



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week's Assessment Week represents a regular highlight in the academic year for me – an opportunity for our students to be challenged rigorously by their Learning Consultants. I cannot express to you how impressed I have been with the students' fantastic attitude towards these Assessments – a sea of Year 7 and 8 students, enjoying their complimentary Family Breakfast, quizzing and testing themselves and

their peers, is a simple joy. Weeks like this, and the outcomes they produce, would not be possible without our fantastic Administration Team – I extend my thanks to Miss Loxton, Mrs Kandola and Miss Marchant for their sterling work, and as ever, than Miss Quamar for her support as Office Manager.

We have continued, in the New Year, to support our colleagues at our sister sites, within our Trust. Mr. Price, from our Great Barr site, requested some assistance in moderating Year 11 Spanish work – our super Spanish Learning Consultants, Miss Pastor and Mrs Underhill, were only too happy to offer their expertise – muchas gracias! In addition, Mr. Dawes, our Curriculum Director for English, attended a meeting with the English subject leads across our Trust, to discuss some exciting developments in Key Stage Three English. Watch this space for more news...

I have made a concerted effort to have somewhat of a social media de-tox since the New Year, but I logged on long enough to receive a delightful message about one of our students, Sebastian Wilkes (7A1). A member of the public had approached him, letting him know how impressed they were with his exemplary behaviour when travelling to the Academy by bus. She noted his superb manners (and use of STEPS) and the embodiment of our Academy's ethos by offering his seat to others who may need it more – certainly Good, Right and True! You might have seen a number of campaigns deriding the qualities of young people, such as the British Army adverts, but I can safely say that many of our students are superb ambassadors for their generation – I am proud to confer a Head of School Commendation on Seb – in fact, I am very proud of all of you!

In the New Year, our Sodexo team has been strengthened with the addition of Mr. Langford, who supports our Head Chef, Mr. Alto, and Ms. Edwards, whose positivity as part of the Solo team has been an additional boost. We welcome them to the Langley family. Also, Ms. Cox, our Assistant Vice Principal with responsibility for Safeguarding, delivered some key training with our construction partners, Spellar Metcalfe this week, to ensure that they are completely up to speed – I thank her for a diligence and professionalism in this area.

Before the Christmas break, we took the difficult, but unavoidable decision of cancelling our trip to Lille, a very tough day. However, thanks to the brilliance and work of Miss Goodbourn, I am delighted to inform you that we have rearranged the France trip, and will be taking students to Boulogne on Friday 10th May, at no extra cost for students who were on the original trip. Magnifique!

Tuesday saw representatives of our Pastoral team – Mr. Simkins and

Miss Connaty, attend a Mental Health Breakfast Seminar, hosted by our friends, the Birmingham Rep Theatre. The work that these colleagues do to support not only our young people, but also our staff team, goes beyond what I had hoped when appointing them. Dr. Badyal is a passionate advocate of the maxim 'No Child Left Behind' and these superb staff (as well as all our other non-teaching pastoral colleagues) are a key reason that each student feels safe, cared for, and happy in the Academy.

It was a delight to welcome Dr. Badyal back to the Academy this week – I think that we might have missed her as much as she missed us! Mr. Pope, our Chair of Governors, also came in for a visit, where I was thrilled with his dedication to Langley and its students. In addition, I had a very productive meeting with our newly-appointed Finance Director, Mrs. Attwood. We are eternally grateful for the guidance and support of Mr. Hargreaves, who retired before Christmas, though I am certain we will continue to drive forward, with Mrs. Attwood's time helming Finance across a much larger academy chain than ours furnishing us with the vital experience and skills we need to continue to grow. We welcome her to the Trust, and to Langley – my office door is always open!

A key component of our Independent Learning provision is the Autumn Challenge; it was a pleasure to see how many students had seized upon the wealth of tasks with relish and creativity. Students have been informed in their year groups of winners, who will be attending a Celebration Brunch with Dr. Badyal, but there were four entries that were so special, they received a special 'Time for Tea' with Mr. Lee – Isobelle Philpott (7C1); Jayden Swanson (7D1); Emma Law (7L1) and Alex Barton (7C2). Well done students!

Before the Christmas break, I mentioned that our friends at Woodrush Community High School received a visit from Ofsted. I have now had the opportunity to read the final report, and would like, on behalf of all at Langley, to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Rancins, their Head, and all who support our ongoing partnership – it made a terrific read!

As part of Sandwell's 2030 Vision project (which we hosted the very first school event for), I conducted a Skype interview with Sandwell Local Authority Press Office, as part of their review into the work being carried out. It was lovely to reflect on the developments, and our part in the scheme, from the comfort of my office!

In some more good news this week, we welcomed Mrs. Jassi-Soma for a visit, with her young charge, Riaan! He and mum are healthy and happy (at least one of them is feeling very tired), and we send all of our love and best wishes to her and the family, though we are also looking forward to welcoming her back – her Langley family have missed her too! You might also be delighted to hear that Miss Gaskin, one of our Learning Support Assistants, passed her driving test! I remember well the nerves before, and relief and elation afterward very clearly (even if I did pass my test in 1993, before several of our staff were born); it is a pleasure to celebrate all successes!

I wish you all a fantastic weekend – perhaps we will see some snow?

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 21st January 2019. They were:



Zinzile Mloyi
7A2



Aiden Prince
7C2



Priya Dhesi
7D2



Conrad Whittall
7L2



Isabelle Sullivan
7C2



Deleo Dhesi
9S1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 28/01/2019

Day	Meat	Vegetarian	Dessert
Monday 28th January	Cajun Quorn Filled Khobez Flatbread (V) Roasted Quorn on the Cob Sliced Carrots	Cajun Filled Khobez Flatbread (V) Roasted Quorn on the Cob Sliced Carrots	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 29th January	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 30th January	Southern Baked Chicken Thigh (boneless) Baked Half Potato BBQ Baked Beans	BBQ Baked Quorn Fillet (V) Baked Half Potato BBQ Baked Beans	Chocolate Crunch
Thursday 31st January	Chicken Korma Braised Turmeric Rice Oven Baked Naan Bread	Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry (V) Braised Turmeric Rice Oven Baked Naan Bread	Yeo Valley Yoghurt Pot
Friday 1st February	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.

BACK IN TIME WITH BINSLEY

The winner of the last week's Back in Time with Binsley was Shadrach Wiredu (8A2). Well Done Shadrach!

The answer to the last week's Back in Time with Binsley was:
8 Million

The Back in Time with Binsley question this week is:
On January 24th 1965, this famous British politician and former prime minister died.
Unscramble the anagram to reveal his first and second name.

Wstinno urChcllhi



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 29th January 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

PACT (AGM)

Monday 4th February 2019

Ethos Week

Monday 11th February—Friday 15th February 2019

Parents' Evening 3

Tuesday 12th February 2019—3pm-7:30pm

February Half Term

Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February 2019

INSET Day

Friday 12th April 2019

Academy closed to students.