

Droylsden Academy is a good school

A LETTER FROM MR WILSON

Continuation of learning

No doubt you will be aware from media reports that the number of COVID cases have been rising across the country, particularly in the North of England. Whilst I am relieved that we have not suffered in the way that some schools have, we have had to send a number of groups home; clearly we must all be prepared for the possibility that this will continue over the coming weeks and months and that, at some point, students may have to work from home.

As has happened this week, any confirmed COVID case in school will mean that all contacts of the person who has tested positive will have to self-isolate at home. It is very important to understand that **learning does not stop during such a situation**. Our Teachers are working incredibly hard to provide lessons, live and recorded, that students who are self-isolating and well enough to work from home can access via Google Classroom. Such lessons are not optional and I need the help of all parents and carers to ensure that students understand that being asked to self-isolate should not be viewed as a break from learning.

Teachers will set work for every lesson and this may involve students being asked to join the lesson via Google Classroom. There is no excuse for non-engagement. If students are well enough to complete the work they should. We are continuing to work hard to provide ICT resources for families who may need it and families should let school know immediately if access to ICT is proving a barrier to their child's home learning.

Year 11 GCSE Examinations

I hope parents and carers of Year 11 students have read my recent letter explaining the government decision to postpone the GCSE examinations for three weeks. This means that the summer examinations will now conclude on July 2nd 2021. Please ensure that your child is available to sit these important exams and avoid booking holidays in the examination window.

It is pleasing that our students will now get the chance to prove themselves in nationally standardised assessments but we cannot lose sight of the fact that the situation may change again. Whilst the Government have given greater clarity over the way in which students will be examined next summer, there is still a strong possibility that various in school assessments, including the forthcoming PPEs, could directly influence the overall grade each student receives. I cannot stress

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strongly enough therefore, the critical importance of the upcoming PPE examinations for all students in Year 11. There really is no substitute for good attendance, hard work and well-structured revision.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I hope that all our students enjoy their well-earned half term break.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Year 7 Graduation

Congratulations to our Year 7 who graduated as new students to the Academy this week, having successfully completed their transition from primary school.

As you are aware, students in the new intake usually graduate at the end of their induction in July and prior to starting in September. The graduation ceremony reflects and acknowledges student induction into the 'Droylsden Way' of working, our expectations for the next five years and the importance of our core values of Politeness, Hard Work and Honesty. Clearly, with the restrictions in place last July, we could not run our full induction programme and students did not have the opportunity to formally graduate as Droylsden Academy students. The photos below show Form Groups 7R and 7L at their Ceremony last Wednesday.

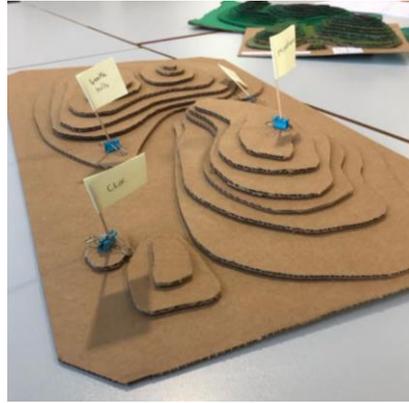
We hope that the students enjoyed this week's Graduation Ceremony and that they are proud to be members of our school. Congratulations to the 'Class of 2025' and we look forward to your many successes and achievements over the next five years and beyond.



