

Droylsden Academy is a good school

TAYLOR SCHOFIELD

The funeral of Taylor Schofield, the Year 7 student tragically killed in an accident last month, took place on Friday 1st February. Representatives from the Academy, including Mr Duncan, Executive Headteacher, who represented both Droylsden and Mossley Hollins, attended the service and Mr Wilson, the Headteacher, read a eulogy for Taylor on behalf of our school. A transcript of the eulogy can be found below. After the service, students across all year groups lined the route along Manor Road and laid flowers as the cortege passed in front of the Academy on the way from St Cross Church in Clayton to Droylsden Cemetery. This solemn and moving tribute and act of remembrance was observed immaculately by all our students and we hope that it brought some comfort to Taylor's family on this most difficult of days.

Eulogy for Taylor

We first met Taylor during the secondary school transition days last July. Even over those short two days, he left a lasting impression on staff and students. His Dance teacher over this period noted that he was "hardworking and brought lots of enthusiasm and fun to the lessons." Enthusiasm and joy that were to become hallmarks of his time at Droylsden Academy. We have set up a 'Book of Memories' to gather the reflections and stories of Taylor from staff and students. Every single anecdote exemplifies Taylor's sense of fun – this is summarised perfectly by one pupil who wrote, "You made everyone smile."

Taylor's sense of fun and humour was fused with a respect for staff at the Academy - he was a polite and honest young man, always ready to apologise for any mistakes that he made and he always endeavoured not to repeat them. Taylor boasted a strong academic record and he had a keen determination to succeed. He joined the Academy as a 'greater depth' student, receiving numerous accolades from his primary school teachers, and he was immediately placed into the Excel classes for English, Maths and Science. These classes are reserved for our most gifted and talented students. Teachers consistently highlighted his strong critical thinking skills and his creative writing was something his teachers always looked forward to marking. When solving complex problems in Maths, his teacher noted that he rapidly grasped new methods and remained resilient when completing even the most challenging work. This attitude was also highlighted in Science, where his teacher commented that he was a "great asset to the class", eager to attempt every question, no matter how difficult.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Taylor was not just talented at academic disciplines. He was an all-rounder. His PE teacher noted that he “excelled” at football, frequently scoring goals and supporting others on his team. This love of football was evident in his avid support of Manchester United. He was popular, bright and cheerful – other students enjoyed being in his company and they are really missing his energy and friendship. Taylor wanted to succeed at school - he would routinely ask to rewrite his work at home if it did not meet his own high standards; his handwriting was immaculate and he achieved innumerable PRIDE points for presentation and effort. He was regularly seen staying behind in Homework Club after school, well beyond the usual school day, often until 4 or 5 o’clock in the evening, diligently completing his work and supporting others. He made Mr Connolly and Ms Davies, his Year Leaders very proud. His Form Tutors Ms Dunnington and Ms Noel thought the world of him.

Taylor touched the lives of every member of staff and every single student who were lucky enough to get to know him. In only one term, he forged a strong legacy at Droylsden Academy. This legacy was perfectly summarised by one member of staff, who wrote “you taught us one of our biggest life lessons. Always try for better, be happy, make the most of the opportunities we have and look after each other.” This legacy will continue to inspire students at our Academy for many years to come.

Thank you Taylor for everything you brought to our school. You will be missed but you will never be forgotten.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

GCSE Engineering

Year 9 students studying GCSE Engineering attend Tameside College each Friday afternoon for lectures and practical lessons. This week the students completed a range of activities on the topic of structures and materials. Students were split into teams which ensured a really competitive edge to what was an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.



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UK Maths Challenge

On Thursday, Ha Young Cho, Tracey Nwanze, Sara Hamdani, Federicca Annessi, Ellie Craven, Sadie Samways, Kacey Devenport and Shakshi Desai, all from Year 10, sat the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Intermediate Maths Challenge. These tests have been designed for the top mathematicians in the country and students can achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold status. Here is the hardest question from the 2018 test:

25. The diagram shows two equilateral triangles. The distance from each point of the smaller triangle to the nearest point of the larger triangle is $\sqrt{3}$, as shown. What is the difference between the lengths of the edges of the two triangles?

