

## LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Welcome to the latest edition of Newsflash for this academic year.

### **Open Evening**

Around 250 students gave up their time to attend Open Evening and to help their teachers with displays, activities and performances. They were an absolute credit to you and to the Academy and many of our visitors commented on the friendly faces and how confident, polite and helpful they were. As one parent commented, the Academy is not about the new building and the facilities that we are fortunate to have, it is about the students who come here. I was particularly proud of Ethan Prince, our Head Boy, Basmah Ali, our Deputy Head Girl, and Margaret Adekoya, one of our new students from Year 7, who agreed to speak in front of an audience of around 750 guests. A transcript of their speeches can be found in this edition of Newsflash.

### **Mobile phones**

As you are probably aware, students are not allowed to use mobile phones in the Academy. If a student is seen with a mobile phone out at any time of the school day, or if it is heard, then it will be confiscated for a week, or until a parent or carer is able to collect it. This rule and procedure is common across the vast majority of schools in the country and for good reasons, principally the inevitable disruption and distraction that mobile phones, texting and messaging would cause in lessons. However, there are also serious issues around cyber bullying, the use of phones to take inappropriate photographs and, increasingly, the irresponsible use of social media.

### **Social Media**

Sadly the inappropriate use of social media is having a huge impact on all schools including Droylsden Academy. Too often, Facebook and other similar sites are used to spread rumours, gossip, abuse and threats which then spill over into schools causing disagreements and arguments. Increasingly, our staff are spending time picking up the pieces and resolving issues which have absolutely nothing to do with school and which distract them from their core purpose of ensuring that children learn and achieve. Sadly, children are not alone in using social media irresponsibly and sometimes comments from parents who also get involved in the disagreements often inflame already very difficult situations.

**As parents, please never get involved in your child's on-line disagreements or arguments, this never helps.** If you have concerns for your child's well-being, contact the Academy or, if appropriate, the Police.

Students, and sometimes parents, must also realise that comments made, often in the heat of the moment or without thinking through the possible consequences, are out there for everyone to see and judge them on at the press of a button. **These comments cannot be taken back or rubbed out and many, many students wish they could turn back the clock when they are confronted with what they have written.** Many employers now check social media sites as part of their vetting and selection processes and comments made on social media, sometimes years ago, increasingly impact on opportunities open to people.

Please monitor your child's use of social media and ensure that they use it responsibly. Please check your child's phone whenever possible; you probably pay the bill and so have the right to! Wherever possible, please check the messages they send out and, just as importantly, the messages they receive. **Some parents have been absolutely horrified at what they have found on their child's phone and relieved that they have stepped in and intervened.** Clearly, there are also huge and well publicised concerns around the use of social media and Child Sexual Exploitation.

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

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson  
**Headteacher**

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

**Year 11, there are 27 school weeks, just 135 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.** Remember, exam preparation is a marathon and not a sprint; it is the hard work and commitment now that will lead to exam success and not last minute revision next May.

Compulsory 'Lesson 6' study sessions now run every night from 2.35pm to 3.35pm. The table below shows which lessons are on each evening. All Year 11 students have a personalised timetable telling them which lessons to go to each night. Please look at your child's Lesson 6 timetable and ensure that he/she attends these really important study sessions. **Attending Lesson 6 will improve your child's GCSE grades and the opportunities open to them when they leave the Academy.**

Day	Subjects that will run on that evening
Monday	Expressive Arts and Spanish
Tuesday	11X Science, 11Y Maths and French
Wednesday	English, Photography, Computing, Product Design and Catering
Thursday	11Y Science and 11X Maths
Friday	PE, Health and Social Care, Geography, History and Art.

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The final Drama Coursework Clinic will take place on 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. All parents and carers will have received details about the arrangements for this important evening and should now be making appointments using 'Parent Teacher Online' (PTO). If you need help in making your appointments, please contact Student Services.

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.

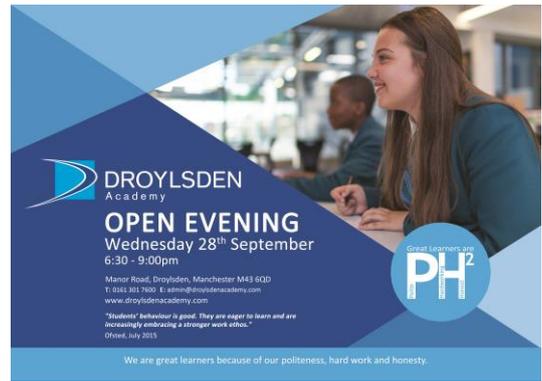
The table below gives you the dates of the Open Evenings at local F.E. Colleges. Visit as many as you can to get information on the courses, qualifications and opportunities open to you when you leave the Academy.

