

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

Year 10

Year 10 students may have noticed that, last week, their year group featured, for the first time, in the GCSE Countdown section of Newsflash. Indeed, if they look over the page of this edition, then they will see that they now have just 37 weeks in school until their first exam. Whilst 37 weeks may seem like a long time, it will go like a flash and, before they know where they are, they too will be sitting in the Sports Hall taking their final and formal GCSE examinations.

The final year is a tough one and Year 10 students will not have the time to play 'catch-up' if they have fallen behind. As such, they must ensure that they finish this academic year with all their controlled assessments and coursework up to date, and completed to the best of their ability, and that they have a clear knowledge and understanding of the work they have covered. Similarly, they must prepare thoroughly for their Pre Public Exams in June. Year 10 students who prepare and revise thoroughly now are investing in their success in 2017.

As we often tell the students, preparation for GCSE success is a marathon and not a last minute sprint; students achieve success through hard work over time and not just over the last few weeks of Year 11.

Student numbers

Next year, over 180 students will be joining us in the new Year 7 intake. This is a significant increase on previous years and I hope that it represents and reflects our growing reputation within the local community. Similarly, we have admitted an extra 75 students throughout the year so far and not a week goes past without further application and transfer requests arriving by email or through the post. I hope that all our new students have settled well and I look forward to meeting the new Year 7 intake on our Induction Days in July.

Half term break

As parents and carers will be aware, the Whit half term holiday for high schools, unlike some primaries, is only a week long. **We break up today, Friday 27th May, and all students should return to school for the usual time of 8.30am on Monday 6th June.** I hope that all of our students enjoy their week off.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Similarly, with the Bank Holiday approaching, I hope that all parents and carers enjoy the weekend too and that Droylsden gets a little bit of sunshine.

Thank you for your support over this last half term and I look forward to seeing all our students after the Whit half term break.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 10, there are only 37 school weeks left, just 185 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Year 11, we hope that your first two weeks of exams have gone well. The exam timetable for the first week back after the half term break is detailed in the table below:

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 6 th June	8.15am	History: Medicine and Public Health
Tuesday 7 th June	8.15am	English Language (Foundation and Higher)
Wednesday 8 th June	8.15am	Computing: Computer Systems and Programming
	8.15am	Computer Science
	1.15pm	Geography Paper 2 (Foundation and Higher)
Thursday 9 th June	8.15am	Edexcel Maths KMAO Paper 2 Calculator (Foundation)
	8.15am	Edexcel Maths IMAO Paper 2 Calculator (Foundation and Higher)
Friday 10 th June	8.15am	Additional Science Biology (Foundation and Higher)
	1.15pm	Music

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.

Date	Morning session (9.30am – 12.00pm)	Afternoon session (12.30pm – 3.00pm)
Tuesday 31 st May	Additional and Triple Science (Selected students only)	Triple Science
Wednesday 1 st June	Maths	History
Thursday 2 nd June	English	Music and Dance
Friday 3 rd June	Geography	

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IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

A group of students from Year 8 visit the Heritage Centre at Quarry Bank Mill as part of their History course.



The Academy holds a standardisation and moderation week to look at the work and progress of students in Year 8.

The Academy holds Parent Teacher Consultation Evening for the parents and carers of students in Year 8.

Members of the Academy Girls Football Teams go to watch the Premiership game between Manchester City Ladies and Liverpool Ladies.

Year 7 students sit their end of year exams.

GCSE PE students visit the Manchester Climbing Centre to continue preparation for their practical assessments.

Students from Years 7 and 9 take part in a community Chess tournament at Broadoak Community Centre.

The Academy breaks up for the Whitsun Half Term holiday.

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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:

Rio Harrison Nathan Harris Amelia Hutton Anisha Joshi
Andy Ambatobe Rebecca Maguire Emily Beswick

THE MATHS' BATTLE CONTINUES!

Can you:

make q the subject of this equation $a(q - c) = d$?

estimate the value of $\frac{302 \times 9.96}{0.51}$?

simplify $(9a^6)^{\frac{1}{2}}$?



