



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



It seems remarkable to consider that we are now at the half-way point of the second Autumn half-term – are you starting to hear those jingle bells yet? One of the best parts of putting this address together is sharing the achievements of students inside and outside of the Academy; this week is no exception. Head of School Commendations will be awarded to Jack Curran (8A2) for his volunteer work with Operation Christmas Child, and the terrific trio of Maisie Reynolds (8C2), Olivia Jefferson (8L1) and Chloe Johnson (8S1),

who won a dance competition in Blackpool – on the same weekend the Strictly stars were performing in the Tower Ballroom no less! I was particularly pleased to hear that during the event, the girls were practising their Independent Learning knowledge, to the amazement of many in attendance. In addition, I would like to extend my congratulations to Kaiyai Edinborough (8D1) for achieving three Star of the Lessons in a single day, as well as Meya Evans (8C2) for taking part in a local boxing competition – I can say with a clear heart that we truly do have the #HardestWorkingStudentsInSandwell!

As mentioned last week, Miss Williamson was on a CCF course, and has successfully passed out, along with our colleague from our Great Barr site, Miss Bloomfield – congratulations both! I will now ensure that I refer to our new Pilot Officer as ‘Ma’am’ when she is in her uniform, as our detachment continue to benefit from the brilliant training they are receiving! Whilst Miss Williamson was away from us, several members of staff stepped into the breach, ensuring that your children received a high quality education, in the ‘Langley’ way (meaning that not a single penny was spent on external supply agencies). I would like to particularly thank Miss Hicks and Mr. Dale for their superb professionalism and exceptional dedication to our students – both of these colleagues exhibit what all of our staff do: an absolute commitment to our students.

Next Monday’s Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) meeting is of particular importance, as it is the final one before our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1st December – it has been great to see the ‘For Sale’ boards promoting the event that have been put up in the area by our sponsor, local business Barrows and Forrester Property Group. I extend my thanks to MD James Forrester for his support of the event, and for his further support as our Parent Governor; at our recent Governing Body meeting, I was able to share with them all some fantastic feedback regarding our students’ attitude and performance during Assessment Week. As ever, I thank Mr. Pope, our Chair of Governors, and the entire Governing Body, for their time and generous wisdom.

Wednesday saw a visit from Mr. Robbie Millar from Sheffield Hallam University, who conducted some research into the well-being of our Year 7 students. Furthermore, I was delighted to host a conference call from the Institute of Education in London, focusing on our mixed-prior attainment approach to class groupings. You will know by now that we are deliberately doing things differently to many other schools – our commitment to be outward-facing, contributing to and learning from research and discourse around education is a core principle of the Academy.

One of the key foci of the Academy is supporting those students who come from more disadvantaged backgrounds – indeed, more than one member of staff has remarked (correctly) that Langley is set up to support this disadvantaged child in every way. You may have seen the BBC documentary ‘School’, which showcases many of the struggles and pressures that young people go through, and the challenges that they

pose educational establishments. This was put into extremely sharp focus during a though-provoking training session from Ms. Cox and Mr. Gee this week, creating a deep and rich debate around this key issue. Our commitment to support your children, and support you in giving them the best life chances, is reflected in the fact that all staff attended this session after the Academy day, meaning that learning time was not lost, and students’ learning was not impacted by this profound training session.

By the time this address reaches you, our TES job adverts will have expired – I have been personally overwhelmed with the amount of interest, the number of enquiries and informal visits, and the calibre of the applicants. Supporting Ms. Yourell with this has been a new addition to the team – Mrs. Brookes, who has been coordinating the advert and our applications with aplomb. I thank all of those who have shared our advert online – your personal testimonials as to why Langley is such a special place have been heart-warming to read. As ever, our truest and best advert are our students – one prospective candidate from a local school commented that their morning was ‘like a dream’ and that you ‘don’t see children be so polite to visitors’ in their experience in education.

Thursday saw our bi-monthly Secondary Heads meeting, held at Holly Lodge, where I was joined by Dr. Badyal, and our two other Heads of School, Ms. Featherstone and Mr. Arnall. Part of my role means that I do have to leave the Academy for periods during the day; having such a fantastic staff team means that when I do have to head out, I know that the Academy is able to continue to deliver the same exceptional quality as it does when I am in the building.

