

Droylsden Academy is a good school

Please read the important letter from Mr Wilson on Page 9 which includes information about contact tracing and the revised arrangements for the end of this term.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

'Droylsden at the Movies'

On Thursday 3rd December, the BTEC Year 11 Music Group presented their Concert 'Droylsden at the Movies' in the Atrium. Sadly, due to the current restrictions, we were unable to have an audience, but the concert was filmed and will be available for parents and staff at a later date.

As part of their coursework, the group had to prepare, organise and manage everything for the concert, from promoting and marketing the event to creating the 'set list' and organising rehearsals and back stage and technical support.

The concert included songs from many films including 'Twilight', 'Mamma Mia' and 'Dirty Dancing' with performances by vocalists, solo instrumentalists and groups.



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The team have been outstanding throughout the preparations, rehearsals and the actual performance itself and Mrs Burgess, their teacher, is very proud of them!

Watch this space for the Music Department's virtual Christmas Concert which will take place on the last day of term!

CHRISTMAS POETRY COMPETITION

Well done to all of the students who entered the Droylsden Academy Christmas Poetry Competition. We had lots of entries and it was wonderful to read so many beautifully written poems. We really do have some talented writers! It was very hard to choose the winning entry and the English Department finally chose the following three poems as joint winners, based on their imagery, structure and festive sentiment.

'Around the Christmas Tree' by **Alyssa Evans** (Year 7)

'Christmas in Lockdown' by **Ethan Stanley** (Year 9)

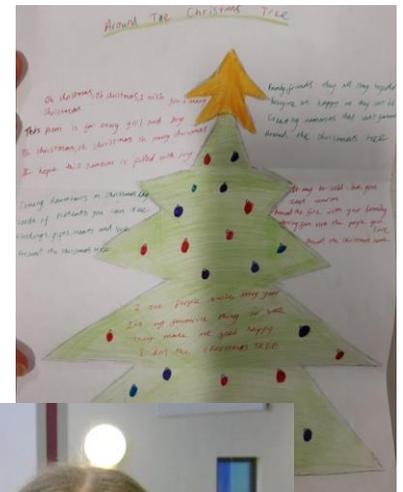
'Merry Christmas' by **Rose MacArty** (Year 7)

Around the Christmas Tree

Oh Christmas, Oh Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas
 This poem is for every girl and boy
 Oh Christmas, Oh Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas
 I hope this season is filled with joy

Family and friends, they all stay together
 Everyone as happy as can be
 Creating memories that last forever
 Around the Christmas Tree

Coming downstairs on Christmas Day
 Loads of presents you can see
 Stockings, gifts, treats and love
 Around the Christmas Tree



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It may be cold but you feel warm
 Around the fire with your family
 Having fun with the people you love
 Around the Christmas Tree

I see people smile every year
 It's my favourite thing to see
 They make me feel happy
 I AM THE CHRISTMAS TREE

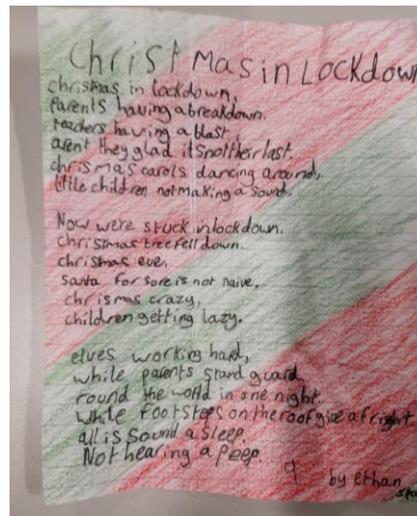
Christmas in Lockdown

Christmas in lockdown
 Parents having a breakdown
 Teachers having a blast
 Aren't they glad it's not their last
 Christmas Carols and dancing around
 Little children not making a sound

Now we're stuck in lockdown
 Christmas tree fell down
 Christmas Eve
 Santa for sure is not naive
 Christmas crazy
 Children getting lazy

Elves working hard
 Whilst parents stand guard
 Round the World in one night
 While footsteps on the roof give a fright
 All are sound asleep
 Not hearing a peep

Congratulations to our three winners and to all the students who took part.

