



# The Connector

22 May 2017 – Week 34 – Week B

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Carers

It is always a memorable moment when you send your Year 11 students into their first exam. Five years of hard work, support and guidance all coming together; our young people are embracing the challenge admirably. The half term workshop schedule has been put in place and additional sessions take place after school and each weekend.

This week I invited in the police to present to all our young people who ride their bikes to school. The community is experiencing issues with bikes and students from all the schools and therefore it is important that we work together; parents, carers, police and schools to resolve the issues. The police have also given us a letter and directed us to send this out to all students who ride to school (copy attached). The presentation that was given by the police is available on our website.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent Partners session this week which focused on Teenage Mental Health. We had a fantastic guest speaker who provided lots of information and helpful guidance.

I would like to remind the school community that, as always, at the end of term students finish at 12.15pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Friday is a non-uniform day, one of the six annual opportunities for the students to raise money for charity. Please read the information carefully regarding the expectations for this day. Details on the charity we have chosen for this event are provided below.

Next week we are focusing on equipment, planners and bags. These are a basic expectation of Academy students and we are using next week to determine which students do not have these essential tools for learning. I will contact parents/carers directly over the half term if issues need to be resolved, this will ensure all students have the best start to the final half term.

Have a good week,  
Deborah Warwick  
Principal

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## ACADEMY EQUIPMENT

Please would all parents ensure their child has all the required equipment. We have high expectations of our students' learning and they need the tools to be successful. There are still some students who have not got a pencil case. The list of required/compulsory equipment items is given below:

Pencil case containing:

- Calculator
- Headphones
- Organiser
- Pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Sharpener

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## NON-UNIFORM DAY

Next Friday's non-uniform day will be raising money for Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Students who wish to take part in this event are asked to donate £1. Money will be collected at the front door as students arrive in the morning.



It is important that students understand that although they are not in uniform, their clothing for the day still needs to be appropriate for school. Fancy dress, offensive tops, slogan T-shirts, strappy tops, crop tops, hot pants, onesies, etc. are not appropriate school wear. The Academy reserves the right on these charity days to ask any student to return home to change if we feel they are inappropriately dressed for school. We appreciate the help of parents and carers in supporting us to make this a pleasant end of term.

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## NON-UNIFORM DAY – CHARITY INFORMATION

The aim of this non-uniform day is to raise awareness for Multiple Sclerosis. Orange is the colour for Multiple Sclerosis awareness and the academy would like to raise money by staff and students ideally wearing something orange in support.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a neurological condition which affects around 100,000 people in the UK. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20-40, but it can affect younger and older people too. Roughly three times as many women have MS as men which is a condition of the central nervous system.

Once diagnosed, MS stays with you for life, but treatments and specialists can help you to manage the condition and its symptoms. We don't know the cause and a cure hasn't yet been found, but research is progressing fast.

### MS symptoms

As the central nervous system links everything in your body, many different types of symptoms can appear in MS, the coating around nerve fibres (called myelin) is damaged, causing a range of symptoms.



The specific symptoms that appear depend upon which part of your central nervous system is affected and the job of the damaged nerve.

MS affects everyone differently. People with the same type of MS won't necessarily experience the same symptoms in the same way. If you would like to know more information about Multiple Sclerosis please check out the MS Society informative website [www.mssociety.org.uk](http://www.mssociety.org.uk)

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## UNIFORM REMINDERS

Now Summer is very nearly here, I would like to remind students, parents and carers about our uniform expectations.

Students are not allowed to wear hoodies or other jumpers; Academy jumpers and cardigans are available to purchase in the usual way.

Students are expected to wear their blazers unless the Principalship designate it as a 'Blazer off day'. We only do this when the weather is very warm and we will notify parents and students. Blazers are a compulsory uniform item every day.

Girls are required to wear black tights throughout the year. Bare legs are not allowed at any time.

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## BOOK DONATIONS



We didn't quite get there with our book challenge last term so please can I remind all parents and carers that we are asking all our students, and teachers, to donate a book for our 'bookcase' or swap a book for another book to read.

Students are awarded 10 merits for a donation!

I would really like to fill another bookcase (see photo). This challenge is for all staff and our students, to fill the bookcase by the end of this term. Each Sunday you can see me visiting car boot sales to collect books suitable for our students; I have filled a shelf but need a few more supporters.

