



ACADEMY
LANGLEY

Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



The beginning of this week began with reflections on some difficult (but necessary) decisions made last Friday. After receiving notification of another positive case, following guidelines from Sandwell Public Health, we had to inform all students in Year 8, and its pastoral team to self-isolate; we also had to ask a small number of Year 11 students to join them. Though we will welcome staff back (including our wonderful PLD for Year 8, Mr. Rahman, who has done sterling work from home this week) on Monday, we received news that a student, who had been in the Academy last week, had tested positive. This has led us to making the

unfortunate, but necessary decision, to ask students in Year 8 to self-isolate until Monday 7th December. Never more have we felt the acute pain of this pandemic, as this feels like a double body blow. Our Learning Consultants have excelled themselves in ensuring that the provision for our students is the best it can be; I know that they will keep this quality up next week as well.

In addition to our Year 8 cohort, certain Year 11 students and the pastoral team, my Leadership Team suffered some losses this week, as Mrs. Underhill began her self-isolation; I am heartened that she, and Mr. Anderson, will both be back with us on Monday. Both, along with Mr. Rahman, have been teaching from home this week, delivering content on Google Meet. Seeing them teaching from home, and responding to questions, supported by a member of staff in the room, has been remarkable to see.

The achievements of this week could not have happened without some key people. Alongside those staff who have supported in rooms, I must thank Mrs. Kandola and Miss Quamar for their hard work ensuring that Year 8 lessons were uploaded as promptly as possible on Monday morning, and the Year 8 team for their superb efforts getting Loom videos recorded. The mastermind behind all of this remote provision is our Vice Principal, Mr. Gee, who has been indefatigable in his dedication to ensuring that students are supported as much as possible when forced to work remotely. He has come up with the best solutions we can, based on our technical limitations (meaning we cannot stream live lessons) and the technical limitations of some of our families: every lesson has a short video with it, and can be viewed on any device. The wonderful thing about this provision is that Mr. Gee ensures that these lessons are uploaded every week, meaning that any absent student can still access the lesson and resources, no matter if they are the only one in their year group not here!

Amidst the maelstrom of absences, we embarked upon Cycle Two this week – for those uninitiated we operate four nine-week Cycles each year, with students in Key Stage 3 rotating between Horizon/Innov8 and Humanities each Cycle, and students in Key Stage 4 alternating their second Option lesson of the week. This ensures that there is fairness, as well as the broadest and most balanced curriculum offer our students could have. All students, thanks to our Vice Principal, Mr. Mills, have been issued with a new timetable – if there are any issues, please contact your child's Tutor.

Working with our colleagues, Solo, we have been able to increase the time spent by our cleaning team on site – they have been doing everything they can to keep the Academy as sanitised as possible throughout the day. Solo are a huge part of what we do here at Langley; they truly buy into what we do, working with us. My thanks go to: Gill Edwards, Carole Reid, Simone Martine, Susan Leadbeater, Josephine Arifiyye, Jayne Richardson, Iwona Grulkowska, Comfort Habada and Edyta Lange – you are a key part of the Langley family.

I got to speak to other key members of our family on Thursday, when I joined our Local Governing Body. Though virtually, it was wonderful to see Mr. Pope (Chair), Mr. Denston (Vice Chair), Mr. Forrester (Parent Governor), Mr. Cliff, Mr. Idowu, Mr. Knight, Mr. Mee among others, where we discussed the state of play, and plans for the future. We were bolstered by Mr. Mills, who presented a summary based around findings from our Assessment Week, as part of his NPQH programme; I am sure Mr. Mills would join me in thanking Mr. Wood for all of the work carried out in reflection on our very successful Assessment Week.

Our staff have been collaborating, and entering information for our first Interim Report of the academic year, which will be shared at our Parents' Evening 2 on Thursday 10th December. During this evening, you will be able to discuss your child's progress with a Learning Consultant for a subject (and options in Year 11). Letters have been distributed for students to book appointments – please contact your child's PLD if you have any queries or issues, as we prepare for this key moment in the year.

An important moment in the history of our Academy, which earned us national recognition, was when we were awarded the prestigious Association of Character Award. We were just the fifth institution in the country to achieve this accolade – I noted the expansion of the programme, as they visited my sons' primary school this week. Mr. Dawes and I had been invited to present a workshop at their annual conference, but current restrictions did not allow the physical event to take place. Instead, my Associate Vice Principal (English) attended virtually, hearing from such luminaries as former Education Secretary, Damian Hinds. As we reflect on our successes, against all the odds, our commitment to developing our students' characters from the moment they arrive, has provided us with motivated, kind, compassionate people, who want to be here every day to do their best.

