



Weekly Newsletter

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



It was fantastic to welcome our new cohort of Year 7 on a bright and sunny Tuesday morning! They looked resplendent in their Business Dress! Thank you to so many families for ensuring their children were up and ready for our early start – and attendance was phenomenal – a great start!

Equally as inspiring, was welcoming back all other year groups this week as we kick started 2023-24!

It seems an age ago, but we celebrated our summer GCSE results, and although the finalised figures will not be published by the DfE until October, and then ratified in February, we are thrilled at the outcomes achieved. No other school in our locality has ever managed to crack the code and deliver outstanding progress and attainment in equal measure! This has been done due to the brilliance of families, staff, and of course students! I look forward to sharing the finalised figures in due course! We certainly are #changingthenarrative for what is possible! Indeed we received praise from School Minister Nick Gibb and schools such as Eton, who of course we are a partner school with, and we look forward to working more closely with them as they embark on their new adventure closer to home in Dudley with their elite Sixth Form in partnership with Star Academies.

On Monday, we welcomed a raft of new staff who have already settled in well. We have Mr. Smith and Miss Round joining us as PLDs for Years 9 and 8 respectively. Mr. Caine joins from our friends at Dixon's as PLC in Year 8. Mrs. House, Mr. Thiara, Mrs. Koasha and Mr. Hallan, all experienced colleagues, join as Learning Consultants. We welcome two new LSAs in Ms. Williams and Ms. Ralph. Mr. McGrath returns on School Direct placement, alongside Mr. Singh. We welcome Miss Pritchard as a Media Apprentice, and a welcome return for Miss Thirlaway as Student Support Champion. Two colleagues have changed roles – both Student Support Champions – Mrs. Sharpe, and mainstay of Year 7 Mr. Simkins. I was also thrilled that before we broke up Ms. Parslow accepted a slight change

of role to help us out even more, as Academy Operations Assistant in Mrs. Brady's team.

Our Digital Transformation means we are required to ask anyone who holds an Academy laptop at home to arrange for these to be brought back into the Academy to complete essential work, including updating the filtering and monitoring software. We have written to individual parents/carers requesting these arrangements. However, if you do hold an Academy laptop and do not receive one of these letters, please contact the Academy to arrange for this to be brought back in, as its important these updates are completed to make sure the laptop is compatible with our new platform, but also so the correct filtering and monitoring systems are installed to protect your child while working on these devices. Any issues please contact Ms. Cox, Vice Principal.

Before we broke up for the summer, our Year 10s spent a week on Work Experience, a heads-up for the new cohort: this will take place for the year group during Ethos Week in February 2024, not in July during this academic year. We heard so many positive stories, but one that caught my eye was Isabella Mellichap (11S1) at PWC!! I was delighted to hear as well that Isabella had a, what we would call a rare/and lucky to have time in his diary, meeting with the PWC Midlands Chairman (Matt Hammond).

Please keep up to date by engaging with any letters home – use the QR codes on the Newsletter – especially the Dates for the Diary. As always, please check your child's bag for paper copies of letters, and if you are on Facebook then keep abreast of all things happening via our content on there – we produce a weekly video update you can watch on your mobile or even Smart TV!

Have a great weekend and we will see all students back at the normal time as the cyclical timetable – Cycle 1, Week 1 kicks in from Monday morning!

Best wishes,

Peter Lee
Headteacher



STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 4th September 2023. They are:



Jonah
Alexander
7A1



Jack Evans
7C1



Bruno Singh
7D1



Harry
Pincombe
7L1



Seth Allan
7S1



Jacob Heap
10D2

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 11/09/2023

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 11th September		Cheese and Onion Pasty Skin on Fries Mixed vegetables	Yoghurt Pot
Tuesday 12th September		Vegetable Tikka Turmeric Rice	Vanilla Ice Cream Pot
Wednesday 13th September		Vegetarian Bolognese Pasta Garlic Bread	Gluten-Free Chocolate Cake
Thursday 14th September		Vegan Nuggets (V) Diced Potatoes Broccoli	Mini Shortbread Fingers
Friday 15th September		Vegetable Pasty & Chips Baked Beans	Fresh Fruit

(V) Suitable for Vegetarians (H) Halal Meat. The menu is subject to change at short notice.

TWYFORD'S TRAVELS

Introducing Twyford's Travels! Enter the weekly competition for a special mention in the newsletter and a prize!

This week's Twyford's Travel is:

UNESCO protects the world's most important sites including Stonehenge, UK and the Acropolis of Athens, Greece. How many World Heritage Sites have they inscribed as of January 2023?

- A) 1,273
- B) 1,157
- C) 1,382

Answers should be clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 12th September at 3:30pm. A Mars bar or financial equivalent will be awarded for the winning entry draw. The Headteacher's decision is final in this matter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Year 11 Parent Briefing

Monday 25th September 2023—Time TBC

Open Evening

Thursday 28th September 2023—6pm-9pm

Open Mornings

Commence Monday 2nd October 2023

Book via Eventbrite

Parents' Consultation Evening 1

Thursday 19th October 2023—3pm-7:30pm

Students finish at 2:30pm

SAFEGUARDING NOTICEBOARD

With the start of the new year we are refreshing students on our expectations of travelling to and from the Academy. Surprisingly, when it comes to walking safely, teenagers are now the most at-risk youth for pedestrian injuries. Cell phones and other handheld gadgets are causing teens to be more easily distracted, which is leading to greater risk on the roads. Please speak to your child about safety tips.

