

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

Our place in the community

I am delighted to report that our new intake for next September is full and that, for the first time since the Academy opened, the new Year 7 cohort will be oversubscribed. This clearly reflects the progress we are making, improved achievement and attainment and our growing reputation. I am really pleased that we are gaining the trust, respect and support of our community and I hope that the Academy will become the school of choice for all local families.

We need to work together to continue to improve our school and to celebrate the best in our young people. Their future and self-esteem depend on our co-operation and good will. I wish the very best to all Year 9 and 10 students who are about to begin their end of year examinations (please see below for the Exam Timetable). It is imperative that each Year 9 and 10 student revises well at home.

Young people when under the care of parents

Recently we have received reports of anti-social behaviour in the town. The conduct in the community of children in the evening is the specific responsibility of parents and carers and, at the Academy, we will always support parents in ensuring good conduct at all times and take our responsibilities in this regard very seriously, indeed. It is important for the children and the town that every single parent does the same.

Sadly, there remains a perception sometimes that the young people involved must always be from Droylsden Academy. For example, following complaints from the community about an incident that happened during half term, we identified that two of the group present were our students and that the other young people involved were all from other schools. This is of course two students too many and, although neither were directly involved in the trouble, both have been dealt with accordingly and parents have been involved in helping to resolve the issues. Similarly, assemblies have been held for all year groups to remind students of our responsibilities to our community and how the actions of a few can impact on the reputations of the many.

As you know, the vast majority of the children who attend Droylsden Academy work hard, behave extremely well and are fine young citizens and it is important that they are recognised for being so and are able to feel proud of who they are and where they are from. It is equally important that all

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those fantastic parents who are doing a terrific job in setting a great example for their sons and daughters are also recognised for their good work. We are keen to point out, also, that the vast majority of parents use social media very responsibly and set a great example to their children. Sadly, a small minority do not. Deep down we all know that the conduct and behaviour of our children is our responsibility as parents and, as parents, it is important that we don't just look around for others to blame.

As a school, we always take reports of anti-social behaviour very seriously and will always support the local police in investigating any disturbance as we absolutely recognise our moral responsibility to work with and support the community. We deal severely with any child who is reported to us for damaging the reputation of the town or the school whilst out in the evening.

It is worth remembering, however, **that the majority of older children of school age from the area attend other High Schools** and are not Droylsden Academy students. If you hear of anti-social behaviour in the area, please do not assume that Droylsden Academy students are involved. If you think they may be Droylsden Academy children please inform us immediately and directly so that we can inform parents and ensure poor behaviour is resolved. We wish to help. If you know that the children attend other local high schools in Tameside or Manchester please inform those schools immediately. The town needs its citizens and local schools to work together for the common good. It would be quite wrong if our reputation and standing, which students, parents, governors and staff have worked so hard to improve, was damaged by the actions of a minority of children (especially when they actually go to different schools). It would be even worse if the reputations of families who work so well with us at the Academy were damaged in this way.

As I say, if they go to Droylsden Academy the school and parents will deal with any transgression reported to us. I am sure the same will be true of other schools.

Year 8 Parent Teacher Evening

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended Year 8 Parent Teacher Evening last week. We hope you found the evening useful and informative. Thank you also to those parents and carers who completed our questionnaires and for the positive feedback you gave us. A summary of the results of the questionnaire can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 10, there are only 36 school weeks left, just 180 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

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

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 13 th June	1.15pm	Catering
Tuesday 14 th June	1.15pm	History: The American West
Wednesday 15 th June	1.15pm	Additional Science Chemistry (Foundation and Higher)
Thursday 16 th June	8.15am	Italian (Foundation/Higher)
	8.15am	Punjabi (Foundation)
Friday 17 th June	8.15am	Additional Science Physics (Foundation and Higher)
	1.15pm	Health and Social Care
	1.15pm	Russian

The Booster timetable is now in place and it is compulsory that students attend. The Booster programme will focus on the remaining subjects that students still have to take so 100% attendance is compulsory. The Booster lessons will provide crucial help and support before each exam.