A $2\sqrt{3}$ B $4\frac{1}{2}$ C $3\sqrt{3}$ D 6 E $4\sqrt{3}$



Now if you were thinking "oh, it's multiple choice, can't they just guess?", the problem with the UK Maths Challenge is that if you get a question wrong you lose a mark! We hope that the Challenge went well and we look forward to the results later in the term.

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Character Pillars

Assemblies this week have focused on the four Character Pillars of Learning, Leadership, Service and Participation which are fundamental to our school. Observant students and staff may have noticed that the four pillars at the front of the building have now been painted in the corresponding colours of our four Character Pillars.



This week also saw the Character Pillars Awards Evening which took place on Thursday and where students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were recognised for their achievements. A full report on the Awards Evening will appear in next week's edition of Newsflash.

Visit to the Christie Hospital

As you will be aware, we are supporting a number of local charities this year including the Christie Hospital. Following on from 'Droylsden's Got Talent', a fundraising event which raised money specifically for the Christie, a number of students who were involved in organising the event, or who performed on the night, were invited to visit the hospital and look at the work that is carried out using the money raised through donations and charity events.

Altogether, the event raised £222 which has been put in the Christie Teenager and Young Adult Fund, which goes towards supporting activities for teenagers and young adults who are going through cancer treatment. The money will help assist with art classes, music lessons and, on occasions, trips out to places such as the cinema. Our students were pleased that the money was supporting students and young people of a similar age at a difficult time in their life.



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Using Social Media safely

Four Year 9 students, Lauren Nield, Damien O'Connor, Freya Short and Max Ward attended a training session at Great Academy Ashton this week when they looked at the risks associated with the use of social media. Students from across Tameside attended the event and they will now all go back to their respective schools and deliver lessons on the safe use of social media to their peers and to younger students at local primary schools.



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 13 school weeks left, just 65 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

We hope that your Pre-Public Examinations are going well. The timetable for the remaining exams next week can be found below.

Mon 11th Feb	Triple Science (Chemistry) and Combined Science (Chemistry) will start at 9.00am. Music will start at 11.40am. Geography Paper 1 will start at 1.35pm.
Tue 12th Feb	Maths Paper 3 (Calculator) will start at 9.00am. Geography Paper 2 will start at 11.05am. The Music Technology written exam will take place during Periods 4 and 5.
Wed 13th Feb	History (Health and the Normans) will start at 9.00am. PE (written) will start at 9.00am (arrangements are in place if you study both PE and History). Statistics will start at 11.15am. The PE Practical Exam will start at 1.35pm.
Thur 14th Feb	The Art exam will last all day. The Drama exam will take place during Periods 4 and 5.
Frid 15th Feb	English Language will start at 1.35pm.

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STUDENT LIBRARIANS

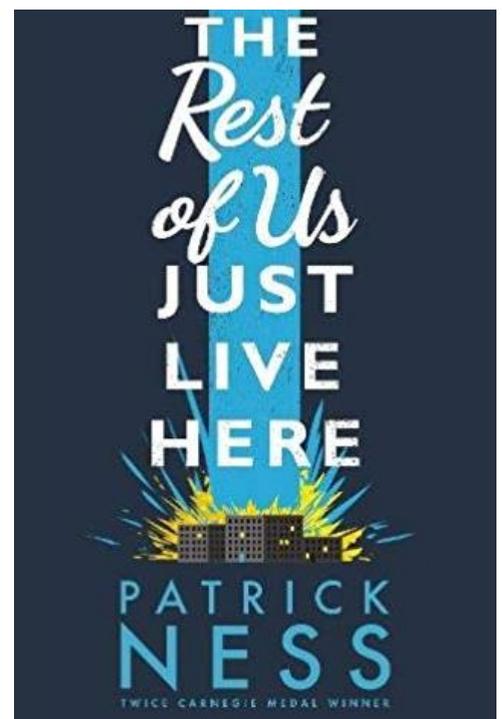
Rona Amiri and Mia Culpin passed their first award in the Pupil Librarian Awards last week and graduated from being Student Library Assistants to Student Librarians. They will now be helping train the new cohort of Student Library Assistants who started their training sessions a couple of weeks ago. Mrs Godrich, the Academy Librarian, would like to thank Rona and Mia for the help and support they provide in running the Library.



BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Book of the Week, 'The Rest of Us Just Live Here' by Patrick Ness, is again taken from the LGBT History Month reading list.

