



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



This week's address begins with a heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our Student Council, for the collection of Christmas toys for children in care. Though our students have been wonderful, this remarkable collection simply would not have happened without the incredible dedication and work of Miss Binsley and Miss Rowson – their commitment was only matched with the awe which Sandwell felt at the sight of the immense array of items!

It is so appropriate, at this time of year, to think of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. With that in mind, next Friday's #WearItChristmas will request a £1 donation from students in return for the allowance of wearing a Christmas item – all proceeds will be donated to Save the Children. Items may replace a piece of Business Dress (tie, socks, jumper) or head bands, bobbles, laces, or hats – we do draw the line at colouring of hair, make up and nail varnish, however. I will be dusting off my jumper – I wonder which member of staff will be guilty of the worst festive fashion faux pas...

You may have been aware of schools in the local area closing due to a spate of illnesses hitting staff and students. We, at Langley, have not been struck in such a dramatic way, but our attendance has dropped significantly of late. I thank, as ever, Mrs. Fields and Mrs. Ruby for their work with attendance, and all of our pastoral teams. I sincerely hope that next week, when students will benefit from an additional week off to most schools the week after, does not see students being taken out for early break – I have reaped the benefits of the Q3 calendar giving me a week of extra winter sun, without having to sacrifice attendance – we hope, and expect, your support in this area.

Today sees the Academy's annual visit to the Christmas Market in Lille, where students whirl, in a day, across the Channel and back – my thanks to Ms. Cox, Mr. Bradshaw, Mrs. Gaur, Ms. Burke, Mrs Fogarty and Miss Hicks for taking the students. I know personally how much work goes into these visits (having taken our very first cohort to Lille) – keeping your children safe, and offering engaging experiences is extremely strenuous; I feel blessed to have a staff team so committed to giving your children these amazing opportunities – thank you!

Monday's final PACT meeting of 2019 was jam-packed, as we had final discussions around the Christmas Fair, taking place tomorrow! If, like me, you are planning on attending our fourth Fair, I cannot wait to see you at an event that seems to get bigger and better every year. Our sponsor, Barrows and Forrester, have bedecked the Academy with their boards, advertising the event, which we thank them for – I have eyes on a Table Football Tournament victory with my new partner, Dr. Lambert! Events like this can only occur thanks to the superb work of the PACT, who give so much – the fact that they will also be out in force at our Parents' Evening next week reflects how blessed we are to have them.

I have been overwhelmed with the torrent of student achievement that I have learned about this week. Riding the crest of the wave is Alessia Easton (8A2) for volunteering with her mum, Paola, as part of the Samaritans' Operation Christmas Child Project – you may have seen some photos on our Facebook page. I thoroughly enjoyed my Time for Tea with Alessia, where she filled me in on the project, as well as with Simran Bath (7S1), who told me all about her extra-curricular exploits. I am delighted to announce a deluge of superstar students, who have achieved three Star of the Lessons in a single day: Jasleen Nagra (7D2),

Alisha Sandhu (9D1), Owen Burton (9C2), Umar Nasiri (8A2), Brannon Fell (8C1), Deako Rawanduzy (8S2), Brandon Sadler (10A1) and Henry Jordan (10D1). All students will be in receipt of a Head of School Commendation, and a special call from me!

My delight in our students' extra-curricular exploits is matched by my own sons, who have excelled themselves recently. My eldest son performed with the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra last week – the joy and pride I felt was immense. I was equally proud of my youngest, who played, and scored a brilliant goal, at the F.A Headquarters, St. George's Park in Burton on Tuesday. I could not be prouder of my children – they are so different, but their dedication, talent and positivity at whatever they turn their hands to is amazing! I know they love to read about themselves in the Newsletter, and now almost 900 students and their parents are reading about them too!

