

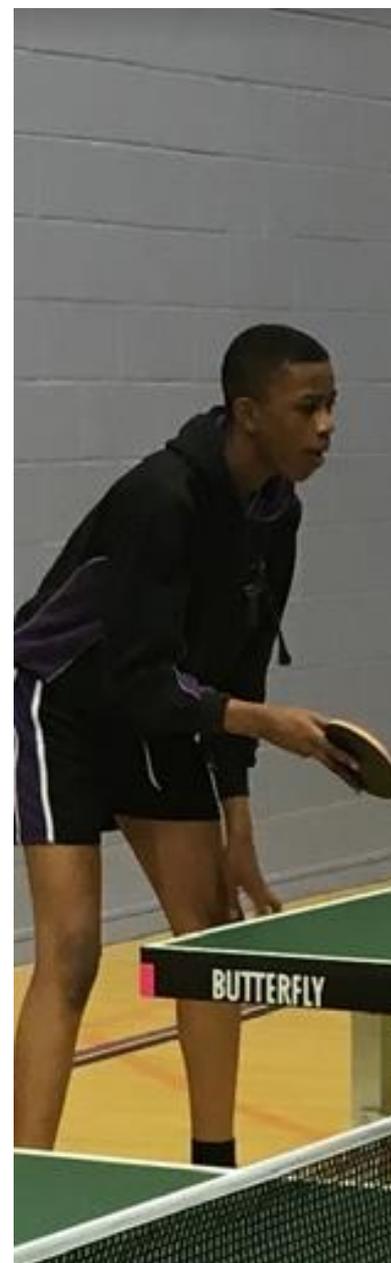
Droylsden Academy is a good school

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

### English Schools Table Tennis Championships

This week, the Academy Under 13 and Under 16 Table Tennis Teams competed in the Great Manchester Schools Table Tennis Championships, a qualifying event for the English Schools Championships. Both teams qualified for the regional finals as Tameside Champions and had the opportunity to play against some outstanding nationally ranked players. Our boys won several games throughout the afternoon with the Under 13s finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the U16s finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. Well done to both teams on playing some great Table Tennis and being brilliant ambassadors for our school.

Funbi Oseni, Nana Kwame Asabere, Luke Manning and Razvan Galateanu represented the Academy on the U13 Team and Evan Beecham, Daniel Galateanu, Dzhan Sali and James Hunston represented the Academy on the U16 Team.



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Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition.....

Our Pizzas started off like this.....



....and ended up like this!



Remember, this isn't just cooking, this is Art, Collaboration, Confidence, Communication, Creativity, Geography, History, Mathematics, Organisation, Problem Solving, Science and Time Management! Well done Year 10 on making your own mozzarella cheese from milk, rennet and citric acid and then using it to create some wonderful pizzas!

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### And in Geography.....

Year 7 pupils were asked to create a 3D model to demonstrate how contour lines show changes in height on a map. Some pupils created models using colours to show the different layers, called 'colour layering', whilst others used the same colours but labelled the lines to indicate the height.

In the photo, Saira Khanom and Desire Okoduwa show that learning about contours can be fun!



### Supporting Mathematics in our Partner Primary Schools

The following article was written by Han Yun Yu.

Earlier this month, the Maths Department invited primary school children from Fairfield Road, Greenside and St Mary's to take part in a range of activities to enhance their mathematical knowledge.



The activities that were chosen so that the children would have fun and learn at the same time. The activities chosen were: 'Codebreaker', 'Leapfrog', 'Snakes and Ladders' and 'Colour Combination' Quizzes. All the activities were created and organised by Year 9 students and were designed to help the children develop a range of mathematical skills. The main aim of the event was not only to enhance the pupils' knowledge and understanding but also to share our passion for Maths and show them that Maths is not just about numbers and algebra. During the event, the children gave feedback showing how much they enjoyed the event. Some of the comments are shown here.



'It was challenging but I loved it.'

'I loved Codebreaker.'

'The colour combination puzzles were the best!'

'All of the activities were amazing.'

'Leapfrog was really engaging and fun'.

'You should use all the activities at the next event'.