Students should now only attend school for Booster lessons, and for the exams themselves, and should work independently at home at other times. It is important that students sign in at Reception when they arrive at the Academy for the compulsory Booster lessons.

When working independently at home, it is important that your child remains focussed on their revision so that they achieve the best grades possible in their remaining exams.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Students from the 'Activate' Mountain Bike after school club try out their skills on the specially designed course at Phillips Park.



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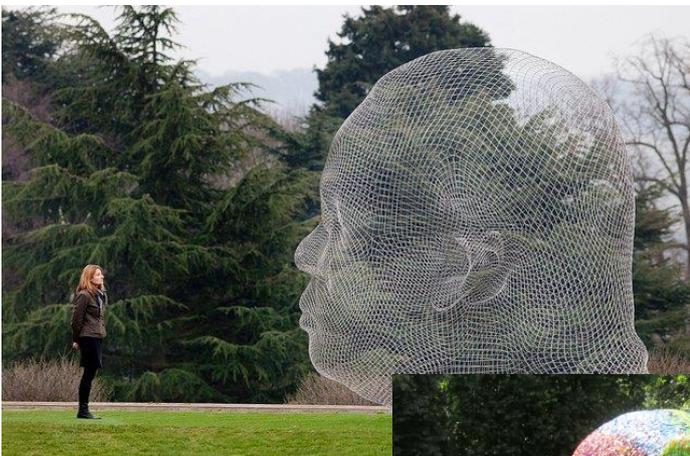
The Academy holds a standardisation and moderation week to consider the work and progress of students in Year 7.



Students taking the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award prepare for their expeditions to the Dark Peaks near Edale this weekend.

Rehearsals continue for Billy Elliot and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Year 10 students studying GCSE Photography visit the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to source subjects and ideas for their controlled assessments and coursework.



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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:

Nathalie Paulsson Daniel Gilligan Sophie Frampton-Day Oilver Elsworth
Molly Palmer Harry Wright Jack Kelly Tekiatou Sanni

YEAR 9 AND 10 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

The Timetable for the **Year 10** pre-public summer examinations is detailed below:

Date	Time	Exam
Tuesday 14 th June	9.00am	Business
	9.00am	Health and Social Care
	9.00am	Music
Wednesday 15 th June	9.00am	Science 'Walking Talking' Preparation Paper (Higher)
	11.00am	Dance
	11.00am	Sport (Written)
Thursday 16 th June	11.00am	French and Spanish Reading Papers
	1.30pm	Product Design
	1.30pm	Computing
	1.30pm	Catering
Monday 20 th June	11.00am	Science 'Walking Talking' Preparation Paper (Foundation)
	1.30pm	Science
Tuesday 21 st June	11.00am	Maths Paper 1 (Non-calculator)
	1.30pm	Geography
Wednesday 22 nd June	11.00am	Maths Paper 2 (Calculator)
Thursday 23 rd June	9.00am	Maths Paper 3 (Calculator)
	11.00am	English
	1.30pm	History
Friday 24 th June	11.00am	Spanish Listening
	1.30pm	French Listening

The Timetable for the **Year 9** pre-public summer examinations is detailed below:

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 13 th June	9.00am	Maths Paper 1
	11.00am	English Paper 1
Tuesday 14 th June	11.00am	English Paper 2
Friday 17 th June	11.00am	Maths Paper 2

We hope that all parents will encourage their child to revise and prepare thoroughly for these important examinations.

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PREFECTS

With all the Prefect applications now in, interviews are taking place for those students who have been shortlisted for this important role. Further interviews for the position of Head Boy and Girl will also take place in subsequent weeks. Prefects will take up their new role as of September. Good luck to the many Year 10 students who have expressed an interest in becoming a Droylsden Academy Prefect.



YEAR 8 PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

The Academy would like to thank those parents who attended Year 8 Parent Teacher Evening last week. Altogether 102 students out of a total of 141 were represented by parents or carers on the night, a turn-out of 72%. Feedback would suggest that the evening was very useful for parents, students and staff.