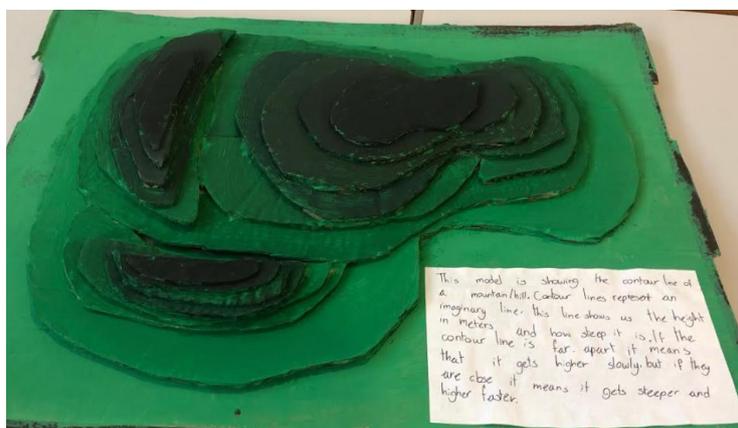
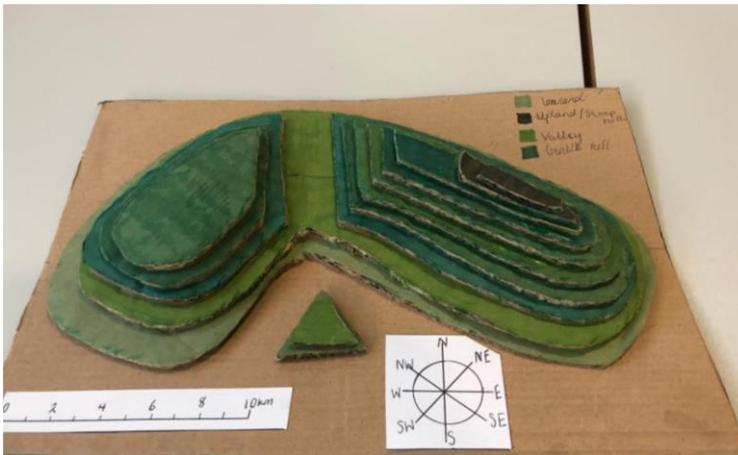
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Hot Humanities Homework!

Form Group 7E have been learning to read maps in Geography and have produced some amazing models to show how contour lines map out the landscape and terrain of an area.

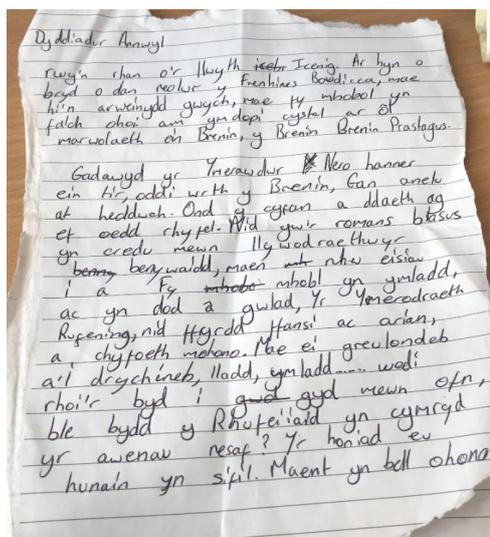
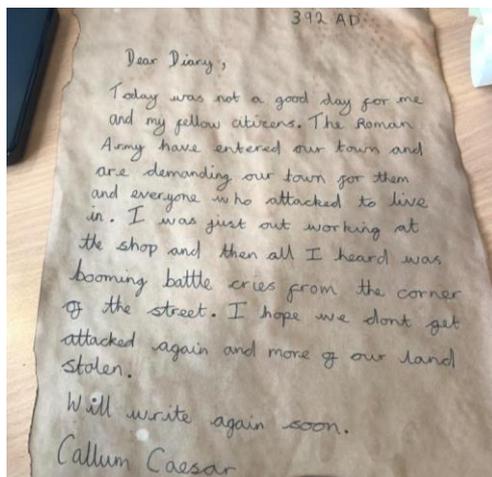
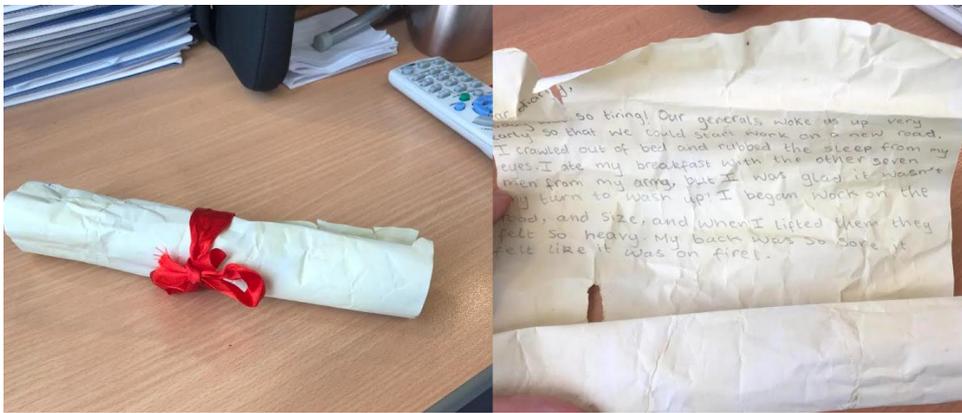


