



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week marked our second Assessment Week of the academic year, where students worked to complete assessments in their Core subjects. The focus of students, and their dedication was superb; even Dr. Badyal mentioned on her visit this Monday how impressive they were. Assessment Week prepares our students, in an age-appropriate and supportive setting, for the rigours of their later examinations, and I have been so pleased to see students revising, self-quizzing and testing each other during

Family Breakfast and Tutor Time. I believe we have the #HardestWorkingStudentsInSandwell, but that moniker can only have the veracity it does thanks to the support our children receive at home – thank you!

Last weekend, I received a wonderful message on the Academy's Facebook page (which I personally manage and respond on), containing an aerial image of the Academy site taken by drone! It was truly fascinating to behold our growth from this elevation, with the Specialist Teaching Block particularly drawing the eye. I can confirm that Miss Quamar is sourcing a frame, so the image can sit alongside all of my Liverpool memorabilia, in pride of place in my office. I thank Mr. Mark Shephard, father of Charlie Shephard (9C1) for sending the image to us; a Head of School Commendation will be heading home today. Who knows – we might even get an image of the site once Phase 3 is completed...

This week saw a Time for Tea with Gabriel Dhillon-Powell (10C1), who we were made aware had been continuing his amazing charity work in recent months. Gabriel has always, since Year 7, been heavily involved in charity work and helping others; it was great to catch up with him about his work with Black Country Women's Aid. In addition, during Assessment Week, we tend to see fewer students able to achieve three Star of the Lessons in a single day, but my congratulations (and a Head of School Commendation) to Mitchell Cooley (8A2) who managed it towards the end of last week – well done!

Speaking of our Phase 3 build, we have seen a number of visitors, in partnership with Wilmott Dixon, take time to survey the site. I am delighted to share that after the End User Weekly Meetings with Sandwell, Wilmott Dixon and our architects ADP have each started back with us, and will be with us every Friday from today. As ever, we are indebted to our Project Manager, Stewart Hills, who has been part of the Langley journey since the very start, overseeing the whole project. I for one am looking forward to working with him more frequently! As we progress, we will be able to share a more formalised timeline regarding construction, and how it might affect the site with mandatory closures. For example, we will share with you as soon as possible the dates that the steel for the new Phase will be delivered and erected over the Summer period.

This week, I had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Paul Cliff, one of our Governors. After arriving before 08:00, he spent a full couple of hours of his own time sharing the wisdom and skillset he has cultivated over an impressive career. We are extremely grateful to him, and his employers, Hadley Group, for graciously granting the time for him to visit with us.

Thursday saw, with Year 7, something that has become a lovely tradition in the Academy. Andrew Taylor, from the Gideons, joined us for an

assembly, and offered the opportunity to take a Gideon Bible – no doubt we will see Andrew this time next year! I am aware that our Sponsor (and avid reader of the Newsletter) Mr. Payne has performed a similar role for the Gideons near his residence, and would echo my deep thanks for them taking the time to share their faith with our students.

Additionally, I am thrilled that, during Ethos Week, our friends from Gas Street Church are hosting us as the base for our visit to Birmingham City Centre, spread across two days. I can attest to the difficulty to finding a place for 100+ children to eat their lunch in warmth and safety, and am so thankful for their kindness. I had the pleasure of visiting with them last week, and finalising the itinerary with Kids and Youth Pastor, James Leavy – they are so accommodating!

As a reminder, Ethos Week letters have been sent out (please ask your child to look in the depths of their bag for it), which outlines the plan for the week, for your particular year group. The consent form also needs to be sent back to us, as a necessity. In addition, we request a small, cash voluntary contribution to go towards transport and booking costs for the week – Mr. Gee, our Vice Principal, can speak at length about the cost of coaches – I thank those who have been able to support us. Any question, please speak to your child's PLD.

Our deadline for the latest raft of job adverts closed on Friday, with an enormous amount of interest due to the sharing from staff, parents and friends of the Academy. Our good friend Katherine Birbalsingh, the driving force behind the Michaela School in London, even endorsed our label as the 'Michaela of the Midlands'. Since this latest round of posts being advertised, we have even hosted over 25 prospective candidates for informal visits; a mere drop in the ocean of applications. I look forward to the shortlisting process and upcoming interviews.

Our wonderful Vice Principal, Mr. Mills, deputised for me at the latest Secondary Heads' meeting this week. I am always impressed by his commitment, professionalism and support, shown through my ten years of knowing him, and his time at Langley. In fact, he and Ms. Cox, a fellow Vice Principal, attend their Ambition Institute residential this weekend, as they trained for the next phase in their journey. I was thrilled to see Mr. Cox, Learning Consultant in Geography, attended a similar event last weekend, and Miss Hicks, our PLC in Year 9, continued her development with the NASUWT union. I thank all staff who go above and beyond in the pursuit of learning (which ultimately helps our students the most).

Before the end of this week's address, I must pay a special tribute to Mrs. Gaur, one of our founding members. I learned that this week marks 15 years since she started at Q3: beginning at Dartmouth, transitioning to Q3 Great Barr, and then embarking on our journey at Langley. We are so proud to work with her every day, and thank her for all she does – I am struggling to find out how she has been with Q3 as long as our Year 10s have been alive, yet looks so youthful and stylish!

I send my warmest wishes to our students this weekend – I think you have earned a bit of a rest after the trials of Assessment Week. I look forward to seeing you all 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 20th January 2020. They were:



Alex Atchison  
9A1



Madison Jones  
9C1



Zain Din  
9D1



Kierat Dhanda  
9L1



Issa Muflihi  
9S1



Sophie Collins  
10A1

## MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 27/01/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
<b>Monday 27th January</b>	<b>Tandoori Chicken</b> Pitta Bread Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	<b>Quorn Tandoori (V)</b> Pitta Bread Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	<b>Mini Jam Doughnut</b>
<b>Tuesday 28th January</b>	<b>Reggae Reggae Chicken</b> Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	<b>Reggae Reggae Quorn (V)</b> Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	<b>Yeo Valley Yoghurt Pot</b>
<b>Wednesday 29th January</b>	<b>Roast Turkey</b> Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	<b>Roast Quorn Fillet (V)</b> Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	<b>Flapjack</b>
<b>Thursday 30th January</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Onion Pasty (V)</b> Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	<b>Cheese &amp; Onion Pasty (V)</b> Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	<b>Cocoa Brownie Cookie</b>
<b>Friday 31st January</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V)</b> Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza (V)</b> Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	<b>Fresh Fruit</b>

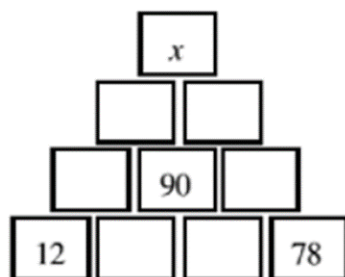
(V) Suitable for Vegetarians. The menu is subject to change at short notice.

## The Doc's Dilemma

The winner of last week's Doc's Dilemma was Connor Cleeton-Astbury (7L2). Well Done Connor!

### The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:

In the diagram, the number in each box is obtained by adding the numbers in the two boxes immediately underneath. What is the value of  $x$ ?



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 28th January 2020 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Ethos Week

Week Commencing 10th February 2020.

### Parents' Evening 3

Thursday 13th February 2020—3pm-7:30pm.

### Half Term

Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February 2020

Monday 24th February 2020

**Students return at normal time.**

### Pathways Evening (Year 9)

Thursday 5th March 2020