



Well, we have seen the end of the long winter months and as I write, we are experiencing good weather, which is welcomed by all.

The first half of the Summer term is one of the busiest, with examinations now taking place or fast approaching for all Year Groups. There is, of course, a particular focus on Year 11, and those important GCSE and BTEC examinations. Year 11 have been revising in earnest. The effort put in by students and our staff has been reflected in the excellent attendance at Period 6 revision lessons and early morning sessions before the exams.

To support students at this important time, we have had a session on dealing with exam anxiety. Students have been offered sessions on dealing with stress, which can arise during these important times. I would like to thank all parents/carers of children sitting exams for all their support.

We have experienced success in the sporting arena with Year 7 boys crowned County Football Champions, a cup which we have won two years out of the past three years.

Rehearsals are underway for our Summer production of 'Annie' - the musical. A huge number of students are involved and they are keen for it to be an excellent showcase of their performing skills.

Moving forward, you will know that we have high expectations for all of our staff and students. To ensure clarity about what is expected, we will be developing 'The Excel Way' of doing things. Students will receive more information about this during the next half term and in September.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the coming half term break. Mr Bishop - Principal



HOY Updates!



Since the last newsletter, Year 7 have, as always, been incredibly busy. A selection of external speakers have been in to The Academy to deliver presentations, including More Than a Face; a talk on disfigurement, and Game On Theatre Workshops, who focussed on integration and tolerance, amongst other key societal issues.

Back in March, the Year 7 students were very active in their support for Sport Relief, planning and delivering activities as well as taking part in the charity mile. Continuing the sporting theme, one of the highlights this half term was how well the children embraced the Inter-Form competition that took place on PSHE morning. The competitive, yet mature and respectful way the students took part is testament to a Year Group fully embraced in Academy life, and ready to be an example and a role model to the new Year 7s about to join us for their transition days in a couple of week's time.

When writing this, it seems incredible that 12 months have passed since the Year Group were arriving for their induction days and getting to know each other. It is essential that the past year is academically evidenced with students making the correct preparations for their end of year examinations. Students have been working to reflect on the Easter spiral exams and develop their areas for improvement. Students need to ensure that they are fully ready to be the best they can be for the 18 June 2018, and as always, your support in helping to make sure your child is correctly prepared, punctual and mentally ready for the Academy day is always appreciated, no more so than at the pressured time of exam season. Obviously we will look to support the children in every way we can within The Academy, and it is pleasing that so many of the children see The Excel Academy as the place they want to learn, grow and develop as individuals. Hopefully, the small collection of students who are still finding their place in the school community can do so and recognise the fantastic opportunities available to them.

Mr Pickup - Year 7



This half term has been a busy one; Year 8 have been looking and listening to all subjects that are on offer and deciding which Options to choose. We had a very successful Careers morning where students had the opportunity to talk to outside agents to help guide them with what options to take. As a Year Group we have been completing inter Form Football on a Tuesday, and next half term we will see which Form is the

best! Students are now able to choose from a range of lunchtime activities such as Games, Boxing, Football and reading, which has lead to Year 8 playing an active part in Academy life. Sports Relief was a great success for Year 8, with the Year Group taking part and manning a number of activities including a raffle, Guess the Name of the Bear and cake stalls, raising over £100 in one lunchtime for this great charity. Currently, we are working as teams to see which Form has the best behaviour and attitude scores in a 2 week period. On Friday 23 May, the winning Form will be rewarded with a free breakfast! The leader board is very close!

Mrs Moore - Year 8



It's been another eventful term for Year 9! Lots of sporting and academic success has been celebrated with over 40 students nominated for a Principal's Award breakfast with Mr Bishop.

Lots of students have signed up for school trips to Poland and Iceland to extend their knowledge in their History and Geography courses.

Several students also took part in our Diversity Dinner, cooking food from all around the world to celebrate all the difference cultures that are in our Year Group. Thank you to Sian Robinson, Abbie Trigger, Siraaj Bilal, Tavonga Mhundwa, Jermaine Kateya, Angelos Koulli, Ange Lynn Menoumba, Marek Botos, Lauren Cockerham, Kelsey Trevett, Alfie Brookes and Grace Viggars and their families for their help and delicious food!

