



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



As we approach the end of the term, I think I can speak for all staff and students when I say that we have all earned a well-deserved rest! Our rest actually begins a week earlier than many Sandwell schools – a perk of the Q3 timetable, where students will have over three weeks for their break! I cannot thank enough our teaching team, with Learning Consultants giving everything, right to the last moment. Also, it is essential to recognise the extraordinary efforts of all of the unsung heroes that make Langley run every day: the wonderful SEND team, our fabulous Administration Team, the tremendous Site Team, our committed partners in Solo and, as ever, our fantastic catering partners, Sodexo. I

salute you all, and wish you a blessed and restful holiday period.

Last Saturday saw a phenomenal turnout for our annual Christmas Fair, hosted by the Parent Academy Contact Team (PACT) – our version of the PTA. The weather held up, which was fortunate, as over 750 people attended – a brilliant number! The effort and planning for such an event is immense, and I pay tribute to PACT (and their ever-helpful children, our students) and the staff team for their attendance and help with the set up and break down; particularly our superbly committed Site Team. I was particularly proud of Daniel Hunt (9D2), who attended in his capacity as a First Aider with St John's Ambulance – what a star!

Wednesday was an important day for the Academy, on this final week of term, as Mrs. Meredith (our Director of Performing Arts) hosted the Christmas Showcase! My thanks to Mrs Kandola for all of her support in setting up the event, and Mr. Partridge, Miss Silvertown, Miss Rowson, Mr. Anderson, Mrs Stephens-Chowdhury for all of their work in preparing the students. They did themselves so proud – as I was at a meeting with Sandwell MBC with our Sponsor Mr. Payne, I was receiving a litany of messages of delight from parents and staff alike! My thanks also to Year 10 students, the Year 10 team, and the English team, who coordinated the Year 10 GCSE Mock Question on Animal Farm – a real Christmas present to mark for our English Learning Consultants!

Thursday was a momentous day for our country, and our students, as we hosted our Rewards Assembly alongside our Q3 Langley General Election. I thank Ms. Cox for coordinating the event, our pastoral leaders for their awards and Mrs. Fields, who awarded the prestigious Fields' Award to a student in each year. I was gratified that two members of our Governing Body – Mr. Mee and Mr. Forrester (our Parent Governor) could rearrange their busy schedules to attend some of our assemblies – thank you for your support.

Thursday's General Election also coincided with our Parents' Evening 2, where parents and carers could see individual Learning Consultants, after seeing Tutors earlier in the year. I was thrilled to see so many positive, purposeful conversations take place, as well as a host of external stakeholders to the Academy. My thanks, as ever, to our dedicated staff team, and PACT for hosting their refreshment stall.

You will no doubt have seen by now that a sweeping Conservative majority has secured a real power-base across the country (unless you happen to be reading this in Scotland, of course!) Our own results bore a more local reading, as the election, put together by Mr. Alexander (our PLD in Year 9) showed a comfortable Labour majority – I am sure that Mr. Spellar will be pleased to know that there is potential for the next generation of voters to vote red! Political engagement has been exceptional this week, sparked by Dr. McKay (our Leader of Learning in History, with a focus on Citizenship) and his thought-provoking assemblies – I am not sure Mr. Farage will be quite so influential without a single seat in Parliament – our students really engaged in the issues for this General Election!

The final Friday of term is always a very special one at Langley, as we hosted our #WearItChristmas day, Mr. Pope's Christmas Address and four sittings of Christmas Family Lunch! For those who are new to Langley, but have seen our posts online about Christmas Family Lunch, you will know how fantastic it is. Mr. Karim, our Director of Behaviour, lets his hair down, leading the singing and festivities – we can only have such great fun because of the way our students conduct themselves, as our routines and expectations form the foundation for our festive fun! We have actually received some quizzical comments online about Family Lunch, and it even came up as a talking point in Sandwell Primary Heads earlier in September. I implore you – come and visit us in the Academy, and see for yourself how remarkable, Family Lunch is! The depth we have engaged with political discussion, the fun we have had with light-hearted topics, the pride we feel hearing students as young as 11 speak with confidence and clarity on the microphone, coupled with the achievement of nearly

900 hot, healthy meals being served every day, means that Family Lunch truly is an incredible pillar of the 'Langley Way'. I feel no greater swell of joy than hearing our 'attitude of gratitude' in Appreciations, where our students express their feelings of thanks to fellow students, staff, family members and members of the community; often in French, Spanish or a native language!

As a reminder, payment request letters were given out at Parents' Evening last night, for Family Lunch payments for the upcoming half-term (Spring One). We thank you all for your support in ensuring that we can provide meals for your children, without having to lumber ourselves with debt to Sodexo – it is vital that these payments are made, in good time. If you do have any issues, or seek to apply for Free School Meals, please contact that Academy.