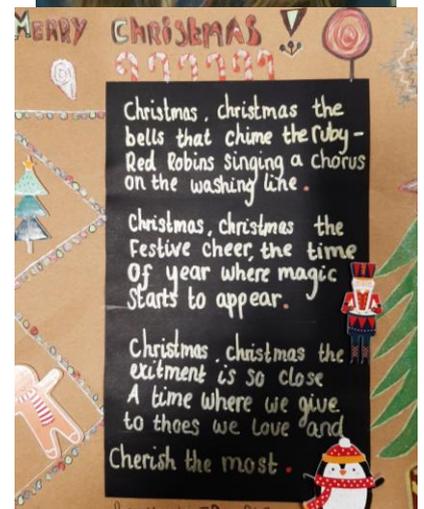


Merry Christmas

Christmas, Christmas, the
 Bells that chime, the ruby
 Red Robins singing a chorus
 On the washing line.

Christmas, Christmas, the
 Festive cheer, the time
 Of year when magic
 Starts to appear.

Christmas, Christmas, the
 Excitement is so close
 A time when we give
 To those we love and
 Cherish the most.



Charlie Boardman, Rachel King, Emma Samczyk, Melissa Lane, Jia Kang, Adam Raies, Anya Arif, Haya Noor, Makeen Acheampong, Dylan Hutchinson, Mollie Clarke, Oliver Phillipson, T J Taylor, Muneeba Muneeba, Sam Askew, Harriet Jones, Neveah Smith, Leanne Houghton, Priscilla Joel, Amanda Levanaviciute, Olivia Mansell, Mollie Johnson, Georgie Carter, Anna Nwanze, Amy Oates, Charlie Ricketts, Lacey Farrell, Daisy Wagstaff, Brogan Williams, Harry Belfield, Nana Asabere, Marcel Zdunski, Madison Hempsall, Roman Nicholson, Skye Linney, Mason Thompson, Brooke Plant, Jessica Barroso, Rylan Douglas, Kayden Keeley, Emma Foster, Lilly Walker, Taylor-Louise Wilson, Ebony Lang, Amy McGuire, Melissa Gavan, Kevin Nwanze, Maria Bundache, Isaac Matley and Kelvin Fletcher