Mrs Gerrard - Year 9



We are now coming to the final term where Year 11s will be finishing their exams and Year 10 will step up to being at the top of the Academy. Achievement will be a major focus, to ensure that all students achieve their potential. There will be extra classes at lunchtime and after school to support any student who needs this.

The Senior Prefect Team are now in role and proving a great success!

They have big shoes to fill following on from Poppy and Jared, but I am sure they will meet all challenges ahead in a mature and responsible manner.

A number of students had the opportunity to attend Lifemaps, which they found challenging and rewarding. The students were praised on their positive attitude and the way they conducted themselves during the week - congratulations to everyone involved! Owen Hargreaves deserves a special mention for being the most improved student on the Lifemaps trip!

Students have also signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and attended their first practice expedition on the weekend of 19 May. Even though the weather was very warm, they managed to complete the challenge! Jessica Sims and Megan Brough had a special mention regarding their positive attitude.

As I write this, Year 10 students are out on their work experience placement. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child had a placement secured. I hope they get a positive experience and some ideas of what they would like to do in the future. I am sure all students will exhibit the pride and respect ethos which is nurtured throughout The Academy.

Mrs Robb - Year 10



My last message to you all!

A big 'thank you' for all of your support, from the superb uniform to the fabulous attendance. Let's hope we have done all in our power to enable our students to become fully educated young adults, who will do us all proud both in examinations and in future life.

Next stop - the Prom! I look forward to celebrating five years of success.

To the class of 2018 - chase your dreams!

Mr Rimmer - Year 11

Cultural Diversity Lunch

A number of students took part in the Cultural Diversity Lunch to celebrate the different cultures we have at The Academy.

Thank you to the students and parents who made food to try - it was all delicious!



Congratulations Corey!



Corey Mountford, Year 11, has been working very hard to improve his community relations and progression at The Excel Academy. Corey is currently in the middle of his GCSE examinations, and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his development of a Growth Mindset - something Corey himself would have deemed impossible just 12 months ago.

Corey has been working with Stoke City Community Trust, who have been following his boxing achievements and community progress. This is an essential part of the motivational work they do

with young people across the City.

Stoke City Community Trust have rewarded Corey's efforts by funding his boxing equipment, which was presented to him by Stoke City's 'Bruno' Martins Indi, along with a personal signed photograph and words of encouragement.

Congratulations Corey, and we wish you all the best for your GCSE's and your future.

Poetry Success

On 02 May, The Excel Academy hosted its first every inter-school 'Poetry by Heart' Competition. Year 8 students Ignacy Golab, Lily Mountford and Jessica Walker were all selected as finalists after giving outstanding performances to their English classes and to a panel of judges in the quarter and semi-final competitions during the Spring Term.

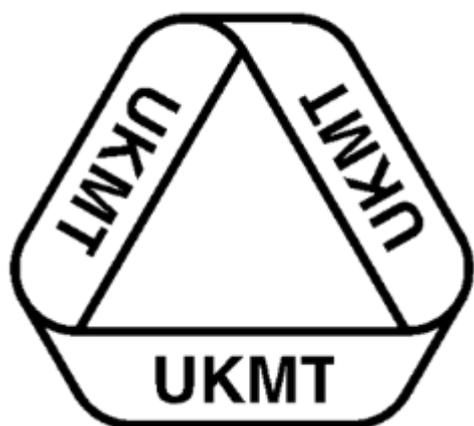
In the Final, all three students gave exceptional performances of two poems from memory to a panel of four impartial judges. Ignacy came 1st after giving word perfect recitals of 'The Cookers' and 'Porphyria's Lover', winning a £25 book voucher and a Gold Medal - both presented by Chair of Governors, Kate Townshend. Jessica and Lily also came 2nd and 3rd, so it was a clean sweep for The Excel Academy!



Well done Ignacy, Jess and Lily!

UKMT Mathematics Challenge

On Thursday 16 April, a group of thirty Year 7 students and thirty Year 8 students took on the UKMT Mathematics Junior Challenge. The paper required a great deal of problem solving skills and logic, All sixty students worked incredibly hard, and as an Academy, thirty of our students received certificates which is a brilliant result!



Those students that haven't received a certificate were all very close, and showed how able they are as mathematicians. We managed to achieve three Gold certificates, nine Silver certificates and eighteen bronze certificates!

