



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



We welcome you a day early to this week's Newsletter, which was distributed to students at the end of Thursday, as they left earlier than usual for Parents' Evening 4, following a wonderful day of Rewards Assemblies, put together by the fabulous Ms. Cox. Within these recognition events came many students' highlight of the day - Mr. Pope's Easter Address. Our Chair of Governors is so generous with his time and wisdom, and always puts together a profound package around which he delivers the important message of the story of Easter - students could also delight at receiving a complimentary hot cross bun too!

This has been a long, but spectacularly successful half-term, topped off by a magnificently observed Assessment Week. Though colleagues in other parts of the country may have broken up last week, our staff and students have shown their superb dedication - I mention regularly how many minutes and hours of hard work culminates in phenomenal success - this week was an example of that. These foundations are being laid, which will lead to incredible outcomes in the future - it is, after all, the Langley Way...

With that in mind, I spent some time this week looking at our attendance figures. Though this is something I speak about regularly, it was interesting to look at our attendance figures for 2017-18 (last academic year) in the wider forum of comparing with other schools. I was blown away with our findings, which suggest that we, at Q3 Academy Langley, have amongst the best attendance figures in the entire country; we are on track to surpass last year's figure at the moment too. One extremely pleasing note to take is our Persistent Absence figure (the number of children with attendance below 90%) is incredibly low - this speaks to the fact that you, as parents and carers, support the importance of your child's education, with the wider figure reflecting that students are being supported to attend the Academy each and every day. Thank you for everything you do, and to our exceptional pastoral and Tutor teams for all of the support they provide.

This week culminates in an exciting event, as our PLC for Year 8, Miss Kaur, ties the knot! We wish her and her husband-to-be a fantastic day, and wish them a lifetime of happiness! New life also entered the Academy this week, as Mrs. Dhansey brought her little one, Musa, to visit! It was lovely to behold the kindness and love expressed by our Year 9 students towards both Mrs. Dhansey and her son, with Joshua Williams (951) giving a heartfelt Appreciation.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my #TimeForTea meetings with students this term, including the weekly Year 9 winners, who shared a 'cuppa' with me this week. Additionally, I have been thrilled to hear of the exploits and achievements of so many of our students outside of the Academy. Abigail Morton (8C2) performed at the SIPS Music Concert at West Bromwich Tow Hall - what an honour!

In other ways, I have been highly impressed with our students' conduct over the past term. This week, as many schools around the country have done, we rehearsed a 'Lockdown' procedure, something that is an unfortunate necessity in the world. Though we know that the likelihood of requiring such a procedure is incredibly slim, our single most important responsibility is to safeguard your children's safety. I took part in the process with our Finance Director, Mrs. Attwood, who gave considerably of her valuable time to observe and feed back to me. I was also met with a bittersweet moment, as my pride in the responsibility of our students was mixed with an element of frustration. Several Year 7 students returned to the Academy this week, to let us know that students at another, local school, had sprayed 'Q3' on a wall near the park. I thank our students for being active citizens, and hope that our neighbours address the behaviour, and the worrying motive behind it.

Our Cadet detachment, under the tutelage of Pilot Officer Williamson, went on a special visit to RAF Cosford this week, to enjoy some actual flying experience. I thank her, Miss Lucas, Mr. Kamboj and of course, Sgt. Stabler for accompanying them on the trip! Our detachment actually grew this week, with the announcement of our newest Year 9 additions, with the application process for Year 8 students opening up in the Summer term.

I had a very productive meeting with Macron last week, and can announce that we are in a position to offer a range of coats online for the upcoming academic year. These will include a lightweight, cost-effective option which, in addition to being used as a jacket, can be worn alongside P.E kit. A warmer coat option is being added, as well as a shower-proof jacket - all four items will be accepted as appropriate outerwear, as I thank all parents and carers for their patience in this area. There is absolutely no requirement to purchase **all** four options - please speak to your child's PLD if you have queries - but all students should be wearing a Q3 coat in September.

