



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



Welcome to a bumper, two-page edition of the weekly newsletter, which marks the halfway point through academic year 2019 - 20!

It is unusual to start our weekly address by discussing events of the weekend, but many of you will know that twice over the weekend, we suffered power cuts in the local area. Our heroes, Mr. Evans and Mr. Davis, attended the site immediately, during

their weekend, to ensure that the site was secure, and to attend to the security company. I am sure you agree that they have gone above and beyond even the highest calls of duty, and I wish to start this week's address by thanking them. Both Mr. Evans and Mr. Davis will be on site during the half-term break, with our other wonderful colleague on the Site Team, Ms. Dawson, using her well-earned break to tour around various universities with her son. We are thrilled for them both, wish them luck, and thank the whole Site Team for continually embodying our ethos to seek for that which is Good, Right and True.

This week saw one of the jewels in the calendar at Langley – Ethos Week. This week, where the traditional timetable is collapsed, allows us to give our students vital learning in key areas (such as PSHE, British Values, Citizenship, Leadership and more), as well as offer unique opportunities. Before I attempt to reel off what has happened this week, I must thank some key staff for their work in preparing this week. Our Vice Principal, Mr. Gee, has coordinated the whole week; he has been working on this for months, and even by our lofty standards, this has been, by far, the smoothest and slickest Ethos Week we have ever had, a testament to his exceptional work. In addition, each of our PLDs – Mrs. Fogarty, Mrs. Goodman, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Snell – have worked tirelessly organising activities for their year groups, as well as orchestrating their teams. Finally, Ethos Week is a time when we offer all students the chance for an external visit. All visits have been put together with Miss Goodbourn, our external visits supremo! Her organisation, communication and composure, during such a strenuous week, has been incredible to behold. Thank you all so much!

In terms of Ethos Week, I will try to provide a potted tour of what our children have been up to. In Year 7, students visited Birmingham City Centre, taking in key cultural sites. We were hosted for the day by James and Martha at Gas Street Church; their hospitality and kindness, as they received their largest school party since their opening, was lovely. Our offer for Family Lunch, in reciprocation for their generosity, is always open to them. Also, our Chair of Governors, Mr. Pope, was able to make a flying visit, a real treat for our lucky students. Year 8 students visited the Black Country Living Museum, where I was pleased to hear that the students were equally as interested in the historical information as they were the (superb) fish and chips! During the week, Year 7 and 8 students have also been working towards their SSAT Leadership Accreditation, meaning they will all receive an

additional accolade, to add to their C.Vs as they grow older!

In Year 9, there has been a real drive to support students where they need it, with sessions focusing on Citizenship, and key lessons regarding health and well-being. In addition, a visit to Cannock Chase provided some key cultural capital for our students. In Year 10, students completed an English Literature mock question, engaged in STEM activities with the Army, and have all visited a Russell Group university. As you can see, there was an extraordinary provision for our students; we thank you for making the voluntary £5 contribution, as transport and booking costs for the week certainly add up!

At Langley, we see ourselves as committed partners to the local community. Our attendance and participation at Sandwell Network events is excellent; the work we do with primary schools in the local area means our students have a seamless transition; we have welcomed visitors from local schools to see how we do things, and provide feedback, which has made us all stronger. We appreciate that the challenge of education in Sandwell (and the broader Black Country) will only be truly solved when we work together (and that each school has its own limitations and inhibiting factors) – though we might do things differently to other schools, we have always been happy to articulate our vision and rationale, and listen to others.

Therefore, it was very discouraging this week to learn, from the parents of our Head Boy, Ben, that a parent of a child at another school had written about us on the Facebook page of another school, in quite a disparaging manner. The irony of the post, which was connected to the justified celebration of their pleasing progress, was that we have not had a full set of results, so cannot appear in any league tables. Though this was inaccurate, yet intended to discredit us, it was equally disrespectful to our sister site, Q3 Great Barr, who are top of the Sandwell table for Attainment (as well as other measures), reflective of the hard work of the staff team, leadership and stewardship of our friend, Mr. Arnall. Additionally, it seemed that, where we should be celebrating the success of our neighbours, and seeking to learn together, this person did not want to focus on the successes of their child's school, but try to denigrate us!