The Academy Maths' Battle continued last Friday evening with students from Year 9 competing for the pride and honour of their respective Half Year Groups! After the Year 7 and Year 8 Maths' Battles, the score stood at one win to the X Half Year Group and one win to the Y Half Year Group so everything was to play for!

Congratulations to the Y Half Year Team made up of Jamie Rawson, Connor Nicholson, Jack Phillips, Mohammed Awais, David Hampson and Momin Tahir on a magnificent victory by 10 points



..... and commiserations to the X Half Year Team made up of Malachai Radcliffe, James Hesketh, Thomas Thornley, Bart Olejniczak, Paige Hayes and Alban Malaj who put up a great performance and were unlucky to lose.

The next Maths' Battle will be on Friday 8th June when the X Half Year Group from Year 10 will attempt to level the scores!

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POSITIVE STEPS

Remember 'Positive Steps' are now holding Careers Advice drop-in sessions every Wednesday lunch time. The sessions are open to students from all year groups so why not go along and find out about courses and careers which may be of interest to you?

HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Homework allows students to reinforce and consolidate on learning in the class room. It ensures that they understand what they have covered in school and gives their teacher valuable feedback.

Our parents have said:

"I often talk with my children about the homework they are doing and ask them to explain it to me. I find this really useful as I can check whether they understand the work they are covering or not. If they don't understand the homework or can't do it, then it probably means that they haven't understood what they did in the lesson. If it is a subject that I know something about, I will try and help them but if I can't then I write a note for their teacher in their Planner."

"The MyMaths website is really good for checking that my son understands what he is doing in school. As the website marks the work straight away I know whether he has got the right answers or not. If he has got a few wrong, I encourage him to look at the examples and try again."

'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.

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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 to confirm your place.

ATTENDANCE REALLY DOES MATTER

Last week:

attendance across the Academy stood at 94.8%, up from 94.6% the week before;

718 students had 100% attendance, up from 714 the week before; and

attendance in Year 7 stood at 96.3% and in Year 11 at 98.2%.

At 93.6%, attendance across the Academy was, again, lower on Friday than any other day of the week. This suggests that some parents do not encourage or insist that their child attends on a Friday or they feel that the learning taking place on this day is not as important.

Please remember that the half term break is only one week long. All students are due back in on Monday 6th June, even if their younger brothers or sisters who attend Primary School are still on holiday.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Please sign your child's Planner each week and use the 'Show My Homework' website to check on the work that has been set.

Please remember not to park on double yellow lines or obstruct driveways if you are collecting students from the Academy at the end of the day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a theatre visit to see a production of 'The 39 Steps' at the Lowry Theatre on Wednesday 22nd June.

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 1st July.

The Rewards Trip to Blackpool will be held on Monday 18th July.

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The Sky Sports Ambassador Visit

On Thursday this week, the Year 7 and 8 'A Team' students had a mentoring session with two of our Sky Sports Ambassadors, Sophie Cox and Jenna Downing. Sophie is a two times Judo Olympian representing Team GB in Athens 2004 and London 2012. Jenna was World Inline Skating Champion in 2008, is an X-Games Silver Medallist and has been British Champion on ten occasions! The students had a brilliant morning with these elite athletes who shared their success stories and offered advice as well as leading on some really enjoyable team building games!



Let's Play Volleyball!



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Last Friday, the Droylsden Academy Volleyball Club took part in the 'Let's Play Volleyball' Greater Manchester Tournament at Leigh Sports Village, a competition involving around 50 teams. The Under 15 Girls Team finished in fourth place, narrowly missing out on the Bronze medal. The Under 13 Girls A Team were narrowly beaten 26-24 in the Quarter Finals with the B Team being knocked out in the First Round. All the girls played some excellent Volleyball, demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship and were a credit to the Academy, well done girls!



Girls Judo Club

There will be a Girls Judo Club starting after half term. The Club will run every Tuesday night after school and will be open to girls from all year groups. The sessions will take place in the Dance studio and students must bring full PE kit. Why not come along and try a new sport!