

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the first edition of Newsflash for the new term. I hope that staff and students enjoyed the Easter break and have returned refreshed and invigorated for the challenges and hard work ahead.

A critical term

The summer term really is a critical one for all of our students. The Year 11 cohort will, of course, be taking their GCSE examinations, qualifications which will ultimately dictate the future opportunities open to them when they leave Droylsden and take their next step into Further Education and training. Year 10 students are approaching the half way point on their GCSE courses and must ensure that they are up to date and well prepared for their final year in September; they cannot afford to start next year playing 'catch-up', there will be too much to do and they must ensure that they have a clear understanding of everything they have covered so far. Year 9 students will be choosing their GCSE options and Year 7 and Year 8 students will be taking their school examinations, the results of which will influence the teaching sets that they will be placed in when they move up a year group in September. Similarly, our younger students must remember that preparing for future success is a marathon and not a sprint and that hard work and commitment, and the knowledge, skills and habits they gain now, will have a direct impact on their GCSE results in two, three and four years' time respectively.

Congratulations

I would like to personally congratulate the Year 10 STEM Team (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) who came runners-up in the recent Tameside STEM Mathematics Challenge. The event involved teams from 14 Tameside High Schools and included complex 'A Level' standard Maths challenges as well as other academically demanding activities. Further information about the event can be found inside this edition of Newsflash.

The basics

The start of any new term is always a good time to remind students, parents and carers of the basics, the fundamental requirements and expectations of the Academy. Attendance is, of course, absolutely crucial and unfortunately a minority, though too many, of our students are still allowed to stay off for no good reason. Parents and carers who allow their children to stay off are not helping them; they are placing them at a huge disadvantage and limiting their future prospects and opportunities. High standards of uniform are now the 'norm' at the Academy and I would like to

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

thank parents and carers for the crucial part they have played in ensuring that their children arrive at school correctly dressed and well prepared. Similarly, I would like to remind all our students of our key values of politeness, hard work and honesty, the qualities that underpin everything we do.

Positive feedback

I always enjoy taking visitors around the Academy; I am proud of our students and the progress that we have made. I am also interested in any comments or feedback that I get, or any ideas that other people may have, things that we may possibly not have thought about. This week I took the Headteachers of New Charter Academy and West Hill around the Academy and was really pleased by their comments and observations. They were impressed by how polite our students were, the calm and purposeful learning environment and the quality of the lessons they watched; whilst this was not unexpected, it is always encouraging to have your views and perceptions endorsed by others.

Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 3 school weeks left, just 15 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Staff hope that you found the Easter holiday study programme useful and that you are now revising hard for your forthcoming GCSE examinations.

**All students received a detailed and comprehensive revision booklet at the end of last term.
Please encourage your child to follow the advice and guidance it contains.**

Remember, attendance at school every day is absolutely crucial.

By now, you will have:

- a dedicated and appropriate space for revision;
- all of the materials you need to support the various revision strategies and techniques you will use;
- all of your revision materials collated and organised by subject; and
- a clear revision plan or timetable which you are following to ensure that you are spending the appropriate amount of time on different topics and subjects.

... and most importantly you will now be revising for 2 to 3 hours every evening. Remember, this is not a punishment; it is an opportunity to be fully prepared and to shine.

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IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Academy becomes a member of NACE, the National Association for Able Children in Education, and gets access to a range of resources which will support the learning of students in the Excel groups.



The Year 11 GCSE Drama group perform 'Into Thin Air' a piece they have devised and produced themselves. The play is based on the consequences of 'forced disappearances' within a dictatorship regime. All proceeds from the performance are, appropriately, being donated to Amnesty International.



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 and progress of Year 10 students.

Year 9 students visit La Tasca, a restaurant in Manchester, and sample the delights of Spanish Tapas to complement their learning in Languages.

Year 11 Geography students visit the Yorkshire Coast on a residential Field Trip.



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THE TAMESIDE STEM CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 30th March, Mr Swinger took a Droylsden team of Year 10 Excel students to Fairfield High School to compete in the Tameside STEM Mathematics Challenge. STEM is a national organisation promoting excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The Droylsden team, consisting of Monique Brindley, Charlotte Houston, Ellie Jones and Elizabeth Le, competed against teams from the other 14 Tameside High Schools and, collectively, the students gathered together represented the most able Mathematicians from across the Borough. **The challenge was tough, with many of the questions of 'A Level' standard, and the competition fierce, but by the end of the day the Droylsden team had proven worthy competitors finishing in 2nd place overall, an outstanding performance.** Well done to the team; we are really proud of you and look forward to seeing you on University Challenge next!



MATHS' CHALLENGE

Remember, 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!



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HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Homework helps develop great habits of self-discipline, self-management, self-motivation and independent learning, vital skills which students need at GCSE, A Level, University and beyond.

Our parents have said:

"Show my homework is useful for my daughter as she is able to review and download any worksheets from the site although I prefer to check her Planner."

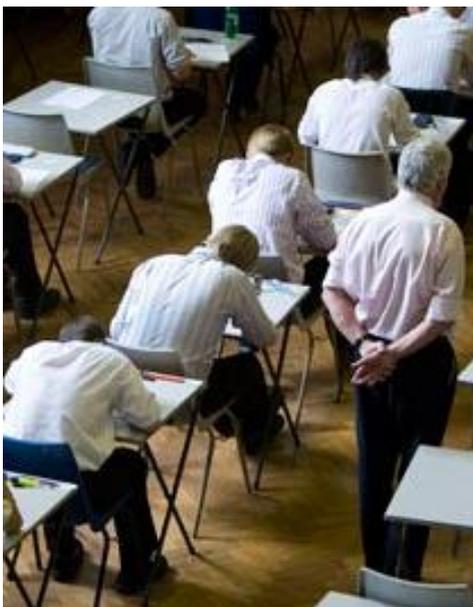
"My son has quite a lot of homework to do but I appreciate the reasons for this."

"My son will ask for help with his homework which gives me the chance to get involved and show an interest in his learning."

MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle.....

You are catching a train from Stockport station to Manchester Piccadilly. A train leaves for Piccadilly every 55 minutes. A man on the platform tells you that the last train left 17 minutes ago and the next train will leave at 9.40am. At what time did the man tell you this?



and the answer to last 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?

If the exam is 90 minutes long then this should be divided up into 6 parts, the 5 fifths of the time already gone and the time remaining, equivalent to 1 fifth of the time gone, which is still to go! 90 minutes divided by 6 is 15 minutes so there is **15 minutes** of the exam left.

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BILLY ELLIOT



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.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 9 Parent Consultation and Options Evening will be held on Thursday 28th April. Please contact Student Services if you need any help in making your appointments with your child's teachers through PTO (Parent Teacher On-line) on the Academy website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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.

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