Of the parents who filled in an Academy questionnaire during the evening:

- 92% of them agreed that their child enjoys school and was happy at the Academy;
- 100% felt that their child was safe and well looked after;
- 92% felt that their child was making good progress;
- 92% felt that their child was taught well;
- 100% felt that behaviour was good;
- 100% felt that they are kept well informed by the Academy and know what is going on; and
- 100% would feel comfortable about contacting the Academy if they had any concerns.

We were also pleased that 100% of respondents stated that they would recommend the Academy to other people if they were asked for their view.

Whilst the Academy is pleased that 72% of parents and carers were able to attend, and appreciate the phone calls and emails from the parents who genuinely couldn't come, we are concerned and disappointed that 39 of our students were not represented at such an important evening where progress, attainment, strengths and learning areas for development were discussed with subject teachers. Evidence clearly shows that students who are actively supported in their education by parents who attend such events as Parent Teacher Evenings do much better.

HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Homework allows parents to get involved in their child's learning and encourage them to take pride in what they are doing.

"I always talk to my son about what he is doing for his homework and ask him to explain things to me. If he has got a learning homework where he has to remember things for a test, I always offer to test him to see how he has got on."

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"I usually check my child's homework when he has finished to see if he has done it as well as he can. I also look at other work he has done in his book and compare it to make sure the homework has been done properly and not just dashed off. Now that he knows I will check, it is usually done well first time."

MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle.....

You visit a classic wine shop in Manchester to taste the three most popular wines that they sell. The three wines include a very expensive French wine which costs £50 a bottle, a cheaper German wine which costs £10 a bottle and a very reasonably priced bottle of Spanish wine which costs just 50p a bottle! The Spanish wine can only be bought in cases of 20 bottles.

You have to spend exactly £1000. You have to buy exactly 100 bottles of wine. You also have to buy at least 1 bottle of each type of wine.

How many bottles of each type of wine do you buy?



..... and the answer to the last 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?

There are two combinations of three numbers which will give us a product of 72 and a sum of 14. These two combinations are:

$$2 \times 6 \times 6 = 72$$

$$2 + 6 + 6 = 14$$

$$3 \times 3 \times 8 = 72$$

$$3 + 3 + 8 = 14$$

As the eldest child helps to look after the other 2 children, then one child must be older than the other two. This means that the eldest child is 8 and the two younger children are both 3!

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?

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'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 of this year's event 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 to confirm your place.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

The standard of uniform at the Academy remains very high. We are grateful for, and will continue to expect, absolute parental support on school dress even with the hotter weather approaching. Do not believe your child if he or she tells you that they do not need a blazer or tie if the weather is hot! Similarly, please ensure your child has excellent attendance and punctuality over the remaining weeks of term and continue to monitor and take an interest in your child's homework. Thank you, as always, for your support and contribution to your child's progress.

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.

Controlled Assessments will take place in Science for the Year 10 Y Half Year Group on Monday 27th June. They will take place for the X Half Year Group on Tuesday 28th June.

The Expressive Arts residential trip leaves for London on Thursday 30th June.

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

Induction Days for the new Year 7 intake will take place on Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July.

Controlled Assessments will take place in Catering for Year 10 GCSE students in the week beginning Monday 4th July.

Students taking part in the World Challenge leave for India on Friday 8th July.

The Year 10 Geography Residential Field Trip to Llandudno will take place in the week beginning Monday 11th July.

Achievement Evening for students from Years 7 to 10 will take place on Wednesday 13th July.

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

ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

Performing Arts Extra-Curricular Timetable



Day	Break/Lunch time	After school
Monday	Piano Duets Masterclass (P8) No Limits Performing Arts Group (P5)	Billy Elliot Rehearsal (P48/P49)
Tuesday	Woodwind Group (P4)	Technical Support Award Group (P5) Lower School Dance Group (P49)
Wednesday	Technical Support Award Group (P5) Lower School Vocal Group (P4)	Y10 GCSE Music Composition and Performance (P4)
Thursday	No Limits Performing Arts Group (P5) Filming Shakespeare Workshop (P48) Musicianship Group (P8)	Billy Elliot Rehearsal (P48/P49) GCSE Music Technology Extension Group (P4)
Friday	Year 7 Dance Group (P49) Year 8 Music Technology Group (P4)	No Limits Performing Arts Group (P5)



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