



ACADEMY  
LANGLEY

# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week, a spotlight was shone onto something that has become the platform of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – social media. As an Academy, we harness social media in much the same way that companies used radio over print, television over radio: the most effective means to deliver a message to our target audience, you. We have seen engagement with our social media sky rocket over the years, but these benefits are the sun-soaked tip of an iceberg that has a mass of sinister, shadowy, corruptive influence below the surface.

This week, our Assistant Vice Principal for Behaviour, Mr. Karim, supported by a range of colleagues, produced (with the support of Mr. Dhaliwal) a powerful video message about the pernicious, insidious impact that social media is having on the hearts and minds of our children. I urge all of you to access and listen to the core message – unfiltered and unmonitored access is having a wholly negative impact on your children. Your children are living their lives on the platform, and its unregulated nature means that they are coming into contact with inappropriate content, explicit images and videos, racist abuse (and all other forms of discrimination) and most worryingly, contact with complete strangers – faceless personas that could be anyone. As an Academy, we solve the problem at source – we lock all phones away, so this plague cannot infect our daily lives. We have seen this week that parents and carers are allowing their children to live double lives (in many cases, extremely concerning ones) with no oversight or intervention. I echo the sentiment of the video – act now; save your children.

Last week saw a dramatic punctuation mark to the end of the week, as Thursday's wonderful extra-curricular sports activities were interrupted by a painful injury to Gabriel Capper-Steventon (7C2). I was so proud of Gabe's stoicism and bravery as he dealt with a broken arm; I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Davis, Mrs. Gaur, Mr. Karim and all other staff for their support. I should also thank Mrs. Tite, who was in attendance to collect her son Charlie (9L1) from Cadets: she offered support as an off-duty paramedic! I reflected on what a small world it is when one of the arriving paramedics was the father of a Year 11 student, too!

This Thursday, we had several colleagues observing the end of Ramadan with their Eid al-Fitr celebrations – Eid Mubarak to all! I have to express my awe and respect to the tremendous show of faith displayed by staff and students this month – I even heard that one Muslim colleague who is not able to fast will even be able to enjoy their first ever Eid celebration with a family this week (following all guidelines, of course) – a wonderful example of the generosity of spirit that exists in our Academy, regardless of faith or background.

This week's Tutor Time was all about Mental Health Awareness; those of you even tenuously tethered to events of the last year will know that the pandemic has left a trail of poor mental health in the wake of its devastation. Many of these concerns are made worse through social media – please ensure that you are doing everything you can to keep your

children safe and well.

Last Friday, our indomitable PLD in Year 8, Mr. Rahman, explained how he has put together a team with the aim of achieving a nationally recognised Anti-Racism award. Racism is prevalent in our local community, and has touched us on occasions in our time. I look forward to seeing the conversations develop, support offered and progress made in this vitally important area.

This week, I attended the PACT AGM; I was so impressed with the professional manner with which PACT is run by our volunteer parents and carers. My thanks to the current leadership of Ms. Hudson (chair), Mrs. Easton (Treasurer), Mrs. Purewal (vice chair) and those who set the foundations in place – Mrs. Irish, Mrs. Bowen, Ms. Stokes and many more. We did publish Parents' Evening 5 letters this week, where you will be able to speak with your child's Core Learning Consultant. Though the government roadmap might have allowed a physical event, in the planning stages, we were not certain, so this Parents' Evening 5 will, like others this year, take place over the phone. I thank you for the support of all of our parents and carers.

Our Year 11 students have outdone themselves this week, managing 100% attendance for the first week of their Mock Exams. It speaks to their attitude, and staff's preparedness, that they take this so extremely seriously, as it relates to their final CAGs. Additionally, the following superstar students have received three Star of the Lesson awards in a single day: Riha Johnson (7A2), Amber Sahota (7C1), Coco-Kexin Lin (7D1), Corde Cameron (8D1), Dylan Rayat (9C1) and Zain Din (10D1). A Head of School Commendation to this litany of achievers!

This week has seen us embark on a range of interviews for middle leadership roles this week; though the process has not concluded fully, I have been thrilled with the process this week! As always, external applicants have been astonished by Langley, and most importantly, the wonderful students. One even mentioned our friend Barry Smith, who asserted that we are the best school he has ever visited, and of course, that 'Barry Smith is never wrong!'

A couple of final notes around external visits. Mr. Chisholm has put together a letter to gauge interest in Year 7 and 8 for a skiing trip to Italy in February 2023. Additionally, Ms Goodbourn (our external visits guru) has issued the decision to cancel the Madrid Spanish visit; we tried so hard to postpone it, but the final decision has been made. We are working with the company about processing refunds, which we will update you with in due course.

As we head into the last weekend of the current restrictions, I wish you a safe and happy one. Please make sure that students are taking their two Lateral Flow Tests each week, and registering the results (link on our website). Perhaps this is the weekend to discuss plans, read and share together, and stay off social media for a period?

Best Wishes,

**Peter Lee**

**Head of School**

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 10th May 2021. They are:



Phoebe  
Hinton 7A1



Maddison  
Blakeman  
7C1



Coco-Kexin  
Lin 7D1



Abigail  
Millar 7L1



Evie-May  
Smith 7S1



Paddy  
Capper-  
Steventon  
10L2

## MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 17/05/2021

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 17th May	Chicken Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Mashed Potato	Quorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce (V) Mashed Potato	Yoghurt Pot
Tuesday 18th May	Sausage Casserole Roast Potatoes Broccoli	Quorn Sausage Casserole (V) Roast Potatoes Broccoli	Vanilla Ice Cream Pot
Wednesday 19th May	Turkey Burger Wedges Mixed Vegetables	Quorn Burger (V) Wedges Mixed Vegetables	Mini Blueberry Muffin
Thursday 20th May	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese and Onion Pasty (V) Potato Croquettes	(Meat-Free Thursday) Cheese and Onion Pasty (V) Potato Croquettes	Chocolate and Vanilla Mousse Pot
Friday 21st May	Fishwich Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	Vegan Nuggets (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	Mini Jam Doughnut

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

## DUBB'S STEP

The winner of last week's Dubb's Step was **Hasan Gul—8L2**. Well done Hasan!

The answers for last week's Dubb's Step were:

Pair 1—Die, Pair 2— March, Pair 3— Sink and Pair 4— Bill

Dubb's Step for this week is:

Pair 1: School/Eyes

Pair 2: A direction/Another word for correct

Pair 3: A piece of jewellery/To call someone

Pair 4: A child/The name for a baby goat

Answers should be clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 18th May at 15:30. 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

Remote Parents' Consultation Evening 5

Thursday 27th May 2021—15:00-19:30

Half-term Holiday

Monday 31st May 2021—Friday 4th June 2021

INSET Day

Friday 2nd July 2021—Academy closed to students.

Year 11 Prom

Saturday 3rd July 2021—16:00-20:00

## SAFEGUARDING NOTICEBOARD

Our Assistant Vice Principal for Behaviour supported by colleagues bring you this powerful message regarding the use of Social Media:

<https://tinyurl.com/Q3Safeguarding140521>