Massive congratulations to Eden Moffett who received the best score in The Academy and was only one mark away from qualifying for the next round!

Well done everyone!

Wonder Woman 2018

To celebrate 100 years since women gained the vote, Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students have been learning this term about the role of the suffragettes and the suffragist in gaining women the vote. Students then voted for who they believe deserves to have the title of The Excel Academy: Wonder Woman 2018.

Students had 8 inspirational women to choose from:



Ada Lovelace - Victorian computer engineer, collaborated on the first EVER programmable computer, visionary thinker and mathematician.

Malala Yousafzai - Activist for education for girls, human rights advocate, survived an attempt by the Taliban to kill her, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.



Artemisia Gentileschi - One of the most important painters of the Early Modern Period, she achieved this in a world where artistic talent was deemed only possible in men.

Eleanor Roosevelt - American politician and diplomat, First Lady of the United States, Civil Rights Activist, US delegate to the UN, had a huge role in the writing of UN Declaration of Human Rights.



Kelly Holmes - Double Olympic Gold Medallist, awarded the title of Dame, founder of a charity that supports young athletes.

Madonna - Singer, songwriter, actress, best selling female recording artist of all time, Queen of Pop, Queen of reinvention.



Maya Angelou - American poet, Civil Rights Activist, Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sophie Scholl - Peaceful Anti-Nazi Activist, founder of the White Rose Group, executed by the Nazis for treason aged 21.



Ballots were collected and there was a clear winner - Malala Yousafzai with an amazing 161 votes - 50 more votes than runner up Sophie Scholl.

It was fantastic to see that the students value the importance of Malala's campaign for women and girls to have an equal right to education.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world" - Malala Yousafzai

Sports Relief 2018

On 23 March, The Excel Academy took part in Sports Relief 2018. The day was nothing short of spectacular - staff, students and parents/carers all came together to support this fantastic cause.

In total we raised a **PHENOMENAL £4093.38!!**
This will make a huge difference to people in the UK and abroad.

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported us.



National Numeracy Day



On Wednesday 16 May 2018, the UK had its first ever National Numeracy Day. This is an initiative designed to raise the profile of number skills across the country and perhaps try and change perceptions and beliefs. There is a negative perception of math - we speak to a lot of adults who admit to being poor with math and with numbers in general, and this undoubtedly rubs off on the students we are trying to reach.

What people don't seem to realise is that skill with numbers is like any skill, i.e. it can be worked on, developed and improved.

To celebrate National Numeracy Day at The Academy, we ran a short quiz where all of the answers were numbers, such as:

How tall is the tallest building in the world in metres?

- A) 828m B) 962m C) 1028m

What do you get if you add together the number of UK number 1 singles by The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Madonna?

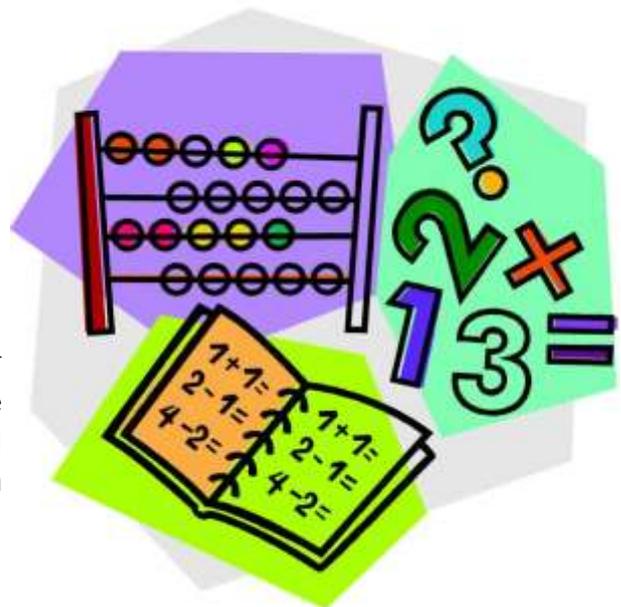
- A) 51 B) 69 C) 82

How many squares are there on a standard Scrabble board?

- A) 225 B) 256 C) 289

On the website, <https://www.numeracyday.com/> there is a quiz you can take that will diagnose areas of strength and weakness with numbers, and you can do activities online that will help you practice, and hopefully improve, those skills.

