



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



We certainly felt the cold snap turn into the cold season this week, where students kept themselves wrapped up nice and warm against the elements. My heart was especially glowing, as I spent some terrific time with students as part of their Time for Tea – Lexi Green (7L2), Sophie Cutler (7S2), Olivia Steatham (7D1) and Ellie-Mae McSharry (7D1) all travelled to Blackpool's Winter Gardens last weekend to take part in a national competition with their dance group – I am so proud of them! I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with

Jenna Stevens (10S1), who has made an absolutely phenomenal start to Key Stage 4 – the joy that emanates throughout the Academy would warm even the coldest of hands! Please let us know of any student achievements – we would be delighted to place them in this address...

Q3 Academy Langley simply would not be, without our Sponsor, Mr. Payne. We send him our best wishes in the hope of a swift recovery following an eye operation this week, a sentiment shared by many of our students, who always enjoy hearing from our most prestigious (and most avid) reader. I was thrilled to see him last week when he visited briefly – always a pleasure! Our QAT Board Chair, Mr. Quayle, has been providing me updates of his trip to Australia, where he informs me that the heat is almost unbearable – it speaks volumes that even when I am turning the heaters in my car to the max each morning, I would not rather be anywhere else than with your children – we look forward to seeing him at Langley soon!

We mentioned last week about our new Cycle starting this week, with students acquitting themselves superbly all week. They have started new, non-EBacc rotations, as well as in Humanities, meaning students get an evolving, broad, balanced, high quality curriculum, whilst we take consideration of planning and workload balance for our staff, something we really strive for. I thoroughly enjoyed discussing our unique curriculum with Maths candidates this week, as our brilliant Curriculum Director, Miss Davis, and I appointed Ms. Jenkins to the post of Learning Consultant – we could not be happier with the outcome of the day! We were supported by our remarkable H.R team – Mrs Thompson seems to work all hours of the day and night, and Ms. Blake, who supported from our Central Services function. As our recruitment drive accelerates, we are so grateful of all of her additional support, as we await Mrs. Hutton's commencement of employment in January 2020.

Our place in the community, and the mutual respect we have, is something we hold very dear to our hearts at Langley. Therefore, it was concerning that Miss Quamar, my P.A, received a message this week explaining that a parent had parked across a driveway, meaning access to and from their property was blocked. As ever, I would always encourage students walking (or being walked) to the Academy, but in the case that the car park in Barnford Park is full, request that parents/carers park with consideration of residents, other drivers, and most pressingly, the law. As we have grown, I have noticed how many parents and carers carefully observe their parking – I extend my thanks to them for it.

I am very sad to inform you about a second bike theft this week, but our commitment to clarity and transparency means I feel that I need to share it with you. In response to the previous theft, we outlined the critical need for students to lock their bikes when they come to the Academy – our Site Team go above and beyond to do what they can, but ultimately, bikes are the responsibility of those who bring them in. We never want our students to feel the pain of losing their bike, and have reminded them in the Newsletter, Family Breakfast, assemblies, line ups and Tutor Time this week

about the need to lock their bike with their own lock. As you no doubt know, we operate with the site and facilities that Sandwell Council gives us – that means, due to the design of the Academy, we do not have the capacity to lock bikes indoors. As an emergency measure, we have secured bikes, for this week only, that had not been secured, before calling parents and carers, and letting them know that their child needs to secure their bike with a lock – this is not something that we can do on a permanent basis, though. Sharing locks is not an optimal solution either, as some students may have to stay behind at the end of the Academy day, leaving friends' bikes unsecured. The Police have, of course, been informed of these crimes, but I can honestly say that when those who seek to take from us see that we are all being vigilant, they will move away from us at Langley.

This week has been our Young Carers week, driven by our fabulous SSC in Year 9, Mrs. Toy. Not only did she put together the Tutor Time programme for the week, she brought her personal and professional experience into some extremely powerful assemblies, which were appreciated by all students. We are so fortunate to have members of the pastoral team who bring a wealth of experience from a range of different areas, with Mrs. Toy's work on Young Carers a brilliant example of the impact they have.

We have been able to continue our collaboration across the Trust this week, with several Year 9 students (along with our Head Boy Ben, and Head Girl Nathania) travelling to Q3 Tipton to take part in the Poetry Slam (and the Senate, for Ben and Nathania)! My thanks to their Head of School, Ms. Featherstone, for hosting them, and for working closely with our Curriculum Director for English, Mr. Dawes, on some key developments in our cross-site work.

I must extend my deepest thanks and congratulations to Ms. Cox, who deputised for me at the local Secondary Heads' Meeting at Shireland Collegiate Academy, so that I could enjoy the company of my new Year 9 Citizenship class! As a founding member of the Academy, and now one of our Vice Principals, her capacity to coordinate enormous aspects of the Academy, whilst supporting individual colleagues (her support covering the lessons of Mr. Iqbal, whilst he was on paternity leave, for example) highlight her extraordinary qualities. I feel professionally and personally indebted to her for all she does for us.

I am excited to inform you of some superstar students, who received three Star of the Lesson awards in a single day – congratulations to Jackson Key (8S1) and Jack Huckfield (8L2) for their endeavours – a Head of School Commendation to you both!

We are hopeful that our Parents' Evening 2 letters, where you will get the chance to meet with the Core Learning Consultant your child has Lesson One each week, will have gone out today. Please make sure your child knows your desired time – slots go quickly! We love holding Parents' Evenings, with this one coinciding with the General Election on 12th December. As a result, we are holding our own Q3 Langley Mock Election, where families can cast their ballot for which political leader they back!

Whatever the weekend holds, I hope it contains lots of rest, and staying warm! I look forward to welcoming students, wrapped up in their Macron coats, and (plain, dark) scarves, hats and gloves, bright and early on Monday!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 18th November 2019. They were:



Devinder
Sunner
9A1



Ruqaiyah
Hussain
9C1



Kaiyai
Edinburgh
9D1



Ellie-Mai Scott
9L1



Issa Muflihi
9S1



Codie Guest
10D1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 25/11/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 25th November	Tandoori Chicken Pitta Bread Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Quorn Tandoori (V) Pitta Bread Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Mini Jam Doughnut
Tuesday 26th November	Reggae Reggae Chicken Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Reggae Reggae Quorn (V) Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Yeo Valley Yoghurt Pot
Wednesday 27th November	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	Roast Quorn Fillet (V) Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	Flapjack
Thursday 28th November	Cheese & Onion Pasty Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Cheese & Onion Pasty Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 29th November	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potato Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Fresh Fruit

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

PARTRIDGE'S PROBLEM

The winner of last week's Partridge's Problem was Jawariya Akhtar (7L1). Well done Jawariya!

Partridge's Problem for this week is:

Use the lines and spaces to write the word on the Music staff. Use whole notes.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PACT

Monday 2nd December 2019—7:30pm

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December 2019—12pm-3pm

Parents' Evening 2

Thursday 12th December 2019—3pm-7:30pm

Students dismissed at 2:30pm

#WearItChristmas

Friday 13th December 2019

Students dismissed by 2:30pm

Christmas Holiday

Monday 16th December 2019—Friday 3rd January 2020

INSET Day

Monday 6th January 2020

Academy closed to students

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 26th November at 3:30pm. A Mars bar or financial equivalent will be awarded for the winning entry draw. The Head of School's decision is final in this matter.