



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



It was lovely to see our students returning to the Academy on Monday, though our site was a hive of activity throughout the break! Several staff attended a three-day First Aid course, and our Senior Leadership Team worked together on some crucial preparation for our impending Ofsted inspection – I thank them for their efforts in supporting the Academy. Furthermore, all of our new staff, who are joining us for the next academic year, took part in some Induction training, with our Senior Leadership Team running sessions to show them the 'Langley' way, so that all staff can

hit the ground running when they start. Through the entire break, Spellar Metcalfe, our construction partners, continued to work hard on our Specialist Teaching Block. Our Academy looked pristine on Monday morning, but was essentially a building site through parts of the week, as connections between our existing space and the new build were progressed. The dedication, work, and commitment of our Site Team was simply astounding – they worked long and hard to ensure that our students returned to an immaculate site – I cannot thank them enough for their dedication.

Tuesday was a bittersweet one for the Academy, as it marked the final, official, day of our I.C.T Manager, Mr. Smith, as he transfers over to our sister site, Q3 Academy Tipton. Mr. Smith has been supporting their network rebuild and generally with day-to-day maintenance over the past few months, and will be returning the favour with us as he moves across, spending a couple of days a week at Langley until the end of the Summer Term. We will all miss his warmth, kindness, dry sense of humour and unwavering professionalism during his time at the Academy. I know that he works by the principle that effective I.C.T infrastructures are the ones that are barely mentioned, so efficient and effective are they. Considering the reliance we have on such technology at the Academy, the smoothness with which everything runs is no accident, and is a testament to Mr. Smith's systems and monitoring. Though we are sad to see him go, we appreciate that he will be closer to home now, and still hope to work with him, as he remains in the Trust. Good luck!

Our students have been extremely busy this week, with a range of exciting opportunities experienced. Our Year 9 STEM Challenge students (The Imagineers) visited, with Miss Fisher, Petford Group Ltd., the site of their industry mentors. In addition to a tour of the facility, the group were able to harness the 3D printing capabilities of the company, manufacturing and testing a prototype of their product!

Tuesday saw students in Year 7 and 8 taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge, coordinated by Mrs. Goodman – a brilliant opportunity for them to partake in a national event that we have an excellent track record in – I wonder who will receive the bronze, silver, and perhaps even gold awards? On Wednesday, some students attended the Europa Centre, to immerse themselves in languages, developing their Spanish skills. I thank Miss Pastor, Miss Rowson, Mr. Simkins and Mr. Payton for their dedication in transporting the students.

As you might be aware, the festival of Eid is approaching; we are aware that some students will want to observe the protocol of fasting, and not partake in Family Lunch. We are supportive of this, and simply request a letter from the parents and carers of the students fasting, which details the dates they will not be eating Family Lunch; we can then adjust Parent Pay accounts accordingly.

Before the break, I was thrilled to host colleagues from Sandwell Education Psychology team, as we embarked on our year-long journey to achieving the Sandwell Well-Being Charter Mark. We are being supported by the wonderful Ms. Callaghan, who successfully completed the process at our sister site, Q3 Academy Great Barr; we look forward to developing and learning, as we

hopefully earn this accolade. In other news, I was delighted to learn that we have received the Sandwell SHAPE Democracy Award, which is a true testament to the dedication of our PLC for Year 7, Miss Smith. In a time of political turbulence and uncertainty, where engagement in current affairs and big issues is so important, it is simply phenomenal to witness the level of knowledge and discourse happening between students each and every day! When I attended the second Sandwell Vision 2030 Delivery Group meeting this week, I left feeling so excited by the prospect of how Langley can contribute to the future of our Local Authority!

Over the Easter break, I was fortunate enough to visit Levi Anderson (8A1), as he recovered from an injury sustained whilst playing in a football match against Wood Green. I was overwhelmed with Levi's maturity, and the reports from staff – he was simply the most polite young man, even using his STEPS with paramedics, and working hard on his Maths work, whilst in his hospital bed! For this, and for genuine embodiment of the Academy's ethos, I will be awarding Levi a Head of School Commendation this week. Also, I am happy to award Commendations to students who embodied the ethos over the Easter break: Tyler Mclean Franklin (7L2), Roman Foster (8S1) and Abigail Talbot (8L1). In addition, in our first week back, Priya Rai (8D1) and Demarni Burke (8L2) managed the superb achievement of three Star of the Lessons in a single day – congratulations on your Head of School Commendation too! I await even more fantastic feedback on our students' conduct when our Spring Challenge Praise Brunch is held with Dr. Badyal – we are so proud of our students each and every day!

