



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



It feels like it is only when I sit down to put this address together that I get a moment to reflect, such is the remarkable pace of Academy life – how have we only got one week to go until the Easter break? I managed to get some space to hear about all our futures, when I attended a Vision 2030 Delivery Group Strategic Meeting at Sandwell Council House with new Council Leader Cllr. Trow – having dashed from a Governing Body Meeting, it was exciting to place our journey at the heart of Sandwell's future!

Monday saw a tremendous Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) meeting, attended by our Parent Governor, Mr. Forrester. He was able to provide a valuable update to PACT regarding Business Dress, as well as let us know about a fantastic partnership he has brokered with Prostate Cancer U.K – watch this space to learn more...

Monday also saw us enter into the April Fool's spirit with an entertaining ruse that Q3 was heading to Qatar, with me as our new international partner's Head of School! I think that some of our staff were either very convincing, or simply convinced – our PLC in Year 8 for one was very disappointed to hear that the move was not on!

Letters have gone out for our Parents' Evening 4, held on the last Thursday of term. Some of you may have noted that certain Learning Consultants' slots are limited to 17:00 – this is due to them having to prepare for our overseas visit departing later that evening; I am sure you understand the importance of them resting and readying themselves before the journey. Students will be dismissed at 14:30 on Thursday (slightly earlier than usual), and appointments are on a first-come-first-served basis, as usual. If you are unable to secure a time to speak to a Learning Consultant, we will contact you to arrange a time to meet or speak about your child's progress. As this is the final day of term, we hope for a typically terrific turnout: Year 7 parents and carers in particular attended in their droves – a delight! Our Learning Consultants hold appointments at SIX Parents' Evenings a year – more than any other school I have worked in – and with the range of workshops and stalls, it is a truly rewarding event.

The Modern Foreign Languages team have spent a great deal of time and effort organising enriching opportunities for our students – I thank Miss Hicks and Miss Pastor for arranging a French and Spanish film screening, as well as Miss Pastor for taking students on an enlightening Spanish visit this week! Merci! Gracias! Thank you! I also marvelled that one of our students was interviewed by BBC WM this week, as Mrs. Gaur and Miss Smith took students to the Sandwell Youth Summit this week – such wonderful, horizon-broadening opportunities for our students on offer.

I was thrilled to award Joe Wright (9C1) with a Head of School Commendation for three Star of the Lessons in a single day – well done Joe! I have noted that some students are picking up three in a row, but across two days; though impressive, it doesn't get you the mention in the Newsletter, so keep going!

We continue to grapple with Family Lunch debt, with the number of

accounts with arrears of less than £46 (around three weeks' worth of meals) totalling over £3,000! As you no doubt know, Sodexo does not bear the brunt of this – we do. It is essential that accounts are kept in credit, so that we are not having to pay out of our budgets, nor are staff spending time contacting parents and carers about these debts. I thank those families who continue to work hard to keep their child's account in credit, as those who are not are effectively sending their child to school with no provision for their lunch – though we always put the child first, it is critical that we all work together on this.

As you know, we are nearing the end of our recruitment drive for next year's staff team, with appointments made this week. We were delighted to appoint a Lead Professional for Geography, and held PLD interviews on Tuesday. With a raft of excellent external candidates, it was our very own Mrs. Goodman who prevailed, wowing us with her superb performance on the day, which is supported by her work throughout her first year with us. I am thrilled to say that we have been able to appoint from within, and am utterly confident that she will excel in the role when taking it on from September. All of our new staff will join us for a special Induction event during the Easter holidays, where they will be further introduced to the 'Langley' way – their attendance and commitment already sets them off in very good stead!

I was able to sit in on a conference call hosted by Mr. Karim this week with the Department for Education, along with Mr. Dawes. I heard such incredible passion and precision from the pair, as they extolled the benefits of how Langley has been able to achieve excellent levels of performance, whilst also putting work-life balance for staff at its heart. We have always, and will continue to be, an outward-facing place, happy to welcome visitors, show them what we do on a daily basis, and engage in discourse around education – our PLD candidates, who came from far and wide, could not get over what a wonderful place Langley is!

Next week sees our Cycle Three Assessment week. I have been extremely impressed with Mr. Alexander, our PLD for Year 8, and his Family Breakfast quizzing, where students answered questions from their Core subjects each day – the focus and happiness of the students was brilliant! As ever, I am blown away by the dedication of our staff and students – I hope that you see the importance of next week, and ensure that your child attends the Academy. We have seen a slight dip in some year groups of late, and I hope that next week, every child attends and gives of their best. We will always accommodate your child, making sure that they are looked after and comfortable – please contact us if you have any concerns.

I hope that you have a restful weekend, and find the time to quiz your children in preparation for their assessments. One big push; one final week, and the Easter holidays will be upon us!

Best Wishes,

**Peter Lee**  
Head of School

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 1st April 2019. They were:



Sharandeep  
Bagri  
8A1



Taeja Dawson-  
Smith  
8C1



Khadija Qureshi  
8D1



Rosie Taplin  
8L1



Samanta  
Serkinaite  
8S1



Megan Cameron  
9S1

## MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 08/04/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
<b>Monday 8th April</b>	<b>Grilled Peppered Chilli Chicken</b> Salsa Seasoned Wedges Baked Beans	<b>Southern Baked Quorn Burger (V)</b> Seasoned Wedges Baked Beans	<b>Fresh Apple</b>
<b>Tuesday 9th April</b>	<b>Pork Sausages in Red Onion Gravy</b> Mashed Potato Sliced Carrots	<b>Quorn Sausages in Red Onion Gravy (V)</b> Mashed Potato Sliced Carrots	<b>Mini Chocolate Doughnut</b>
<b>Wednesday 10th April</b>	<b>Cajun Chicken Wraps</b> Potato Croquettes Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	<b>Bean &amp; Vegetable Wraps (V)</b> Potato Croquettes Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	<b>Fruity Feast Flapjack</b>
<b>Thursday 11th April</b>	<b>American Style Hot Dog</b> Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	<b>Quorn Hot Dog (V)</b> Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	<b>Raspberry Jelly Pot</b>
<b>Friday 12th April</b>	<b>Oven Baked Breaded Pollock</b> Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	<b>Glamorgan Sausages (V)</b> Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	<b>Cocoa Brownie Cookie</b>

(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 Aisha Bi (8S1). Well Done Aisha!

**The answer to the last week's Back in Time with Binsley was:**  
Coca-Cola

**The Back in Time with Binsley question this week is:**  
On April 4th 1968, a civil rights leader was fatally shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee at 6:01pm.  
What was his name?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 9th 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

### 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.