



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



Even though Mother Nature has tried to dampen our spirits with her march of melancholy, the weather has not stopped us from having another rip-roaring week at Langley. I was thrilled to commence our week by appointing a member of the Science team, for the upcoming academic year – that they will join us from an outstanding school in Birmingham shows the pulling power of the Academy, with our wonderful students, as ever, our best adverts!

Tuesday was one of those special, significant days that have marked our journey since opening in 2016, as we conducted our first, in-depth, quality assurance evaluation, with external auditors, in a specific subject area. English was our first port of call – I must thank the whole team: Miss Ball; Mr. Dubb; our Leader of Learning Mr. Morrison; Miss Rea; Mr. Seaton; Miss Williams and our Curriculum Director for English Mr. Dawes. Their hard work, preparation, knowledge and conduct was very impressive, with the superlative efforts of the team resulting in so many positives from the day – such a testament to the diet your children get each day. I would also like to extend my thanks to our external visitors: Dr. Badyal, Mrs. Lynch-Kelly (from St. Martin's Catholic School), Mrs. Gibbins (from Redhill School in Stourbridge), Mrs. Green (from Streetly Academy) and Sandwell Local Authority's own, our great, critical friend, Lisa Bradbury. Their time, wisdom, skill, subject knowledge and feedback was vital to the success of the day; I spent time in lessons, looked through books and talked to students, and was thoroughly impressed with the wonderful provision in English.

We have a growing problem within the Academy, which I feel needs to be addressed with parents and carers. Our superb Attendance, Behaviour and Welfare Champion, Mrs. Fields, works incredibly hard to support all of our students. However, we have seen a dramatic rise in students being taken out of the Academy for medical appointments with no notice, and no evidence. For us to be able to code your child's absence as Medical (therefore not affecting their overall attendance figure, a vital number for when they apply for colleges and sixth forms), we need to have written evidence that the student has an appointment. This can be via email, or in paper form; as long as we have proof, we can support you and your child.

I was thrilled to meet with our new contractors for our Phase 3 build, Wilmott Dixon, and re-engage with our Architects, ADP, for a site visit this week. It was tremendous to see the energy of both sides, as a veritable army turned up to familiarise themselves with the project; I look forward to the next phase gathering pace and momentum as we accelerate toward our final build. My thanks, as ever, to our fellow stakeholders, Sandwell Council (in particular, Jenny Withers) for their support of us.

We welcomed Mrs Yates back to the Finance team this week; as she works the 52-week year, rather than term time, she enjoyed a well-earned holiday – we missed her greatly! She does so much around the Academy, and was engaged in a special task this week, supporting Mr. Evans and Miss Quamar to source our fantastic Christmas tree! If you have seen the photographs on our Facebook page, you will have marvelled in its statuesque grandeur, as it stands in pride of place in Reception. Some might argue that we are getting in the festive spirit a bit early, but remember: we only have two weeks of term left, and next

week, it will be December! I wonder how many families will be putting their decorations up this weekend...

I had the delight of sharing news of our participation in the Poetry Slam event last week, and after speaking with Mrs. Toy, our Student Support Champion in Year 9, I understand that in fact, our students won the Slam – great work! In a week of so much achievement, I am thrilled to recognise Karandeep Singh (7S2) for gaining three Star of the Lessons in a single day; I also shared a Time for Tea with Joshua Williams (10S1) for achieving an external award – what a set of superstars!

We held our final Local Governing Body meeting of 2019 this week – I am constantly struck with waves of gratitude for those who give so selflessly of their time, energy and wisdom, as they support (and challenge) us in such a positive way. I look forward to seeing many of them during our Christmas Fair next weekend; I also received some exciting updates about one of our dearly held traditions: Mr. Pope's Christmas Address! I wonder where Robbie the Robin will be hiding this year...

Since the conception of Langley, Music and the Arts has been something we have been committed to, with one of our earliest, and closest partners, Sips Education, supporting us so much. I heard news, this week, that John Thompson, our dear friend and former leader of the organisation, had taken early retirement. His support to the Academy, our children, staff and me has been utterly priceless – we would not have achieved the Music Mark for the last two years without him. His warmth, wisdom, kindness and professionalism will be missed across all of Sandwell – we wish him the best of luck with his retirement, and express our hope that he visits us for Family Lunch in the future.

As we head towards the festive period, our academic and behavioural standards remain as rigorous as ever, but we do relax a few rules around bringing in sweets and chocolates to share with friends on the Playground. However, I am becoming quite unsettled at the amount of litter being left on the Playground, seemingly every day. We have always been very accommodating around snacks, but I, as Head of School, do reserve the right to prohibit snacks and only allow fruit and healthy snacks. Most concerning is when staff (including myself) have asked students to pick up litter, we have been met with a few faces of consternation, as if they should not have to. I pick up litter. My team pick up litter. Wilmott Dixon commented on how immaculate the site appeared. Whether it is because you are an active citizen, nice person, accidental dropper or just embodying our ethos, it is vital that we all take a responsible attitude towards keeping our site as pristine as it can be. I thank you for passing this message on at home – let us hope that there will be a positive impact, and I will not have to call Jamie Oliver for advice on healthy snacks!

I am looking forward to the weekend immensely, as I will be attending the retirement party of a former colleague – where does the time go? Whatever you are doing, we wish you a restful weekend; we look forward to seeing students bright and early on Monday morning!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 25th November 2019. They were:



Roma Ruston
7A2



Selina Bonu
7C2



Safi Ulhaqq
7D2



Phoebe South
7L2



Charlie Dell
7S2



Natasha Bassi
10S1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 02/12/2019

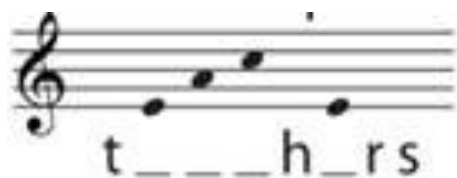
<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 2nd December	Sausage & Mash Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Quorn Sausages (V) Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 3rd December	Chicken Korma Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Vegetable Korma (V) Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Pot
Wednesday 4th December	Sub Central Sub Roll Breaded Chicken Bar Half Jacket Potato Mixed Salad	Sub Central (V) Burger Bun Spicy Bean Burger Half Jacket Potato Mixed Salad	Yoghurt Pots
Thursday 5th December	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 6th December	Beef Burger in a Bun Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Quorn Burgers in a Bun (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	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 Safeena Akhtar (10A1). Well done Safeena!

Partridge's Problem for this week is:
Fill in the blanks to spell a word.



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 by 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 3rd December 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.