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Food and Nutrition

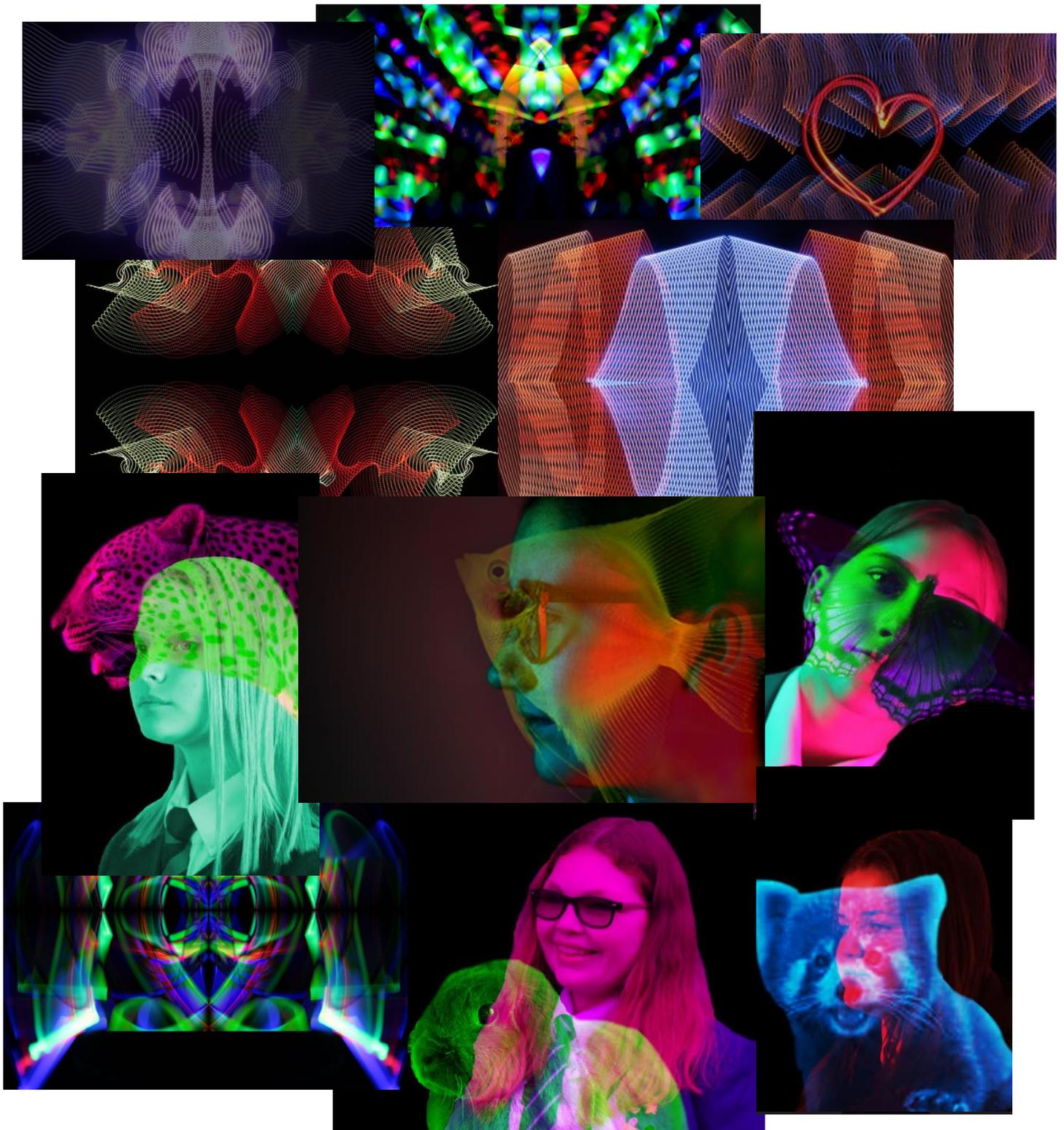
Year 7 students continue with their first T1 assessment in Food and Nutrition and plan and prepare a savoury dish, of their choice, based around the 'eat well' guidelines. Again, they have all done really well and prepared some challenging but healthy, tasty and well-presented meals.



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Photography

Thank you to Miss Hickman for submitting these photographs taken by Year 11 students who have digitally manipulated images they have created through light painting. These photographs were taken by **Ty Patrick, Wing Leong, Erica Culpin, Abbygail Robinson, Vina Ali, Jenna Anderson, Isabella Whitehead, Megan Ikin** and **Olivia Loftus**.



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Choir of the Year

Congratulations, again, to Form Group 7S on winning the Academy's inaugural 'Choir of the Year' competition with their performance of the song 'Roar' by Katy Perry. The group can be seen here enjoying a celebratory Pizza!



A Day in the Life of an Actor

Year 9 Drama students had the opportunity to work alongside 'Greater Manchester Highers' this week and talk with Alan, an Actor, Theatre Director and Teacher who has been in the Arts Industry for 22 years. Alan led a 'virtual' discussion and workshop with the group and told them about his journey and career in the industry as well as answering their burgeoning questions!



Students found the experience invaluable and afterwards, **Taylor-Louise Wilson**, a member of the group, said:

'The opportunity to speak to a 'real life' actor was really useful. As aspiring actors, we were able to ask about all those important things that we wanted answers to. The discussion has really changed our mind-set as we now know you can have a successful career in the Arts Industry and achieve what you want. It really helped me personally, it was much more useful than researching on the internet. I'm really grateful to Alan as I now have a clear idea of the path I want to take and what I want to achieve in my career.'

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A School Romance!

Congratulations to ex Droylsden Academy students Amy Galloway and Mitchell Cross who will be getting married on 18th December.

Amy and Mitchell joined the Academy as members of one of the earlier cohorts when the school first opened and left, at the end of Year 11, in July 2013.

On behalf of the Academy, Newsflash would like to wish the happy couple a long, healthy and happy life together!



Making Christmas Cakes!

Students across Years 7, 8 and 9 have been demonstrating their creative flair in preparing, baking and then decorating their own Christmas Cakes! I'm sure everyone will agree that the results have been absolutely amazing. We have included some of the designs below with more to follow next week.



