



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



As I reflect on the academic year 2017-18, I cannot believe how far we have come, and how excited I am for the future! This address starts on a bittersweet note, as we bid a fond farewell to some colleagues who are leaving us for pastures new. Mr. Pearson, who has been with Langley from the very beginning, leaves us to take up a post at the University College of Birmingham, where he will be teaching (primarily) GCSE Maths – I thank him for all his efforts, and wish

him all the best. My warm wishes extend to Mrs. Smith, part of our administration team (who leaves us to become Office Manager at a primary school) and Mrs. Wootton, our Deputy Finance Director, who leaves us for a role closer to home. Also, my thanks to Miss Cooper, for all of her hard work with some of our most vulnerable students – all best in the future. All of these members have staff have gone above and beyond for our students – we thank them for embodying our ethos, and wish them all the best – stay in touch!

Additionally, I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs. Hooper, who leaves the Academy Trust as SENCo for a new opportunity. She has worked extremely hard across both sites to support our SEN provision, and has always been a champion of the 'Langley Way'. There are several other colleagues who do much for us across the sites – my thanks to Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Greensill for their dedication and hard work (often behind the scenes, unseen by many) and to Ms. Yourell and Mrs. Burge, for continuing to support us in so many ways. Finally, I would like to thank some of the unsung heroes of the Academy – the Solo and Sodexo teams. So much of what we do could be undermined if our support staff were not also rowing together with us – Mr. Parker has been over more and more recently, and I thank him for continuing to lead his team.

There are many more unsung heroes, whose efforts support us daily, who I would like to thank here. Mrs. Blake and her DAC Team, who have been a welcome presence this year, continue to aid us in working most effectively, and Mrs. Ruby and Ms. Kudryl support us in all manner of ways, particularly with attendance and student support.

This year also saw a hugely impactful programme in the Academy – City Year. We did not really know what we were getting when we signed up from the programme, and though Mr. Karim has done a superb job with the team, City Year would not be anywhere near as successful or impactful without our wonderful Mentors: Miss Miah, Miss Alyas, Miss Conaty (who joins us in September as an Academic Ambassador), Miss Mehmi, Miss Smith, Mr Nash and Miss Sarwar. Part of the requirements of the programme is that Mentors stay for just a year, before developing themselves in terms of work, or education – I wish them all the best as they grow as people; the door is always open for you at Langley!

Confirmation arrived too late for last week's newsletter, but we were delighted to hear that our application to be awarded a Kitemark Accreditation from the Association of Schools Character (affiliated with the University of Birmingham) was successful. I have posted the full, glowing letter on social media – please peruse if you can! It was particularly pleasing to hear that our students passed (with flying colours) a series of challenging, moral questions – it highlights just how

much we are trying to do to help your children beyond just the academic (which is also superb).

Sports Day on Tuesday was a roaring success, thanks in main part to Mr. Payton, Miss Deasy, Miss Rowson and Mr. Hard (who joined us for part of the day from Great Barr). The event was superbly organised and run, allowing our students to do what they do best – perform incredibly well, whilst being respectful, positive and supportive. I was delighted to hear that when Mr. Payton went to pack away the equipment, he did not have to pick up a single piece of rubbish – that is unheard of for such a large group of students (in a normal school). We offered huge appreciations to all students who won medals, with the biggest for the nerve-wracking final result. By a point, Social Design won the trophy this year – congratulations!

We have been extending opportunities for our students this week too – Monday saw our inaugural TED-Ed Conference, where parents and carers came to the Academy to hear students speaking passionately, and critically, on a range of issues. The work that Mr. Morrison has done with these students, aided by Grace Burgoyne (8C1) and Nathania Tapela (8D1), who also spoke beautifully at the event, has been heart-warming to behold.

Tuesday also saw our Q3's Got Talent event, where students showed a large audience (and a panel of judges) their various abilities. Mr. Karim, and the other 'Mister K' Charlie Kerr (8D1) hosted wonderfully, as students were supported by Miss Wheat and Miss Smith in putting together the event. My congratulations go to our runners up – Jack Murphy (7S1) and Katie Bayliss (8C1), and our winner, the wonderful Rohan Thatal (7S1). Well done to all those involved!

Parents' Evening 6 on Thursday saw students' Interim Reports handed out – this would not have happened without the diligent work of the administration team, and our ICT Network Manager, Mr. Smith! No other school I have worked in has run Parents' Evenings in this manner so effectively – we hope you appreciate the great deal of contact you have with your child's Learning Consultants. My thanks also extend to the PACT (Parent Academy Contact Team), whose efforts always lead to a fantastic time had by all.

At the end of this year, it is important to take stock of some of our key relationships – I am so grateful to Strike Sports, Futurelingo, Hand-Made Crafts, SIPS and Food at Twelve for being part of the Langley family in Enrichment this year – we wish Ms. Rees all the best with her impending arrival! We look forward to extending the reach of P.E and Enrichment next year, as we put the provision for both Year 7 & 8 on the same day – Thursday.