I am thrilled to be able to share with you some news of recent appointments for our upcoming academic year. Mr. Dawes welcomes Miss Kooner, from an outstanding school in Birmingham, to his English team, and Miss Jones is being bolstered by the confirmation of Miss Twyford, who will join us permanently in the Geography team once her School Direct course is concluded. She has made a really positive impact in our time so far, and we could not be happier for her to join us. Also, in a department with a 'Doctor' and a 'Dale', we welcome Dr. Dale to the History team – I am sure our terrific Lead Professional will not get confused with his namesake when she joins us! I am also pleased to announce that our Business Studies team has grown, with Ms. Martin joining us in January, as she relocates to the Midlands. Our Vice Principal (and Business Studies guru) Ms. Cox worked with Ms. Martin at Arthur Terry School (another outstanding school in Birmingham) – we thank Ms. Blake for her support with the process, and Mrs Attwood for her vital support from our Central Services function in securing our early appointee!

Next week is typically jam-packed, with a real festive flavour! Wednesday sees our Christmas Showcase from the Creative Arts team, Thursday sees Rewards Assemblies, and Parents' Evening, and Friday sees three big events – #WearItChristmas, Mr. Karim hosting our Christmas Family Lunch and our Chair of Governors, Mr. Pope, and his annual Christmas Address. Students will be dismissed at 14:30 on Thursday (for Parents' Evening) and Friday (for the end of term), but never fear – our students will be learning in every available minute – we even have an English GCSE Mock Question on Animal Farm next week! Students will leave us on Friday 13th December, before coming back on Tuesday 7th January (as Monday 6th January is an INSET Day) – a well-earned, long break.

At this time of year, I, along with many others, look to visit a local Church to connect with the true meaning of Christmas. I posted on our Facebook page the programme of our friends at Gas Street Church (www.gasstreet.org/christmas) – we hope to use this as our base for our Year 7 visit during Ethos Week in February. I have heard about some fantastic programmes on offer at Warley Baptist Church and Bethel Church in Oldbury – I hope that you can find the time to visit over the festive period, and truly immerse yourself in the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ!

Please say hello to me at the Christmas Fair tomorrow; I hope to see many of you there! The countdown is on – Monday will mean that there are only five more days to go!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 2nd December 2019. They were:



James Crackett
8A2



Aiden Prince
8C2



Sreya Pabla
8D2



Pushpesh Sunnia
8L2



Caedon
O'Malley
8S2



Rishi Chahal
10C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 09/12/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 9th December	Chicken Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Pasta Garlic Bread Mixed Cheese	Arrabiata Sauce (V) Pasta Garlic Bread Mixed Cheese	Blueberry Mini Muffin
Tuesday 10th December	Southern Chicken Burger in a Bun Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Southern Quorn Burger in a Bun (V) Seasoned Wedges Mixed Salad	Yoghurt Pots
Wednesday 11th December	Piri-Piri Chicken Diced Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn	Piri-Piri Quorn Fillet (V) Diced Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn	Chocolate Crunch
Thursday 12th December	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Ketchup Mustard Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Quorn Hot Dog (V) Hot Dog Rolls Ketchup Mustard Grated Cheese Seasoned Wedges	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 13th December	<u>Q3's Christmas Dinner</u> Roast Turkey Pigs in Blankets Stuffing Cranberry Sauce Roast Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Sliced Carrots Gravy	<u>Q3's Christmas Dinner</u> Roast Quorn (V) Roast Potato Stuffing Cranberry Sauce Brussel Sprouts Sliced Carrots Gravy	Mince Pies & Satsumas

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

PARTRIDGE'S PROBLEM

The winner of last week's Partridge's Problem was Brandon Gibbs (7L1). Well done Brandon!

Partridge's Problem for this week is:

Fill in the blanks to spell a word.



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 10th December at 3:30pm. 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

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7th December 2019—12pm-3pm

Parents' Evening 2

Thursday 12th December 2019—3pm-7:30pm

Students dismissed by 2:30pm

#WearItChristmas

Friday 13th December 2019

Students dismissed by 2:30pm

Christmas Holiday

Monday 16th December 2019—Friday 3rd January 2020

INSET Day

Monday 6th January 2020

Academy closed to students

Tuesday 7th January 2020

Student return at normal time.