



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



One of the many benefits of being a Head of School is the chance I have to spend time with individual students, to discuss their remarkable achievements, through an arrangement we call 'Time 4 Tea' with me, Mr. Lee (we love a bit of alliteration and rhyme at Langley). This chat, which happens at break-times, involves a cup of tea (or glass of squash), and a conversation about students' exploits, and their life inside and outside of the Academy. This week, I was delighted to speak with Zinzile Mloyi (8A2), Emma Law (8L1), Jack Dunn (8A1), Brannon Fell (8C1) and Sunveer Kaur (8D2). Zinzile

thoroughly impressed me (and made me consider my plans for recruitment for 2020) with her poise, presence and confidence when teaching part of Mr. Morrison's English lesson – our Leader of Learning was so proud of her! The four other superstar students supported Miss Binsley with training of our new raft of Tour Guides, who will no doubt be equally superb as ambassadors as all of our previous recruits have. All students, in addition to brightening my day, will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation for their efforts – well done, and thank you for embodying our Academy's ethos, to seek for that which is Good, Right and True!

Furthermore, I am so proud to announce students who have received three Star of the Lessons in a single day! We receive so many, that sometimes a name might slip through – please let us know if you receive the notification on Class Charts, but do not see your child's name up in lights. My congratulations to Jack Dunn (8A1), Charanjit Sandhu (7S1), Owen Woodward (10S1) and Jack Murphy (9S1) for their fantastic efforts – all will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation.

This week, our Chief Executive, Dr. Badyal, was not able to grace us with her presence and wisdom, as she took part in an Ofsted inspection for a school in the local area – her first of the academic year. We hope all went well, and look forward to welcoming her back next week. I managed, in support of our work across the Trust, to spend some time at our sister site, Q3 Tipton. I thank Ms. Featherstone for welcoming me so warmly, and our staff team for continuing the excellent work we do here at Langley in my absence.

This week, we embarked on a series of interviews for our Core subjects: English, Maths and Science. Days like these, where I am able to see candidates teach lessons, observe their philosophies around education, note how they engage with our students, and give them a well-natured 'grilling' in the interview stage, this can only happen thanks to the exceptional organisation and preparation done behind the scenes. I thank Mrs. Hutton for putting the days together, and for top-and-tailing the process, and Mrs. Kandola, Miss Loxton and Miss Marchant (who have been receiving many compliments from our guests on their stylish-yet-professional Business Wear) for their work throughout the days. Though I, and Mr. Mills, have been fixtures of the week, I must thank my Curriculum Directors: Mr. Dawes (English), Miss Davis (Maths) and Mr. Anderson (Science). On their respective days, they have added expertise, insight and decisiveness. I am thrilled to let you know that we have made a number of appointments, which we will be able to inform you of in due course, pending all necessary checks.

This week, we welcomed a new colleague, as Mr. Sohail joined the Science Department, for his second placement on his PGCE course at the University of Wolverhampton. I thank Mr. Singh, who brings a wonderful combination of experience, expertise and genuine warmth, for his work as a mentor. As we look to next academic year, and reflect on the journey of our trainees, and NQTs, I feel I must pay tribute to Mrs. Underhill, our Lead Professional in Teaching and Learning, for all she does with the NQT and ITT teams, and Mr. Gee, our Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning, who has designed the entire training and development process at the Academy. Mrs. Underhill's commitment is so great that this week, she travelled, in her capacity of

Professional Mentor, to the University for a meeting, only to discover that it had been cancelled (without any notice given). I appreciate her attendance, and all she does, and Mr. Gee, for supporting our whole staff team in their professional development.

In addition to our dedicated staff team, our Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) are simply the best of any place I have worked. I received a fantastic update this week, explaining that, next Monday, the PACT meeting will be a normal one (starting at 19:30 – please sign in at Reception), with the PACT AGM (Annual General Meeting) taking place in March. The depth and detail, and commitment I see from the team into making sure they are the best they can be is genuinely heart-warming to behold.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen a rise – no doubt linked to the recent gift-giving period of Christmas – in the number of smart watches in the Academy, being worn by students. Any form of watch that allows a child to receive messages (even if it does not have a send function) is not allowed, at all. This follows the same process and rationale behind our mobile phone policy – they are to be handed in at the start of the day, where they will be locked away until the end of the Academy day, as with phones. There are some devices that track steps, without the messaging function; these are acceptable – good luck trying to beat my 10,000 steps a day, though! Fundamentally, we reserve the right to make the decision as to what is appropriate or not, so we urge you to err on the side of caution in this area. Our interviews this week, where we were able to hear about the experiences of other schools, only sharpened our view that this is a policy that keeps our children safe, and allows them to focus on their learning.

This week, you should have received your child's Parents' Evening 3 letter, where your child will be able to see the Core Learning Consultant they have second each week. Last year, we moved this Parents' Evening so as not to clash with Valentine's Day – we do not have the same issue this year, as it falls on the 13th February. Attendance to these evenings is critical in the development and progress of your child; our event before Christmas (which did fall on the day of the historic General Election) was the worst attended since our opening in 2016. Our staff attend every one of these events, in addition to a range of external partners and agencies. Our Chair of Governors, the delightful Mr. Pope, is correct in always expressing the urgent need to attend every one of these evenings.

We understand that work and family commitments might inhibit your capacity to attend, but if you let us know, my brilliant staff team will work around your schedule, and find time to speak with you. Making appointments, which you know you will not attend, does not support your child or the Academy. It was reinforced, thanks our Year 7 PLC, Mr Fullwood's attendance at a Sandwell Transition Meeting, the critical importance of strong relationships with parents, and how they tragically fall off when children commence secondary education – this is something we have always been determined to stop. We cannot wait for the official confirmation of our incoming Year 7 cohort on March 2nd, and the chance to set our stall out with our new parents and carers.

Our weekly challenge has had a real Mathematics focus, curated by Dr. Lambert; this week sees a surprising winner (which you can see on the back of this address). Next week sees 120 of our students entered for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, and we thank him for putting together our bumper cohort together! Next week sees the final week of Cycle Two, as we end some rotations in Horizon, Innov8 and Humanities – that means that the learning will go until the final moment! I hope you have a great weekend; we look forward to seeing students on Monday morning!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 27th January 2020. They were:



Avani Cholia
7A2



Dilcharan
Sandhu
7C2



Harpriya Bahia
7D2



Hafsah Khan
7L2



Sophie Cutler
7S2



Jenna Stevens
10S1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 03/02/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 3rd February	Sausage & Mash Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Quorn Sausages (V) Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 4th February	Chicken Korma Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Vegetarian Korma (V) Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Pot
Wednesday 5th February	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 Pot
Thursday 6th February	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 7th February	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

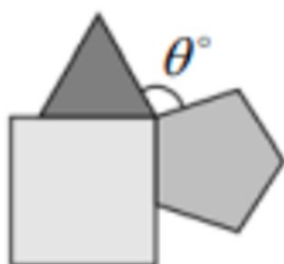
(V) Suitable for Vegetarians. The menu is subject to change at short notice.

The Doc's Dilemma

The winner of last week's Doc's Dilemma was a joint victory, with our Sponsor, Mr. Payne and Meya Evans (9C2) both calculating the correct answer. Well done to both!

The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:

The diagram shows an equilateral triangle, a square and a regular pentagon, which all share a common vertex. What is the value of θ ?



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 4th February 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

PACT

Monday 3rd February 2020—7:30pm-8:30pm

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