These four outstanding pieces of work were completed for homework by **Ben Hamlett, Ruby Wood, Freddie Jones** and **Maddison Fox**.



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Meanwhile, in History, 7L had to write a letter or diary entry imagining that they were living during Roman Britain. Mr Bushby, the class teacher, was delighted with the homework that the group completed and picked out the following pieces by **Jesse Eastham**, **Tida Badje Sane** and **Callum Gilder** for publication in Newsflash. With the help of her Welsh speaking Grandpa, and 'Google Translate', Jesse Eastham actually wrote her diary entry in in Celt!



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brya o am
 hi'n arweinydd gwych, mae fy mhobol yn
 falch ohoi am yndopi cystal ar ôl
 marwolaeth ei Brenin, y Brenin Brenin Prastagus.

Gadawyd yr Ymerawdwr ~~Nero~~ Nero hanner
 ein tir, oddi wrth y Brenin, Gan anelu
 at heddwch. Ond cyfan a ddaeth ag
 et oedd rhyfel. Mid gwir romans btasus
 yn credu mewn llywodraethu yr
 benig benigwald, maen wrth rhw eisiau
 i a Fy mhobol mhobl yn ymladd,
 ac yn dod a gwlad, Yr Ymerodraeth

Art

This week, Ms Dunnington has submitted these high quality observational drawings for publication in Newsflash. They were drawn by **Amy Oates**, **Skye Linney**, **Kelvin Nwanze**, **Callum Turner** and **Sophie Davenport** from Year 9 in their 'Fine Art' lessons.



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Food and Nutrition

In Food and Nutrition, Year 10 students have been trying out new ingredients and making their own dishes using fruits and vegetables. As usual, the products of their labours look very tasty and very tempting! 'Masterchef', here we come!



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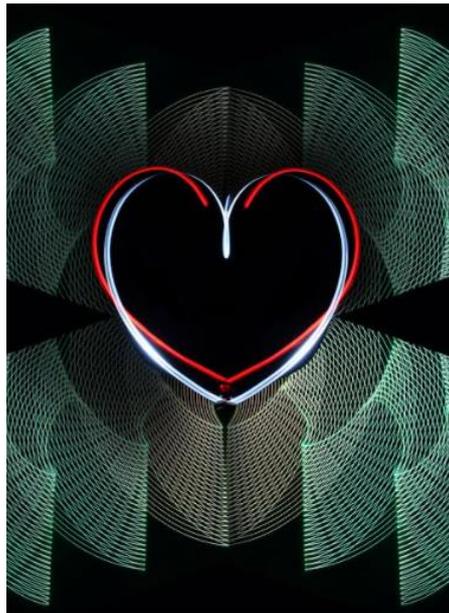


Photography

Meanwhile, our highly creative and very talented GCSE photographers continue to produce some wonderfully stunning images and photo edits!