This event was highly beneficial to the school in helping us build stronger links with our Partner Primary Schools. The event also allowed the Year 9 students, Han Yun Yu, James Mellor, Diya Mistry, Ryan Hutchinson and Morsal Amir to lead an event and build their character. It was also beneficial for the primary school children as they could talk to older students, learn and enjoy themselves at the same time.

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## Leadership Celebration

Members of the Academy Leadership Team meet with students each week in recognition of their achievements, skills, personal qualities or contribution to Academy Life. This week, Mr Evans had a breakfast of Hot Chocolate and French Pastries with a group of students who are amongst those who have achieved the highest number of PRIDE Points in their respective year groups.



Brogan Williams	Osaid Rajjoub	Lucas Taylor	Amy Oates	Michael Sarpong
	Gad Amakye	Shakira Cusick	Bilal Sanni	

## Droylsden Academy's first 'Inter-House' competition

As you may remember from Edition 9 of Newsflash, the Academy now has a 'House' system with all our students allocated to one of four Houses, Albion, Oakfield, Saxon and Victoria, named after the four Droylsden Mills which once provided employment for the town and sent textiles all over the World. This week we held our first Inter-House competition, a Year 7 'Maths Battle', where students could score points for both their Form Group and their House!

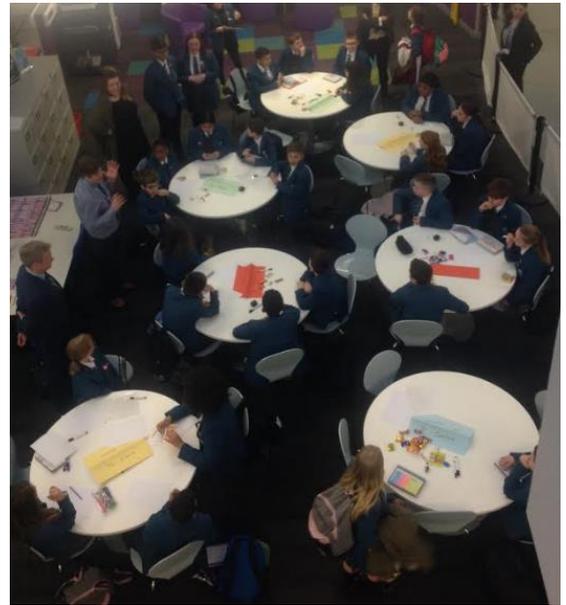
The competition was brilliantly organised and hosted by Adam Ali-Brown, Eryn Rowan and Lucy Alderson, all from Year 10, who fired questions and problems, based on the Year 7 Maths curriculum, at the contestants representing the four Houses.

Well done to the 28 competitors who took part in the Maths Battle, all of whom won points for their Form Group and their House and received a medal in recognition of their efforts.



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The competition was extremely close with Form Group 7D and House Saxon eventually crowned as winners! Congratulations to Ilir Caka, Charlotte Morris, Befe Gudeta and Joshua Hodge for winning the trophy for their Tutorial and their House!



Can you work out the tie break problem?



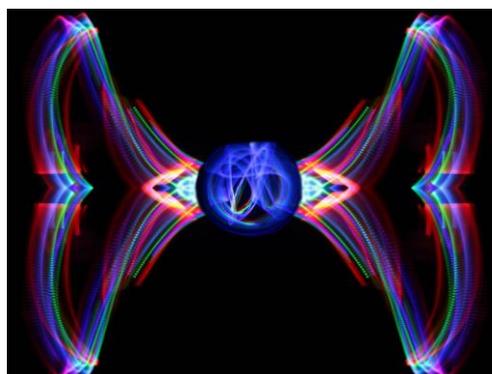
How many triangles are there here in total?



Ilir Caka	Charlotte Morris	Befe Gudeta	Joshua Hodge	Angelo Moraru	Harry Chambers
Violet Hodges-Blackshaw	Brandon Bonney	Thomas Weaver	Adam Feeney	Rahela Nastase	
Georgia Morris	Eric Bayo-Vergara	Dylan Hall	Ben Kealy	Corey Whipday-O'Neill	
Quyten Nguyen	Damola Oseni	Ellie Lucas	Jessica Clarke	Desire Ohoduwa	Ellie Barton
Zhaine Linney	Leah Walker	Aleksandra Baca	Jackson Gaskin	Kyle Sreenan	Chloe Lees

