

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Combined Cadet Force Unit

We are delighted to report that our bid to the Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP), a government joint initiative between the MOD and the Department of Education, to establish a Combined Cadet Force Unit at Droylsden Academy has been successful and that, as such, we have been given approval and funding to set up our own unit.



The MOD sponsored Cadet Forces are widely recognised as one of the most successful uniformed youth organisations in the UK. By providing a safe place for young people to develop through undertaking challenging activities, underpinned by the values and standards of the Armed Forces, the Cadet Forces continue to make a significant contribution by changing many young peoples' lives for the better.

Research commissioned by the MOD, the Combined Cadet Force Association and CVQO suggests there are numerous benefits associated with a Combined Cadet Force Unit in school including developing skills such as leadership, self-discipline, communication and confidence, all of which are valued by cadets, parents, educational organisations, and employers.

The Academy aims to recruit up to 100 Cadets, from our existing students, over the next five years. We strongly believe the Combined Cadet Unit will offer fantastic benefits both to these students and to the local community. The Unit will allow our students to develop strong character traits and give them the life skills and self-confidence to take charge of their lives so they are able to reach their full potential at school, at college and in future employment.



Combined Cadet Force

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Holocaust Memorial Day

Sunday 27th January is National Holocaust Memorial Day which remembers the atrocities and the intolerable and inhuman suffering perpetrated by the Nazis in Concentration Camps during the 2nd World War. The theme for all Assemblies this week has been that of the Holocaust and we have all been reminded of the terrible consequences of a doctrine based on superiority, prejudice and hatred. The Assemblies also considered the acts of genocide that are still taking place in the World today along with the desperate plight of refugees, the destruction and re-building of communities, reconciliation and forgiveness, hatred and justice. Students across the Academy were encouraged to speak out against prejudice and do whatever they can, however small, to promote equality, tolerance, respect and understanding.



Food and Nutrition

Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students get to grips with portioning and preparing chicken.



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Table Tennis

Congratulations to our Year 7/8 Table Tennis A and B Teams who won Gold and Silver medals at the Tameside Table Tennis Championships this week. The B Team won every game against all the other schools represented at the event and went on to win the Gold medal. The A Team won the Silver medal, losing just one game, yes you guessed it, to the Droylsden Academy B Team! All the boys played exceptional table tennis in both the singles and the doubles matches and were a credit to the Academy. Well done to everyone on a great performance!

The A Team

Silver medal winners

Emanuel Bawuah
Michael Sarpong
Abraham Joel
Gad Amakye
Rukshar Ahmed

The B Team

Gold medal winners

Razvan Galateanu
Albion Behrami
Harry Hoban
Oluwafunbi Oseni
Nana Kwame Asabere
Nana Osei Asabere



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 15 school weeks left, just 75 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

All parents/carers should have received a letter about the forthcoming revision conference which will take place next week, on **Tuesday 29th January**, at the Village Hotel, Ashton. This is a very important day which will cover everything students need to know for their exams this summer. **Please ensure that all students return their reply slip to Student Services so that they can attend the conference.**

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There will be a Maths Breakfast Club every Thursday morning starting next week on 31st January. Attendance is by invitation only as it will provide bespoke tuition on certain topics based on the specific needs of different students. If you have received a letter inviting your child to attend, then please ensure they arrive at school for 8.00am each Thursday morning. It is really important that they attend as many sessions as possible between now and their GCSE exams. Hot Chocolate and pastries will be provided for all students as part of the session.



Your second set of Pre-Public Examinations start on Monday 4th February. If you want to achieve and exceed your target grades next summer, then you will prepare thoroughly for them. You should read through your notes regularly and familiarise yourself with all the topics you have covered on your GCSE courses so far. Every time you read through your work, a little bit more ‘sticks’ with you and it will make things easier for your pre public examinations and for your exams in the summer. If there are things that you don’t understand, then you can get help and advice from your teachers now and not wait until it is too late. **By preparing thoroughly now, you are taking control of your exam preparation and doing everything you can to ensure GCSE achievement and success.**

Your examination timetable can be found below.

Mon 4th Feb	French speaking exams will take place by appointment throughout the day. The practical Dance examination will take place during Periods 4 and 5. The Computer Science exam will take place during Period 5.
Tue 5th Feb	Spanish speaking exams will take place by appointment throughout the day.
Wed 6th Feb	Maths Paper 1 (Non Calculator) will start at 9.00am. The Photography exam will take place during Periods 3, 4 and 5 (Groups B/D). The Music Technology exam will take place during Periods 4 and 5.
Thur 7th Feb	English Literature will start at 9.00am. The Written examinations for both French and Spanish will start at 11.30am. Triple Science (Biology) will start at 1.30pm.
Fri 8th Feb	Maths Paper 2 (Calculator) will start at 9.00am. The Photography exam will take place during Periods 3, 4 and 5 (Group C). The Listening and Reading examinations for both French and Spanish will start at 1.35pm.
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.