We very quickly remembered how busy (and hot) last year's Intake Evening was last week – what a fantastic event, put together by Ms. Cox! It was genuinely lovely to meet all of our new Year 7 students, as they got to hear me, and their new PLD, Mrs. Fogarty. I have had terrific feedback from parents and carers, the PACT Team and fellow colleagues about her work – I think that she, our new PLC Ms. Kaur and our new PLD for Year 9, Mr. Snell (all of whom were present at the event) will make a huge impact in September!

This week sees the final Dale's Dilemma of the year, leaving me with a decision about what to put in its place! I must thank Mr. Dale, our newly-appointed Leader of Learning for History, for sourcing such interesting things to posit to the children each week. Behind the scenes, Mr. Dale also organised a staff World Cup score predictor, with

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 16th July 2018. They were:



the winner actually being academic after the quarter-finals. Mr. Dawes won by such a huge amount that Mr. Walker and Mr. Seaton, who finished second and third respectively, could not catch him – a Birmingham City inspired success, as all three are Bluenoses! In addition, Mr. Dawes, who was first to pick his teams in the Tutor Sweepstake, secured the victory after pulling France out of the hat! Who knew that those associated with English would have such a fruitful World Cup...

As ever, it is wonderful to hear about the exploits of students outside of the Academy – Katie Bayliss (8C1) placed highly in a singing competition; Daniel Hunt (7D1) was enormously helpful in a Sandwell Young Carers' Forum; Chloe Johnson (7S1) will be performing her dance routine in Blackpool; Madeline Capper (7A1) ran a 5k race in the Colour Run (as someone who got to sit next to 'Blind' Dave Heeley at the Sponsor's Dinner, I can only express my further pride at her wonderful exploits); Kyle Byrne (8D1) was accepted into the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire Jazz Band and Jessie-Leigh Jenns (8L1), Thomas Barton (7D2), Caitlin Redfern (7L2) were all awarded three Star of the Lessons in a single day! What a list of superlative students – please let us know of even more of their achievements!

Our Parent Governor, Mr. Forrester, expressed a concern during our final Governors' Meeting of the year about parking. It seems that some (not all) parents and carers are parking in an inconsiderate, and possibly unsafe, manner. Sandwell Council are, I am pleased to report, considering safety measures along the road, which I hope are amenable to local residents. However, in the meantime, I feel I must reinforce our wish to be good neighbours, and express my desire that we pull into the main car park to drop students off, rather than stop on the road to let them out – this causes considerable congestion, which will only exacerbate next year.

At the end of the year, I reflect with enormous pride on the incredible staff team working with me every day – this is represented in no greater terms than by my Senior Leadership Team. Their dedication, positivity, calmness and commitment to improving outcomes for your children surpasses all that I have seen in education. I cannot thank Ms. Cox, Mr. Gee, Mr. Karim and, in preparation for his official elevation next year, Mr. Mills, for all of their hard work. The fact that none of them have taken a day off ill this year is a testament to their resilience, and determination to make Langley as special as it is. It makes my job so much easier, and less stressful, knowing that I have a team of leaders, who coordinate a fabulously talented team, that I can trust on a daily basis. It is in print that I have the best job in the world – that continues to be the case!

Last week, parents and carers were in receipt of a letter outlining the arrangements for the first week. As a reminder – Monday (3rd September) is an INSET day, so the Academy will be closed for all students. Tuesday (4-6th September) is when the Academy will be open for NEW YEAR 7 only, as we transition them into the 'Langley' way, an incredibly important series of days. Friday (7th September) will see our NEW YEAR 8 students join us for the day. The following Monday (10th September) will see our NEW YEAR 9 students (and all other students) join us at the later time of 08:55, as they will start their days at 09:00, finishing at 16:00 each day (except Friday, a 15:20 finish). Any queries, please contact Reception, or reach out to us on social media (Facebook and Twitter).

On behalf of the staff team, the Sponsor and our Governing Body, I thank you for all of your support this year, and wish you a restful break. For those who are picking up their Macron P.E kit, we will see you on 22nd August – for the rest, we will see you in September!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

DALE'S DILEMMA

The winner of last week's Dale's Dilemma was Gurtirath Bagri (7C2). Well Done Gurtirath!

The answer for last week's Dale's Dilemma was:
Louis XVI

The final Dale's Dilemma for this year is:
It would have been my 100th birthday this week. I served 27 years of my life in prison for conspiring to overthrow the government. Forget Putin! I was the special guest at the 2010 World Cup. Who am I?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 4th September 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

Macron cut off date for Online Orders;

Monday 23rd July 2018

<https://macronstorewestmidlands.com/shop/club-shops/q3-academies/>

Macron Collection Day

Wednesday 22nd August 2018

INSET Day

Monday 3rd September 2018

Term Starts

Tuesday 4th September 2018—Year 7 Students

Wednesday 5th September 2018—Year 7 Students

Thursday 6th September 2018—Year 7 Students

Friday 7th September 2018—Year 7 & 8 Students

Monday 10th September 2018—Year 7, 8 & 9 Students