



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



and flexibility during a fluid and taxing time.

With the Site Team in mind, I can share the bittersweet news that Mr. Lester will be leaving us this week, to undertake a new opportunity in his career. I have known Mr. Lester since he was a student at Q3 Academy Great Barr, and cannot begin to express how proud I am at the fine, kind, caring young man he has become. I know that staff and students alike will miss his positivity, but will also send their warmest wishes, congratulations and hopes of good fortune for Mr. Lester, as he embarks on this exciting new step on his personal path.

It has been delightful to receive news of students achieving musical accolades this week. My congratulations go to Simran Kaur Bhardwaj (7L2), Samanta Serkinaite (7S1), Ellouise Sadler (8A1), Beth Walton (7S2), Lilly Leech (7S1), Samanta Serkinaite (7S1) and Matthew Duzan (7C2) for gaining their Vocal Training Assessment Level One. Furthermore, I extend congratulations to Paddy Capper-Steventon (7L2) for achieving his Grade 3 on the tuba. Our wonderful music provision would be possible without our partners at SIPS, who deliver our external music provision; not forgetting Mr. Brennan and Mr. Singh for their support in Horizon and Enrichment respectively.

This week saw many extra-curricular meetings for extra-curricular provisions – I thank parents and carers for supporting their children in the JASS and CCF meetings. I was pleased to see such a great turnout, but feel I must remind students of their responsibility to attend all of these meetings in their Academy Business Dress (or P.E kit if on the relevant day), and continue to utilise their Academy STEPS, addressing every adult using 'Sir' or 'Miss' (or 'Ma'am' if in the CCF). A highlight for me was witnessing the wonderful conduct of Shanna Mai Taggart (8S1) – I am sure that she, and several other students, will submit their letter, addressed to Dr. Badyal and myself, outlining why they should be considering for the CCF. More details will follow in future newsletters.

In addition, I enjoyed attending the PACT AGM on Monday, where I heard about their amazing plans for the upcoming year. In particular, I am pleased to share with you the date for the Summer Fete – Saturday 9th June from midday. I thank those who actively engaged with our Facebook poll regarding the entry/raffle ticket, to support fund-raising for the event.

One of the benefits of being Head of School is that it gives me the chance to observe my team in the classroom, with a series of observations this week of our Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs): Mr.

Sahota, Mr. Iqbal and Miss Fisher. I observed fantastic planning and teaching, brilliant student engagement and inquiry, as well as evidence of terrific progress; Mr. Gee and I reflected on our time as PGCEs and NQTs together, noting how much further ahead these colleagues are than we were at this stage! We are so lucky to have such committed and talented members of the teaching team – I thank Mr. Gee in particular for his stewardship of Teaching & Learning at the Academy (and the NQT team across both sites).

Ms. Pastor conducted a Spanish trip to London this week, where students were immersed in an interactive environment to practise their language skills. I was pleased to hear from her that students were testing each other on the way there and back, showing a real appetite for languages. I hope that this domestic visit is a precursor to a future overseas trip to Spain...

We have had the pleasure of our Chair of Governors, Mr. Pope, not once, but twice this week - his enthusiasm, warmth and knowledge is always a huge boost to the Academy. Students will no doubt be excited by the news that we were finalising plans for his customary Easter address in the final week of term; I thank Mr. Pope and the entire Governing Body (including our new Parent Governor Mr. Forrester) for their enduring support.

When speaking at the SSAT Conference in Manchester last year, I mentioned how blessed and grateful I felt that many head teachers (including Drew Povey, of Educating Manchester fame) had opened their doors to me, allowing me an insight into how different schools ran. Each experience was enriching, and resulted in developments and innovations at Langley. As a recognition of their hospitality, I always look to 'pay it forward', with an opportunity this week, hosting Ian Douglas from Chiltern Academy, who is opening his own free school in Luton in September. He was fulsome in his praise of the Academy, highlighting how impeccable our students' behaviour was (even by his own high standards), with me accepting with relish an invitation to visit him in the new academic year. One of the defining features of our continuing success at Langley is how we strive for new ideas and perspectives, with Lee Donaghy's article on the value and validity of mixed ability (over setting) confirming much of what we do at the Academy.

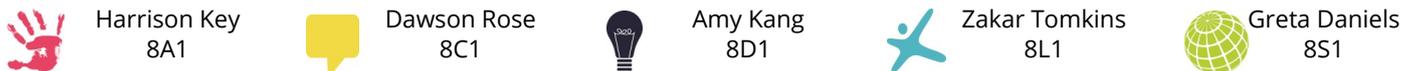
Thursday and Friday saw the interview process for our PLDs for next year – outcomes will come too late for the publication of this newsletter, but we anticipate sharing appointments with you in the coming weeks. I can say, for now, that the candidates were excellent, and the competition strong – clearly, the message that we are a special place with wonderful students is getting out there! I thank all for applying, and hope that even if candidates were unsuccessful, they continue to follow our journey and engage with us, as we grow.

I wish you a fantastic weekend, and for those observing, a wonderful and restful Mothers' Day!

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 5th March 2018. They were:



Harrison Key
8A1

Dawson Rose
8C1

Amy Kang
8D1

Zakar Tomkins
8L1

Greta Daniels
8S1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 12/03/2018

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 12th March	Lamb Sausages Gravy Mashed Potatoes Savoy Cabbage	Linda McCartney Sausages (V) Mashed Potatoes Savoy Cabbage	Fresh Fruit Bag
Tuesday 13th March	Roast Chicken & Gravy Roasted New Potatoes Carrots	Roasted Quorn Fillet (V) Roasted New Potatoes Carrots	Belgian Waffle
Wednesday 14th March	Chinese Chicken Five Spice Rice (Not Spicy)	Stir Fry Vegetables (V) Five Spice Rice (Not Spicy)	Chocolate Crunch
Thursday 15th March	Battered White Fish Fillet Boiled New Potatoes Peas	Ratatouille (V) Boiled New Potatoes Peas	Freshly Baked Cookie
Friday 16th March	Jacket Potatoes (V) Baked Beans Cheese Mixed Salad	Jacket Potatoes (V) Baked Beans Cheese Mixed Salad	Upside Down Cheesecake

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

MORRISON'S MYSTERY

The winner of last week's Morrison's Mystery was Drew Morely (7L2). Well Done Drew!

The answer for last week's Morrison's Mystery was:

The woman had taken a photograph of the man.

This week's Morrison's Mystery is:

Two mothers and two daughters went out to eat. Everyone ate one sandwich, yet only three sandwiches were eaten in all. How is this possible?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 13th March at 3:05pm. 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 Evening for September 2018 Year 7 Students

Thursday 22nd March 2018—Times TBC

Parents' Evening 4

Tuesday 27th March 2018—3:05pm-7:30pm

INSET Day—Academy Closed to Students

Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer Fête

Saturday 9th June 2018—12pm-3pm