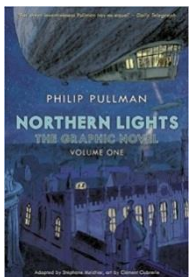
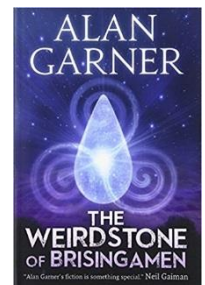
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## DROP EVERYTHING AND READ (DEAR)

DEAR will take place during P2 next week. Please check that your child brings a reading book into school on a regular basis, as they will need to read from it every day. If your child is coming to the end of their novel then please ensure they have a new novel for after half term. There is an extensive range of books in the school library and in the bookshelf by reception.

My Recommendation for year 7 is **The Weirdstone of Brisingamen** by Alan Garner.

*When Colin and Susan are pursued by eerie creatures across Alderley Edge, they are saved by the Wizard. He takes them into the caves of Fundindelve, where he watches over the enchanted sleep of one hundred and forty knights. But the heart of the magic that binds them – Firefrost, also known as the Weirdstone of Brisingamen – has been lost...*



For year 8 my recommendation is **Northern Lights** by Philip Pullman.

*Lyra Belacqua lives half-wild and carefree among the scholars of Jordan College, with her daemon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle – a struggle born of Gobblers and stolen children.*

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## WORD OF THE WEEK

**This week's word is:**            **Alacrity**

**Definition:**                      A noun – eagerness, speed

**An example:**                    For some reason, Simon loved to help his girlfriend whenever he could, so when his girlfriend asked him to set the table he did so with alacrity.

**NB:** If you would like to know the pronunciation of our word of the week please follow the link:

[www.oxforddictionaries.com](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com)

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## MENTAL HEALTH ASSEMBLIES

This week our Assemblies have been focused on Mental Health. We feel it is important to include parents in these themes, therefore here are 10 Mental Health Tips for Parents:



1. **Listen and try to be understanding** – Listen to your child and don't judge them.
2. **Show them affection** – Try to tell them and show them how much you care.
3. **Research the condition** – There are many different mental illnesses, read up on your child's specific condition. This will help you better understand not only the condition but also what helps recovery and what can prevent relapses in the future.
4. **Don't blame yourself** – It is easy for a parent to blame themselves, somehow thinking they have caused the illness either through genetics or the environment they have raised their child in. This, however, in many circumstances, is not the case at all. The only thing you can do is be there for your child and help them.
5. **Encourage social interaction with friends and family** – There are schemes such as [Uthink](#) which is run by [Rethink Mental Illness](#) as well as other youth groups run by various charities. The key thing though is to not rush your child into anything, it will take time.
6. **Provide a peaceful and loving environment** – A loving environment can be so helpful for your child's recovery and wellbeing.
7. **Do activities together** – Enjoy the time you spend together but understand that your child might take time before they start enjoying activities again.
8. **Let them know they can talk to you anytime about anything** - Your child may not want to talk at first, or may only say a few words, but always reassure them they can talk to you as little or as much as they want in their own time.
9. **Know that recovery will occur over time and will not happen overnight** – Mental health issues can be extremely complex and recovery can take anything from a few days to months to years. In some cases, the illness may be lifelong but coping strategies and/or medication can be used to manage it.
10. **Don't be afraid to seek advice from mental health professionals** – Please don't be afraid to seek help or advice from mental health professionals. They have a vast amount of experience in dealing with people suffering from mental health issues and are an excellent source to get help and advice from. There are also support groups available for parents, guardians and carers to help deal with the whole situation, such as, carer support groups.

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## YEAR 11 NEWS

The students have started the exam period and are coping really well. We need your support in ensuring all students are in the Academy well before the morning exams. If they are in at 8:15am or earlier, and they register with Miss Parry, they can get a free breakfast item. This may seem obvious but talk to your child about their exams – find out how it went, what the hardest question was and what they wrote as their answer. By talking about exams it will help with the stress of upcoming exams, what we ultimately want is for students to see what they have done well and how they have overcome issues in the exam – that will give them confidence. There will be a half term revision timetable out early next week to keep you informed about the interventions in place. Finally, if you would like to contact me please feel free to email me on [m.faccini@franciscombeacademy.org.uk](mailto:m.faccini@franciscombeacademy.org.uk)

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## DRAMA PRODUCTION



# Year Eight Drama Festival

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Drama Studio – 6.30 pm

The Black Hearted Villain - The Government  
Inspector - The Hound of the Baskervilles

Tickets on the door – Adults £2 – Students £1

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## DISTRICT ATHLETICS AT JARMAN PARK

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the wettest day of the year so far, we attended the third leg of the Hertfordshire Schools Athletics League at Jarman Park. Huddled under little cover, a slightly depleted athletics team turned out against four other schools to compete across the field and track events. This week, second place was awarded to under 14 Olivia Watt in the girls' 200m, whilst Jordan Walters won in the girls' 800m in a nail biting finish.