Hannah Beever

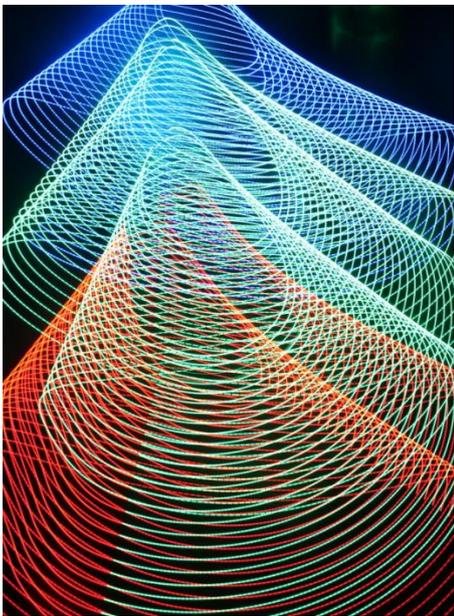


Wing Leong



Rosie McCormick

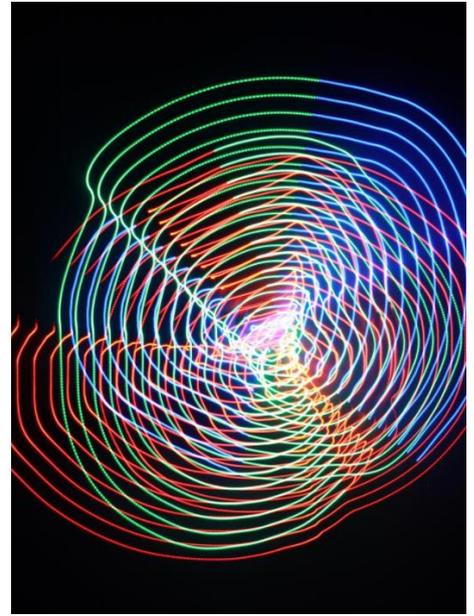
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Taylor Bowd



Jenna Anderson



Ben Quinn



Ellis McMillan



Ben Evans



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 22 school weeks left, just 110 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Your Pre-Public Examinations start in just three weeks time. These are really important exams and you must revise and prepare thoroughly for them. **It is worth remembering that, for the Year 11 cohort that left this summer, their final grades were based directly on their performance in their Pre-Public Examinations.**

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All Year 11 students have been given a 'Survival Kit', lovingly prepared by Mrs Stansfield, to help them prepare for their exams! Throughout the half term break, we recommend that they all do a few hours of revision each day. This will help build their confidence going into the Pre Public Examinations and so reduce stress. It is equally important to have enough rest and 'me time', ensuring they keep healthy. The kit includes a leaflet with a guide to help with revision and to reduce exam stress. Resilience is a key skill to develop over the next few months. Be positive, keep going and believe that your hard work will pay off.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As you will be aware from previous editions of Newsflash, we are celebrating Black History Month throughout October. Over the course of the month we will be highlighting the achievements of the black community, celebrating their contributions to the UK and learning more about the important black historical figures who helped make Britain what it is today.



Students should check their Year Group Hub regularly and look for the different weekly activities which celebrate Black Heritage. This week, students can look at a dance routine from 'Diversity' on Black Lives Matter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzFNkFitHjw>

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Today, what can be defined as 'racism' and what cannot has become a matter for debate. Every racist caught in the act claims not to be racist. You may not know it, but around 1 in 3 people say something racist without knowing it. Simply saying "coloured people" or "the black one" makes us feel small and worthless.

Black people, Indigenous people, people of colour, Muslims and Jews regularly report being harassed and threatened over the colour of their skin or simply even their beliefs. They are asked and questioned about it - by people who have never experienced it. Racism dates back to 300BC and even earlier.



What even is racism? I've had many encounters in my life, so have my family, it happens much more than you could even imagine, to the point where people have just become used to it. "Go back to where you came from" is a term used. I'm from Droylsden, I am where I came from. My mum always tells me to never wear my hoodie - "You never know what can happen." She says that we live in a world of hatred among people of colour, but this must change, and we are the people who can do it.