It is always a treat to see the litany of students who have excelled beyond all others in every lesson in a single day. My congratulations (and a Head of School Commendation) goes to: Temi Fajinmi (9L1), Lucy Hadley (7C2), Simran Bath (8S1), Gabriel Capper-Stevenson (7C2), Oliver Ball (9C1), Gabriella Jackson (7A1), Harrison Corker (9A1), Devinder Sunner (10A1), Lillie-Alice Day (7C2) and Hargun Risham (7C1) twice! Well done to all of these superstar students!

Last week, I felt like even more of a movie star, as the production values of our Virtual Newsletter received a new lick of paint! When we began the Virtual Newsletter, it was designed to be in place of the print edition you hold now, which was put on enforced hiatus when the national Lockdown occurred. At the beginning, it was a quick clip, where Mr. Karim grabbed my iPhone and recorded me on the Design Steps. As of September, the steady hands of Mrs. Fogarty have held the camera, but since I upgraded to an iPhone 12, we have found it difficult to reconcile some issues with the footage quality. I was delighted to hear that our Design & Technology Learning Consultant, Mr. Dhaliwal, has moonlighted in the past as a photographer and videographer; I engaged him immediately, and was blown away by his set up: lights, two cameras and a lapel mic to reduce sound bleed (you may have seen some images posted on our Facebook page). I have received lots of praise, especially from my eldest, who loves all things cinematic, and look forward to seeing more and more tweaks as the weeks move on.

By the time you receive this, you will have learned that Sandwell has been placed into the 'Very High' Tier 3, in preparation for when we exit the national Lockdown measures next week. These are restrictions that have to be adhered to, but I have managed to find deep joy in the grassroots sports that underpin so much of the country's leisure time. It has been lovely to hear of staff using their local, natural environments to explore and exercise. Myself, I have seen my son's Academy football as a lifeline, as he has been allowed to continue training and playing. Though I was not able to spectate his goal and assist against Derby County this week, due to restrictions, I was immensely proud, and grateful that he was able to play.

We come to the Academy each week committed to helping your child in any way possible. We are starting to see some glimmers in the distance of some chance of returning to a more 'normal' existence, but know that the shortest path to that particular promised land is by walking the road of observance. I hope that you do heed the guidelines, keep yourselves and your families safe and well, and look forward to sending your children to us on Monday as much as we look forward to seeing them. To our Year 8 students – we miss you; we cannot wait to see you soon!

Best Wishes,

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 23rd November 2020. They are:



MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 30/11/2020

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 30th November	Sausage Peas & Carrots Mashed Potato Gravy	Quorn Sausage (V) Peas & Carrots Mashed Potato Gravy	Ice Cream Pot
Tuesday 1st December	Chicken Korma Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Quorn Korma (V) Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Mini Jam Doughnut
Wednesday 2nd December	Beef Burger Burger Bun Wedges Baked Beans	Quorn Burger (V) Burger Bun Wedges Baked Beans	Fresh Fruit
Thursday 3rd December	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese & Onion Pasty Diced Potato Peas & Carrots	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese & Onion Pasty Diced Potato Peas & Carrots	Yoghurt Pot
Friday 4th December	Battered Fishwich Chipped Potatoes Peas	Quorn Sausage (V) Chipped Potatoes Peas	Chocolate Mini Muffin

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

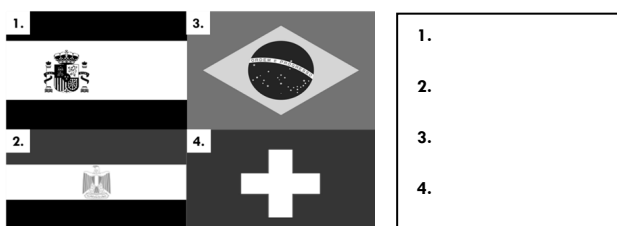
ANDERSON'S ATLAS

The winner of last week's Anderson's Atlas was Brannon Fell (9C1).
Well done Brannon!

The answers for last week's Anderson's Atlas were: 1) Australia
2) India 3) Dubai 4) Peru 5) China and 6) Chile

Anderson's Atlas for this week is:

Name the main colours found in the four flags below:



Answers should be clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 1st December at 15:30. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parents' Consultation Evening 2 (Remote)

Thursday 10th December 2020

Students finish by 14:30

#WearItXmas Day including Christmas Family Lunch

Friday 11th December 2020

Students finish by 14:30

Year 11 Mock Examination Week

Week Commencing Monday 14th December 2020

Christmas Holiday (All students except Year 11)

Monday 14th December 2020—Friday 1st January 2021

INSET Day

Monday 4th January 2021—Academy closed to students

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Students return at the usual time.