

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

### **Welcome back**

Welcome to the first edition of Newsflash for this academic year. I hope that everyone has had a pleasant and relaxing summer and that all our students have returned well prepared for a successful and rewarding year.

### **Newsflash**

For parents and carers of students who have joined us this September, Newsflash is a weekly bulletin that you will receive every Friday which will give you news, updates, reminders and messages from the Academy. Newsflash was introduced two years ago and feedback from parents and carers would suggest that they find it interesting and informative; we hope that you will find this the case too. A copy of Newsflash will be emailed out to you every Friday afternoon with future editions including reports and photographs of trips, activities and events that have taken place during that particular week.

### **GCSE examination results**

We were delighted with our GCSE performance again this year; 65% of students achieved a higher grade in English and 60% in Maths. There was also a significant increase in the number of students achieving the highest grades with 16% of the Year 11 cohort gaining at least 3 A or A\* grades. Indeed, a number of students gained A or A\* grades across all of their subjects, a wonderful achievement.

We were particularly pleased with our progress indicators which measure the progress that students have made and not simply the grades they have achieved. This year, all schools across the country have been given an estimated 'Progress 8' score which measures how well students have done over their five years from Years 7 to 11. The Progress 8 measure will be the new benchmark that the Department for Education uses to see just how well a school and its students have done. If a school has a Progress 8 measure of 0, it means that the students have achieved in line with what was expected of them when they started in Year 7. If a school has a minus or a negative Progress 8 measure, then the students have not done as well as expected and if a school has a plus or a positive Progress 8 measure, then they have done better than expected. We are delighted that we expect rates of progress in English and Maths to be above the national average and that our estimated Progress 8 score is also positive too.

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

Performance was strong across many subjects and not just English and Maths. Students achieved particularly pleasing results in Science, Computer Science, French, Drama, Dance, Art and Photography and it was wonderful to see the smiles on students' faces, and hear the buzz of excitement, on exam results day. It was also lovely to see so many students thank their teachers for the help and support they had received before leaving to enrol on their College courses and embark on the next stage of their education.

### **No surprise**

Our continuing improvement in exam performance was no surprise to us and came on the back of a year when the Academy continued to make good progress. The Academy has made huge steps forward over the last 18 months, a view endorsed by OFSTED, and with your continued support and the hard work of students, staff and governors, we will become an outstanding school.

### **Our values**

As the parents of our older students will know, our Academy values are based firmly on the three core principles of Politeness, Hard Work and Honesty or, as identified in the Academy logo, **PH<sup>2</sup>**. We feel strongly that if we can instil these important qualities in all our students, they will develop into happy and successful learners who will go on to make a positive contribution to our community. There is no reason for any child to fail.

This is an important year for the Academy and I am really excited about the future. Thank you for reading this edition of Newsflash. I hope that your child will have a happy, successful and rewarding year.

Best wishes

Mr. P Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## **GCSE COUNTDOWN**

**Year 11, there are only 29 school weeks left, just 145 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

Remember the route to GCSE success is a marathon and not a sprint. Your GCSE grades will depend on your hard work and commitment throughout the year and not last minute revision the week or night before an exam.

The 'Lesson 6' timetable will commence in week beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Year 11 students will shortly be issued with their personalised Lesson 6 timetable detailing the additional lessons that they must attend. The compulsory lessons run each evening from 2.35pm to 3.30pm and provide crucial additional support for Year 11 students.

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Year 11 standardisation and moderation week will take place during the week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be Drama Coursework Clinics on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 10.00am to 12.00pm. The Year 11 GCSE Drama Unit 1 Exam will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

Year 11 Science Controlled Assessment catch-up days will take place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Year 11 French Speaking Exams will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October.



**GCSE Exam results day for the current Year 11 will be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017!**

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## RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION

Thank you to a member of the public who emailed the Academy with the following comment earlier this week.

