



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



It gives me great pleasure to welcome a raft of new readers to the Newsletter, as information regarding our Year 7 intake for the upcoming academic year was released this week; judging by the swathe of activity on social media, we have some very excited families! Letters were sent out to students' families last week, inviting them to our Intake Evening 1 on Thursday 21st March – any queries, please contact the Academy.

Monday also saw a visit from Trevor Sutcliffe, who joined us from our friends at Challenging Education. We are delighted to be part of the Sandwell-wide initiative of RADY; we always value the feedback and dialogue around our progress, and how we continue to develop as an Academy, in such a challenging area for education and outcomes. When I attended the RADY conference last week, held at Newman University, I found it fascinating to hear about the work being done, and from other educators across the country. One true highlight for me was the opportunity for a coffee and a catch-up with an ex-colleague, friend, and spouse of our phenomenal Art Learning Consultant, Mike Barlow! I really enjoyed discussing the different rationales, visions and strategies being implemented at different schools – just like our students, we are always learning and looking to develop.

Monday also saw a critical, but highly engaging, session on Safeguarding and Child Protection from our QAT Assistant Vice Principal, Ms. Callaghan. During the session, we were impressed with the commitment and knowledge of the entire staff team on the topic, as they were quizzed at length on key issues. I am confident that when we are visited by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, they will be blown away by the confidence our whole staff team have with these key issues – my thanks to Ms. Callaghan, and Ms. Cox, for their superb diligence in this area, which is fundamentally the most important job of any education establishment.

We were delighted to welcome, on Wednesday, some first-time visitors for Family Lunch: Wasan and Chariya from CCD and Andrew Cooper from 4Life (accompanied by our enigmatic Chair of Governors, Mr. Pope). Q3's relationship with these groups has been in place for a long time (with our Great Barr site), with us thrilled to host such incredibly important people. I hope that as we grow, our students will be able to visit Thailand, to support and learn from those in the greatest need.

Mr. Sahota has really been putting Maths on the map this week, at both ends of the age range! He hosted a session for talented Primary School students, as well as a Numeracy drop-in (with Mr. Hassan) to support staff members with their numeracy and fluency, meaning they can support students during our embedded Numeracy Ninjas time. Thank you sir!

It gives me great pleasure to recognise several students who are in receipt of a Head of School Commendation this week for achieving three consecutive Star of the Lesson awards in a single day. Well

done to Belonda Krasnici-Mucista (8L1), Ellis Bastable (8S2) Jannon Pureal (7L2) and Sunveer Kaur (7D2) – we are all very proud of you!

As mentioned in last week's address, our Year 8 JASS students attended a residential to Kingswood over the weekend. It was a huge success, where students developed as Team Workers (one of our key PLTS's), and Miss Kaur, who organised the trip brilliantly, tells me that the students embodied our Academy ethos for the entire visit – staff at the centre marvelled at how polite and well turned-out the students were.

Reception has become a sea of red this week, as our Administration team bedecked it with balloons and decorations in recognition of Red Nose Day, and our successful #WearitRed day, in aid of the cause. We will update you on the fund-raising outcomes next week, but I hope that if possible, you were able to donate to such a fantastic cause!

The Family Lunch Topic of Discussion always offers a rich and deep conversation, with this week being no exception. On Monday, all of our students reflected on the cowardly, criminal attack on Aston Villa's Jack Grealish during the Midlands derby; Tuesday's conversation around the Brexit deal was more deep, meaningful, mature and respectful than anything I have seen in Whitehall; we ended the week with the Student Council selected topic of the relegalisation of whale hunting in certain countries. These are just some of the reasons why Family Lunch is so special – the more I visit schools with 'normal' canteen service, with queuing, no seating plan and unhealthy options, the more I am convinced that our model at Langley is for the best. Students who carry out a role, who sit and eat with staff and each other, who support each other, and have interesting conversations in an articulate manner – it is for reasons like this that we get such fantastic feedback from visitors, with one this week commending the equity in the dining model. If you wish to join us for Family Lunch (we have hosted parents of students and staff, and even grandparents) please get in contact – we will welcome you with open arms!

You might be keeping a close eye on the construction of our Specialist Teaching block, with the windows being fitted this week – very exciting, considering the blustery weather we have been having this week! It is very clear to me that Spellar Metcalfe, under the stewardship of Jez Rogers, and committed to this project, and are doing a fantastic job so far. I cannot wait until we have full use of our new facilities in September!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend – for those who keep track of the Newsletters, you may have worked out that next week might be a landmark edition – watch this space...

Best Wishes,

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 11th March 2019. They were:



Vyron Akoto
7A1



Anoopvir Aulakh
7C1



Annie Heap
7D1



Charlie Tite
7L1



Tanvi Kaur
7S1



Nathania Tapela
9D1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 18/03/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 18th March	Omelettes (V) Potato Waffles Baked Beans	Omelettes (V) Potato Waffles Baked Beans	Yeo Valley Strawberry Yoghurt Pot
Tuesday 19th March	Moroccan Chicken Fillet Carrots Braised Rice	Gluten Free Falafel (V) Carrots Braised Rice	Fresh Fruit
Wednesday 20th March	Roasted Chicken In Gravy Bap Seasoned Wedges	Roasted Quorn In Gravy Bap (V) Seasoned Wedges	Chocolate Cookies
Thursday 21st March	Chicken Tandoori Pitta White and Brown Rice Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	Quorn Tandoori Pitta (V) White and Brown Rice Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	Fruit Bags
Friday 22nd March	Phat Pasty Sausage Roll Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	Quorn Sausages (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans	Ring Doughnuts

(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 Rhianna Begum (9D1). Well Done Rhianna!

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

Alexander Graham Bell

The Back in Time with Binsley question this week is:

On March 13th 1781, the British amateur astronomer William Herschel was surveying the night sky and discovered a planet unknown to the ancient astronomers. This seventh planet is even further away from the Sun than Saturn.

What is the name of this planet?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 19th 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

PACT

Monday 1st April—7pm-8pm

Parents' Evening 4

(Revised date) Thursday 11th April 2019—15:00-19:30

Students dismissed from 14:30

INSET Day

Friday 12th April 2019

Academy closed to students.

Easter Holidays

Monday 15th April-Friday 26th April 2019

Summer Term

Monday 29th April 2019

Students return to the Academy at normal time.