As I said before, racism has always been here. It happens in schools nationally, the work place and it sometimes feels there is nothing we can do about the national problem.

A few years ago, one of my friends, who is a Muslim, had her headscarf pulled off; I never understood the significance of it but now I understand how disrespectful and utterly disgusting that was. She cried for hours, I was confused and didn't know how to help her. It's only when we understand other peoples' religions and races that we can empathise and make a change in the World.

We learn about slavery in history class and some students may feel the need to look at us. They look at us and know that our ancestors were slaves. In that moment, you can feel embarrassment and shame, but the correct feeling should be pride as a commemoration of our history.

We have to be socially aware that racism is not just directed at black people, all people can be racist and all people can be victims of racism. If you want to be respected you should treat people the way you would want to be treated. The main cause of racism is ignorance, we have to be more socially aware of our surroundings and this could potentially make a huge difference.

I have been working hard with student voice and the leaders at the Academy to incorporate learning into our curriculum about successful black people. Without some of them, we wouldn't be where we are today. If you'd like to get involved with Black History Student Voice, please email

haveyoursay@droylsdenacademy.com

Thank you

Ivie

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This week, Mrs Burgess has chosen two songs to help celebrate Black History Month, 'Dream a little Dream of Me' by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald and 'Stand Up' by Cynthia Erivo.

Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald are regarded as two of the most influential musicians of all time. Armstrong is known for his trumpet playing and his distinctive voice. Fitzgerald is often known as 'the First Lady of Song' for her contribution to music. The two were among the first to record and popularise 'scat singing' or improvising nonsensical sounds over melodic passages. This technique is still used in jazz music today. In 1959, Ella Fitzgerald became the first black musician, man, woman or otherwise, to win a Grammy Award.

'Stand Up' is taken from the soundtrack of the 2019 film 'Harriet'. Harriet is a biographical film about Harriet Tubman, a political activist and abolitionist. Born into slavery, Tubman subsequently escaped and made 13 rescue missions to help approximately 70 other enslaved people, including her family and friends, escape their captors via the 'Underground Railroad' system of safe houses and secret routes. Cynthia Erivo's portrayal of Harriet Tubman earned the actress two Academy Award nominations.

["Dream A Little Dream of Me" - Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald](#)

["Stand Up" - Cynthia Erivo](#)

I been walkin'
With my face turned to the sun
Weight on my shoulders
A bullet in my gun
Oh, I got eyes in the back of my head
Just in case I have to run
I do what I can when I can while I can for my people
While the clouds roll back and the stars fill the night

That's when I'm gonna stand up
Take my people with me
Together we are going
To a brand new home
Far across the river
Can you hear freedom calling?
Calling me to answer
Gonna keep on keepin' on
I can feel it in my bones



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Kwon Leong** from Year 9 and **Gad Amakye** from Year 10 who have both been nominated as students of the week.



Kwon has been nominated for her progress in Computer Science where she has been an absolute superstar so far this year! She has performed flawlessly in her two assessments, scoring 20/20 and 22/22, and demonstrated that hard work and preparation are the keys to success. Kwon is a pleasure to teach and consistently models our core values of politeness, hard work and honesty.

Gad has been nominated by the Maths Department as he always contributes to class discussion and is willing to explain his answers to the class. Similarly, his enthusiasm always shines through and he works well with all his peers. Gad always completes his homework and classwork to a high standard and is on track to achieve a good grade in Maths. Well done Gad and keep it up!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Library Delivery Service for Years 7, 8 and 9

With school operating in bubbles, the Library has remained closed to all since we came back in September. Mrs Godrich has, however, introduced a delivery service which will allow students to access the library's book catalogue on their computer and reserve the book they want to read so that Mrs Godrich can deliver the book to their English lesson. In order to keep bubbles separate, each class will be visited once a month for the delivery and return of books.