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LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Dear Parent or Carer

The Department For Education (DFE) wrote to all schools on Tuesday with updated advice regarding the end of this term.

As you will be aware, schools have played a vital role in contact tracing and in helping the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. Public Health England has now agreed a 6 day window after the final day of teaching in schools where school leaders remain contactable to assist with any further contact tracing if necessary. This 6 day window will allow enough time for the identification of any positive coronavirus cases to be confirmed and for the relevant contacts in an educational setting to be traced as necessary. Beyond this 6 day window, schools are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing.

The DFE has, therefore, given permission for schools to adjust their term dates accordingly to ensure that **Thursday 17th December the last teaching day**. This will reduce the time schools are responsible for contact tracing over the holiday period.

Therefore, I have taken the decision that the Academy will be closed to students and staff on Friday 18th December and that we will now close for the Christmas Holiday on Thursday 17th December instead. The Academy will close on Thursday at the usual time of 2.35pm for students in Years 7 to 10 and of 3.35pm for students in Year 11. Please accept my apologies for the short notice in making this change to our published term dates but, as outlined above, we have only just received this updated guidance from the DFE.

Term dates for the Spring Term remain unchanged. Staff will return to school for their planned INSET on Monday 4th January 2021 and **students will return to school on Tuesday 5th January**. All students should arrive at school and be in class for 8.30am, as usual, and ready to learn.

'Christmas Jumper Day' will now take place on Thursday 17th December when staff and students will have the option of wearing a Christmas Jumper to school in return for a donation of £1. Clearly, we hope that lots of staff and students will take part in our appeal and that we can raise as much money as possible for the local and national charities that we support. Please remember that students must still wear their Academy uniform including their blazer.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who have contacted school over the last few months to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our staff. Your continued support, over what has been a very challenging term for both students and staff, is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The new Humanities display outside Room M16 recognises 'Christmas around the World'. The display looks at how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. Why not take a look if you are in the Humanities area, who knows, you may learn something new about different cultures and traditions!

Miss Worsley has also added Christmas cards to the display which have been written by students in Year 7 to their chosen member of staff. These cards will be delivered to staff next week and hopefully spread a little festive cheer!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Keira Walker** from Year 9 and **Billy Pirrie** from Year 11 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.



Keira has been nominated by the Maths Department for her resilience and thorough preparation for her T1 assessment. Keira is a polite and hardworking student who models our values every day she is in school. Miss Reid, her Maths teacher is really proud of her and hopes that her dedication to, and enjoyment of, Maths continues for the rest of her school career!

Billy has been nominated by the Science Department as he has worked so hard for his weekly assessments this year. His grades on the last four weekly assessments have all been well above target and, on his recent Pre-Public Examinations, he met his target on one paper and was just one mark short on the other. Miss Patel, Billy's Science teacher, is very proud of him and hopes that he achieves the success that he deserves in next year's examinations.

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PERFORMER OF THE MONTH

In a new venture, the Music Department will now be nominating a 'Performer of the Month' in recognition of the nominee's talent, contribution and commitment to the subject.

The very first recipient of the Award is **Hannah Sykes** from Year 9. Hannah has been nominated for her excellent effort during lockdown and her commitment to her instrumental lessons. Her performances in the Year 11 Concert and Christmas Assembly were brilliant and she is making outstanding progress. Well done Hannah, we are really proud of you!

Hannah will be the first student to appear on our Wall of Fame!



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 16 school weeks left, just 80 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Make sure that you have 100% attendance over the last week of term and continue to work hard up until the final lesson on Thursday. If you are absent, lessons will continue without you and you will miss important work, information and exam preparation.

CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Droylsden Academy is carrying out a consultation on its admission arrangements for **September 2022**.

Admission arrangements are the overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding the allocation of school places. The consultation is being carried out by the Governing Body of Droylsden Academy who are the school's Admission Authority.

Proposed Changes

From September 2022, Droylsden Academy is proposing that an additional criteria is added to its oversubscription criteria where preference would be given to children of staff employed at the school. This criteria will apply when a parent has been employed by Governors as a member of staff on a permanent contract for two consecutive years or, at the time at which the application is made to the school, the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. As detailed below, this criteria would apply at point 5 of the Academy's oversubscription criteria.

