



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



The only way we can start this week's address is to reference the awful incident that took place on Moat Road this week. We extend our deepest sympathies to those connected, and were shocked to find out that it had occurred, on Tuesday morning. I am sure our students, and staff, who have been so mature and diligent this week, would express their sincere condolences to all affected too.

Our week started with the joy of greeting our students back from a half-term break, ready for their brand-new Cycle Three lessons, following our terrific Ethos Week before the holiday. On Tuesday, when we learned the aforementioned news, I was in contact with the Academy all day, but from London, as I made my annual 'pilgrimage' to the Michaela Community School, our long-time friends. I was thrilled to be treated like a real VIP, being whisked straight up for a friendly catch up and honest conversation with their Headmistress Katherine Birbalsingh. I always love to pick her brains and learn from her wisdom – as the Head of the 5th most successful school in the country (following publication of the DfE League Tables) in a challenging part of the world, her school is an inspiration! I am assured that we will be receiving a visit from her in the near future...

Any time that we bid farewell to one of our original staff is a sad moment – we always hope that it is bittersweet, as they would be leaving our Langley family to somewhere they can be as happy as they were here. I am, therefore, delighted and heavy-hearted to bid farewell to Mrs. Dhansey. She began the journey with us after working with me at Great Barr, before leaving the Science team to teach in the Primary phase. When we opened Langley, she was ideal for our A.C.E provision – an exceptional secondary teacher with great experience in primary education. I cannot thank her enough for what she has brought to us, both professionally and with her infectious, warm, funny personality. As you may know, she has gotten married during her time at Langley, and started a family; as she moves to another part of the country, we wish her and her family the very best. You will always be a huge part of our family - please come back to visit!

Monday also saw the important dissemination of a letter outlining our decision, taken after a long consultation with the QAT Board and Governing Body, not to open a Sixth Form at Langley, and increase our Proposed Admission Number (PAN) to 300 from 240. We are continually humbled by the number of parents who choose the 'Langley' way, and feel that this will allow us to support even more children in the local area. As expected, we received disappointment from some parents and carers, and in honesty, we were downcast to make the announcement too. You may have seen that the financial climate relating to Post-16 education has changed a great deal over the past few years, and we have seen many schools scaling back or removing their Sixth Forms to secure the long-term future of their school. We want Langley to support the futures of children indefinitely, and will support our students to make the right Post-16 choices for them.

On social media, some parents expressed that they thought that this announcement came in conjunction with us not having a Year 11 Prom – there will be a Prom! I have never really thought that Prom, which represents a bit of an over-Americanisation of our traditions, was

particularly fair, with the pressure it puts on students and families, in terms of style and cost, but we will be having a celebration for our students, where they can dress up to the nines. We will be hosting the event at the Academy (as our sister site at Great Barr does), which is logistically ideal and visually impressive – if Mrs. Kandola has her say, it will be the envy of all venues in the West Midlands, meaning that we can spend our money on your children's education, and they can enjoy an evening with their friends, and staff. I cannot wait, and I am sure that the evening will see the appearance of some old friends too!

On Tuesday, Mr. Partridge and Miss Silverton, our Music Learning Consultants, took students on a visit to Cardiff to see Carmen with the Welsh National Opera. Like many of our staff, Mr. Partridge used his Twitter account to post lots of great updates during the day, giving us all a wonderful flavour of the students' experiences. Our staff Twitter accounts are very useful to follow, but we did have an incident where a child tried to follow a member of staff's personal Instagram account. As you can imagine, this cannot happen – as Mr. Karim rightly reminded us in his informative letter on the subject, it is essential that you take an active interest in what your children are engaging with online.

Thursday was an exciting day, as I got to attend the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Headteachers' Conference with Fight Officer Williamson (who is also our Lead Professional for Modern Foreign Languages). It was a richly informative event, where the speakers included the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.

I ended the week, on Friday, by attending the Secondary Solutions Meeting at Sandwell Council House, a group which Dr. Badyal, our Chief Executive, suggested I join. Chaired by our Director of Education, Chris Ward, I found out a great deal about the provision, support and challenges that face many of our neighbouring schools, and thank the group for being so welcoming.

I have had the delight of hearing about the superstar students who have received three Star of the Lessons in a single day, this week. Well done to: Faith Hill (7S1), Aidan Lunn (7S1), Isabella Mellichap (7S1), Jayden Swanson (8D1) and Chloe Yarwood (10S1). What a week for Social Design, and 7S1! All students will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation – I am so proud of all of you!

Friday 13th March will be our #WearItSport day, where we encourage students to replace an item of their Business Dress, or their P.E kit, with a sporting item. This could be a football shirt, scarf, shorts, socks or bandana – I am sure a certain Curriculum Director (who will remain nameless) will bring out their headband and sweatbands too! If students are partaking, the rule is that it is ONE item – not full kit, for example, as that keeps it in the spirit of the day. Any student participating should donate £1, which we will donate to Sport Relief.

As a reminder – next week's PACT meeting is postponed until the following Monday (9th March) for our AGM, at 19:30, which I am looking forward to. I wish you all a wonderful weekend; see you on Monday!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 24th February 2020. They were:



Owen Deeming
7A1



Gurjeevan
Kullar
7C1



Navdeep Kaur
7D1



Libby Rose
7L1



Mohammed
Butt
7S1



Fabien Jheeta
10C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 02/03/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 2nd March	Sausage & Mash Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Quorn Sausages (V) Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 3rd March	Chicken Korma Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Vegetarian Korma (V) Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Pot
Wednesday 4th March	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 Pots
Thursday 5th March	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 6th March	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 Florence Slade (7L2). Well done Florence!

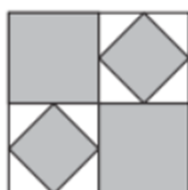
The answer for last week's Doc's Dilemma was:

6

The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:

A large square is split into four congruent squares, two of which are shaded. The other two squares have smaller shaded squares drawn in them whose vertices are the midpoints of the sides of the unshaded squares.

What fraction of the large square is shaded?



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 3rd March 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

Pathways Evening (Year 9)

Thursday 5th March 2020

PACT AGM

Monday 9th March 2020—7:30pm

#WearItSport

Friday 13th March 2020

New Intake 1

Thursday 19th March 2020

Times to be advised

Parents' Evening 4

Thursday 2nd April 2020

3pm-7:30pm