The catalogue can be accessed via the Academy Library link on the Student tab on the Academy website or, if in school, via the Reading Cloud icon on their profiles. Each member of the school community has been given their own username and password. The username is their Academy email address and their password is their date of birth. For example:

Username: 12LT01@droylsdenacademy.com

Password: 01012000 (birthday 1st January 2000)

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Mrs Godrich has produced a User Guide to instruct students how to access the catalogue and reserve their book. The Guides will be given to students in the week back after half term.

The entire process will be COVID compliant and the highest safety standards will be maintained. Books will be quarantined before issuing to students and delivered in labelled paper bags for the students to collect themselves. They will also be quarantined before they are returned to the shelves.

Reading is so important and being able to access the fabulous library stock we have, including many new titles, will be welcomed by a great many students.



REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Help to brighten up our lives!

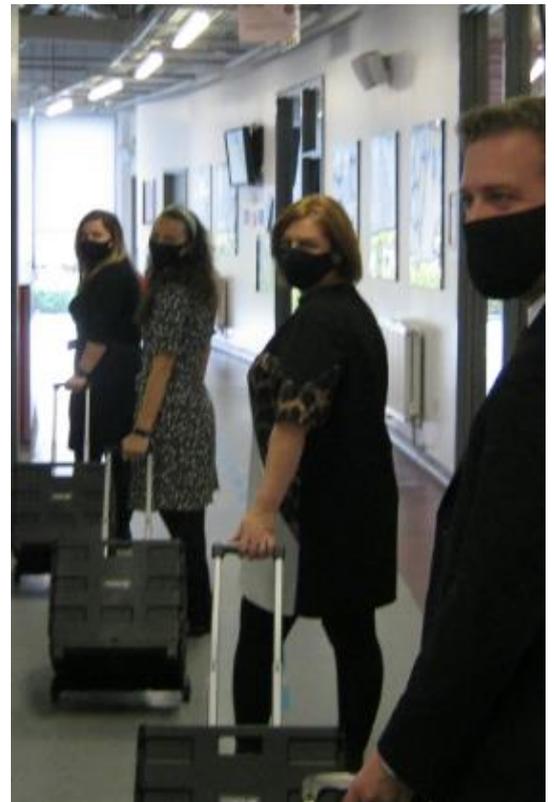
The Humanities Department are fed up of trudging around with their dark, dreary, dismal, dull and dreadfully boring trolleys and they need your help to brighten up their daily routine. Can you add a little colour to their lives? Can you add a design to their trolley that will inspire them each day? Will your design put a spring in their step? Will they wheel their trolleys around with pride? Will other Departments look enviously at them as they breeze down the corridors pulling their beautiful and brightly decorated trolleys behind them? They need your help and they are willing to pay!

Designs should reflect the Humanities Department and could be based on themes such as the Monarchs, historical periods of time such as the Tudors, the religions of the World, climate change or on a particular country or continent.

There will be a prize for the best design and house points awarded to the winner and runners up as well as all entries.

Please remember to put your full name and your Houses on the back of each entry.

Thank you!



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Receipt of a positive COVID test

Should your child unfortunately test Positive for COVID-19 at anytime, **including the weekend and holiday periods**, please email admin@droylsdenacademy.com with the following information:

- Student's full name
- Year Group
- Name of parent/carer
- Contact number
- Date the student was last in school
- Date the student started to display symptoms
- Date of the Positive test result

If we receive information about a positive test, a member of the Leadership Team or Pastoral Team will contact you as soon as they can.

Clearly, for everyone's safety, it is crucial that we all follow these procedures.

Thank you

Toast at breaktime

Now that our new school routines and procedures are running smoothly the Academy will not be providing free toast for all students at break time. Students can still order toast to eat at break but will now have to pay for it. Students can order toast each morning when they order their lunches.