Any sort of dialogue you can have with your child about numeracy and maths would be great, and if they can see their parents and relatives being more confident with numbers, this will rub off on them too!



Year 08 Netball Tournament

On Thursday 15 February, several Year 8 students represented Excel in a City netball tournament. The results were as follows:

Excel v Blythe Bridge - WON 6-1
Excel v Haywood - WON 4-1
Excel v St Margaret Ward - WON 5-1
Excel v St Josephs - LOST 7-3
Excel v OSSMA - WON 3-2
Excel v Trentham - WON 6-1

Overall Excel came 2nd in the City and produced a fantastic display of their netball skills, technique and teamwork. Every single member of the squad have shown great enthusiasm, commitment and dedication, and have progressed their skills further this year. Well done!



Well done to the following girls who participated: Shani Leigh Owen, Halle Taylor-Bates, Christabel James, Liberty Ford, Leah Edwards, Emmie Daley, Jessica Ross, Rebecca Roberts, Safina King, True Machin - Assistant Manager.

Year 07 Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 28 February, eight Year 7 boys participated in a Staffordshire County sportshall athletics competition. Teams entered from across the County, including Tamworth, Cannock, Stafford, Stone and also North and South Stoke. The Excel Academy represented the North Stoke area.

The boys competed in ten events including sprint races, relays, obstacle races, long jump and shot putt. They competed with vigour, and displayed some fabulous performances with a particular highlight of Sultan and Zach winning the 8 lap parlauf.

All students were extremely well behaved, encouraging of one another and were a pleasure.

Well done to the following boys who participated: Callum Dixon, Zach Hallam, Sultan Yusuf, Ryan Reeves, Lucas Smith, McKenzie Shaw, Jack Hulme, Jacob Bossins.



U15/U17 Athletics Team

On Tuesday 15 May, twenty three students from Year 9 and 10 participated in the City Athletics competition. Well done to all participants for your efforts and for representing The Academy. The students were a pleasure to accompany, exhibited excellent behaviour and should be very proud of themselves.

The following students came in the top three, and will therefore progress onto the next stage. They will represent Stoke in the Staffordshire County Athletics on Saturday 09 June:

Hannah McVicker - 2nd in High Jump
 Tom Rigby - CITY CHAMPION in High Jump
 Ange Lynn Menoumba - CITY CHAMPION in High Jump & 3rd in 200m
 Josh Jones - 3rd in Long Jump & 1500m
 Lily May Fallows - 3rd in Javelin
 Beth Adams - CITY CHAMPION in Shot Putt
 Jodie Collins - CITY CHAMPION in Discus
 Piper Finnegan-Booth - 3rd in 200m
 Ethan Armstrong - 3rd in 300m
 Matthew Morris - 3rd in Discus
 Giovanni Bisaccia - 3rd in Shot Putt
 Lauren Hall and Will Tams will also compete at the County competition



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Well done to everybody on behalf of the PE Department and The Academy!

Year 7 & 8 EOY Assessment Timetable

| Week | Date | Start Time | Length | Board | Component Title | Candidates | Year |
|--------|-------------------|------------|--------|-------|-----------------|------------|------|
| Week A | Monday 18 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths CALC | | 7 |
| | | 11:20 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths CALC | | 8 |
| | | 14:00 | 00:30 | | Reading Tests | | 7 |
| | Tuesday 19 June | 09:00 | 01:45 | OCR | English | | 7 |
| | | 11:20 | 01:45 | OCR | English | | 8 |
| | | 14:00 | | | | | |
| | Wednesday 20 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths NON CALC | | 7 |
| | | 11:20 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths NON CALC | | 8 |
| | | 14:00 | 00:30 | | Reading Tests | | 8 |
| | Thursday 21 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Science | | 7 |
| | | 11:20 | 01:30 | OCR | Science | | 8 |
| | | 14:00 | | | | | |