Sandwell Council notified me this week, to inform us that we have over 40 appeals for places for the upcoming academic year - a real marker of our own appeal! Also, I noted that the proximity of incoming students to the Academy has decreased in distance again - around a mile. It might not seem like much, but these factors speak hugely to the impact and hard work of our staff team at every level - I cannot wait for these students to join us at Langley!

Parents' Evening 4 was a huge success - holding appointments myself (for my terrific Year 9 History group), I was able to enjoy deep, rich conversation with parents and carers, and witness the level of dialogue taking place with other colleagues. Parents' Evening simply would not happen without the tremendous efforts of our Associate Staff - their utter dedication is simply astounding. Leading our Administration Team, my P.A, Miss Quamar has been an utter force of nature this week - she has carried out so many extra duties (including buying 700 hot cross buns, and 80 Easter eggs for staff) - how did I ever live without her? Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the Administration Team for their hard work being trained on our new, electronic sign-in system, and to Miss Blake, from our Central Services function, for supporting whilst this training took place.

The Easter break is an important time to recharge the batteries, spent time with loved ones, and delve into a good book. Some of our staff, however, are giving up some of that time for the Academy. Several colleagues will be in to complete First Aid training, and our partners, Spellar Metcalfe, will be hard at work on the construction of our Specialist Teaching Block. Furthermore, my wonderful Leadership Team will be in the Academy for a day's preparation for the upcoming term, and to host the first day of induction for our incoming staff, who will visit us to learn about the 'Langley Way'. I extend my tribute to the #HardestWorkingStaffInSandwell, and hope that they do enjoy the rest of the break to rest and relax.

This week's Newsletter signals the end of term, and the end of Binsley's Back in Time, curated each week by my Miss Binsley. I have thoroughly enjoyed going through this with my children, with entries swelling each week - an indicator that her diligence really paid off. I am always delighted to see her teach, and witnessing her super ability makes me reflect on the privilege I had teaching her A-Level History at our Great Barr site. Speaking of our sister sites, I wish them all the best of luck in delivering key intervention sessions over the Easter break, and hope that students reap the benefit of all of their hard work!

I will be in the Academy for a number of days over Easter, but I am looking forward to enjoying some time with family and friends. I am really looking forward to visiting Birmingham City Centre on Good Friday, to experience the joy of the holiday with many others. There are many events taking place across Birmingham to commemorate Easter - I recommend Gas Street Church and their 12 Hours event (<https://www.gasstreet.org/12hours>) - you might even see your Head of School there...

I wish you all a restful break, and a blessed Easter - I hope that our students enjoy a well-earned break, and do not indulge too heavily in chocolate consumption! As a reminder - the Spring Challenge is due the first week back - spares will be available at Reception if needed. I look forward to welcoming our students back bright and early on Monday 29th April!

Best Wishes,

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 8th April 2019. They were:



Sophie Bell
7A1



Isobelle Phillpott
7C1



Katie Kelly
7D1



Riya Bains
7L1



Harshdeep
Singh
7S1



Joseph Wright
9C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 29/04/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 29th April	Cheese & Onion Pasties (V) Mashed Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Cheese & Onion Pasties (V) Mashed Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Easy Peelers
Tuesday 30th April	Red Tractor Chicken Burger & Bun Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	BBQ Quorn Fillet & Bun (V) Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	Mini Jam Doughnut
Wednesday 1st May	Roast Turkey & Gravy Roasted Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Roast Quorn Fillet & Gravy (V) Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Red, Blackberry & Apple Crumble Slice
Thursday 2nd May	Sweet Chilli Chicken Braised Rice Green Beans	Sweet Chilli Vegetables (V) Braised Rice Green Beans	Fresh Fruit Bag
Friday 3rd May	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 Hartarnveer Aujla (8C2). Well Done Hartarnveer!

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

The Back in Time with Binsley question this week is:
On 14th April 1865, an American President was assassinated while attending the play Our American Cousin at Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C.

Who was this American President?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 30th 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

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.

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May 2019

Academy closed to students.

PACT

Monday 13th May—7pm-8pm

Parents' Evening 5

Thursday 23rd May 2019—3:05pm-7:30pm