There are so many ways to look at performance and data; we will appear on the league tables in 2021, and will fairly look at where we perform on a local, regional and national level. So much of what we do to help young people in schools will not appear on such measures – the happiness and health of our children, their communication skill and character, and so much more. I could not be prouder of our students, our parents (who were quick to remind this poster of the invalidity of their comment) and our staff team, who all work together to improve the outcomes and prospects of our children. Whatever the tables say, I will continue to be the proudest Head of School I could be...

This week, we started our partnership with Birmingham City University, with regard to Social Workers undertaking placements as part of their qualification. We welcomed Mr. Griffin to the team, who we hope will add expertise and capacity to our pastoral team. Our lovely Mrs. Toy, who has brought so much to Langley in her time with us, put this partnership, which we are hopeful of extending, together - thank you!

We have advertised on our website and social media feeds the commencement of the process to elect a second Parent Governor, to work alongside our excellent incumbent, Mr. Forrester. As we grow, we hope to maintain the excellent links we have with parents and carers; I look forward to welcoming a new member to the Governing Body in due course. With that in mind, I thank all staff for their purposeful conversations during Parents' Evening, and of course, parents and carers for the care and support they show their children by attending their appointments.

In addition to the excitement of Ethos Week, some of our students have acquitted themselves wonderfully. The Student Council, under Miss Binsley's guidance, have been fund-raising with various Valentine's Day related ventures - I might have picked up a card myself! Also, Jessie-Leigh Jenns (10L1) brought in armfuls of accolades this week, as she came first place in the Junior 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke, as well as first in the 200m senior, second in the 50m and third in the 100m senior races, spreading across all age groups (up to 19 years old). Her two trophies, and nine medals, are an exhibition of her extraordinary ability and work - keep an eye out for her in the national competitions! In addition, the following superstar students have received three Star of the Lessons in a single week: Jasleen Nagra (7D2), Karamjot Sandhu (8D1), Drew Morley (9L2), Muhammad Musa (7L2), Oliver Ball (8C1) and George Heap (8L1). All students will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation.

Finally, I must conclude this week's address by harking back to some of my address from Intake Evening, from when your child joined the Academy. We have received a significant number of complaints to the Academy, be it to individual Learning Consultants, pastoral staff or myself, about sanctions given to students. We have always welcomed a dialogue with parents and car-

ers, but we have seen the discourse shift from the rational to the accusatory in several cases. Often, the story that has been transmitted home, from the child, is vastly different to the version that actually happened, which we investigate and corroborate with colleagues. I have worked in the public sector for over twenty years, and am aware (as many of us did, no doubt), that often children blame others, blame unfairness, or blame staff, in order to remove the culpability from themselves. I assure you - none of our staff come to the Academy with anything other than the desire to fairly and consistently carry out our policies, as they know that doing so keeps your children safe. This message is one that has been unwavering in the life of the Academy.

Additionally, we have seen a few parents and carers raising questions about interventions in Year 7. One of the key pieces of reading, when setting up Langley, was Ofsted's *The Wasted Years*. This report, which referenced a former school of mine, expressed that too often in education, little investment is made in students until Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) - surely this is too late? We saw the unsustainably arduous Saturday, holiday, breakfast (and more) sessions as something that puts unnecessary strain and stress on staff and, most importantly, students! Our interventions focus on closing gaps in knowledge and skill, not preparing for examinations, which allows students to feel more empowered in lessons, and learn more. If you have any queries, please contact the Academy.

We wish all families and those connected with Q3 Langley a fabulous half-term break; we will see students back bright and early on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the normal times.

**Best Wishes,**  
**Peter Lee**  
**Head of School.**

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 10th February 2020. They were:



Baljot Singh  
9A2



Maisie Reynolds  
9C2



Zaenub Mahmood  
9D2



Avinash Phull  
9L1



Beth Walton  
9S2



Eugenie Jackson  
10L1

## MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 24/02/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
<b>Monday 24th February</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 25th February</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 26th February</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 27th February</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 28th February</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 Junaid Hussain (8C2). Well done Junaid!

**The answer for last week's Doc's Dilemma was:**  
32kg

**The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:**  
25 different students received cards on Valentine's Day. These students have 30 secret admirers between them. What is the largest number of secret admirers that one student could have?



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 25th 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

### 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