As you will no doubt be aware, we update the 'Dates for your Diary' section on the back of this address regularly – you will see for example, that our PACT meeting is cancelled on Monday, due to the Bank Holiday. Recently, I have received several messages on social media regarding dates, and days of holidays, which are clearly outlined in the Newsletter (and on the Academy website). It is critical that these dates are displayed or put somewhere that they can be accessed; if not stuck on the fridge, then a screenshot/photo on a phone will give an instant answer to your query. It is extremely disappointing that some parents 'thought' Monday was an INSET day, despite the Newsletter, our social media accounts and our website clearly displaying otherwise...

For those visiting the Academy, you will notice that we have a new, electronic signing in system in the Academy – I thank Miss Quamar for coordinating the sourcing and instruction of the project, and our Administration team for working diligently to understand the new system. I even get emails when visitors arrive (meaning that Miss Quamar has saved herself time trying to find me as I walk around the Academy each day) – a great system, which drives us further forward.

Finally, on Friday, we welcomed Alison Cope, mother of the late Joshua Ribera (who was tragically killed in a knife attack in 2013), to deliver a poignant and hard-hitting assembly on knife crime. I am sure that you have seen in the news that knife crime is on the rise, with tragedies in the West Midlands regularly reported on, most recently in local Harborne. These senseless and cowardly acts of violence are robbing young people of their lives, and taking away any potential they have to make a difference in the world. Most worryingly is the culture around knives, which needs to be addressed and dismantled in order to really tackle the problem. As a community, we all need to work together to ensure that nothing of this nature ever happens with one of our students at the Academy – I thank Alison for giving so generously of her time, and delivering such a powerful message.

I wish you all a delightful, extended Bank Holiday weekend – I hope that the weather stays fair, at least until my youngest takes on Arsenal in an Under-7s friendly at Birmingham City's Trillion Trophy stadium on Monday!

Best wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 29th April 2019. They were:



Oluwabanji
Fajinmi
8A2



Keaton Sandhu
8C2



Millie-An Deeming
8D2



Avinash Phull
8L2



Asha Nahl
8S2



Grace Burgoyne
9C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 06/05/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday Academy closed to Students	Bank Holiday Academy closed to Students	Bank Holiday Academy Closed to Students
Tuesday 7th May	Pork Sausages in Gravy Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Quorn Sausages in Gravy (V) Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Chocolate Crunch
Wednesday 8th May	Cajun Chicken Wraps Potato Croquettes Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	Bean & Vegetable Wraps (V) Potato Croquettes Roasted Spicy Half Corn on the Cob	Fruity Feast Flapjack
Thursday 9th May	American Style Hot Dog Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Relish Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Ring Doughnuts
Friday 10th May	Oven Baked Breaded Pollock Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	Vegetarian Sausages (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Tartar Sauce Vinegar Sachets Tomato Ketchup	Cocoa Brownie Cookies

(H) Suitable for Halal (V) Suitable for Vegetarians. The menu is subject to change at short notice.

HASSAN'S HYPOTHESIS

The winner of the last week's Back in Time with Binsley was Abigail Morton (8C2). Well Done Abigail!

The answer to the half-term Back in Time with Binsley was:
Abraham Lincoln

We welcome a new challenge this term, coming from our Maths Learning Consultant Mr Hassan.

Hassan's Hypothesis for this week is:
My answer is 5, what is my question?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 7th May 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

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May 2019

Academy closed to students.

PACT

Monday 13th May 2019—7pm-8pm

Parents' Evening 5

Thursday 23rd May 2019—3:05pm-7:30pm

Whitsun Half Term

Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May 2019

Summer Fête

Saturday June 8th 2019—12pm-3pm