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Please note the following College and Careers information:

The Manchester College have their School Leavers 16-18 Open Evening on Thursday 31st January between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

The Open Days for the Access Creative College are on 12th February, between 5.00pm and 6.30pm, and 30th March between 1.30pm and 3.00pm.

The deadline for completing applications for AIRBUS apprenticeships is 3rd March. This includes applications for Craft, Degree and Business Apprenticeships. More information is available from the Library.

Stonewall's Starting out LGBT Career Guide is now available from the Library.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Harris Mahmood and Demi Scally from Year 11 who have both been nominated as students of the week.



Harris and Demi have both been nominated by the Science Department as they can be found working hard in the T5 Science Study Area every single day. Harris has said that he is well prepared for his upcoming Pre Public Examinations and, with two weeks to go, he is spending time checking for any gaps in his knowledge. As well as preparing for her Pre Public Examinations, Demi has worked very hard to increase her average weekly assessment grade. Both students are exceptional role models for their peers. Well done and keep up the hard work!

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YEAR 9 PARENT TEACHER EVENING

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended Year 9 Parent Teacher Evening. Altogether 130 students out of a total of 188 were represented by parents or carers on the night, a turn-out of 69%. Feedback would suggest that the evening was very useful for parents, students and staff.

We were delighted that of the parents who filled in an Academy questionnaire during the evening:

- 100% of them agreed that their child enjoys school and was happy at the Academy;
- 100% felt that their child was safe and well looked after;
- 100% felt that their child was making good progress;
- 100% felt that their child was taught well;
- 100% felt that behaviour was good;
- 97% felt that bullying was rare and that, if it did occur, it was dealt with appropriately;
- 100% felt that they are kept well informed by the Academy and know what is going on;
- 100% would feel comfortable about contacting the Academy if they had any concerns; and
- 100% would recommend the Academy to other people if asked for their views.

Whilst the Academy is pleased that 69% of parents and carers were able to attend the Parent Teacher Consultation, and appreciate the phone calls and emails from the parents who genuinely couldn't come, we are concerned and disappointed that 58 of our students were not represented at such an important evening where progress, attainment, strengths and learning areas for development were discussed with subject teachers. Evidence clearly shows that students who are actively supported in their education by parents who attend such events as Parent Teacher Evenings do much better.

Thank you to Tracey Nwanze, Aulon Behrami and Harrison Roden for staffing reception and signing parents in on the evening.

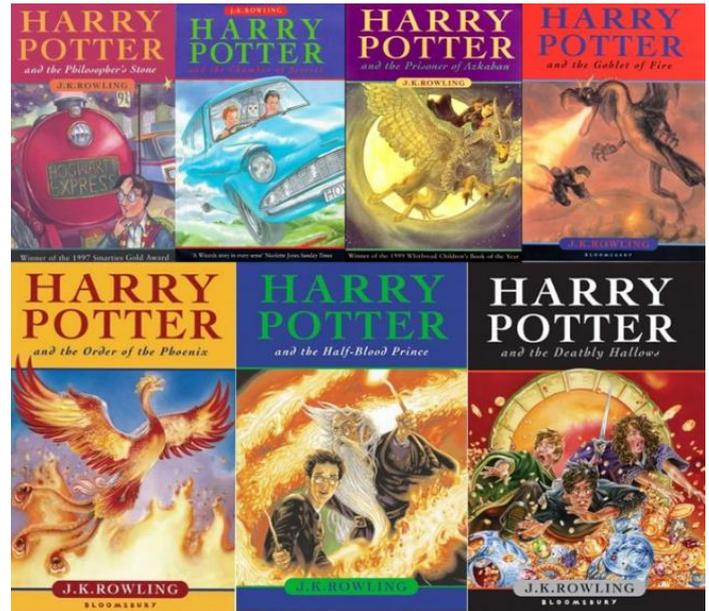


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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Harry Potter Mastermind!

To celebrate International Harry Potter Night and World Book Day Mrs Godrich is hosting a Grand Harry Potter Quiz on Thursday 7th March at 6.00pm in the Atrium in front of an invited audience. The quiz will be based on the popular BBC Quiz Show 'Mastermind' and will see Potter fans of all ages pitting their Potter knowledge against one another. Staff and students alike are free to sign up to take part. Participants and the audience will be encouraged to come along in fancy dress and there will be a prize for the best costume as well as competing for the Harry Potter Mastermind Trophy.



If you want to take part, please come along and see Mrs Godrich in the library for more details and to sign up. All questions will be sourced from the seven Harry Potter books and not from the films.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The GCSE conference for Year 11 students which will take place on Tuesday 29th January at the Village Hotel, Ashton.

Year 11 Pre Public Examinations will take place in the week beginning Monday 4th February.

Booster injections for Year 9 students will be given in the week beginning Monday 4th February.

The Character Awards Evening for students in Years 7 and 8 will take place on Thursday 7th February.

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

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