Year 9 & 10 EOY Assessment Timetable

| Week | Date | Start Time | Length | Board | Component Title | Cands | Year | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------|----------|--|--|------|----|
| Week B | Monday 25 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths Paper 1 (Foundation) and 4 (Higher) CALC | | 10 | |
| | | 11:20 | 01:45 | OCR | Biology & Combined Science Breadth | | 9 | |
| | | 14:00 | | | | | | |
| | Tuesday 26 June | 09:00 | 01:20 | EDEX-CEL | History: Paper 1 - Medicine Through Time | | 10 | |
| | | 11:20 | 01:45 | OCR | Bio Only Breadth // Combined Science Bio | | 10 | |
| | | 14:00 | 01:00 | EDEX-CEL | Geography | | 9 | |
| | Wednesday 27 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths CALC | | 9 | |
| | | 11:20 | 01:30 | EDEX-CEL | Geography | | 10 | |
| | | 14:00 | 00:30 | | Reading Tests | | 9 | |
| | Thursday 28 June | 09:00 | 02:00 | OCR | English Lit & Lang | | 9 | |
| | | 11:20 | 00:45 | EDEX-CEL | History: American West | | 10 | |
| | | 12:20 | 01:00 | OCR | Computer Science - Paper 1 | | 9 | |
| | | 14:00 | 00:30 | | Reading Tests | | 10 | |
| | Friday 29 June | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths Paper 2 (Foundation) and 5 (Higher) NON CALC | | 10 | |
| | | 11:20 | 01:45 | OCR | Combined Science Depth | | 9 | |
| | | 14:00 | | | | | | |
| | Week A | Monday 02 July | 09:00 | 01:45 | OCR | English Lang | | 10 |
| | | | 11:20 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths Non Calc | | 9 |
| | | | 14:00 | 01:00 | OCR | Computer Science - Paper 2 | | 9 |
| | | Tuesday 03 July | 09:00 | 01:45 | OCR | Bio Depth // Chem Breadth // Combined Science Chem | | 10 |
| 11:20 | | | 01:45 | EDEX-CEL | History: Paper 2 - American West and Elizabethan England | | 9 | |
| 14:00 | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday 04 July | | 09:00 | 01:30 | OCR | Maths Paper 3 (Foundation) and 6 (Higher) CALC | | 10 | |
| | | 11:20 | 01:45 | OCR | Physics Breadth // Combined Science Phys | | 10 | |
| | | 14:00 | | | | | | |

EOY Assessment Arrangements

EOY Assessments are taking place over 3 weeks, starting week commencing Monday 18 June. The exam timetable will be available on the website, as well as on Student Noticeboards and in Form Rooms. Students will also have a copy of the timetable to put in their planner.

It is important that students make a note of their exam dates and times in their planner. Students may not be sitting in the same seat for each exam so it is important to make a note of their seat number as well.

Also it is important to make sure students have all of their equipment for each exam. The equipment they will need is:

- ballpoint pen – BLACK ink only – no gel pens or fountain pens
- pencil – for diagrams and charts only
- ruler
- pencil sharpener
- eraser
- protractor, compass (maths exams)
- highlighter – English exam (remember to only highlight the question not your answer)
- calculator – remember to put the calculator lid under the desk on the floor in the exam room
- a clear pencil case
- Reminder: Students Must Not write their answers in pencil

Students may take into the exam room a bottle of water which must be clear with no labels on it.

Reminder to Students:

Before you enter the exam room you must make sure:

- your mobile phone is switched off and any alarms disabled and put in your bag
- if you have a smart watch it is switched off and put in your bag
- if you have a wrist watch put it in your bag





Meet the Team!



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|--|--|--|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <p>P. Smith (Safeguarding Lead across the Trust)</p> | <p>C. Malhi (Designated Safeguarding Lead – Excel)</p> | <p>J. Wainwright (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Excel)</p> | <p>C. Sherratt</p> | <p>J. Pickup</p> | <p>C. Fairclough</p> |
|--|--|--|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|



Dates for your diary

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Summer Term 2018 | |
| Half Term | Monday 28 May - Friday 01 June |
| Final GCSE Exam Date | Friday 15 June |
| Academy Closes | Friday 20 July |



Upcoming Events

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Year 11 Exams Commence | Monday 15 May | Y11 Students |
| Y7 - 10 EOY Assessments Commence | Monday 18 June | Y7 - 10 Students |
| Year 11 Prom | Friday 29 June | Y11 Students |
| Year 6 Transition Evening | Thursday 12 July | Year 6 Students & Parents/Carers |
| Rewards Day | Thursday 19 July | More details to follow |