On the boys' side, we're seeing vast improvements in the times for the long distance with Finley Bousfield and Regan Weiser improving their times in the under 14 boys' 800m and 1500m respectively.

As the third of the six league events, our next meet takes place at Jarman Park on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, with everyone welcome to support. The league dates are:

24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Woodside, Watford  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Woodside, Watford



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## ENERGY/FIZZY CANNED DRINKS

Please can I remind parents that students should not be bringing energy drinks into the Academy. These drinks are designed to support people who are embarking on physical activity. Consumption of these drinks does not support students in their learning. Water is the best drink children can drink during the day. Canned drinks are not allowed on the Academy site. The restaurant sells a whole range of suitable refreshments for our students.



## SPELLING CHALLENGE

These are the spellings for next week for KS3 and KS4 students.

### Key Stage 3

1. strung
2. spring
3. parked
4. preferring
5. concurred
6. concurring
7. deferred
8. deferring
9. transferring
10. transferred

### Key Stage 4

1. celebration
2. ceremony
3. commandment
4. creation
5. commitment
6. prejudice
7. spiritual
8. alkaline
9. amphibian
10. apparatus



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## SUMMER TERM ACADEMY DATES

Week	Date	Event
33 – 38	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May – Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Main GCSE and A Level Exam Period
36	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
37	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 7 Exams
39	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 Exams
39	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Parent Partners Meeting
40	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 Parents Evening
40	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Taster Day and Evening
41	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Awards Evening

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[principal@franciscombeacademy.org.uk](mailto:principal@franciscombeacademy.org.uk)

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**HERTFORDSHIRE**

**CONSTABULARY**

**Date: 16/05/2017**

**Contact: PC 337 HUZAIR**

**Safer Neighbourhood Team**

**Police Station**

**Shady Lane**

**Watford**

**WD17 1DD**

Dear parent/guardian

You are receiving this information as you have responsibility for a youth who attends a North Watford School.

You may be aware that many complaints have been made of youths cycling around the area causing problems for other road users and pedestrians, so we are sending this out in the spirit of crime prevention.

If your young person has access to or uses a pedal cycle, we would be grateful if you could be, and make your young person, aware of the following.

Current issues we are dealing with are:

- Cyclists riding in groups failing to share the road and causing obstructions to other road users.
- Cyclists riding in the middle of the lane obstructing the free flow of traffic.
- Cyclists riding dangerously on the road or pavement.
- Cyclists congregating in groups and blocking footpaths.
- Cyclists failing to follow the instruction of an officer in uniform (such as failing to stop).
- Anti-social use of a cycle.

Let me make myself clear; cyclists pulling wheelies whilst on the road or pavement can be considered riding without due care.

In all the above circumstances, police have the power to require name and address from the individual, and failing to provide so is an offence for which the person can be arrested.

At this stage we are targeting repeat offenders and hoping to educate others, however if the problems are to continue or there are other aggravating factors then we may be forced to take a zero tolerance approach and penalise every offence.

I am sure you will agree that this is not the desired outcome and hope you will work with us to avoid this matter.

So you are aware, we are currently dealing with a number of youths who are receiving acceptable behaviour agreements, acceptable behavioural contracts, and in some repeat cases or where they person fails to agree to the contracts they are being prosecuted through the courts for cycling offences.

An unfortunate surprise for the parents of one where the courts direct that as a youth, the parents were liable for court costs, the fine and enforcing the penalty, as well as paying out for a solicitor (which isn't free through the police for traffic matters).

I can almost already hear some people saying "what a waste of time", "haven't you got anything better to do than penalise kids". To that I would say, that when we have as many public complaints as we

have, then we absolutely have to act. The public in general have a right to use the carriageway as much as your little ones, and we the police must represent the public interest.

I am sure the naysayers would feel differently if it was their own dear grandmother being knocked down by a person on a bike.

Please do feel free to contact me if you have any issues with this. As I say, this is a notice in the hope that we can prevent an existing problem becoming worse.

My kind regards  
PC 337 HUZAIR

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Creating a Safer Hertfordshire

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[www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)