The story, a Carnegie shortlisted title from 2016, is a rollicking adventure where the Chosen Ones don't save the day. 'The Rest of Us Just Live Here' is written for all those ordinary kids who aren't Harry Potter or Percy Jackson or Katniss Everdene, those kids who just carry on every day whilst derring-do is going on around them. "Not everyone has to be The Chosen One. The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the sou-eating ghosts, or whatever this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death. What if you were Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to Prom before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. And what if there is bigger problems, bigger than this week's end of the world and you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life? Even if your best friend might be the God of Mountain Lions!" Follow Mikey and his friends on his extraordinary journey through his final year of high school and learns that the ordinary can be extraordinary.



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Rosie McCormick from Year 8 and Mary Ogunmoroti from Year 10 who have been nominated as students of the week.

Rosie has been nominated by the Art Department as she is really working well in her lessons and making good progress. The picture here shows a pencil portrait recently completed by Rosie on her Art course.



Mary has been nominated by the Science Department as she embodies the Academy values of Politeness, Hardwork and Honesty in all that she does. Even though she has not been at the Academy long, she demonstrates the attitude and values that it takes to be successful consistently. Her performance in her weekly assessments is excellent and demonstrates the emphasis that she places on hard work and preparation. Well done Mary.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

The 'Feel Unstoppable' programme was launched with Year 11 students this week. Further information about the programme can be found below.



Dear Parent/Carer

This summer, your son/daughter has the opportunity to participate in the National Citizen Service (NCS.) NCS is a government backed programme that gives 15-17 year olds the chance to take part in adventurous activities, meet new people and develop valuable skills that future employers are looking for. Over 400,000 young people have already taken part, make sure that your son/daughter does not miss out.

The programme is fully inclusive, so any additional needs, including SEN or physical disabilities are not a barrier to participation.

The summer NCS programme lasts around 3 weeks with breaks in between. It is broken into phases:

Adventure

We are talking five nights away from home, getting stuck into adrenaline-fuelled outdoor activities like rock climbing, canoeing, archery and making new mates along the way. Then a couple of nights back at home for some much needed rest!

Discovery

They will learn essential life skills from local business leaders and charities, gain confidence in public speaking, communications skills and budgeting. And it all looks great on their CV!

Action

Back home, the team will devise a social action project based on an issue they feel passionate about. This is their chance to feel proud by making a real difference in their community.

Celebration

In such a short period of time they will have overcome challenges, pushed themselves into new and exciting territories, and had experiences they never thought possible. So now it's time to come together and celebrate!

Price

Each space on NCS is valued at £1500, including all food, accommodation and transport for residential parts of the programme. However, the challenge will never ask for more than a £50 commitment fee, **and for 3 weeks after your school assembly the price will be just £35.** There is also financial assistance available, we never want money to be a barrier to taking part in NCS. To discuss financial assistance please call us on **020 3510 5050.**

How do I sign up?

The NCS team will be running a presentation for the Year 11s on 5th February, where your son/daughter can express an interest in taking part. You can also visit ncsy.es.co.uk to sign up now. Select the start dates that work for you, complete your payment and medical information online.

If you would like to find out more or sign up visit ncsy.es.co.uk or call us on 020 3510 5050.

Yours faithfully

NCS with the Challenge

The Challenge, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London SE1 7NQ

The Challenge Network is a charity registered in England and Wales with charity no. 1129239 and company no. 4845451, whose registered office is at Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London SE1 7NQ

NCSYES.CO.UK / 020 3510 5050



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Further information about the week and some of the amazing resources available to support positive mental health can be found below.



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week (4-10 February 2019) is Children's Mental Health Week.

The Week was set up by the children's mental health charity Place2Be to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

This year's theme is **Healthy: Inside and Out – we're encouraging everyone to think about how they look after their bodies and minds.**

What's it all about?

When we think about healthy living, we tend to focus on looking after our bodies – our physical wellbeing – through food, being active and getting enough sleep.

However, in order to be healthy overall, it's important that we look after our minds – our mental wellbeing – too. We know from our work in schools that children in every class have diagnosable mental health conditions and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement.

Our bodies and minds are actually very closely linked, so things that we do to improve our physical wellbeing can help our mental wellbeing as well. When we take steps to be **Healthy: Inside and Out**, it helps us to feel better in ourselves, focus on what we want to do and deal with difficult times.

