



ACADEMY
LANGLEY

Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



Though this was our final week of term, it felt like we had a new lease of life this week; not only were we imbued with the Christmas spirit, but we welcomed out Year 8 and 9 students (as well as a clutch of Year 7s) back to the Academy. Though many of our students (and staff) are looking forward to our three-week break (a long-standing Q3 innovation that far exceeds the recent government announcement about the 18th December in terms of distance between terms) our Year 11 students are undertaking their Mock Exams next week. In my experience, as a learner and educator,

there has never been a replacement for hard work and revision – I know that your Learning Consultants have done everything they can to support you. This critical week has been put together by Mr. Mills, and our Exams Officer, Mr. Wood; I wish you the best of luck, and hope that you reap the rewards of your endeavours!

At the end of our first term, the hard work of our NQTs is codified in their first NQT Reports. Speaking to our Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning, Mr. Gee, and our Associate Vice Principal, Mrs. Underhill, the documents pulsate with the pride of their mentors. I have met with all of them, individually, over the past few weeks to discuss their progress, how they have settled in, and the unprecedented times in which we now work. Suffice to say – they will definitely never forget this year! Despite much of their training year being disrupted, I am thrilled with how these colleagues are performing and developing – my thanks to all of the mentors, for taking the time to develop and support them.

You will have read that a key pillar of trust and support I often lean on is our Chair of Governors, Mr. Pope. Many of the Year 11 students see him as a wonderful, charismatic surrogate 'grandfather' of Langley (I hope he doesn't mind being cast in this generational role) as his visits bring light, joy and inspiration. Sadly, we could not host him in person for his eagerly-anticipated Christmas address, but in his own, inimitable style, Mr. Pope delivered a wonderful video address, truly chiming in with the true meaning of the season, reflected in these uncertain times.

The festive spirit has really caught on at Langley, with our #WearItChristmas day on Friday – it was lovely to see an array of Christmas accoutrements, festively festooned in replacement of an item. Though we could not have the usual singing and dancing (often led by the exuberant Mr. Karim), Christmas Family Lunch was a lovely occasion, shared by all. Finally, I am delighted to announce that, for the third year in a row, Langley students have won the Q3 Academies Trust Christmas Card Competition – my congratulations go to Gurleen Bagri (7A2) Guramrit Mand (7D2) – your design is adorning our stakeholders' mantlepieces this festive season – what a great achievement.

An unexpected feather in the caps of our staff is the responsibility of our weekly feature; we say a fond farewell to Anderson's Atlas. Mrs. Anderson's globe-trotting questions have seen a slew of entries – watch this 'step' for next term's feature...

It is always wonderful to gain recognition for our commitment to the Arts – Mrs. Meredith, who leads the Creative Arts team, informed me that we have been awarded the Music Mark for 2021-21, as we provide a high quality music provision for our students. My thanks to Mr. Partridge and Miss Silverton for their work this year – though they have often decamped to our 'Peri-pod', they have proved that music is universal, and can be enjoyed anywhere!

The flavour of democracy has reached all corners of the Academy this week (and our self-isolating students) as we have been holding the hustings for our

new Head Boy and Head Girl. Our incumbents, Ben Philpott (11L1) and Nathania Tapela (11D1) have been phenomenal ambassadors for the Academy for over four years – I still vividly remember their speeches from Year 7. However, with Year 11, and the strains of exams, they have given up the post, leading us to reevaluate the model. Henceforth, our Academy leaders will be drawn from Year 10, with a single calendar year as their term of office. After shortlisting 6 candidates, I am delighted to announce that our successful Head Boy is Amanveer Bath (10L1) and Head Girl is Deeyah Mannan (10C1). My commiserations to our unsuccessful finalists, though I am delighted to inform you that they have been elected to be our Prefects, carrying out vital roles around the Academy; our new Prefects are: Paddy Capper-Steventon (10L2), Zain Din (10D1), Angel-Janyce Acheampong (10C1) and Priya Rai (10D1). I am sure that all will serve with distinction. My thanks to all students for voting, and Miss Rowson for coordinating the process.

Further excellent student performance has been seen this week, with the following students receiving three Star of the Lesson awards in a single day: Thomas Barton (10D2), Rohan Uppal (10S1), Avneet Mudher (7C1), Danny Ray Handy (7S2), Ellie Murphy (8A2), Vyrion Akoto (9A1), Yuohah Nasiri (7D1) and Mery Falbi (10D2). Well done to all these superstar students; enjoy your Head of School Commendation!

At this time of the year, we often find ourselves bidding a fond farewell to some members of staff. This term, we say goodbye to two members of the Langley team – Mr. Fulgence and Mrs. Yates. Mr. Fulgence, after joining us as a Student Support Champion, found his niche in our Right Path provision (he even campaigned for this, more restorative name) – he will be missed. Mrs. Yates has supported us in her Finance capacity – I thank her for her diligent service and continued warmth and friendliness – our Finance Director, Mrs. Atwood, has remarked that she leaves a huge hole to fill – no more glowing recommendation could be made. Finally, on a Trust level, we are saddened to learn that Mr. Moody, our Group I.T Manager, will be leaving for pastures anew. A Q3 stalwart, he has been instrumental in setting up our I.T infrastructure at Langley, and has always supported us. We wish him the very best of luck at Sutton Coldfield Grammar School; he is always welcome for a tour of our full build, to see how we realised a vision that he helped to shape...

Obviously Christmas this year will be different for so many of us – as we try to navigate through all the rules around bubbles and hospitality being closed etc. I really want to thank every single member of staff and all the students for all their efforts as part of the Langley Family since September. We have had our challenges but everyone has embodied the Good, Right and True ethos that has seen us pull through even stronger and still deliver amazing education and pastoral care. Whatever you are doing keep safe and we will see the students back at the normal time on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

This Christmas and New Year will be different for so many of us, as we stick to the guidelines – the glimmer of hope that the vaccine provides has started to shine brighter in the last few days, but will only be our salvation if we sacrifice in the short term. 2020 has been a year of unprecedented and unexpected challenges – I do not think we could be where we are without the support of parents and carers, the hard work and diligence of our students and the dedication and commitment of our staff team, who work every day for your children's futures. Our Academy ethos: To seek that which is Good, Right and True has never been embodied more than this calendar year. I hope you have a restful break – good luck to Year 11 next week – we wish you a Happy New Year; we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5th January 2021!

Best Wishes,
Peter Lee
 Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 7th December 2020. They are:



MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 4/1/2021

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 4th January 2021	INSET DAY Academy closed to students		
Tuesday 5th January 2021	Chicken Korma Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Quorn Korma (V) Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Mini Jam Doughnut
Wednesday 6th January 2021	Turkey Burger Burger Bun Wedges Baked Beans	Quorn Burger (V) Burger Bun Wedges Baked Beans	Yoghurt Pot
Thursday 7th January 2021	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese & Onion Pasty Potato Croquettes Peas & Carrots	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese & Onion Pasty Potato Croquettes Peas & Carrots	Madeira Sponge Cake
Friday 8th January 2021	Battered Fishwich Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	Quorn Sausage (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	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 Yousuf Kamran (7S2). Well done Yousuf!

The answers for last week's Anderson's Atlas were: 1) Finland 2) New Zealand 3) Australia 4) Reindeer and 5) Wales.

We would like to thank Mrs Anderson for her wonderful feature every week as we reveal the final Anderson's Atlas:



Answers should be clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 5th 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

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.

PACT Meeting

Monday 10th January 2021—7pm

Parents' Consultation Evening 3 (Remote)

Thursday 4th February 2021

Students finish by 14:30