You will have seen mention of my new P.A and our Office Manager, Miss Quamar, in previous Newsletters – she has made an absolutely superb start to her new role! We have also added Miss Marchant to the Administration team this week, working with Miss Loxton and Miss Kandola – she is already exhibiting the professional qualities we love to see in all Langley staff. I would like to thank Miss Loxton especially for her efforts during the recruitment process – particularly following all the safeguarding procedures – for ensuring everything was followed to the letter, meaning that colleagues can start as early as possible.

There are several members of staff who are integral to the running of the Academy, but who do not seek the limelight. Two such colleagues are Mr. Smith, our Network Manager, and Mr. Willetts, our I.T Support, who have done a phenomenal job supporting our staff and students this week. Their support in setting up some ICT-based assessments in Year 9 has been incredibly helpful, as well as their support in setting up Kognity, a new software to support students in Science. We actually have very few issues with our software and hardware in the Academy, which I believe is a testament to their superb, behind-the-scenes, work – thank you for everything you do.

Those who have been avid, long-time readers of this address will know of my passion for football – I enjoyed seeing England reach the semi-final stage of the Nations League over the weekend. I have checked the calendar, and we have no scheduled clashes! For those Baggies fans out there, one of our Year 9 students, Charlie Harris (9C1), pens a blog at www.charliethewbafan.wordpress.com, where he posts match reviews of the games he sees – a great read! I know that Charlie harbours ambitions to be a sports journalist – I think that we might have a future Henry Winter in our midst! Keep it up Charlie!

If you are like me, this weekend might see more than one Christmas film, and even a few cheeky Christmas tunes in the car! Either way, have a wonderful weekend; we look forward to seeing students on Monday!

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 19th November 2018. They were:



Madeleine Doyle
7A1



Jasraj Dhillon
7C1



Karamjot Sandhu
7D1



Charlie Tite
7L1



Oscar Sandhu
-Day
7S1



Courtney Campbell-
Poole
9C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 26/11/2018

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 26th November	Cajun Quorn Filled Khobez Flatbread (V) Roasted Corn on the Cob Mixed Salad	Cajun Quorn Filled Khobez Flatbread (V) Roasted Corn on the Cob Mixed Salad	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 27th November	American Style Hot Dog Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Fresh Fruit
Wednesday 28th November	Southern Baked Chicken Baked Half Potato BBQ Baked Beans	BBQ Baked Quorn Fillet (V) Baked Half Potato BBQ Baked Beans	Chocolate Crunch
Thursday 29th November	Chicken Korma Braised Turmeric Rice Over Baked Naan Bread	Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry (V) Braised Turmeric Rice Oven Baked Naan Bread	Yeo Valley Mango & Vanilla Yoghurt Pot
Friday 30th November	Quorn Dippers (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Quorn Dippers (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Chocolate Flapjack

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

RAHMAN'S RIDDLE

The winner of last week's Rahman's Riddle was Hiba Fara (7L2). Well Done Hiba!

The answer for last week's Rahman's Riddle was:
Einstein

The Rahman's Riddle for this week is:
Use the clues below to find the relevant scientific words.

Z O M Z B U Z I B S
D A N E W T O N S E
V C I D O I R E P S
Y T I V A R G D B A
L N O I T C I R F H
I G J Z V A Q B Z P
O H B D P P K H R T
A G G I G K U O L T
X J L L L C K P Q V
D W V A R I A B L E

- The force that attracts a body towards the centre of the Earth.
- The moon goes through these during its 28 day cycle.
- Independent, dependent and control are a form of this.
- The table where all the elements reside.
- The unit of force.
- The force that opposes the motion of an object.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lille Trip Parents' Meeting

Monday 26th November 2018—6pm

P.A.C.T

Monday 26th November 2018—7pm

Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December 2018—12pm-3pm

Parents' Evening 2

Tuesday 11th December 2018—3pm-7:30pm

Lille Trip

Friday 14th December 2018

#WearItXmasDay

Friday 14th December 2018

Christmas Holiday

Monday 17th December 2018—Friday 4th January 2019

INSET Day—Students not in the Academy

Monday 7th January 2019

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 27th November 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.