

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to this week's edition of Newsflash.

### **Second best?**

You may remember that in last week's edition of Newsflash I referred to a report that identified white British boys from 'disadvantaged' backgrounds as those students who were least likely to succeed academically and go onto University although, in terms of ability, they were just as able and bright as their peers from different cultures or social backgrounds. The report went on to suggest that many boys lack the routines and habits, aspirations, attitude and commitment to succeed and that girls are now 75% more likely to go on to Higher Education.

Similarly, national data continues to show that far fewer students from inner city schools go on to compete for the top jobs, something that I have found so frustrating throughout my teaching career. I have always worked in and around Manchester and have been fortunate to teach and work with outstanding students who are as bright and talented as any you will find in any school anywhere in the country. These students should be tomorrow's Managing Directors, Research Scientists, Lawyers, Doctors, Professors, Dentists, Architects and Chief Executives, yet too often they settle for second best.

### **Aspirations**

At the Academy, we will continue to do everything we can to raise the aspirations of all our students; we want them to know and understand that they are as good as anyone. Clearly, parents and carers have a key role to play too; talking to your children about career opportunities, finding out about what subjects and grades they need and encouraging them to aim high are all crucial if they are to achieve their potential. If your child has the aptitude and ability to go to University, encourage them to start considering this option now and don't be put off by tuition fees and loans which are only paid back when a graduate is in permanent and well paid employment.

### **Your qualifications are for life, not just for today.**

Sometimes students think that they already have a job lined up for when they leave school, something that Mum or Dad or a relative has managed to arrange for them, or maybe a promise from an employer if they already have a part time job, and, as such, don't always see the point of achieving good GCSE grades as they won't need them. Sadly, many of these opportunities don't materialise or, if they do, future opportunities or promotions are put on hold when the application

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forms filled in years later ask for higher grades In English, Maths and other subjects. Similarly, in a growing culture of celebrity and instant fame, many young people mistakenly believe that unrealistic and misguided dreams of fame and fortune will come true when, in reality, the stark truth is that great qualifications and a genuine work ethic are the real ingredients for success.

Increasingly, young adults are choosing to go to University in their twenties, students who, at sixteen, never thought that they would need their school qualifications. Those students who take this pathway are grateful that they worked hard and succeeded at school even though, at that time, A Levels and University were never considered as an option.

We want all our students to understand that their GCSE qualifications are for ever and, once achieved, they cannot be taken away from them. Qualifications really do open doors throughout your life even if you don't think you need them at sixteen.

Thank you for reading Newsflash and, as usual, I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

**Year 10, there are only 38 school weeks left, just 190 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

Year 11, we hope that your first week of exams have gone well. The exam timetable for next week is detailed in the table below:

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	8.15am	English Literature Paper 1 (Foundation and Higher)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	8.15am	Textiles
	1.15pm	Geography Paper 1 (Foundation and Higher)
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	8.15am	Applied Business
	1.15pm	Core Science Physics (Foundation and Higher)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	8.15am	Edexcel Maths KMAO Paper 1 Calculator (Foundation)
	8.15am	Edexcel Maths IMAO Paper 1 Non Calculator (Foundation and Higher)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	8.15am	English Literature Paper 2 (Foundation and Higher)

**The Booster timetable is now in place and it is compulsory that students attend every day.** The Booster lessons will provide crucial help and support before each exam. The Booster programme will also ensure that alternative lessons are timetabled as students complete their examinations in some subject areas; these alternative lessons will focus on the remaining subjects that students still have to take so 100% attendance is not only compulsory but also essential to ensure that each child is well prepared.

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Study sessions will run over the half term holiday as detailed in the table below. Students must attend these sessions; they are essential preparation for the GCSE papers that follow. Some sessions are for selected students only. These students will be invited and will know who they are.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning session (9.30am – 12.00pm)</b>	<b>Afternoon session (12.30pm – 3.00pm)</b>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Additional and Triple Science (Selected students only)	Triple Science
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Maths	History
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	English	Music and Dance
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Geography	

#### IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Students taking the Duke of Edinburgh Award complete their practice expedition in the White Peaks near Bakewell. The expedition started on Friday and finished on Sunday with students on the Silver Award walking for 30km complete with rucksacks, tents and camping equipment. As part of the expedition, the students walked through the grounds of the magnificent Chatsworth House.



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Students taking Performing Arts visit the Palace Theatre to watch a production of Mamma Mia.

'Positive Steps' hold their first in a series of Careers Advice Drop in Sessions. The sessions will now run every Wednesday and advice will be available for students from all year groups.

GCSE students continue their preparation for their forthcoming practical assessments at the Manchester Climbing Centre.

An Options Presentation is held for Year 8 students to outline the subject choices they have for next year in Humanities, Languages and the Performing Arts.



### HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

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

Oliver McLaren	Mia Eccles	Liam Noakes	Amina Subhani
Sophie Anderson	Natalie Comer	Thomas Clarke	James Cooke

### 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:

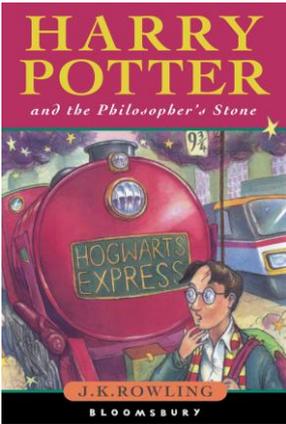
*"My son's attitude to homework has really improved this year. At the beginning of the year I had to check his Planner all the time and even then I used to get texts about detentions for not handing homework in. Now he has a really good routine at home and does his homework as soon as he gets in and there are no more texts from his Year Manager. Although I still check his Planner and the on-line website it is more to look at what he has been learning about rather than checking up on him."*

*"I think the MyMaths website is excellent. The fact that it marks the work straight away really motivates my son. He likes to show me and his Dad when he gets a good mark."*

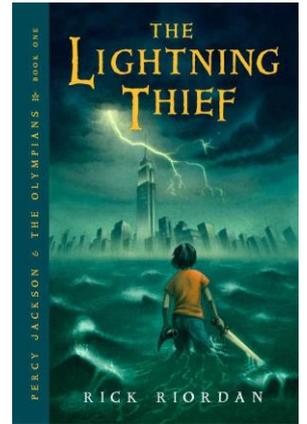
*"The Planner and the website help my daughter to prioritise her work which is really important on busy homework weeks."*

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## THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!



The Library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair last week with a number of English classes from Years 7 and 8 taking part in a range of activities. Year 7 students took part in a competition to either design a book cover for a made up story, or to redesign and improve the cover for their favourite book. Congratulations to Lilly Grailey (7R), Lewis McGann (7O), Macy Lloyd (7R), Aeisha Black (7R) and Phoebe Plant (7L), the five winners who each received a £5 book voucher to spend at the Book Fair. The winning designs, and designs by other students who also took part, will be on display in the Library until the end of July.



**Encouraging a child to develop excellent literacy skills through a love of reading is probably one of the single most important things that a parent can do to support their child's learning and progress.**

## 'DROYLSDEN BETTER TOGETHER'

January 2011 saw the whole community come together for the first *'Droylsden Better Together'* event held at the Academy.

The event, recognised as one of the biggest and best events of its kind in Tameside, will be running again this year on Saturday 18th June from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

The focus this year will be on raising awareness of activities and opportunities that are available across the whole community and there will be lots of fun things to do on the day.

We hope that as many local community groups and projects as possible will get involved and that the opportunity to promote themselves will lead to increased take-up and participation by Droylsden residents.

If you are a community group or project and would like to attend, please email Ms Williams on [cwilliams@droylsdenacademy.com](mailto:cwilliams@droylsdenacademy.com) to confirm your place.

## ATTENDANCE REALLY DOES MATTER

Last week, attendance across the Academy stood at 94.6% with 714 students having 100% attendance. This, of course, means that the remaining 140 students did not attend every session and missed out on crucial learning. Clearly many of these students will have been off for genuine reasons and through no fault of their own but, unfortunately, attendance patterns would indicate that some parents regularly allow their child to take time off for no good reason.

- Attendance is **always** lower on a Friday than any other day of the week. There are no more germs about on a Friday than there are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday so why does attendance drop on Friday each week?

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- Attendance is **always** down at the Academy on mornings when it is wet. We can only assume that some parents allow their child to stay off because it is raining.
- Some students, routinely, have one or two days off each week; if one of these students has attended from Monday to Thursday, we know that he or she will probably be off on Friday. We can only assume that these parents allow their child to have a day off every week.
- Children with poor attendance are rarely in on the last day or two before we break up for a holiday or before and after a bank holiday. We can look at a child's attendance record and almost predict who will be in and who will be absent.
- Some children will take a full day off for a routine dental or medical appointment.

If any of the above apply to you, and you are allowing your child to stay off for no good reason, then you are neglecting their education and putting his or her future life chances at risk.

If none of the above apply to you and you are doing everything you can to ensure your child's attendance and progress then we would like to thank you for your support. In due course, your child will also thank you for ensuring that he or she had every opportunity to learn and succeed.

Attendance and Punctuality awards are now given out each week to Form Groups across each year. Congratulation to 8E and 8R who won the respective trophies for their year group last week.



## MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle.....

Jack and Jill have 3 children. The product of their ages is 72 and the sum of their ages is 14. The eldest child helps look after the other two. How old are the 3 children?

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



Joe buys a bike from Ebay for £80 and then sells it to his friend Billy for £90. Two months later, Joe buys the bike back from Billy for £105. Later that year Joe sells the bike, again, to Chris, another friend, for £115. How much profit has Joe made altogether and what % profit does this represent on his original purchase from Ebay.

Joe makes £20, a 25% profit on his original purchase!

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## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Year 7 Exams will be held next week, the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Parents and carers should have all received a letter about the evening. Please contact Student Services if you have not received a letter or if you have any problems making your appointments through PTO, the on-line booking system.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will break up for the Whit half term break on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Rewards Trip to Blackpool will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Congratulations to the Year 7/8 Girls Football Team and the Year 9/10 Girls Football Team who finished off a brilliant season in style by beating Astley Sports College 5 – 0 and 12 – 9 respectively!



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