



ACADEMY
LANGLEY

Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



Over the weekend, I heard some news that brought me right back to my childhood. Though seemingly a period far, far away, learning of the death of David Prowse, who played Darth Vader in the Star Wars trilogy, filled me with sadness; it is an open secret that I am a fan of the franchise. I was only thinking about another of his famous roles, as the Green Cross Code Man, last Friday, when we learned of two separate traffic incidents

with Langley students. Though one was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital, I am relieved to report that both students will make full recoveries. I must thank our staff team, but also Mr. Brittle and Mr. Davis of our neighbours Oldbury Academy for their support and contact with Mr. Karim, with updates into Friday night. They certainly lived up to their 'Care' philosophy last week. I was frustrated to be told that some of our students might not have been behaving in the most responsible manner near the road; this was compounded by the fact that we had delivered a Tutor Time session on Road Safety last week. Clearly, we need a joined up message, and I implore parents and carers to have conversations with their children this weekend about the importance of road safety. A quick search will bring up the tragic story of Zoe Shapiro, who we lost to a traffic incident in 2016, when she was a sixth form student at our Great Barr site. That day will live with me forever; I would hate for any Langley student to suffer a similar fate.

News came to us too late to be included in this address, or the Virtual Newsletter, but we had to make the difficult (but necessary) decision, due to positive tests, to keep Year 8 off for this week, Year 9 (who will be back with us on Tuesday) and several Year 7 students. I thank staff for their efforts getting work out, our students for persevering at home, and our parents and carers for their support. We cannot wait to see them all back for the final week of term!

Traditionally, one of the benefits of working in education is the appreciation from the students; at this time of year, that often manifests itself in the form of cards and gifts. However, this year, it has been decided that we will not be accepting cards or gifts from students. Instead, if you would like to channel any funds spent on such offerings on a donation to a charity or food bank, we would be delighted. I can attest that a message or email to a member of staff is as heartening as a box of chocolates – if you would like me to pass anything on through our Facebook, I would be happy to.

The festive season will not go unrecognised in these changed times – next week sees Christmas Family Lunch, a true highlight, and our #WearItChristmas day, on Friday! For the uninitiated, this takes the place of non-uniform days in the Academy, where students are allowed to replace an item of their Business Dress or P.E kit with a festive item, provided they donate £1 (we will be collecting the funds in the Covid-secure way and quarantining before processing). Students can wear a festive jumper, socks/tights, hair bands, glasses, gloves and scarves or ties/cravats; students will not be allowed to wear festive make up,

jewellery, hair colouring, earrings or paint their nails, as this would not be in line with our policies. We look forward to a seasonal line up next week!

Our Police play such an important role in our society – we have a great relationship with West Midlands Police, and were thrilled to learn that Jack Murphy (10S1) was successfully appointed as a Youth Commissioner for them recently. What a fantastic, interesting role for a young person to have – I thoroughly enjoyed hearing all about it during our Time for Tea this week!

This term, we have produced over 1000 meals every day, in addition to Family Breakfast; this is during a time when locally and nationally, school meal providers are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet (I even learned from a Headteacher that their Sandwell school had a £150k black hole in that part of the budget). However, our partners, Sodexo, have staunchly strode from strength-to-strength, supporting our students in ensuring they have a nourishing provision. I must thank the team: Rickey Parker, Andre Alto, Nicolas Langford, Claire Morton, Fiona Icke, Lisa Knowles, Laurel Berry, Maureen Clarke, Michelle Casey, Michelle Murray, Natalie Neenan, Verona Teague and Vicky Fletcher. To have a catering partner feel like such a part of the Langley family is truly a reflection of everything they do – thank you.

It has been great to see that, even in a challenging set of days, some students have gone above and beyond, earning three Star of the Lessons in a single day! My congratulations (and a Head of School Commendation) go to the following students, who have earned this accolade since (and including) last Friday: Rohan Uppal (10S1), Rozeena Shabbir (10A1), Ashmeet Kaur (9C2), Oliver Ball (9C1), Maya Raza (10A1), Rehan Imran (10A1) and Jayan Teji (7L1). Well done to all of these superstar students!

We shared an informative 'Meet the Team' flier for our Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) this week, where they invited parents and carers to join them (remotely via Zoom) for their meeting this Monday at 19:00. I will be in attendance, as usual, and look forward to sharing news and updates about Academy life. Please contact them if you would like access to the meeting.

As I was walking through the Academy this week, observing Year 7 learning about the Solar System, I was struck by a wonderful nugget from our Enterprise and Business Learning Consultant, Mrs. Young – her great-great-uncle, John Couch Adams (her maiden name) is credited with discovering Neptune! Her aunt still has all of the books where he calculated where the planet is, before it was discovered – fascinating! I wonder if any of our students have a hidden hero in their ancestry...

Please stay safe and observe all Tier 3 guidelines this weekend. We look forward to our last full week of term, and hope that as many of our students as possible are able to be with us. Take care!

Best Wishes,

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 30th November 2020. They are:



Gabriella
Jackson
7A1



Amber
Sahota
7C1



Hella Behal
7D1



Jayan Teji
7L1



Oliwia
Izocka 7S1



Lucy
Forrester
11D1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 7/12/2020

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 7th December	Sausage Roll Peas & Carrots Mashed Potato	Vegetarian Sausage Roll (V) Peas & Carrots Mashed Potato	Yoghurt Pot
Tuesday 8th December	BBQ Chicken Braised Rice Green Beans & Sweetcorn	BBQ Quorn (V) Braised Rice Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Pot
Wednesday 9th December	Breaded Chicken Wedges Mixed Vegetables	Southern Quorn Burger (V) Wedges Mixed Vegetables	Mini Blueberry Muffin
Thursday 10th December	(Meat-Free Thursday) Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potato Baked Beans	(Meat-Free Thursday) Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potato Baked Beans	Fresh Fruit
Friday 11th December	Christmas Family Lunch Roast Turkey Roasted Potatoes/Pigs in Blankets/ Stuffing Ball/Peas & Carrots Gravy	Christmas Family Lunch Roast Quorn Fillet (V) Roasted Potatoes/Pigs in Blankets/ Stuffing Ball/Peas & Carrots Gravy	Ice Cream Pot

(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 Millie-An Deeming (10D2). Well done Millie-An Deeming!

The answers for last week's Anderson's Atlas were: 1) Spain—Red/Yellow 2) Egypt—Red/White/Black 3) Brazil—Blue/Yellow/Green and 4) Switzerland—Red/White.

Anderson's Atlas for this week is:

Geography Christmas Quiz:

- 1) In which country would you find Lapland?
- 2) Which country gets Christmas first?
- 3) Which country does Christmas Island belong to?
- 4) What type of animal is herded by the Sami people of Northern Europe?
- 5) Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?

Answers should be clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 8th 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.