

Droylsden Academy is a good school

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

### UKMT Maths Challenge

On Monday of this week, around 75 students from the Year 7 and 8 Maths 'Excel' Teaching Groups sat the prestigious UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Junior Maths Challenge. The Challenge has been designed for the top mathematicians across the country and students from other schools all over the UK sat the test this week too. Students compete against each other and can achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award if their mark or score places them in the top 25% nationally. The results will come out later this term and we are looking forward to seeing how well our students have done.

The photographs here show students taking part in the Maths Challenge under strict exam conditions. Well done to everyone who took part and we hope you enjoyed it.



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**



**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

## Life skills

As part of the Academy 'Life skills' Programme, students from Year 9 took part in a 'drop down day' this week, where their normal timetable was suspended, so that they could attend and take part in a series of workshops and presentations on Relationships, Sex and Health Education. A number of specialist teams and organisations including 'YouThink', 'Tough Cookies' and 'Odd Arts' helped deliver the programme, alongside staff from the Academy, and students took part in presentations, drama productions and group discussions on topics ranging from Contraception to Consent, Understanding Your Body, Relationships, The Media, 'Sexting' and Exploitation. Feedback would suggest that students from across the year group enjoyed and appreciated this informative, interesting and important day.



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

## Congratulations to our 'Infinite Learners'!

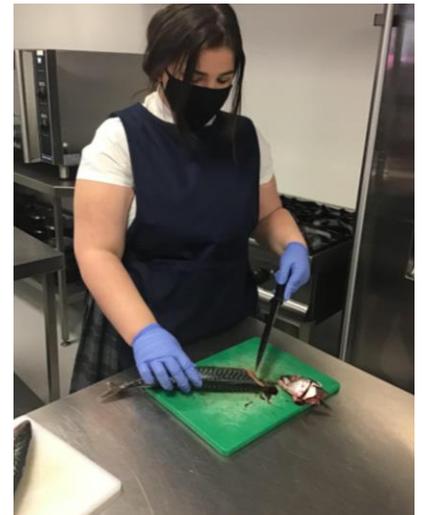
Congratulations to **Anya Arif** and **Emma Samczyk** from Year 7 who both received their 'Infinite Learners' Badges this week.

Anya earned her badge by learning Arabic during lockdown whilst Emma completed a course in 'Introductory Design' through the Open University.



## Food and Nutrition

Year 10 students have been learning how to fillet mackerel this week, a highly skilled if not the most pleasant of jobs! Well done to the whole group but particularly to **Jamie Arora, Toyosi Junaid, Yasmin Suleman, Ellis Gregory, Jessica Harrison** and **Layton Thorne** who can be seen in action on the photographs here.



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

## Music

Thank you and congratulations from Mrs Burgess to students across Years 7 and 8 for their hard work in learning new skills and developing their musical talents this week.

Year 7 students have been working hard on learning a new instrument, the ukulele, and are currently learning how to read TAB and chord boxes so that they can play together and perform chord progressions.



Meanwhile, Year 8 students are working on their ensemble skills. The students are choosing the instruments they want to play, the ukulele, guitar, piano or drums, and then learning how to perform their own pop songs together in groups.

Miss Burgess has been extremely impressed with both year groups and how they are tackling these new skills and challenges. Well done!



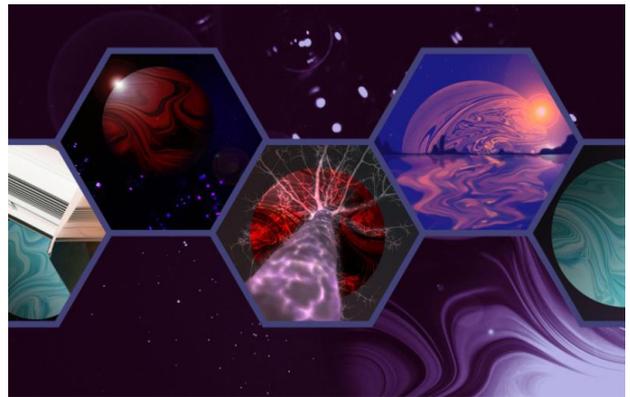
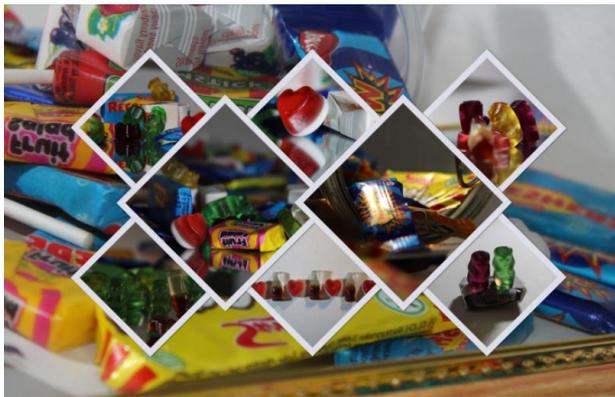
**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

## Photography

Thank you to Miss Hickman for submitting these photo edits taken by her Year 11 GCSE group. It looks like they have been down to the Sweet Shop again to create these clever, creative and colourful photographs. As an aside, the favourites of the Newsflash Editorial Team are the 'fried eggs' and the smooth 'cola bottles', not to be confused with the rough sugar-coated sour tasting ones which always get left at the bottom of the bag!



Kai Clark



Wing Leong



Ben Evans

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

## Mouth-watering Homework!

Year 7 students are studying the weather as part of their Geography course and, for homework, were asked to be creative in designing and making a meteorologically related artefact!

