

LETTER FROM MR WILSON

The final half term of the year

Although it only seems a like a few weeks since we started this academic year back in September, we are now in the final half term and will break up for the summer holidays next month. This is an important half term for all year groups, not just the students in Year 11 who are now nearing the end of their GCSE examinations. I stressed the importance of this half term to Year 10 in a recent edition of Newsflash. They really must finish the year strongly and put themselves in the best possible position for September; they cannot afford the time to play 'catch up' in Year 11. Year 9 students will find out their option choices over the coming weeks, as will Year 8 students who have had some choice over the subjects they will study from September. Similarly, staff from all departments will be looking at assessment and progress data across all year groups before deciding on teaching groups and sets for the next academic year when your child will move up.

The highest of expectations

The last half term then is really important. It is not a 'wind down' and we really will continue to have the highest expectations of all our staff and students over the next four weeks. There are of course the summer holidays to look forward to as well as the Year 11 Prom and the Blackpool Rewards Trip for those students who have met the criteria on good attendance and behaviour.

Parental support

Parents of course play a huge part in ensuring that their child meets the standards and expectations we require. 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 summer weather. 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.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

GCSE COUNTDOWN

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

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 20 th June	8.15am	Biology (Foundation and Higher)
Tuesday 21 st June	8.15am	History: War on Britain
	8.15am	Panjabi
Wednesday 22 nd June	8.15am	Chemistry (Foundation and Higher)
	1.15pm	Dance
Thursday 23 rd June	8.15am	Russian
Friday 24 th June	8.15am	Physics (Foundation and Higher)

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.

As parents and carers will be aware, 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.

Year 10, there are only 35 school weeks left, just 175 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Year 10, we hope that your Pre-Public Examinations have gone well so far. The exam timetable for next week is detailed in the table below:

Date	Time	Exam
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

There will be an Open Evening for Year 10 students at Ashton Sixth Form College on Monday 27th June. Further information can be found later in this edition of Newsflash.

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IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Congratulations to those students who successfully completed their Bronze and Silver Award expeditions last weekend in a very grey and damp Edale and surrounding Peak District!



Regular weekly Numeracy sessions start in Tutorial time to practice and develop students' numerical skills

The Academy holds a standardisation and moderation week to consider the work and progress of Year 9 students.

The Finance and Resources Committee of the Governing Body holds its termly meeting.

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THE MATHS' BATTLE CONTINUES!

Can you factorise $x^2 - 5x + 6$ or $x^2 - 25$ or evaluate 8^{-2} and leave in fractional notation? Can you expand and simplify $(2 + \sqrt{3})(1 + \sqrt{3})$ or estimate the value of $\frac{349 \times 24.5}{?}$?

0.49

These were just some of the questions from the latest Maths' Battle between the X and Y Half Year Groups with Year 10 picking up the baton from the Year 7, 8 and 9 teams who had battled through the mathematical challenges of previous weeks.



Congratulations to Team Y, led by Mr Swingler and made up of Holly Davies, Ellie Jones, Harvey Saxon-Travis, Elizabeth Le, Monique Brindley and Basmah Ali, on a magnificent victory after a very competitive and entertaining evening. Commiserations and better luck next time to Team X made up of Arreej Munawar, Naomi Lord, Kaya Law, Ellie Walker, Michael Neglia and Davina Mistry. Thank you also to Mr Dalrymple and Mrs Fernandez for some very lame mathematical jokes!

The scores are now level with both the X and Y Half Year Groups having two victories each!

PARENT PAY

Parent Pay has changed the way that parents and carers pay for items on their on-line system. A short video will load when parents or carers log onto the system showing how payments are now credited to a central account and can then be directed to pay for specific items such as school meals or particular trips.

Parents and carers can watch the video at the following website:

www.parentpay.com/my-account-parents .

If there is anything you want to ask or clarify please contact Mr Wakefield in ICT (not Mr Wakefield in Student Services!).

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HOMEWORK MATTERS!

Homework allows students to develop a deeper understanding of topics that they have covered in lessons and research things that they have found really interesting.

Our parents have said:

“My daughter really enjoys languages and is studying French and Spanish at the Academy. She recently completed homework about going on holiday and went on to write a simple phrase book for her Dad and I that we could use when we go to Spain this summer. The phrase book included things we may want to buy in the Supermarket and what the Spanish was for different animals so that we would know what we were ordering in the restaurants! It was really useful and really good to see her taking an interest in what she was learning about at school.”

“My son was completing homework on food additives last week and now tells me what to look out for and what not to buy in my weekly shop.”

‘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 to confirm your place.

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MOBILE PHONES

In common with most, if not all, schools the Academy has a very clear policy on the use of mobile phones or other devices in school. If a student is seen with a mobile phone out during the day then the phone will be either confiscated for one week or returned to a parent or carer if they can come into the Academy and collect it sooner.

We have adopted this policy for very good reasons. The use of mobile phones in school can distract students and seriously disrupt learning. Similarly, the inappropriate use of mobile phones and social networking can lead to a wide range of well documented difficulties and problems which then have to be resolved by Academy staff.

We expect the absolute support of parents and carers in enforcing this policy. Please reinforce this important message with your child and get angry with them if they have their phone taken off them and not the staff who have confiscated it!



MATHS' PUZZLE

Last 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 is

You would have bought 80 bottles of Spanish wine (4 cases at a cost of £40), 1 bottle of German wine (at a cost of £10) and 19 bottles of the very expensive French wine (at a cost of £950)!



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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Uniform

We are always grateful for any second hand uniform, especially blazers and PE kit, that your child may have grown out of or, in the case of Year 11 students, no longer needs. Any donations gratefully received by Student Services at the Academy.

Thank you

There will be an Open Evening for Year 10 students at Ashton Sixth Form College on Monday 29th June. This is an excellent opportunity for students to find out more about the College and the courses and qualifications on offer.



The graphic features a central text area surrounded by various educational and cultural icons. The text reads: "Open Evening Monday 27th June 5:00pm-7:30pm www.asfc.ac.uk/events". The icons include a microphone, a globe, a brain, a coffee cup, a book, a lamp, a stack of money, a building, a book, a television, a heart, a stack of books, a shield, a soccer ball, a person, a guitar, a plane, a microscope, a star, a balance scale, a microscope, a book, a paint palette, a microscope, a lightbulb, a first aid kit, a coffee cup, a television, a stack of money, a rocket, a person, a globe, an hourglass, a stack of books, and the Ashton Sixth Form College logo.

Open Evening
Monday 27th June
5:00pm-7:30pm
www.asfc.ac.uk/events

#visitASFC

ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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.

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.

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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

Year 7 Quad Kids

Last Tuesday, our Year 7 A Team took part in the Tameside Quad Kids competition at East Cheshire Harriers. The team competed in the 100m and 80m races as well as the Long Jump and the Howler Throw. Our students performed brilliantly and finished in 5th place overall. However, in the individual rankings, Ellie Craven came away with a Silver medal, a fantastic achievement and a well-deserved reward for all her hard work!

Strong Stars

Last Wednesday, Droylsden students took part in the Tameside Strong Stars competition at Hyde Community College. The students took part in a number of physical challenges, including press ups, squats and sit-ups, testing themselves against competitors from other Tameside schools. All our students performed brilliantly including Billy Deniz and Phoebe Plant who both finished 3rd overall in their respective competitions, taking the bronze medals. Our Junior Girls team of Phoebe and Ellie Craven finished second overall. Well done to Billy, Daniel, Sam, Dorcus, Djabu, Phoebe and Ellie on a great performance.



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