents and carers:

I am happy with the homework my child receives and feel that written homework is important in preparing him for his GCSE studies and exams.

The Student Planner works well for my son.

I love the 'ShowMyHomework' app and, with a Year 9 son who would happily overlook his homework, I find it invaluable.

MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle.....

Aaron is doing a Maths exam.

The exam is $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours long.

When Aaron asks his Maths teacher how long there is to go, his teacher tells him that the number of minutes left is equivalent to one fifth of the time that has already gone.

How long had Aaron been doing the exam and how long is left?



And the answer to last 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?

The salesman had 7 oranges. He gave the first resident 4 oranges, half of all the oranges he had ($3\frac{1}{2}$) + $\frac{1}{2}$ an orange, leaving him with 3 oranges. He gave the second resident 2 oranges, half of all the oranges he had left ($1\frac{1}{2}$) + $\frac{1}{2}$ an orange, leaving him with 1 orange. He gave the third and final resident the 1 remaining orange, half of all the oranges he had left ($\frac{1}{2}$ an orange) + $\frac{1}{2}$ an orange!

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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 close for the Easter Holiday at 2.35pm on Friday 1st April and re-open on Monday 18th April at the usual time of 8.30am.

The Academy will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd May.

There will be a Geography weekend residential Field Trip to the Yorkshire Coast on Friday 22nd April.

Year 8 Exams will be held in week beginning Monday 9th May.

Year 7 Exams will be held in week beginning Monday 23rd May.

Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held on Thursday 26th May. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

The Expressive Arts Department are proud to announce that the next Academy production will be.....



Audition packs are now available.

Workshops and auditions for the Lead Roles will take place on Saturday 30th April.

Audition for the Chorus will take place on Tuesday 3rd May.

The Production will be performed on:

- Monday 5th December
- Tuesday 6th December
- Wednesday 7th December
- Thursday 8th December

Good luck to all the students and staff who will be involved with the production!

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