<b>College</b>	<b>Open Day/Evening Dates and Times</b>
<b>Aquinas College</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October (6.30pm – 8.30pm) Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October (10.00am – 1.00pm) Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
<b>Ashton 6<sup>th</sup> Form College</b>	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October (10.00am – 1.00pm) Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (5.30pm – 8.00pm)
<b>Audenshaw 6<sup>th</sup> Form</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October (6.00pm – 8.00pm)
<b>Clarendon 6<sup>th</sup> Form College</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October (6.00pm – 8.00pm) Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November (6.00pm – 8.00pm) Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January (6.00pm – 8.00pm)
<b>Connell 6<sup>th</sup> Form</b>	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 5.00pm – 8.00pm
<b>Loreto College</b>	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October (10.00am – 1.00pm) Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October (11.00am – 2.00pm)
<b>Oldham College</b>	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 11.00am – 2.00pm)
<b>Oldham 6<sup>th</sup> Form College</b>	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October (10.00am – 2.00pm) Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> November (10.00am – 2.00pm)
<b>Tameside College</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November (6.00pm – 8.00pm) Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January (6.00pm – 8.00pm)
<b>Greater Manchester Engineering UTC</b>	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November (6.00pm – 8.30pm) Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November (6.00pm – 8.30pm)
<b>The Manchester College</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October: A Level Courses (5.00pm – 7.00pm) Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November: 16 - 18 (5.00pm – 8.00pm) Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March: All courses (11.00am – 2.00pm) Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July: All courses (11.00am – 2.00pm)
<b>UTC Media City</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November (4.00pm – 7.00pm)
<b>Xavarian College</b>	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October (10.30am – 2.00pm) Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October (10.30am – 2.00pm)

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## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Academy holds its annual Open Evening. Thank you to all the students who represented the Academy on the evening, your help and support were really appreciated. Visitors to the Open Evening were very impressed by our students and Mr Wilson has received many positive comments such as this email which he received the following day:



*"I just wanted to get in touch to say how impressed I was last night at the attitude of the students we met. We have visited a few schools recently and the big difference we saw at Droylsden Academy was the students, they were friendly, engaging and really happy to talk with parents and potential new students about their school. I just wanted to say well done and thank you for a great Open Evening."*



The Academy celebrates the European Day of Languages. Students take part in competitions and quizzes and the MFL Department holds a Film Night where they show films in Spanish and French. The Catering Team prepare European themed meal options for lunchtime and students are encouraged to use simple phrases and words from other languages.

Year 7 students complete their CATS tests.

The Assembly theme for the week is based around the importance of good manners and politeness.

Year 11 students take part in a GCSE Drama masterclass.

Students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme attend their first meeting and start to plan activities for the coming year. These will include physical training sessions run by Sale Sharks RUFC, learning sign language, organising a Christmas Fair to raise money for charity and taking part in their first expedition. Any donations of prizes for the Christmas Fair will be greatly appreciated!



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## HEADTEACHER'S CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to the following students who were invited to attend this week's Headteacher's celebration of achievement:

Cole Berry   Ha Young Cho   Jessy Lukusa   Kydon Hibbert  
Imogen Wright   Caitlin Booth   Tekiatou Sanni   Jamie Rawson  
Molly Marshall Hopkins   Megan Chambers

## OPEN EVENING SPEECHES

Congratulations and thank you to Ethan Prince, our Head Boy, Basmah Ali, our Deputy Head Girl, and Margaret Adekoya, one of our new students from Year 7, who spoke to an audience of around 750 guests at Open Evening. A transcript of their speeches can be found below:

*"Good evening Ladies, Gentlemen and children. My name is Basmah Ali and I am the Deputy Head Girl of Droylsden Academy.*

*My name is Ethan Prince. I am the Head Boy of the Academy and, together with Basmah, I would like to welcome you to our Open Evening. We hope you have an informative and enjoyable night.*

*It only seems like five minutes since we were sat where you are tonight and considering which school we should choose. Five years later and here we are in Year 11 and incredibly proud to be talking to you as Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.*