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Further information about the proposed oversubscription criteria, along with the draft Admissions Policy for September 2022 can be found on the Academy Website.

Consultation

The consultation on these proposed changes will run for six school weeks from Friday 4th December to Friday 29th January.

Please send any comments you may have in writing or by email to:

Mr. R Wakefield
Student Services Manager
Droylsden Academy
Manor Road
Droylsden
M43 6QD

bwakefield@droylsdenacademy.com



REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Dropping off and collecting students by car

Please remember that we are now opening the Lewis Road pedestrian entrance for students in Years 8, 10 and 11. As such, it would really ease congestion around the Academy if parents who bring children in these year groups to school could drop them off on Lewis Road rather than at the front of the school. The gate will be open every day from 8.00am to 8.30am in the morning and from 3.35pm to 3.50pm on Monday evening and then 2.35pm to 2.50pm from Tuesday to Friday. We would be really grateful for your support with this.

Closing dates for College applications

Year 11, closing dates for College applications are drawing near!

The Manchester College Before Christmas if possible

Pendleton & Salford Colleges Before Christmas if possible

Loreto College 8th January 2021

Xaverian College 15th January 2021

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Ashton Sixth Form College 29th January 2021

Connell Sixth Form College 31st January 2021

Tameside College February 2021

Clarendon College February 2021

Don't forget, if you want to apply for Loreto or Xaverian College, you need to fill in the application form and get them signed by parents as well as yourselves before handing them in to Mrs Stansfield. She will then complete the reference and attendance information and post the forms off. Any forms for Loreto College need to be in before Christmas to ensure they are posted on time. Any forms for Xaverian College need to be with Mrs Stansfield in the first week back in January.

The Great Christmas Takeaway by Active Tameside!

Have a meal on us this Christmas! Active Tameside are offering free takeaways to help Tameside families in the run up to Christmas. The meals will be available on the following evenings:

- Monday 21st December
- Tuesday 22nd December
- Wednesday 23rd December



You can choose to have your meal delivered between 5.00pm and 6.00pm, 6.00pm and 7.00pm or 7.00pm and 8.00pm and can choose from the menu options below:

- Chicken curry and rice
- Mince and vegetable hotpot
- Vegetarian pasta (vegan option also available)

All meals will be prepared fresh at Tameside Community Cafes and will be delivered cold in microwavable containers which can be heated up at home. Written instructions for re-heating will come with each meal bag. Active Tameside will have five vans, all staffed by volunteers, delivering across all four Tameside localities and serving up to 250 meals each night.

To book your meal, please

[download our application form here](#)

and return it to

christmastakeaway@activetameside.com

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Changes to ticketing by TfGM

Remember to use igo
as a smart card



All bus companies can now sell and accept TfGM school tickets using igo as a smart card, so the paper option will soon be switched off.

Drivers should always load them onto igo, instead of issuing paper tickets.

- TfGM schools weekly ticket £7.60
- TfGM carnet ticket (10 single trips) £10

These tickets are only available on dedicated TfGM school services.

Customers should touch-in for all journeys. If a valid ticket is loaded, the smart reader will accept the card for travel.

Details of all bus tickets for travel to school can be found at [tfgm.com/school-bus-tickets](https://www.tfgm.com/school-bus-tickets)

 Transport for Greater Manchester [tfgm.com/igo](https://www.tfgm.com/igo)

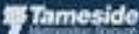
COVID-19

TAMESIDE COVID ALERT LEVEL: VERY HIGH

Updated coronavirus restrictions currently apply
Let's work together to protect our Tameside community
www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus



Tameside is a
VERY HIGH RISK
AREA

 Tameside
Metropolitan Borough Council

 NHS
Tameside and Glossop
Healthcare Trust

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TIER 3

VERY HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p> | BARNS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p> | RETAIL  <p>Open.</p> | WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p> |
| EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p> | INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p> | ACCOMMODATION  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p> | PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p> |
| OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p> | WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p> | ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p> | PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p> |
| TRAVELLING  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p> | EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p> | RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p> | LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p> |

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

