



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



I wish you all a happy new year, and welcome you to 2020: a new decade! We hope that our families had a restful break, as we look forward to the second full term of the academic year. I must start by thanking those members of the staff team who worked over the break, making the Academy the best it can be for our students. Ms Dawson, on our Site Team, resealed all of our stairways (they gleam when you walk down them) and Sodexo conducted their full, deep clean of the entire kitchen and serving area. Their perpetual commitment to hygiene was no doubt part of the reason we did not have to close (like some of our fellow schools) due to the norovirus outbreak, though our attendance did take a bit of a hit!

With attendance in mind, this is a hugely important term, and we need students, families and staff to do their utmost to ensure that students are in the Academy every day. I have outlined before, and reiterate – I will not approve any holiday requests during term-time, and all medical appointments, where possible, should take place outside of the Academy day. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Monday's INSET Day started by reflecting on our Christmas break, where I was delighted with how refreshed and recharged our staff team felt. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Mr. Chisholm, on the birth of his first daughter – we are thrilled that mother and baby are well. During his paternity leave, the Science team have worked so hard to support and teach his students, and have passed on how impressed they have been with their knowledge! Additionally, we were joined by Mr. Iqbal's wife, and his baby son, for their first visit to the Academy – it was a real treat! In other news, I can report that our Curriculum Director for English, Mr. Dawes, tied the knot in Dorset, before a Caribbean honeymoon – I think he almost looked as fantastic as his beautiful bride! Whilst Mr. Anderson was also celebrating his honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise, we heard the brilliant news that Mr. Foxall and Miss Cavill, two members of our A.C.E team, got engaged at Disney World Florida, and that our Lead Professional for History, Mr. Dale, with a remarkably unique ring, asked his new fiancée, Justine, to marry him too – what wonderful news!

We have been really impressed with a couple of new starters to our staff team, who have hit the ground running. Ms. Martin joins us as Lead Professional in Business, and will work with the Year 10 team, and Mrs Hutton has started her work with Mrs. Thompson as part of the Human Resources team, based at Langley. Mr Bennett has made a great start as an Apprentice IT Technician, and we welcome Ms. Goudon as part of her School Direct course with Woodrush School.

I thoroughly enjoyed my Christmas break, and spending time with my family, and found myself truly looking forward to seeing our students this Tuesday, as they returned to us. They reminded me, despite the dark Winter mornings, what a phenomenal cohort they are, with their bright beaming smiles lighting up the morning, and warming our hearts. On behalf of the whole staff team, I would like to thank you for your generous gifts, though I am not sure our waistlines are quite as grateful! I for one have thoroughly enjoyed polishing off my fourteenth box of chocolates this week...

I had the delight of hosting the Curriculum Leads for Science this week, for a meeting regarding how we can extend our collaborative partnership across the Trust, in preparation for our INSET day in July. Our Curriculum Director for Science, Mr. Anderson, did a sterling job, representing Langley superbly, and coordinating so professionally – a true pleasure to work with! At the same time, our Curriculum Director for Maths, Miss Davis, and

English, Mr. Dawes, were at Great Barr and Tipton respectively. It came through from those attending that working collaboratively, despite our differing contexts, only makes us all stronger, and I look forward to us all working together for our day in the Summer Term.

One of the true pleasures of being Head of School is finding out about the exploits of our students – and over the Christmas break, they excelled themselves! Makena Straker-Sharpe (7A1) helped deliver Christmas presents to Birmingham Children's Hospital, whilst Charlie Tite (8L1) spent the first week of the holiday packing Christmas hampers at Warley Baptist Church – wow! Before the holiday, Ruby Blount (9C1) and Joseph Wright (10C1) received three Star of the Lessons in a single day, and are in receipt of a Head of School Commendation. Additionally, Mr. Snell, our PLD for Year 10, tells me that as of Thursday afternoon, Henry Jordan (10L1) had received a staggering seven Star of the Lessons in a row; that actually means that up to the time of publication, he received the award in every lesson he was in! I have spoken to our staff team, and they have been blown away by the start Henry has made to the year – well done! I am so proud of these students, and will be awarding them all a Head of School Commendation.

Each term starts with receiving the seasonal challenge submissions, with the Autumn Challenges delighting us with our students' creativity and dedication. The seasonal Challenges form a key part of our Independent Learning (Homework), allowing students to express themselves and stretch their cultural boundaries, in congruence with the development of their subject knowledge for our weekly testing (not to mention learning their Quest for Knowledge booklets!) These booklets are handed out each term (Autumn, Spring and Summer), at our Parents' Evenings – all the more reason to attend! Booklets are given out to students, if needed, by their Tutors, should they miss these important evening events.

Many booklets had to be handed out in Tutor Time, as our attendance at the last Parents' Evening was not at our usual, excellent levels. We understand that the General Election may have had some impact, but our staff go above and beyond to prepare for these conversations. There are six Parents' Evenings a year, more opportunities to speak face-to-face with staff than anywhere I have ever worked! Please put this date in your diary – Thursday 13th February – for our next Parents' Evening – please make appointments, and ensure that you attend.

It seems like so long ago (almost like it was last decade) since we shared feedback about our wonderful Christmas Fair, and the resounding success of our PACT's event. This week, they left their 'Drop Box' in Reception, for you to place unwanted Christmas gifts, ready to be re-gifted at the Summer Fair, in June – I am so impressed with their organisation and planning work. I anticipate with relish 2020's first PACT meeting next Monday, where new members are welcome, along with our stalwarts. The meeting starts at 19:30; make your way to Reception, and Mr. Davis will escort you to the meeting.

This week seems to have flown by – whatever you are doing this weekend, I wish you joy and good weather! Our students will be back with alacrity, along with our staff, for our pre-Assessment week next week, starting on Monday – one not to be missed!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 7th January 2020. They were:



Timothy Brown
7A1



Lauren Slater
7C1



Jack Pawling
7D1



Gurman Khurana
7L1



Faith Hill
7S1



Sharan Bajwa
10C1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 13/01/2020

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 13th January	Sausage & Mash Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Quorn Sausages (V) Mashed Potatoes Peas Sweetcorn Gravy	Chocolate Mini Muffin
Tuesday 14th January	Chicken Korma Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Vegetarian Korma (V) Turmeric Rice Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	Chocolate & Vanilla Mousse Pot
Wednesday 15th January	Sub Central Sub Roll Breaded Chicken Bar Half Jacket Potato Mixed Salad	Sub Central (V) Burger Bun Spicy Bean Burger Half Jacket Potato Mixed Salad	Yoghurt Pots
Thursday 16th January	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Quorn Dippers (V) Diced Potatoes Spaghetti Hoops	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Friday 17th January	Beef Burger In A Bun Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Quorn Burgers In A Bun (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Red Sauce	Fresh Fruit

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

The Doc's Dilemma

The winner of the Christmas Holiday Partridge's Problem was Libby Rose (7L1). Well done Libby!

We put Partridge's Problem to bed and in 2020 we welcome our Maths Learning Consultant, Dr Lambert, who will provide the weekly quiz going forward.

The Doc's Dilemma for this week is:

The letters J, M, C represent three different non-zero digits. What is the value of $J+M+C$?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 J J \\
 M M \\
 C C \\
 \hline
 J M C \\
 \hline
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 14th 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

PACT

Monday 13th January 2020—7:30pm