At end of our first term, I feel I must pay tribute to those members of staff who joined us this academic year, and have seamlessly fitted into the 'Langley Way': Miss Wade (MFL), Mrs Hainsworth (Art), Mr. Dubb (English) and Dr. Lambert (Maths). All of these colleagues joined us because of what we are achieving here, and because of the superb conduct of your children every day; they have settled in perfectly, and contribute so much, already! I am delighted to share news that our colleagues Mr. Seaton (English), Mr. Partridge (Music) and Miss Kaur (A.C.E) have successfully completed their NQT year – congratulations! Finally, I am thrilled to announce that we made two successful appointments for the upcoming academic year – Mrs Young and Mr. Day – we are very much looking forward to you joining our Modern Foreign Languages team! We also say a fond farewell to a few members of the team: Mr Olugbonde (Science) and Ms Orozco (MFL) leave for their next training placement, and Miss Niaz leaves for a promotion to a pastoral role at a school nearer her home. We wish them all the very best, and hope they stay in touch!

A cavalcade of superstar students have led the charge of excellence in the lead up to the end of the term, with the following students receiving three Star of the Lessons in the single day: Zach Sheldon (8C1), Drew Morley (9L2), Alex Barton (8C2), Karamjot Sandhu (8D1) and Priya Bhopal (9S1). I am so proud that they have excelled, even as the term comes to an end! Also, I was wowed by Arvin Gill (9D1) and his kickboxing exploits, as well as learning of Alexander Whitehouse (10A1) and his second dan black belt in karate! Lucy Forrester (10D1) has been treading the boards in a performance as the Wicked Witch, and Shivani Paul (9C1), after receiving a shirt from Marcus Rashford, gained over a million hits on her father's Twitter account. Finally, I must highlight Alessia Easton (8A2), who follows up her mention from last week, as her artwork won the prize for the Christmas Showcase backdrop! All receive Head of School Commendations for their superstardom!

This holiday is one to relax for many, and one to celebrate for some members of staff for very special reasons. The Science department, where Mr Iqbal was blessed with his son earlier in the year, welcomes a new mascot, as Mr. Chisholm and his wife are expecting over the break – we wish them all the best. In addition, our Curriculum Director for Science, Mr. Anderson, who tied the knot in August, embarks on a Caribbean cruise for his honeymoon – we wish him the best. Finally, another of our founding members, who I have had the utmost privilege in working with and mentoring (we actually appeared on Central News together many years ago), Mr. Dawes (our Curriculum Director for English) marries his love, Natalie, this weekend, before heading to St. Lucia for their honeymoon. I am sure you will join me in wishing all of our members of staff all the best in their new adventures!

The Academy site will be open next week, between 08:00-16:00, with the Site Team, Admin, Finance and your Head of School in all week. There will be a full deep clean of the Academy, with Solo and Sodexo working their hardest to ensure that the Academy is sparkling for the new year. I am certainly looking forward to arrive after my 'normal' start time of around 06:00 – as you might know, my contract states that I do not receive the same holidays as our teaching team, so I will be in next week, alongside my colleagues, doing everything I can to move us forward. That will mean I can get all of my work done, so I can enjoy my Christmas break, with family, my community and reflecting on the true meaning of the holiday.

Whatever you do over the break, on behalf of the Sponsor, Governors, my Leadership Team and the whole staff team, I wish you health and happiness for the festive period and a happy New Year, and the best for 2020. Students return to us on Tuesday 7th January at the normal time – Monday 6th is a staff INSET day. Seasons greetings – see you in 2020!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 9th December 2019. They were:



Neha Kaushal
9A2



Elise Baker-
McKay
9C2



Milos Kljajic
9D2



Demarni Burke
9L2



Cameron
Carson
9S2



Henry Jordan
10D1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 06/01/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 6th January	INSET DAY Academy closed to students	INSET DAY Academy closed to students	INSET DAY Academy closed to students.
Tuesday 7th January	Reggae Reggae Chicken Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Reggae Reggae Quorn (V) Braised Rice Broccoli Florets	Yeo Valley Yoghurt Pot
Wednesday 8th January	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	Roast Quorn Fillet (V) Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots Gravy	Flapjack
Thursday 9th January	Cheese & Onion Pasty (V) Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Cheese & Onion Pasty (V) Mashed Potato Peas Sweetcorn	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 10th January	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Fresh Fruit

(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 Florence Slade (7L2). Well done Florence!

The final Partridge's Problem for this Newsletter is:
Name that Christmas Carol.



Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 7th January 2020 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 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.

PACT

Monday 13th January 2020—7:30pm