



Weekly Newsletter

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE



I was delighted to begin the week with the fantastic news that the P.E team had been successful in achieving the Gold Mark Sports Award, which followed from our Bronze Award last year. I can only thank our tremendous team – Mr. Payton, Miss Deasy, Miss Rowson, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Snell, for the amazing range of extra-curricular activities they have put on for our students. Our Ofsted report praised the extra-curricular provision, as well

as the number of students who take part – I can certainly remember every one of my school football team fixtures (between 1987-1994, for anyone trying to keep count), and can attest that these additional opportunities can create memories which last a lifetime.

On Tuesday, Ms. Cox, Mr. Karim, Mrs. Fogarty and I were on the road at 04:00 (yes, in the morning) to travel to visit friend of the Academy, Barry Smith, at his Great Yarmouth Charter Academy. Barry is doing a remarkable job up there, and is transforming the lives of students in a very tough area indeed. As Mr. Karim, our Director of Behaviour, remarked, it was lovely to catch up with Barry, but the visit also renewed our sense of vigour around the 'Langley' way, inspired by the tremendous work of Barry and his team. We were able to share some of the lessons learned from our Ofsted visit, as they are preparing for theirs in the near future – we wish them the best of luck, and thank Barry for his hospitality and, as ever, his insight, wisdom and inspiration!

This week, and the end of last week, saw some exciting developments with the staff team. We were thrilled to welcome Mr. Cox to the Academy this week – as mentioned last week, he joined us from Q3 Academy Tipton, and has been getting to grips with the 'Langley' way. Furthermore, we have welcomed Miss Bangu, who joined the Academy to learn about our SEN provision, and how we support students. Finally, Miss Rea, who will be starting officially on Monday (our INSET) day, requested the chance to spend the last few days of her GCSE at the Academy, generating an understanding of how our systems and curriculum work.

We are also thrilled to share some information about appointments within the staff team, as we interviewed for our three Personalised Learning Champion roles, starting in September. Miss Binsley, Mr. Rahman, and Miss Hicks were our successful candidates – all were excellent through the process, and we cannot wait for them to get started. All three candidates expressed their gratitude for the learning they had developed on Mr. Snell's Aspiring Middle Leaders course, which he conceived and crafted this year. I was personally very happy to award Miss Binsley her first (and extremely well-deserved) Teaching and Learning Responsibility, having taught her A-Level History at our Great Barr sister site – it is a pleasure of the job to see those you have taught become exceptional professionals, and adults.

One of the other pleasures of my role is being able to spend time with our students, especially when they have excelled themselves outside of the Academy. I had a lovely time chatting all things football, during a Time for Tea, with Owen Burton (8C2) and Samir

Nasiri (8D2), who had received end-of-season awards for Feckenham F.C in the Stourbridge league! Football is a huge part of my life (as is education), so I cannot wait to see what lies ahead for these two...

We have been tracking a rising, worrying trend in the Academy recently: punctuality. Our gates open at 07:45, with students having plenty of time to finish their chats, and line up, by 07:55, where they are addressed and welcomed. However, we are noticing a consistent pattern of tardiness from students, who either arrive as close to 08:00 as possible, or are travelling in such a sluggish fashion that they miss lining up. In order to remind students of the importance of punctuality, and its relevance in later life, students who arrive at this time will line up on the Playground, where we will remind them of our expectations. We thank those parents and carers who work to ensure their children are punctual and well turned out – perhaps a chat to your children this weekend about what time they actually get to the Academy might be revealing...

We would also like to share the decision to prohibit the sugary belts/strips confectionery, due to concerns about litter, and also that some students might be selling them. As you can understand, this clashes with our ethos of equity and equality, as we do not believe that students should be placed in circumstances where debt can accrue between students. We hope you support us in this matter.

Our RAF cohort, following our visit from dignitaries from the Royal Air Force Cadets, has been successful in passing our Q3 Academies Trust Biennial Review, conducted on Wednesday. Therefore, we are able to expand our detachment – our thanks to Flt. Off. Williamson, Sgt. Stabler and Flt. Lt. Wilde for their great work, and to Miss Lucas (title arriving shortly), for her support too.

Thursday saw a lovely event, put together by Mrs. Meredith (Director of Performing Arts) and her team. The Summer Showcase, where students displayed their talent, and the fruits of their creative labour, was a tremendous success, and following Bright Stars, allowed parents and carers to see the amazing ability on display at the Academy.

Today marks a bittersweet day for the Academy, and the Trust as a whole, as we bid farewell to Ms. Yourell, our Human Resources Director, who leaves us for pastures new. I have enjoyed her warmth, kindness, support and humour across her tenure, and I know I speak for the staff team when I say that her support and guidance will be sorely missed. I have learned so much from her; we have grown so much thanks to her – I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavours.

A reminder – students return to us on **Tuesday** next week, at the normal time, as Monday is an INSET day. We look forward to welcoming our incoming staff, for a crucial day of planning and preparation for the next academic year!

Have a wonderful weekend – here's hoping for some BBQ weather – and hoping students use their extra day productively to aid study ahead of the final Assessment Week of 2018-19!

Best Wishes

Peter Lee
Head of School

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our Stars of the Week, beginning 24th June 2019. They were:



Jamie Chen
7A1



Sarina Basi
7C1



Rayiah Hussain
7D1



Riya Bains
7L1



Jay Lotay
7S1



Keyarna Graham
9L1

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 01/07/2019

<u>Day</u>	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Vegetarian</u>	<u>Dessert</u>
Monday 1st July	INSET DAY Academy closed to Students	INSET DAY Academy closed to Students	INSET DAY Academy closed to Students
Tuesday 2nd July	Red Tractor Chicken Burger & Bun Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	BBQ Quorn Fillet & Bun (V) Oven Baked Potato Wedges Baked Beans	Fresh Fruit
Wednesday 3rd July	Roasted Chicken Thigh & Gravy Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Roast Quorn Fillet & Gravy (V) Roast Potatoes Sliced Carrots	Cocoa Brownie Cookie
Thursday 4th July	Sweet Chilli Chicken Braised Rice Green Beans	Sweet Chilli Vegetables (V) Braised Rice Green Beans	Sweet Belgian Waffle
Friday 5th July	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (V) Chipped Potatoes Baked Beans Ketchup Sachets	Yeo Valley Strawberry Yoghurt 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 Hiba Fara (7L2). Well Done Hiba!

The answer to last week's Hassan's Hypothesis was:
105

Hassan's Hypothesis for this week is:

Each day throughout July 1995 I picked 300g of raspberries from my garden. What was the total weight of the raspberries I picked that month?

Answers clearly labelled and returned to Reception by Tuesday 2nd July 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

INSET Day

Monday 1st July 2019—Academy closed to students.

New Intake Evening 2

Thursday 11th July 2019.

Parents' Evening 6

Thursday 18th July 2019—3pm-7:30pm.

Academy closes at 2:30pm

End of Term

Friday 19th July 2019

For Years 7, 8 and 9—Timing TBC.

Transition Week for New Intake September 2019

Tuesday 23rd July—Thursday 25th July

Timings TBC