



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week has been a bit of a strange one – for many staff, the week after our Ofsted visit has been a bit of a blur. For our students, though, it has been back to business – I thank all staff for ensuring that the provision offered all week was at the same, fantastic level. I cannot wait for the final report to land in our inbox in the coming weeks. Perhaps the weather knew that it was time to celebrate – our Site Team even caught the sun when tending the grounds, such was the glorious level of sunshine.

As you may know, SATs started in earnest this week – we wish all students at our feeder schools the very best of luck, and salute our primary friends for their diligent work in preparing them for their tests. With this in mind, we begin our Year 5 Primary School visits, to conduct assemblies, as well as our Year 5 Taster Sessions continuing. Unfortunately, we had to postpone last week's (due to our 'visit'), but we look forward to rearranging a new date, which will be communicated through our Eventbrite platform – we look forward to meeting you all!

We also send all of our best wishes to our sister sites, Q3 Academy Great Barr and Q3 Academy Tipton, whose GCSE exam season is now underway! I hope that students do their best, but remember in such stressful times, that mental health and wellbeing is an important consideration too. Personally, I knew that the hard work would pay off immediately in the form of an extended summer holiday – the long-term benefits are ones I am still reaping today! We are still some time away from our first full 'fixture list', but our Year 9 students will be taking their Citizenship GCSE examinations in June – we are getting a taster, and I am sure our students will do their absolute best – we can only wonder how they will do against the Year 11s in the country...

In the midst of the excitement last week I was incredibly humbled to receive some personal news, which came completely out of the blue! I have been nominated to receive an Honorary Fellowship from the Historical Association (F.H.A). Each year a small number of individuals are recognised for their contributions to History or History education. I am delighted to accept this award, and have already been granted leave by Dr Badyal in July to attend the ceremony in London. On receiving this news, it made me reflect on a conversation many years ago with my own (phenomenal) History teacher, Mr Brown, who not only made me select it as a GCSE option over Geography, but guided my university choice – at all times promoting the scholarly nature of the discipline. As national advertising tells us, every lesson does shape a life, and these small conversations can have a huge impact – my hope is that our students look back on the fantastic discourse they have with their Learning Consultants, realising the impact it has had on their life.

Monday saw the penultimate PACT meeting of the year before the Summer Fête, held on Saturday 8th June. I could not believe how many joined us (25 attendees, with 7 apologies), with many new faces joining us to discuss arrangements for the upcoming event. Keep an eye out for the Barrows and Forrester boards in the local area, as well as our promotional leaflets dropping through your letterboxes – please add the date to your diaries!

I have several congratulations to give out this week to superstar students. Well done to our three Star of the Lesson in a day winners: Sonia Gill (8A1), Kieran Prince (8C2), Oliver Asson (8D1), Rohan Uppal (8S1) and Konnee Harrison (8L1), who actually achieved this twice, and last week's Tea with Mr. Lee winner, Demarni Dennis, who received no fewer than six Star of the Lessons across the space of three days, including three in a single day! I am so proud to recognise these amazing individuals!

On Tuesday, we welcomed St. Modwen CEO, Mark Allan, to the Academy, to speak to our Year 9 students, as part of Robert Peston's Speakers 4 Schools programme. In a fascinating and insightful talk about the company's commitment to regeneration, he gave some valuable advice to our students on a range of topics, inspired by some wonderful questions from our students. In addition, several students attended a Careers Network event at Wolverhampton Racecourse, where they learned a great deal, meeting many people from the world of work. It has always been a core ambition of the Academy to prepare our students for the world of work, making them both aware and employable – my hope is that our commitment to such a broad, well-rounded provision is reflected in our upcoming report. We saw a fantastic number of SSAT Student Leadership certificates being handed out this week – the work providing evidence, writing supporting statements and ensuring that students are pushing themselves to achieve beyond the classroom, with all students receiving either a Bronze, Silver and Gold award is superb – my thanks to Miss Smith and Mr. Rahman for their work in this area.