*So what can we tell you about Droylsden Academy and why are we sure that it was absolutely the right choice for us? First and foremost, I have had five very happy years. With 850 students here, the school is not too big; I feel that my teachers really do know me and I really am part of our community.*

*The staff have very high expectations of us. They insist on high standards and we work very hard. For their part, they prepare interesting and engaging lessons that have given me a love of learning and the knowledge, skills and drive to succeed. I really enjoy the Humanities and after taking my GCSEs and A Levels will go to University to complete my degree and PhD.*

*There are lots of extra-curricular activities and clubs you can get involved in. We have taken part in 'Young Enterprise', a scheme which enables students to set up and run their own business. Basmah*

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has also represented the Academy at the 'Model United Nations', as well as various other events throughout her school life. I want to be a Scientist and will look to find more out about the opportunities and qualifications at University after my GCSEs and A Levels.

*We have both been on many trips and visits which have brought our learning to life and broadened our horizons. Last Year we travelled to Frankfurt, Germany, with Mr Ali as part of our Business Studies GCSE course. In December, we are both going to Switzerland with the Science Department to see the Particle Accelerator at CERN.*

As Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, we ensure that we live the Academy values of politeness, hard work and honesty at all times and we hope that we are good ambassadors for our school. These three important values are instilled into each and every one of us every day by our teachers and this is one of the reasons we are both confident that we will achieve our grades next summer.

*I have really enjoyed coming to Droylsden Academy and I am very grateful for the opportunities I have had. Whilst I will be very sad to leave next year, I am also very excited about my future. I hope that your children are excited about their future too and who knows, two of them may be stood here in five years' time as Head Boy and Head Girl of Droylsden Academy at our Open Evening in 2021.*

Thank you for listening to us. We hope you really enjoy visiting our school."



"Good evening, my name is Margaret Adekoya and I am in Year 7. I have been at the Academy for 3 weeks now and have enjoyed every minute, especially being challenged and working hard.

I think every student must feel a little bit nervous when they start a new school but Miss Sanderson, my Year Leader, and Miss Davies, my Year Manager, have been brilliant and helped us all to settle in very quickly. I have been very busy! But I feel very safe and have made lots of new friends very easily.

I have enjoyed my lessons so far even though the teachers expect me to work really hard and always do the best that I can. My favourite lessons are Expressive Arts and Science. I love Drama and can express who I am and I love Science as my aspiration is to be a Doctor.

We get homework every night and have to hand it in on time. If we don't hand it in, we get a detention so everyone makes sure that they remember to do it. It is important that we keep to deadlines and start the year off doing our very best, so we can continue to do so.

Mr Wilson and all my teachers expect me to always be polite, to work hard and to be honest to myself and to others. This is the foundation of all that we do, and it is what we all believe. I know that all my teachers want me to do really well and I am very happy that I chose to come to Droylsden Academy."

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## ROALD DAHL'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

The Library is celebrating Roald Dahl's 100th Anniversary by running a 'Revolting Rhymes' competition for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Students need to write a poem in the style of Roald Dahl which will be judged by a panel of expert judges! Prizes will be awarded for the best poems. There is a copy of Revolting Rhymes in the Library for inspiration. The closing date is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October and the winners will be announced after the Half Term break.



## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Wherever possible, we would like parents and carers to pay for all Academy trips and visits using 'Parentpay'. If you are unsure how to use 'Parentpay', or you have lost your log-in details, please contact Mr Wakefield in Student Services.



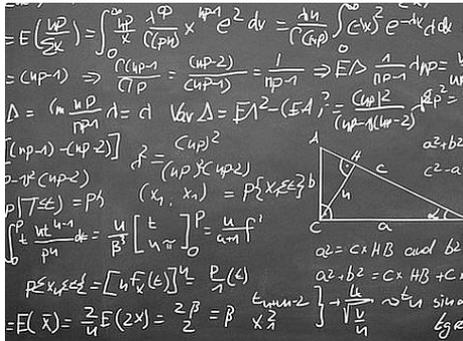
This week, all parents will have received a copy of their child's Personal Details which we currently hold on our records. Please check, amend and return the sheet as soon as possible. **It is really important that parents and carers return this information so that we can update our records and ensure that the details we have about your child are accurate.**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 to sample a range of international cuisine.



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. All parents and carers will have received details about the arrangements for this important evening and should now be making appointments using 'Parent Teacher Online' (PTO). If you need help in making your appointments, please contact Student Services.

The Academy closes for the half term holiday on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Full details of term dates for this academic year can be found on the Academy website.