*“This afternoon, around 3.00pm, my partner and I were travelling from Manchester to Ashton when a large group of your pupils got on the Tram. Being of a certain age we expected noise and possibly bad behaviour. How wrong we were! The young people spoke quietly to one another and I was very impressed when one pupil mentioned that they were wearing their uniform and should not let the Academy down. So often we hear young people criticised and I felt I had to spend a moment to let you know that your pupils were a credit to you.”*



## ATTENDANCE REALLY DOES MATTER

We are often asked about the best ways in which parents can support their children and help ensure that they achieve their potential. Clearly, there are many ways in which parents can help. Parents should talk to their children about what they are doing at school and take an interest in their work. Parents should, whenever possible, encourage their child to read and develop their literacy skills. We hope that parents will work with us and we expect their absolute support in following the Academy rules and code of conduct; students normally do well if there is a positive and constructive relationship between home and school. **Most importantly, we hope that parents will simply ensure that their child has excellent attendance.**

Every day a child is absent from school, he or she misses five lessons and falls behind the other students in the group in five different subjects. It is no surprise that there is an absolute and direct link between attendance and achievement; children with good attendance do well and those with frequent absence don't. Students who aren't here can't learn.

Please do not take students out of school for holidays during term time. A child who misses a week misses 25 lessons; a child who misses a fortnight misses 50 hours of education, time that will never be made up.

Please make routine medical and dental appointments for out of school hours. If an appointment can only be made for during the school day then students should come in beforehand and return afterwards. Don't let your child stay off for a whole day.

Always send your child in unless they really are too ill to attend. Nine times out of ten, students who feel 'off colour' when they get up in the morning are absolutely fine when they get to school with their friends. If they are not, then we will look after them and send them home if necessary.

**If parents really want to support their child and give them the best opportunities when they leave school then they must ensure that they attend every possible day that they can.** Parents who allow their child to stay off for no good reason are letting them down and neglecting their future.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HPV1 vaccinations will be given to Year 8 girls on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Further information and a consent form will be sent out prior to the vaccinations taking place.

Year 7 students will be taking their CATS tests in the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Most schools use these tests which give teachers a general idea of a student's cognitive ability. Students need not prepare for these tests.



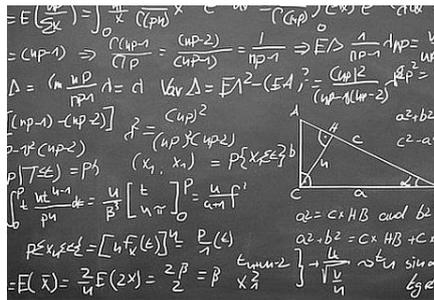
The Academy Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

The Mountain Bike Club will visit the Phillips Park track on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be a trip to the Lowry Theatre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October to watch a performance of 'Be My Baby'.



Year 11 Catering students will be visiting the 'Red Hot World Buffet' on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.



The first of this year's 'Maths Battles' will take place in the Atrium after school on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

The Academy closes for the half term holiday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Full details of term dates for this academic year can be found on the Academy website.

## ARTS' AND SPORTS' ROUND UP

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

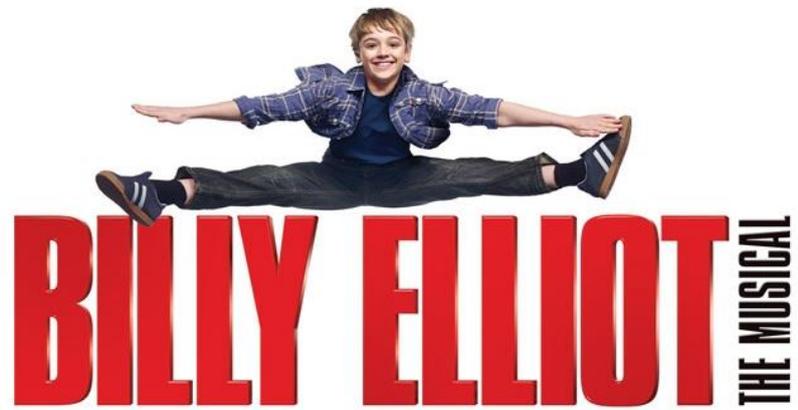
Rehearsals are continuing for the 'No Limits Performing Arts Club' who will perform a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Contact Theatre in Manchester, in front of a live audience, as part of the national Shakespeare Schools' Festival. There will be a full day workshop for the cast at the Academy on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.



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## Billy Elliot

Rehearsals are also continuing for Billy Elliot which will be performed at the Academy on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December.



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