**And finally in Art....**

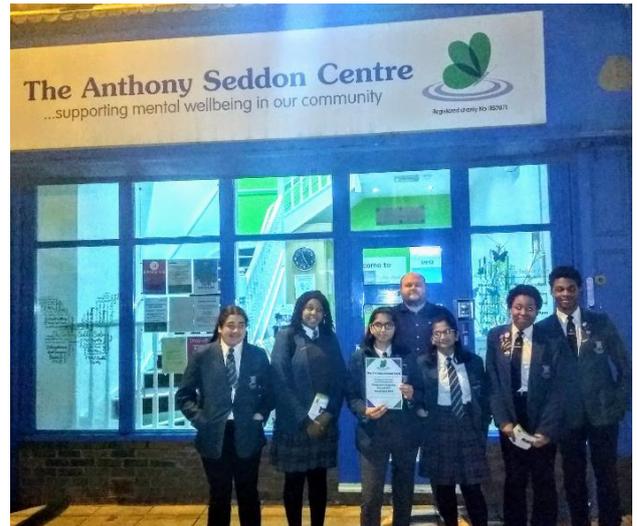
Here are two wonderful examples of 'Light Painting' and 'Bokeh' by Liam McGurk and Oliver McLaren, both from Year 11.



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### The Anthony Sedden Trust

This week, Year Representatives had the opportunity to visit the Anthony Sedden Centre in Ashton to hear about the services they provide for adults and young people in Tameside. Last year, we raised £117 for the Centre which will go towards funding the activities they run for people struggling with mental health issues, including Music Therapy, Art Classes and a Drop-in Centre with Counsellors. Thank you to all those that helped raise money for the Centre and the important work that they do.



## Tameside Christmas Toy Appeal

Donate new and unwrapped gifts  
For 0 - 18 years old

Donate by  
Friday 6 December



For more information and gift ideas visit  
[www.actiontogether.org.uk/winter-support](http://www.actiontogether.org.uk/winter-support)

Our mission is for the 1 in 4 Tameside children living in poverty to receive a gift this Christmas

### Gift Ideas

**Children aged 0 - 3 years old**  
Bath toys, building blocks, playmats, teething

**Teenagers**  
Art supplies, card games, gift vouchers, sports equipment

**Children aged 4 - 12 years old**  
Activity toys, board games, dressing up outfits, puzzles

**All ages**  
Books, gloves, hats, pyjamas, scarves, slippers, socks

**We cannot accept any second hand or soft toys**



Tameside 4 Good is part of the Action Together family. Charity no. 1165512

### Toy Appeal

You still have one week to support the Appeal by contributing a toy and helping to spread a little happiness this Christmas. Why not pick up an extra present when you go shopping this weekend and get one of the criteria for your Character Pillar ticked off at the same time? Please refer to the 'flyer' for further information on items to buy. The toys are being collected on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December so please make sure you get any contribution in before then, either through your Form Tutor, or by handing it in at Student Services or to Mrs McCallum. Thank you to all the students and parents who have contributed to the Appeal already!



### Christmas Stocking Raffle

There is still time to buy a raffle ticket from Student Services and support 'Save the Children', one of our chosen charities. The Draw will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

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### When you wish upon a Star!

Students from across the Academy have been taking part in Cross Country this week. The students have been running a course around the Academy grounds in preparation for the Tameside Cross Country Championships on Tuesday 3rd December. Students from Years 7 and 8 have also been running to raise money for the 'When you wish upon a Star' Charity and their 'Laps for Lapland' Appeal, with the students involved all wearing Elf hats! Thank you to all those students who supported the Appeal and please remember to drop off your sponsor money with Mrs MCallum in M12 as soon as possible!

### AN INCREASINGLY POPULAR AND HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED SCHOOL

Our Open Evening in September was another huge success and we saw over 1000 prospective children and parents visit the school. As a result of this evening and the growing reputation that the school has in the local community, first choice applications from year 6 parents have increased again this year with 220 parents identifying our school as their first choice for September 2020. The tables here show how the number of first preferences and the total number of applications for Droylsden Academy have increased over the last four years.

