



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



Last week's centenary edition (the Academy's 100th) was received incredibly well, both physically and online - I would like to thank all those who left comments, and passed on their best wishes. It seems that as our cohort expands (following our incredibly successful Intake Evening 1) that the eyes on our communication, across all platforms, continues to grow! We were inundated with responses to our Bumper Quiz, with

tasks from every Learning Consultant to have set them - congratulations to Tiana Zengeni of 7C1, who will be in receipt of a special Easter egg (or its financial equivalent, of course) at the end of the day on Friday - great stuff! I look forward to seeing who will be the next member of staff to set a challenge...

Monday saw another important development in our journey, as Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Busby and Mr. Wood joined from our Central Services function, to support many of our colleagues with Scribe and Invigilator training. We also hosted Liz Stevenson, Sandwell's Key Stage 2-3 Transition Manager, as well as colleagues from local secondary and primary schools, for an update on the 'About Me' project. We always enjoy welcoming Liz, and are always interested in the work she does linking up educational providers at Langley! With our incoming cohort of 240 students, we thank our Primary friends for supporting their transition by providing us with this useful information, to ensure their smooth arrival.

I hosted a lovely #TimeforTea with the delightful Jack Murphy (8S1) this week, where we chatted about his triumphant heat win in the 2019 SHAPE Your Talent event. He is such a grounded, humble and creative individual - I am very proud of him! In addition, our students took part in the Black Country School games for volleyball, the Futsal Aspire event at The University of Wolverhampton, as well as football and netball fixtures - we will update you on the results next week!

This week's Family Lunch topics of discussion led to some fascinating contributions from our students on a range of issues this week. I found their feedback on whether or not they would rather £2 million, or £10,000 a month for life very mature, as well as hearing some extremely sensitive and thoughtful statements with regards to the Birmingham mosque attacks, and our support of those in the local community who continue to express their faith. This deep, broad understanding of current affairs and local events no doubt contributes in many ways to our Year 9 students successfully completing their GCSE Citizenship mock exam (with 100% attendance) - combined with the quality of response that I have seen in my History students' books, I cannot wait to see how the real GCSE goes in the Summer!

On Thursday, our Governing body took part in some extra pre-Ofsted training, held in the afternoon. I feel overwhelmed with the commitment in terms of time given, and dedication in the training, as well as their wisdom and feedback. It is so wonderful to have such 'critical friends'; I prepare a report for each Governors

meeting, for their perusal, and I am sure that parents and carers would be amazed to behold just how much we do as an Academy in such a short period!

We have been bolstered this year by Mrs. Yates joining us in Finance, with her work over the past months (along with the PLD teams) reducing the Family Lunch arrears having a real impact. I thank all parents and carers who engage with us proactively, planning with us to reduce the monies owed. It has been fitting that students have been learning, through the Tutor Time Programme, about Money Management - you are never too young to learn about the importance of financial responsibility and budgeting - a true, useful, life lesson!

I was disappointed to learn this week that our Academy Nurse function will cease, with immediate effect, following a retendering of the process. We have found the Academy Nurse to be an invaluable service, helping many students, and hope that this is just a temporary hiatus, and nothing permanent.

I had an enjoyable afternoon on Monday with Mrs. Brookes and Mrs. Pell, from our HR team, where we shortlisted candidates for the two remaining roles for September - I am thankful for their professionalism and diligence. Today, we held interviews for the Lead Professional (Geography) position, with next week set for PLD interviews! I am constantly overwhelmed by the number of applicants, and the breadth of experience and skills displayed on their C.Vs. The shortlisting was tough; I can't imagine how competitive the interview day will be!

We have some truly special events put together by our wonderful staff team - last week's trip to Wembley was one of these events. For all students, it was their first International football experience at our national stadium; for several, it was their first live football match. During England's 5-0 drubbing of Czech Republic, I am told that our students were given the added bonus of hearing Mr. Payton's tactical wisdom from the stands - I hear Sky Sports are on their way to add him to the Monday Night Football line-up! Genuinely, I would like to celebrate the utter commitment of Mr. Payton, Miss Deasy and Mr. Mills, who not only took students to the event, but made sure they all returned home safely in the early hours of Saturday morning - for some, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! After seeing the abuse levelled at players during England's second win against Montenegro in the week, it made me realise just how lucky we are to have such a tolerant culture at the Academy.

With this weekend holding Mothering Sunday, I hope that all mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and mother figures have a relaxing weekend, where their every need is attended to, with all of our students seeking for that which is Good, Right, and True - I reckon making them a nice cup of tea or coffee in bed is a great way to start the weekend!

Best Wishes,

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 25th March 2019. They were:



Muhammad Qureshi
7A2



Joseph Lonergan
7C2



Grace Worley
7D1



Gursimran Hayre
7L2



Ellie Thompson
7S2



Layla Birch
9A1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 01/04/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 1st April	Cheese & Onion Pasties (V) Mashed Potato Sliced Carrots	Cheese & Onion Pasties (V) Mashed Potato Sliced Carrots	Easy Peelers
Tuesday 2nd April	Red Tractor Chicken Burger & Bun Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	BBQ Quorn Fillet & Bun Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	Mini Jam Doughnut
Wednesday 3rd April	Roast Turkey & Gravy Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Roast Quorn Fillet & Gravy Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Red, Blackberry & Apple Crumble Slice
Thursday 4th April	Sweet Chilli Chicken Braised Rice Green Beans	Sweet Chilli Vegetables (V) Braised Rice Green Beans	Fresh Fruit Bag
Friday 5th April	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Sweet Belgian Waffle

(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 Jannon Purewal (7L2). Well Done Jannon!

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

The Back in Time with Binsley question this week is:

On 29th March 1886, a new fizzy drink went on sale at a Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia. The 'esteemed brain tonic and intellectual beverage' will cure anything from hysteria to the common cold claims it's inventor Dr John Pemberton.

What is the name of the drink?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 2nd April 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.