Our Year 9 Battlefields visit to Belgium left on Thursday morning for a wonderful learning experience – I thank Mr. Dale and Mr. Gee for all of their hard work organising the trip – my understanding is that Mr. Gee will also be performing the role of tour guide, such is his exceptional knowledge and voracious interest – our students are incredibly fortunate! Last week also saw our rearranged Boulogne trip, where students did gain the opportunity to visit the seaside in France. I cannot thank our staff enough for their energy and dedication following a fraught couple of days – Ms. Cox, who you may have seen defying gravity on social media, remarked that it is the best-organised trip that she has ever been on (thanks to our trip guru, Miss Goodbourn), and that for several students, this was their first trip overseas. We are doing our utmost to ensure that our children receive opportunities that they would not get anywhere else.

We held interviews for our recently re-advertised Learning Consultant in MFL post – as explained last week, due to unforeseen changes in circumstances, our appointed colleague had to decline the post. Even at this point in year, the calibre, and number, of candidates has been very impressive, with several prospective colleagues visiting us in their own time to get a feel for the Academy. As ever, I thank our HR team, Mrs Brooks and Miss Pell for their considerable efforts coordinating the day, and to our Lead Professional for MFL, Miss Williamson, Mr. Mills and our super Spanish team of Mrs Underhill and Miss Pastor for their help on the day. We will publish this address before appointments are confirmed, but I am confident that we will be adding an excellent member of staff to an already high calibre team!

Regular readers of this address will be aware of football fervour, and my Anfield-allegiance, fostered by my late father's heritage. I was thrilled to experience such concern for my wellbeing, happiness and mental state from our students on Monday morning (only some tongues were resolutely in cheeks) – those Baggies fans have tasted some of the bittersweet feeling of a successful campaign that did not quite finish as hoped, but we look forward. I am looking forward, as our Villains are, to a big final day – theirs is at Wembley, and mine in Madrid on the 1st June! However things turn out, I thank our promoted colleagues, whomever they may be, for the six points they will be giving Liverpool next season!

We only have one more week to go in this half-term, with Parents' Evening next Thursday – there is no excuse for students taking a day off with a break in prospect!

Best wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 13th May 2019. They were:



Rehan Imran
8A1



Angel-Janyce
Acheampong
8C1



Priya Rai
8D1



Kyle Worton
8L1



Roman
Foster
8S1



Camron Butler
9C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 20/05/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 20th May	Quorn Burgers (V) Oven Baked Potato Wedges Sliced Burger Cheese Baked Beans	Quorn Burgers (V) Oven Baked Potato Wedges Sliced Burger Cheese Baked Beans	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 21st May	Chicken Korma Braised Turmeric Rice Oven Baked Naan Bread	Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry (V) Braised Turmeric Rice Oven Baked Naan Bread	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Wednesday 22nd May	Southern Baked Chicken Thigh (boneless) Baked Half Potato Baked Beans	BBQ Baked Quorn Fillet (V) Baked Half Potato Baked Beans	Chocolate Flapjack
Thursday 23rd 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	Fresh Fruit
Friday 24th May	Quorn Dippers (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Quorn Dippers (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Raspberry Jelly Pot

(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 Hassan's Hypothesis was Madison Titley (8D1).
Well Done Madison!

The answer to last week's Hassan's Hypothesis was:
16

Hassan's Hypothesis for this week is:
Each row, each column and each of the bold 2 by 3 rectangles in the grid has to contain each of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (one number in each cell).

What number should go in the cell marked X?

			x	5
			6	
	1	2		
	3	4		
	4		3	
2				1

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 21st 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

Parents' Evening 5

Thursday 23rd May 2019—3:05pm-7:30pm

Whitsun Half Term

Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May 2019

Summer Term 2

Monday 3rd June 2019

Students return to the Academy at normal time

Macron New Parents' Sizing Event

Monday 3rd June 2019—3pm-8pm

PACT

Monday 3rd June 2019—7pm-8pm

Summer Fête

Saturday June 8th 2019—12pm-3pm