Healthy lunchboxes

As Droylsden Academy aims for the Healthy Schools Gold Award, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers about healthy eating in school. A lunchbox at Droylsden Academy should contain:

- a starchy food, e.g. potatoes, bread, rice, pasta;
- plenty of fruit and vegetables, e.g. carrot sticks, an apple, sliced cucumber;
- a source of protein, e.g. beans, pulses, egg, fish, meat;
- a healthy drink, e.g. water, semi-skimmed milk.

We suggest to parents/carers that foods high in fat, salt and sugars should not be included, such as crisps and confectionary.

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The following food items are banned in school:

- Energy drinks and sugary drinks
- Large 'sharing' bags of crisps and sweets



What should be in a healthy lunchbox?

Eating a healthy, balanced lunch is vital for ensuring our children have the right nutrients and enough energy to see them through the school day, however, achieving this balance is not always as easy as it sounds. The key to a healthy packed lunch is variety and getting the right balance of foods to provide children with all of the nutrients they need to stay healthy. A packed lunch made at home can be a healthy and delicious choice and gives a parent or carer control over the foods and ingredients included.

A school lunchbox should:

- be based on starchy foods: this can include potatoes, bread, pasta, rice, couscous, wraps, pitta and chapatti. Where possible wholegrain varieties should be chosen, e.g. wholemeal bread and leave skins on potatoes.
- include plenty of fruit and vegetables: include 1-2 portions and vary these throughout the week. You could add sliced vegetables into a pasta dish or sandwich. You could also include packs of chopped fresh fruits or individual packs of dried fruits.
- include a portion of beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat, a dairy food and/or a non-dairy source of protein: use beans, pulses, fish, eggs, meat and other sources of protein as sandwich fillings or in a salad. If you're not including a dairy food in the main lunch item (e.g. in a salad or sandwich), add a yogurt or some cheese, such as a Cheddar stick, to the lunchbox. If you're including a dairy alternative, e.g. soya yogurt or milk, choose varieties which are unsweetened and fortified with calcium.
- include a drink: healthy options include water, semi-skimmed or 1% milk. You could also give your child fruit juice or smoothie, but remember, fruit juice and smoothies should be limited to a combined total of 150ml a day. You could always dilute fruit juice with still or sparkling water.

Having a healthy lunch does not mean not allowing any treats. Below are some ideas for healthier break time snacks.

- Whole or sliced fruit.
- Vegetable sticks, e.g. celery, carrot, pepper, cucumber. Some vegetables are naturally baton shaped which can save you time preparing, for example, sugar snap peas and baby corn.
- Bag of plain popcorn.
- Bread sticks.
- Unsalted nuts (check your child's schools policy on nuts first as some schools do not allow nuts to be brought in).
- Rice or corn cakes.

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Another option of a healthier treat is to make individual bags of dried fruit by placing a small handful of mixed dried fruits, into food bags or sealed containers. However, children should avoid dried fruit as a break time snack as they are high in sugar and can be harmful to their teeth. Instead dried fruit should only be offered at meal times.

If you have any questions about eating in school or the Healthy Schools Gold Award, please contact Mrs Arnold.



Timings of the Academy day

You will remember that, at the start of term in September, we lengthened the lunch time by 10 minutes to ensure that, with all the new arrangements in place, we would still have enough time for everyone to eat their meal. This, in turn, meant that the school day was extended by 10 minutes so that we finished at 3.45pm on Monday and 2.45pm on Tuesday to Friday.

Now that the new routines are in place and running smoothly, we are in a position to shorten the lunchtime back to 35 minutes again and finish at our normal time. We will change back to our normal finishing times on Monday 2nd November, the first day back after the half term break.

From Monday 2nd November the end of the school day will be as follows:

Years 7 to 10		Year 11	
Monday	3.35pm	Monday	3.35pm
Tuesday	2.35pm	Tuesday	3.35pm
Wednesday	2.35pm	Wednesday	3.35pm
Thursday	2.35pm	Thursday	3.35pm
Friday	2.35pm	Friday	3.35pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 23rd October. We will re-open on Monday 2nd November at the usual time of 8.30am.

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