



# Weekly Newsletter

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



One of the quirks of the Newsletter, like many publications, is that though it is released on a Friday, it is actually a week-long process of construction and editing (by such stalwarts as Miss Loxton), meaning that some achievements need to be recognised the week after they are reached. One such exceptional accolade was our STEM Challenge. The Imagineers are: Eve Handy

(9A1), Codie Guest (9D1), Rhianna Begum (9D1), Malachi Harris (9D1), Jimmy Chinn (9L1) and Chloe Yarwood (9S1). Led by Miss Fisher, and supported by the Petford Group, their product, a 'match four' game for visually impaired people will be going into production in the coming months, won every single category, and the overall prize! There was a fabulous write-up in the Express and Star, which we posted on our Academy Facebook page – please check it for updates – congratulations!

Also, last Friday, Mr. Dawes, our Curriculum Director for English, and I travelled to the very impressive Northampton Academy, for the Character Education Conference. I was gratified to be presented with our Character Education Kitemark by Olympic Gold Medallist Jason Gardener, who also regaled us with an inspiring story of his own success. I was particularly pleased to know that we were just the fourth establishment in the country to receive this award, a significant honour!

This final week has absolutely flown by, with a range of highlights to share with you. Sports Day, on Tuesday, was a huge success, with us hosting the event on our own playing fields for the first time! A massive thanks goes to the P.E team, and its Leader of Learning, Mr. Payton, as well as the many Site and support staff who helped on the day. My congratulations go to Lifestyle, for reclaiming the crown they lost to Social Design last year!

Wednesday also saw one of those events that I ensure I absent myself for, such is the beautiful chaos of it – Q3's Got Talent. Mr. Karim, whose creative juices were in overdrive this year, orchestrated a spectacular event, with the likes of Mr. Anderson, Mr. Simkins and Mr. Evans all taking part. However, the real stars of the show were the students – be it Ruby Blount (7C1) and Demarni Burke (8L2), Mr. Karim's co-hosts, or the performers themselves. My congratulations go to Caitlin-Leigh Redfern (8L2), who finished third, Katie Bayliss (9C1), whose brilliant vocals granted her second, and Isiah Watkis (8S2) and Marcus Thompson (7D2), whose incredible, Q3-laced, rap, brought the house down, and them the overall prize!

This week has been one of visits, as well as events, with two relatives of the Academy joining us for work experience. Luke Thorpe, brother of Miss Ball, joined us from St. Michael's School; he is making superb progress in his own studies, with his interest in a career in teaching blossoming after his visit. We also welcomed Mr. Singh's son, Josh, to the Academy to support with Sports Day on Tuesday. Mr. Singh is a true inspiration – as someone with a wealth of experience, holding leadership positions across a range of settings in his career, his kindness, and impact with Year 7 has been enormous this year. I can attest that he raises very polite, hard-working, humble children too!

I have been receiving regular updates from Mr. Cox, who accompanied our Year 9 Cadets on camp this week – they have been learning lots and broadening horizons, though the extra early wake ups do not seem to have gone down too well! Pilot Officer Williamson has also informed me that we have received some excellent letters of application from numerous Year 8 students, as we expand our detachment; I look forward to reading them, and hearing news of our newest recruits.

Today's Newsletter marks the final edition of Hassan's Hypothesis this academic year – my thanks go to Mr. Hassan for providing such interesting challenges each week, and for his hard work across the year. For those avid readers of this address, that does mean that there is a slot available for someone new to take over the mantle – perhaps Burke's Bonanza? Rea's Riddle? Anderson's Answer? Watch this space...

Thursday saw our final Parents' Evening of the year, where Learning Consultants were able to discuss progress with parents and carers. At the event, our PACT (Parent Academy Contact Team) supported ably, as they always do. In fact, PACT could do with some more support next year – perhaps you could join the team? Evenings like these simply do not happen without the support of the Admin team – Miss Loxton, Mrs Kandola and Miss Marchant, along with the utterly flawless Miss Quamar, put together another faultless event.

In the final Newsletter of the year, we say a fond farewell to some key people. Ellouise Sadler (9A1), Luis Booton (9L1), Malachi Harris (9D1) and Greta Daniels (9S1) leave us for a new challenge – we thank them for their hard work, wish them the best, and tell them that they are always welcome to visit!

Thursday was a day of immense personal and professional pleasure for me, as I was delighted to elevate Ms. Cox, Mr. Gee and Mr. Mills to the position of Vice Principal. Along with our Director of Behaviour, Mr. Karim, I am blessed with the most professional, diligent, creative and wonderful leadership team I have ever had, and look forward with relish to the undoubted rigours of Year 10 and Year 11, as we move towards Key Stage Four!

# STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 15th July 2019. They were:



Jannatun  
Alam  
8A1



Deeyah Mannan  
8C1



Alisha Sandhu  
8D1



Olivia Jefferson  
8L1



Dylan  
Fidrych  
8D1



Ellouise Sadler  
9A1

Furthermore, due to some restructuring of the Academy trust, some of our Central Services function is being moved out to individual academies. It is bittersweet to bid farewell to Mrs Barnett, Mr. Hawkins and Mrs Kudryl, as well as Miss Callaghan, who has been a huge part of our team since we opened. Though it is sad to see them leave us, we know that their immense talents will be deployed in other academies within the Trust – we know that they will always be there for us, just as our friend Mr. Price is too. I would also like to pass my thanks to Mr. Arrandale, who has delivered, with expert aplomb, Photography sessions during Enrichment, and Mrs Hainsworth, who has delivered Art. Both are from our Great Barr site, with one (Mr. Arrandale) being a legend of Dartmouth/Q3, and the other (Mrs Hainsworth) extending her influence by joining our staff team next academic year! We also say goodbye, finally, to Mr. Smith, who officially leaves us for Q3 Tipton. He has been so impressive recently, working across both sites – I know he will be missed. Finally, we wish Casey Bailey all the best in his future outside of the Trust, and hope that he keeps in touch!

Next week, we will say our final goodbyes to three members of staff who have contributed a huge amount during their time at Langley. Mrs Salwani, who has worked as an LSA (Learning Support Assistant) with Year 9, leaves us to undertake a PGCE in Geography – her care, kindness, intelligence and warmth will be sorely missed by staff and students alike. Following her marriage earlier this year, Mrs. Kaur leaves us as PLC for Year 8 to work in Glasgow – I think the commute to Oldbury would be a bit too much of a stretch! She has been excellent this year, supporting students in her role as PLC and Learning Consultant to A.C.E. Luckily, she leaves her sister, Miss Kaur, with us, who has also had a fabulous impact. Finally, we say, with hearts full of love and pride, goodbye to Miss Smith. I have been so proud to see her growth – she came to Q3 on work experience, impressed so much that she trained with us, impressed me so much I recruited her for Langley, and impressed us so much that she became PLC. Her work with student leadership has been simply awesome, and her warmth, kindness and care extends from the classroom to the corridor and beyond. On behalf of all at the Academy, I wish her the best of

luck in her new adventure in primary school, where I know she will make a massive impact – our loss is certainly their gain!

Based on current readings, it looks like our attendance figures, which have been amongst the highest in the entire country for the last two years, are similarly phenomenal this time round – this consistency is a reflection on the professionalism of the whole team. In particular, Mrs Fields, who works so hard on Attendance, and Mrs Ruby, who offers strategic support, have cultivated a phenomenal culture of expectation regarding attendance – my thanks to all parents and carers for their support as well – without you sending your children in, we would not be able to generate the terrific progress that we do!

My high expectations extended to last week's Intake Evening 2, where I explained our concerns around Family Lunch debt. We have moved to an improved system, where Family Lunch will need to be paid for a half-term in advance – this is because the cost of staff hours chasing arrears, and the overall debt, was simply not feasible. A letter will be heading home over the holiday period, outlining the amounts and due dates.

Also, we have received news that some of our incoming students has a severe nut allergy – this means that we will become a nut-free site as of September – no staff or students will be allowed to bring in any raw nuts into the Academy.

As a final reminder – our Year 7 and 8 students have a slightly longer holiday than Year 9 – please check the Dates for your Diary on the back of this address. I wish you a fantastic Summer, filled with Summer Challenge activities (these are due the first day back after the break). Reception will be open between 08:00 – 16:00 each working day during the break if you have any questions – thank you!

## Best Wishes

Peter Lee

## HASSAN'S HYPOTHESIS

The winner of the last week's Hassan's Hypothesis was Jaspal Kharbow (8L2). Well Done Jaspal

**The answer to last week's Hassan's Hypothesis was:**  
81cm

Today marks the end of Hassan's Hypothesis. Thank you to Mr Hassan for creating the challenges this term and a special thank you to the students who enter each week!  
I wonder what challenge awaits us in September?

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Transition Week for New Intake September 2019

Tuesday 23rd July—Thursday 25th July

8am-3pm

### INSET Day

Monday 2nd September 2019

**Academy closed to students.**

### New Term Start Dates

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Year 7—8am-3pm

Thursday 5th September 2019

Year 10—8:30am-3:30pm

Monday 9th September 2019

Years 8 & 9—8am-3pm