Number of first preferences	2017	2018	2019	2020
	97	102	189	220

Total number of applications	2017	2018	2019	2020
	341	372	517	565

Whilst we are delighted to be heavily oversubscribed, we are mindful that this does mean that, with only 180 places available, a significant number of students will not get their first preference of school.

### GCSE COUNTDOWN

**Year 11, you are 12 weeks into your final year there are only 18 school weeks left, just 90 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

You will receive the results of your Pre-Public Exams next week. Whilst we hope and expect that many of you will be very pleased with your results, there will, inevitably, be some who are disappointed. The main purpose of the Pre-Public Exams is to prepare you for your final GCSE examinations next summer, to find out what you know and understand and to identify areas that you still need to work at.

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The Pre-Public Exams will also have shown some of you that there are no short cuts and that the only way to guarantee success is through hard work and thorough preparation. The important thing for all of you is that you learn from the experience and any mistakes you may have made and give yourself the best possible opportunity to succeed next summer.

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

### **Droylsden Schools Partnership Quiz**

With the weather drawing in and the schools hurtling towards Christmas, what better time than to participate in a little light-hearted quizzing? Last week saw the first DSP quiz of the year between Droylsden Academy and our Partner Primary Schools with four primaries pitting their general knowledge against the Academy Year 7 Team. As usual, the primary teams were impeccably behaved, though towards the end the excitement was getting to all of the competitors!

The 'Test The Teacher' Round, with 10 questions on popular culture, always sends the Primary Teachers into a spin. However, this year they seemed to have done their homework with Mr Ellis from Greenside Lane scoring 9/10 and Mr Cusik from St. Mary's not far behind. Ms Worsley from Droylsden Academy did fairly well as did Mrs Climance from Manchester Road and Mrs Smith from Fairfield.

The quiz overall was a hard fought contest, with only 3 marks separating the top 3 schools, but, with a total of 21 points, Greenside Lane were the victors and take the DSP Inter-School Quiz trophy back to their school to show off until the next quiz in March. Well done to all of the teams including the Droylsden Team which consisted of Brogan Williams, Alfie-Lee Murphy, Befé Gudeta and Isabel Murphy. A special thank you goes to Jamie Arora from Year 9, who was the Technical Assistant and Scorer for the event.



### **Computers in the Library**

Those of you who have been missing the use of computers in the Library will be delighted to know that, thanks to the generosity of IT, there is now a small number of Chrome books available for students to use at break and lunchtimes. In order to use the computers, students will need to hand in their planner to the Librarian or Student Librarians, which will be returned when the Chrome Book is returned. These computers will be available to use from next Monday break time.

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### New participants

The Bronze Award has now been launched with Year 9 at a special Assembly and letters with further information have been given to all students across the year group. Similarly, next week, letters about the Silver Award will be given to all those Year 10 students who completed the Bronze Award during the last academic year. If you have any questions regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award, please contact Mrs McCallum or Mr Bentick.



Last year, around fifty Year 9 students signed up to the programme, all of whom have either achieved, or are well on their way to achieving, their Bronze Award. Similarly, around thirty Year 10 students progressed on from their Bronze Award to achieve Silver. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is highly valued by Colleges, Universities and Employers as a testament to a student's character, commitment and attitude and we hope that a record number of Year 9 students will sign up to the Award this year.

The following comments are just some of those made by Year 9 students who took part last year:

*'For my volunteering I worked in a charity shop. I have learnt a lot from volunteering and it was fun because I felt a lot more independent when on the till and putting out the stock.'*

*'I was a Dance Lead for my volunteering which was really fun as I was able to mentor younger students doing something that I love.'*

*'I found the volunteering really useful as it allowed me to have some time to myself to clear my head. I would either walk my dog or dogs belonging to family and friends.'*

*'I enjoyed the skills aspect of the Award as I learnt to ride a horse properly.'*

*'I liked the volunteering part because I got to meet new people.'*

*'For my skill, I learnt to play the piano. I finally committed to actually trying to do something without giving up easily as I knew I had to complete it.'*

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## Duke of Edinburgh Cohort (2018-2019)

There are still some students who have not, as yet, uploaded evidence for their Bronze or Silver Awards. Each student has been sent a personalised email with clear instructions on what they need to do. Mr Bentick or Mrs McCallum will be in M12 next Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, the deadline date for submitting your evidence, from 2.40pm – 4.30pm if students require any help or advice. Failure to upload evidence for all 3 sections, Volunteering, Skills and Physical, will mean that you cannot complete the Award.

