



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week's address must start by recognising the spread of covid-19, also known as coronavirus. We have been in close contact with the Department for Education, and have taken on board all governmental advice. As the Prime Minister outlined on Thursday, closing the Academy is not a step that we are looking at, for the moment. In a bid to mitigate the spread of the virus,

we have initiated even more rigorous handwashing procedures throughout the Academy day, and have streamlined the contact students have with one another during Family Lunch. We will keep you updated with all developments (as the letter you will receive today outlines some changes), and urge you to check the Academy website, social media, and any correspondence sent home. I thank all staff for their diligence this week, and our catering partners, Sodexo, who really have justified their '5' Food Hygiene Rating. Additionally, following government advice, we have decided to postpone all trips, re-tests, extra-curricular activities and fixtures. However, we will still be holding our detentions, and will be using Class Charts to communicate this to you.

We kicked off the week by holding interviews for a Design Technology Learning Consultant, opening up a new chapter for the life of the Academy. I am pleased to announce that, pending all administrative checks, Mr. Dhaliwal will be joining us for the new academic year. Like me, he cannot wait to get the bubble wrap off our stellar equipment, as he prepares for teaching Key Stage 3 students from September.

Although attendance to Monday's Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) Annual General Meeting was slightly down, we still had enough attendees to be quorate. I would like to publicly congratulate the new committee for their election: Mr Potter as Chair, Ms Hudson as Vice Chair, Mrs Pabla as Secretary and Mrs Easton as Treasurer. My extended thanks go to all those in attendance, for their continued support. We look forward to sharing new developments in the near future.

Earlier in the year, we conducted our first internal scrutiny (or 'Deep Dive') into a subject area, and this week saw our second, with Creative Arts, and our Director of Performing Arts, Mrs Meredith, the focus. One of the features of these days is being joined by expert colleagues from outside of the Academy. We were delighted to welcome Assistant Vice Principal Mr. Harris and Lead Professional for Performing Arts, Mrs Karim from our sister Great Barr site. Both offered their typical superb insight and wisdom. Additionally, Mrs Waddington from our friends at the Mercian Trust, and Rob Haywood, Head of Service at SIPS, added to the raft of expert opinion, offering feedback on the day. I am so proud of the whole team: for Music, Mr. Partridge and Miss Silverton; for Art, Mrs Barlow and Mrs Hainsworth; for

Drama, Mrs Stephens-Chowdhury and (their fabulous leader), Mrs Meredith. I thank Mr. Gee and Mrs. Underhill for putting the day together, and my P.A, Miss Quamar, for support with the write-up. I cannot wait to take part in a similar process, as an external evaluator at Redhill School – the more we talk, and evaluate, the more we can improve together!

Work towards the next phase of our build continues, with Mr. Hills, our brilliant Project Manager, sharing the findings of a workshop hosted by our construction partners Willmott Dixon this week. He does an utterly fantastic job, mainly behind the scenes, though he is someone whose warmth, professionalism, intellect and drive have put us in a really positive position as we progress with the project.

We mentioned at the start of the Newsletter this week our provision with relation to covid-19 (coronavirus); I spent time discussing it, and a range of other interesting topics, at the bi-monthly Secondary Heads meeting, hosted by our neighbours, Holly Lodge School. Straight after, Mr. Arnall (Great Barr), Ms Featherstone (Tipton) and I, as Heads of School, along with our Chief Executive, Dr. Badyal, convened an additional, Executive Team meeting to discuss strategies as a Trust. We have taken some general steps, such as banning 'tag' at break-time, to reduce person-to-person contact, the Family Lunch procedures mentioned in the letter sent out, as well as publishing, very clearly, in all toilets, advice on coronavirus and hand washing protocol. As ever, I thank my colleagues for their wisdom and generosity of spirit, and our cleaning partners, Solo, who are on site from 06:00-18:00, and have doubled their cleaning duties this week.

Finally, I would like to end this address by focusing on the most important people in our family – the students! This week has been like any other, in that certain superstars have joined me for a 'Time for Tea'. I enjoyed chatting with Jack Dunn (8A1), as he regaled me of the grilling he gave local politicians on a visit to Sandwell Council, relating to their decision to build on the Lion Farm Estate. Additionally, Zain Mazzoni (8C2) spent time at his grandmother's school, The Jewellery Quarter Academy, helping to clean up debris in the local canals – what a super pair of active citizens! Finally, a huge congratulations to those students who achieved the tremendous feat of three Star of the Lessons in a single day: Ellis Campbell (7C1), Brandon Gibbs (7L1) and Alan Joy (7L2). All students mentioned here will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation – I am so proud of you!

We wish you a fantastic weekend, and hope that you stay safe, look after each other, and return to us bright and early on Monday morning!

Best Wishes

**Peter Lee**  
Head of School

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 9th March 2020. They were:



Sharandeep Bagri  
9A1



Deeyah Mannan  
9C1



Safah Mahmood  
9D1



Pawan Rana  
9L1



Samanta  
Serkinaite  
9S1



Layla Birch  
10A1

## MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 16/03/2020

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
<b>Monday 16th March</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 17th March</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 18th March</b>	<b>Sausages in Gravy</b> Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	<b>Quorn Sausages in Gravy (V)</b> Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	<b>Flapjack</b>
<b>Thursday 19th March</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Onion Pasty</b> Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	<b>Cheese &amp; Onion Pasty</b> Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	<b>Cocoa Brownie Cookie</b>
<b>Friday 20th March</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

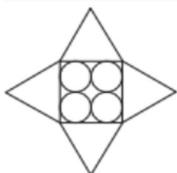
The winner of last week's Doc's Dilemma was Hayden Whitewood (7L2). Well done Hayden!

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

2

**The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:**

Four circles of radius 5 cm touch the sides of a square and each other, as shown in the diagram. On each side of the square, an equilateral triangle is drawn to form a four-pointed star.



What is the perimeter of the star?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 17th 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

**New Intake 1**

Thursday 19th March 2020

Times to be divided

**Parents' Evening 4**

Thursday 2nd April 2020

3pm-7:30pm

**Easter Holidays**

Monday 6th April 2020—Friday 17th April 2020

New times and dates for cancelled events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Please continue to keep checking our website and social media platforms for updates.

**CANCELLED**