As parents and carers, you play a very important role in your child's health. Here are a few simple ways you can encourage them to look after their body and mind:

- **Chat with your child about what you do to look after your body and mind**, from walking the dog to turning your phone off before bed. Sharing the steps you've taken to stay healthy can set a good example for them – but don't be afraid to admit it if you've struggled! It's important for children to keep trying, even when things are difficult.
- **Praise your child and other family members for what they do to look after their body and mind** – even if it's small. If your child sees healthy living in a positive light, they're more likely to carry on doing these things throughout life.
- **Remind them that there's no such thing as a perfect body or mind – and no one is perfectly healthy!** Your child might be tempted to compare themselves to other children, especially on social media, but it's important to remember that everyone's bodies and minds are different – and that's something to celebrate.
- **Do something regularly with your child to be Healthy: Inside and Out.** Family life can be very busy and stressful at times. Cooking a meal, sitting down for a family dinner, or going for a walk together can be a great way to stay connected and have fun.

Don't forget, if you're worried about your child, you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice for parents on our website

www.place2be.org.uk/usefulcontacts

Visit www.ChildrensMentalHealthWeek.org.uk to find out how you can get involved and support Place2Be's vital work.

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Human Resources' Manager

Band G: Point 29-32 (£26,470 – £29,055)

Full Time/Full Year – 36 hours per week

Closing Date: Friday 22nd February 2019

Interview Date: w/c 25th February 2019



The Role

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding HR Manager who is able to work effectively in a busy environment providing efficient, high quality HR support and guidance to the leadership team.

The successful candidate will manage all aspects of the school's Human Resource function across the employee lifecycle including:

- recruitment & selection (incl. safer recruitment)
- induction & probation
- contracts/salaries
- appraisal, quality assurance & professional development
- staff attendance & annual leave
- monthly payroll procedures
- staff welfare & well-being

The School

Droylsden Academy is enjoying a period of rapid improvement; this is a very exciting time to join us as we are building a team of committed professionals who are driven in making our vision of becoming outstanding a reality.

The Academy was recently inspected (September 2017) and Ofsted noted the rapid progress our school is making. The result of this inspection was the School being judged good in all areas.

"Pupils behave well, they are proud of their school and take on leadership roles readily"

"The school's core values of politeness, hardworking and honesty are in abundance"

"Pupils are interested in their learning because teachers have excellent subject knowledge and plan carefully"

The Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. To ensure this, successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Interested applicants should complete our Application Form detailing how they satisfy the job description on a maximum of 2 sides of A4 letter (Font size 11).

Completed applications should be returned to:

**Mrs B Fish
PA to the Executive Headteacher & Headteacher
Droylsden Academy**

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School Combined Cadet Force Staff Instructor (SSI)

Band E-F: Point 19-28 (£19,446 – £25,463)
Part Time / TTO (+4 weeks): 7.4 hours per week
Closing Date: 22nd February 2019
Interview Date: w/c 25th February 2019



The Role

This role will deal with the majority of the administration for the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) with the opportunity to deliver training where appropriate. Appointees generally have a service background, however, this role is not discriminatory to those without forces experience who are able to demonstrate the appropriate skill level.

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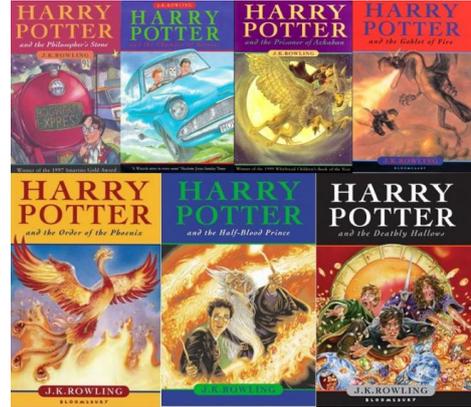
Mrs B Fish
PA to the Executive Headteacher & Headteacher
Droylsden Academy

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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Harry Potter Mastermind!

The deadline for the Harry Potter Quiz is fast approaching so if you want to be in with a chance of winning the Harry Potter Grand Mastermind Challenge then pop up to the Library and sign up. More details regarding the event itself will be announced in due course, so if you want to come and watch the Harry Potter fans pitch their knowledge against each other, then watch for the Newsflash owl!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will break up for the half term holiday on Friday 15th February.