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Ellie Craven from Year 11 who has been nominated as Student of the Week.

Ellie has been nominated by the Science Department as she works exceptionally hard and has an absolutely brilliant attitude to her studies. Ellie's preparation for her Biology Pre-Public Examination was meticulous and she covered the whole specification for the paper. She really deserves to do well but, whatever the outcome, no-one could question her commitment and positive attitude. With continued effort, we are sure, however, that Ellie will achieve outstanding results in the summer GCSE examination.



## REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

### 'Ignite' Speech Night

Don't forget the Ignite Speech Night on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December! You are all very welcome to attend and support our students in what, for many of them, will be their first experience of public speaking.



**DROYLSDEN**  
Academy

presents our first ever

**IGNITE SPEECH  
NIGHT**

Students in all year groups, parents and carers are cordially invited to an evening celebrating our voices.

A selection of year 7 students will share their speeches on the subject of community, service and humanity.

**Wednesday 4th December 2019**

**6pm-7pm**

**English Open Zone**

Refreshments will be served.

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## The Academy Christmas Concert

Please join us for an evening of Classical and Contemporary Music and Dance at the Academy Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Tickets, priced at £2.00 each, are available from Student Services. All proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House, a charity which provides hospital accommodation for the families of seriously ill children.

## E-Safety

With the vast array of Social Media Platforms and Apps available, E-Safety can be a huge concern for parents. With this in mind we will be publishing a series of guides which we hope will help you keep your children safe and secure. The second guide on 'Video Games and Violent Behaviour' can be found on the back page of this edition.

With Christmas approaching, parents may be thinking of buying a games console or a game for their child. As with any form of technology or online space, adult offenders can use gaming platforms to target children and build relationships with them. Understanding the different elements of gaming, and how they can be used by offenders, can help you keep your child safe. The link here contains some really useful information:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

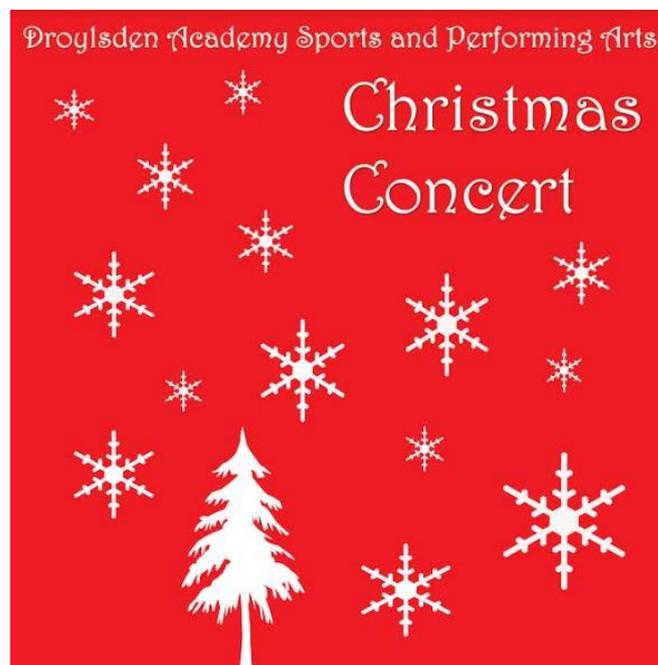
The following link can also help you in setting up the parental controls for your child's console:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/gaming-consoles-for-children/>

## Attendance Christmas Draw

Remember, 100% attendance and excellent punctuality over the half term gets you in the 'Grand Christmas Draw' where you could win one of these great prizes!

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	A Mountain Bike and helmet
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£75 Voucher
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£50 Voucher



Classical and contemporary music and dance

**7.00pm, Wednesday 11th December,  
The Atrium, Droylsden Academy**

**Tickets available From Student Services - £2.00**



All proceeds to Ronald McDonald House

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## World Challenge

A reminder than the 'sign up' deadline for the World Challenge trip to Morocco is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The trip, which will take place in the summer of 2021, involves a 13 night adventure with the company 'World Challenge'. Students will travel around Morocco and help a community in the High Atlas Mountains to promote and develop access to female education.

