



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week began with a true personal highlight for me, and a treat for our Senior Leadership team, as the enigmatic Barry Smith, our long-term friend, visited the Academy on Monday. Barry, who was a founding Deputy Head of the ground-breaking Michaela School (which finished 5th in the Department for Education Performance Tables last academic year), actually visited us not long after opening in 2016, offering many pearls of wisdom.

He has been an inspiration to me, and I am thrilled that his brand of leadership will extend to his new venture of Regional Director of a cluster of London schools next half-term. We thank him for all that he brought this week as our 'critical friend', and wish him the best of luck in his new role – his kind words about how impressed he was with Langley meant a tremendous amount.

Monday evening, after I rushed back from Walsall F.C, culminated in our latest PACT meeting. It was lovely to speak to the 25 parents and carers in attendance (with many more sending their apologies), where our productive meeting encompassed key topics leading up to our Annual General Meeting on 9th March. I must salute the 'temporary' committee of Mrs. Pablar, Mr. Potter and Mrs. Hudson, who chair all the meetings so professionally, and the logistical diligence of Mrs. Atkar and Mrs. Easton, making sure PACT runs as smoothly as possible.

Our recruitment drive for the upcoming academic year continued this week, with another successful appointment – this time in Modern Foreign Languages. Mrs. Gouden, who is currently with us on her second training placement, thoroughly impressed myself and Miss Williamson (our Lead Professional for Modern Foreign Languages), where I could see how proud she had made her mentor, our Leader of Learning in French, Miss Goodbourn. I am sure that she will continue to fit in wonderfully with a department that our Ofsted inspection praised to the rafters. We have filled over 75% of our vacancies for next year already, a testament to the sharing of our job advert online by parents and staff alike. In other news, I hear that our Lead Professional (and leader of our Cadet detachment) achieved a promotion of her own, moving from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer – congratulations ma'am!

Each week, a special time in my diary is reserved to speak with those special students who have achieved something that goes beyond the ordinary, in my Time for Tea. This week, I loved hearing from Florence Slade (7L2) about her performance in Alice in Wonderland – her 'smooth jazz tone' was especially commended! Additionally, I was so proud of how our students conducted themselves this week: Mark Fasham (9A2) and Malachiah Pringle (9L1) helped a stranded motorist, and Samrat Bhandari (7C1) was an Active Citizen as he supported the Police with an inquiry! Additionally, the following students will receive (as all of the above superstars will too) a Head of School Commendation for three Star of the Lessons in a single day: Sharandeep Bagri (9A1), Ansh Choudry (8C2) and Dilcharan Sandhu (7C2) – I am an extremely proud Head of School this week!

I feel that I must take a moment, in the maelstrom of educational life, to recognise Mrs. Meredith, our Director of Performing Arts. Some of

the opportunities that she has arranged for our students, such as the Birmingham Royal Conservatoire's Samba session, and this week's Welsh National Opera sessions, are the stuff that I could only dream about as a child. Our students will be able to perform in both Cardiff, and at The Black Country Living Museum – what an opportunity! Moreover, this week has seen over 65 students audition to be part of June's Summer Showcase. I thank Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. Stephens-Choudhury, Mr. Partridge, Miss Silverton and Miss Rowson for all they do! I cannot wait for the Summer Showcase on Thursday 24th June – it is certainly in my diary – I just look forward to seeing what surprises they have in store for us all...

This week, two of our University of Wolverhampton alumni have worked with our close partners, as Miss Deasy spoke to P.E undergraduates, and Mr. Dawes (our Curriculum Director for English) delivered a session to trainee English teachers. He will be busy, as in July, we have been invited to present at the second annual Schools of Character National Conference – he and I accepted only the fourth award in the country last year. The event takes place at the prestigious Eton College, meaning I will have completed the double of Eton and Wellington College visits in the same academic year!

Thursday this week saw our Lead Professional for History, Mr. Dale, lead a visit to a part of the country very close to my heart, Liverpool! Students visited the Slavery Museum, which links closely to their learning in History – having visited myself, I can attest to its informative, sobering and enriching offering. I thank all staff for supporting on the visit, and those equally dedicated colleagues who worked so hard to cover in the absence of staff. I cannot believe that since opening, we still have not utilised an external supply agency – we really do have the #HardestWorkingStaffInSandwell!

Today marks the final day of our Apprentice Science Technician Mr. Moore, who we thank for all of his hard work with us. Speaking with Mr. Anderson, our Curriculum Director for Science, I share his gratitude for all he has done to support the Science team, and we wish him the best as he explores opportunities in the future.

Next week is Ethos Week, at the half-way point of the year, where the timetable is collapsed completely for the full five days. Please refer to the correspondence sent home regarding arrangements for each year group – please keep an eye on our social media, as I will update throughout the week, and will share an overview of what students should wear each day of the week. I am so thankful to Mr. Gee, Miss Goodbourn and the PLD team for all of their work setting up the week – we hope to see our attendance figures boosted next week, which have really taken a nosedive since November. Students must be in the Academy, as next week, essential content will be covered, which will not be covered elsewhere.

I hope that you have an excellent weekend, where our students can rest and recuperate before next week – Ethos Week is one of the most important ones of the academic year. See you on Monday!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 3rd February 2020. They were:



Caitlyn Southall-
Watts
8A2



Khadeeja Ali
8C2



Louise Raybould
8D2



Manbeer Aujla
8L2



Ellie Hopcutt
8S2



Jessica Perry
10A1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 10/02/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 10th February	Southern Chicken Burger in a Bun Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Southern Quorn Burger in a Bun Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Yoghurt Pots
Tuesday 11th February	Chicken Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce Pasta Garlic Bread Mixed Cheese	Arrabiata Sauce (V) Pasta Garlic Bread Mixed Cheese	Chocolate Crunch
Wednesday 12th February	Piri-Piri Chicken Diced Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn	Piri-Piri Quorn Fillet (V) Diced Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn	Blueberry Mini Muffin
Thursday 13th February	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Ketchup Mustard Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Ketchup Mustard Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 14th February	Oven Baked Breaded Pollock Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	Vegetarian Sausage (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	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 Faith Green (7L1). Well done Faith!

The answer for last week's Doc's Dilemma was:

102°

The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:

Pedro is asked to find three kangaroos whose weights are all whole numbers of kilograms and whose total weight is 97 kg.

What is the largest possible weight of the **lightest** of the kangaroos Pedro could find?



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 11th 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

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

PACT AGM

Monday 9th March 2020—7:30pm