

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash.

### **Excel stands for Excellence**

Congratulations to the eight Year 10 Excel students who were selected to attend the Entrance to Oxford University Information Event at Ashton Sixth Form College earlier this week. I hope that the afternoon was interesting and informative and that the students involved now understand and believe that they can aim for the very top.

Congratulations also to the Year 7 and 8 students who entered this year's national UK Mathematics Challenge. The Mathematics Department have just received the results and I am delighted to report that a number of Droylsden Academy students have achieved gold, silver and bronze awards in this prestigious competition, a really wonderful achievement. Further information will appear in next week's edition of Newsflash.

### **Fair or inflexible?**

There can be occasions when students and parents feel that we are inflexible on issues such as uniform, behaviour or our expectations and that our insistence on the highest of standards at all times can, in some circumstances, be unreasonable. For instance, a parent may feel that a student who normally wears perfect uniform has been treated unfairly if they are given a sanction on the first occasion that they are not wearing the correct footwear, especially if, in their view, the situation was unavoidable. Similarly, a student will be given a sanction and asked to remove jewellery or make-up if they are wearing it. Recently, a parent questioned whether it was fair to give her son a detention because he was chewing gum, especially as it was her son's first behaviour point of the year and staff who teach him would, rightly, describe him as an excellent student.

### **Consistency**

Maintaining high standards can be very difficult and, working in a school, you soon realise that the key to success, and the absolute cornerstone of all good schools, is an absolute consistency in applying your rules and expectations. If one student is allowed to walk around in trainers today then there will be two tomorrow and five the day after. The following week, someone will come without their blazer or tie. The same applies to make-up, jewellery, chewing gum, handing in homework, punctuality and all the other routines and expectations of school life. Routines, procedures and protocols that you work hard to establish can be very easily lost.

**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

## Parental support

Whilst I sometimes understand parental frustrations at what they see as relatively 'minor' issues or transgressions of the school rules, it is really important to understand that, with 850 young people in the building, you cannot allow one of them to ignore or disregard the rules and expect the other 849 not to follow suit. Children do, naturally, push the boundaries, that is part of growing up, and if you allow the little things slip then other things will follow.

Most parents, if you ask them, would say that they want their children to go to a 'strict' and well-ordered school. Supporting the school on the small detail as well as the bigger issues is really important in establishing and maintaining that disciplined and purposeful learning environment.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there is just one final examination next week as detailed in the table below.

Date	Time	Exam
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	8.15am	Product Design

Thank you to parents and carers for their support and encouragement during the GCSE examinations. We hope that the exams have gone well and that students will achieve the results that they deserve for all their commitment and hard work.

This year, GCSE results day is on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August and students can pick up their results from 10am. If a student cannot attend in person, they can leave a Self Addressed Envelope with Mrs Smith or an email address through which we can contact them. Due to Data Protection laws we cannot issue results over the telephone. Any arrangements for a parent to collect their child's results must be made before results day.

**Year 10, there are only 34 school weeks left, just 170 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

Year 10 students will get the results of their Pre-Public Examinations over the next week or so. We hope that they have gone well and that your child is pleased with his or her results.

Controlled Assessments will take place in Science for the Year 10 Y Half Year Group on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June. They will take place for the X Half Year Group on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Controlled Assessments will take place in Catering for Year 10 GCSE students in the week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

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## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Congratulations to Charlie McGann, Erin Walker, Patryk Cullen, Ellie Jones, Harvey Saxon-Travis, Basmah Ali, Paige Charlton, Davina Mistry and Michael Neglia who were invited to attend a presentation by Oxford University and find out more about the life and opportunities open to them at one of the world's top Universities.



The Academy holds a standardisation and moderation week to consider the work and progress of Year 10 students.

The first games are played in the Academy Student and Staff Chess Challenge.

Year 10 students visit Ashton Sixth Form College for a Taster Day to find out about the courses, qualifications and opportunities available if they go on to study there.

Students visit the Lowry Theatre to watch a production of 'The 39 Steps' an adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's original screenplay with just 4 actors playing over 100 characters!



A team of Year 7 students compete in the 'Rockstars Rock Wrangle' Maths Challenge at Trinity Academy in Halifax.

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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:

Megan Walker	Ali Al Dalaty	Ethan Anslow	Ryan Simpson
Sophie Anderson	Nathan McConnell	Freja Horan	

## MATHS' PUZZLE

This week's puzzle .....

In an exam, you can score 10 points for every answer you get right. However, you also lose 5 points for every answer you get wrong. The exam has 20 questions altogether.

If you score 125 marks in the exam, how many questions did you get right and how many did you get wrong?



## 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:

*"There has been a real change in my son's approach to homework this year. At the start of the year I had to check up on him all the time and drag him kicking and screaming through the homework that had been set. He didn't meet deadlines, homework was often late in and I would get texts two or three evenings a week telling me that he was in detention. Now though, he usually just gets on with his homework on the night that he gets it and manages his time really well. I have not had a detention text since January and I am really pleased. He has also been moved up a set in Maths and I think that this is probably because he always perseveres with the MyMaths homework until he has achieved a pass mark and a green light."*

*"My daughter 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."*

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..... or Droylsden Academy does Countdown!



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## GET INVOLVED!

The following clubs and activities are running after school each week. Please encourage your child to get involved.

Day	Club or Activity
Monday	Homework Club Basketball Club with coaching from the Manchester Giants
Tuesday	Homework Club Year 7 STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Volleyball (Girls from Yrs 7 to 9) Rugby (Boys and Girls from all Year Groups) Fitness Suite (All years) Duke of Edinburgh Award
Wednesday	Homework Club Football (All years) MFL Ambassador Club Duke of Edinburgh Award Year 7&8 STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
Thursday	Homework Club Gardening Club All Years A Team training Art drop-in session (Yrs 7 to 9) Mountain Bike Maintenance & Activate Club
Friday	Homework Club Film Club Fitness Suite (All years)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

The Expressive Arts residential trip leaves for London on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June. The trip will include visits to the West End to watch productions of 'Stomp' and 'Aladdin'.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 lifestyle icons. The text reads: "Open Evening", "Monday 27th June", "5:00pm-7:30pm", and "www.asfc.ac.uk/events". The Ashton Sixth Form College logo is positioned at the bottom right. The icons include a microphone, brain, coffee cup, books, desk lamp, money, building, graduation cap, TV, heart, speech bubble, shield, soccer ball, person, guitar, books, airplane, microscope, star, scales, microscope, and a graduation cap.

**Open Evening**  
**Monday 27th June**  
**5:00pm-7:30pm**  
[www.asfc.ac.uk/events](http://www.asfc.ac.uk/events)

#visitASFC

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