An email with the information about the World Challenge has been emailed to those parents that expressed an interest in the trip but were unable to attend the parent information night.

The sign up requires a deposit of £150. Each student going will then need to fundraise and/or contribute £1862 with the school donating a further £500 for each student. Please read the terms and conditions before signing up. If you have any questions about the World Challenge, please contact Mrs McCallum.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Droylsden Academy will be competing in the Tameside Cross Country Championships on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Year 11 students studying GCSE Food and Nutrition will be dining at the Tameside College Restaurant at 'Tameside One' on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The first 'Ignite' Speech Night will take place on the evening of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The Under 14 Girls Football Team will be competing in a Schools Tournament at the Etihad Campus on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The Academy Christmas Concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The trip to the Lowry to watch a performance of 'The Grinch' will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Academy will break up for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00pm.

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Since the dawn of video games there have been questions asked about their potential link to violent or disruptive behaviour in people, and in particular, young people. These questions certainly haven't been without merit; violent content and graphics seemingly get more and more common as technology progresses. But what's the truth when it comes to the science? Thankfully, in today's age we actually have a much more solid idea of what the link between the two looks like, and whether or not we should be concerned. In this guide, we'll look at the arguments both for and against the idea that video games cause violent behaviour.



# Do Video Games Actually Cause VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR?

FOR

AGAINST



## VIOLENT AND MATURE THEMES

There's no getting around the fact that yes, some video games do carry violent or more mature themes and to the casual observer, they can be quite startling. Use of weapons, bad language, mature content or scary images are worrying things to introduce to a young mind at the best of times, and even more so when they can be interacted with.

Realistically this comes down to the judgement of carers as to whether they think it's appropriate for their young ones, but a great place to start is the ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) rating of a game. Not only do these ratings carry a recommended age, but also give an idea of what kinds of things will be in the game.



## ANGER EXHIBITED DURING OR AFTER PLAYING GAMES

Many parents notice an increase in their young one's anger or agitation after playing a video game. This is very common. However, it shouldn't be forgotten that video games are an interactive medium and, unlike a film or TV show, you have direct control over what is happening on the screen, making it much more personal.

In 2011, a study into The General Aggression Model (GAM) suggested that video games can stimulate and encourage feelings of violence and aggression in players, and gives players an opportunity to learn and practice aggressive tendencies, which translate over into the real world. While this study was debunked due to its flawed process, parents should still be vigilant if they see a child exhibiting signs of aggression while playing, and encourage frequent breaks from screen time.



## RELATIVELY UNKNOWN LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Because gaming is such a new form of media, not many studies can confidently predict what the long-term effects of gaming on young minds will be. While it's widely assumed by scientists and researchers that there will be very few negative side-effects, it's still one of the great unknowns. Despite this, gaming should be treated the same as any other new media, and enjoyed in regulated amounts.



**NOS**  
National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



## SHOULD WE STOP BLAMING VIDEO GAMES FOR VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR?

Weighing up the pros and cons before letting our young ones play a video game should always be at the forefront of our minds, but the evidence of the negative impressions they leave has been debunked time and again in recent years.

It's likely that the argument around violence and video games will continue for some years, and there's certainly work to be done on both sides when it comes to researching the actual repercussions. While modern scientific studies have started to lean heavily towards there being zero or minimal connections, it's still vitally important to listen and do your own research with an open mind. If there's concern about growing behavioural issues in your kids, talk to them and encourage breaks, or play with them and try to experience the games yourself. You might just find something you like in the process!

## Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-athletes-way/201902/is-aggression-actually-linked-violent-video-games>, <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-08-06/video-games-violence-studies>, <https://www.apa.org/science/about/psa/2003/10/anderson>, <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/violent-video-games>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/olliebarker/2019/02/15/new-study-shows-that-there-is-no-link-between-violent-video-games-and-aggression-in-teenagers/#68049f8d328e>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20170812083034/http://public.psych.iastate.edu/csa/abstracts/2010-2014/11/DAB.pdf>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video\\_game\\_controversies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_game_controversies), <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/teens-who-play-violent-video-games-not-more-violent-behavior>, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/ultimate-motives/201908/the-evidence-video-games-lead-violence-is-weak>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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