Top marks must go to **Ruby Sharrock** for baking and decorating this wonderful cake, complete with weather symbols. We hope you saved a piece please for Mrs Armstrong-Lee!



## The Droylsden Debating Union



***"This House Believes that sport is being ruined by greed and corruption"***

Where do you stand on the current topic that is dominating our society? Sport, greed and corruption. (Just don't mention the Super League.)

Last Thursday, the Droylsden Debating Union (DDU) got their teeth stuck into a very relevant and present topic for their first LIVE session! The DDU participants welcomed, with huge open arms and smiling faces, their first opportunity to go head to head in a healthy, live debate against fellow Year 7 students (and Mr. Wilson).

After detailed discussions, specifically structured points and excellent, mature responses; the vote was made. The DDU found that greed and corruption IS playing a large role in ruining sports - who would have thought it?

Thank you to all pupils and staff who attended, it was great to successfully debate live in school and to see you all enthusiastically working with one another.

To all Year 7s - join us next time, in school (Thu 6/05, 2:35pm, 113), to build your confidence, develop your speaking skills, and have fun!

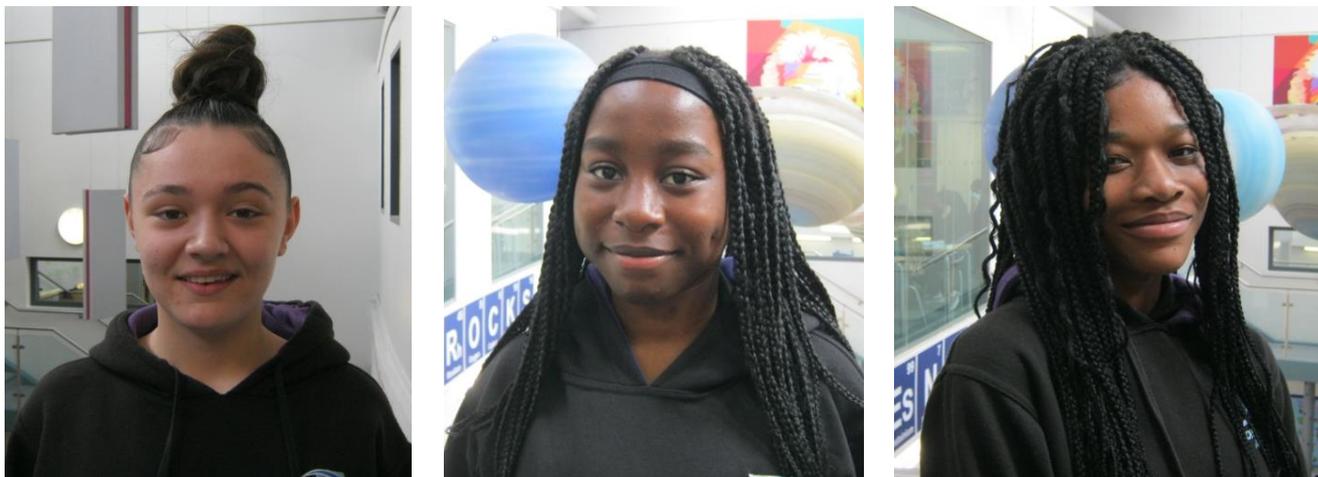
**Mr Palmer and Mr Clays-Jones**



**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations **Telsia Tallon** from Year 9 and **Esther Yeboah** and **Lovisa Boakye** from Year 10 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Telsia has been nominated by the English Department as she provides endless enthusiasm, energy and hard work during every English lesson. The Year 9 English classes have only just been re-organised since groups across the Year Bubble were set and Miss Hudson, her new English teacher, commented on how much she has enjoyed teaching Telsia and that she was a real asset to the class.

Esther has been nominated by the Science Department as she has worked extremely hard in Science and revised the content for the Higher Tier GCSE Paper even though, at that time, she was in a Foundation Tier Group. Her commitment, hard work and initiative has really paid off and she has now been moved to a higher set where she is making excellent progress and achieving Grades 8 and 9 in her weekly assessments. Well done Esther, we are really proud of your achievements and you are a wonderful example of how hard work and determination pays off.

Lovisa has been nominated by the Maths Department as she always attends voluntary after school sessions and always goes the extra mile to improve her grade. Keep up the hard work Lovisa, you are a great role model to your peers and you deserve to do well.

## A LETTER FROM MR JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF CHARACTER AND LIFE SKILLS

Dear Parent or Carer

At Droylsden Academy we aim to support students to embrace the challenges of adult life, equipping them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships.



It has been mandatory since September 2020 for all secondary schools to deliver the Government's statutory guidance in relation to Relationships and Sex Education and, for all state-funded schools, statutory guidance relating to Health Education.

**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

You will have already read the article about the Year 9 'Drop Down Day' earlier in this edition of Newsflash, where students took part in a series of workshops and presentations on Relationships, Sex and Health Education and a similar day is now planned for Year 10. I will be writing to parents and carers of Year 10 students with further information about the day in due course.

Over the next few weeks, Relationships, Sex and Health Education will also be a key focus in our Pastoral Programme. Additionally work in Religious Studies and Life Skills will also be delivering aspects of this important work.

Whilst we recognise that Parents and Carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters, the school can complement and reinforce this role by building on what children learn at home as an important part of delivering a good education.

The Academy's policy on Relationships, Sex and Health Education can be viewed on the Academy website via this link: <http://www.droylsdenacademy.com/key-policies/3528.html>

If you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Jackson  
Director of Character and Life Skills

# LIFESKILLS

## 'THE BIG ASK'

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched 'The Big Ask', the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.



The link to the survey is: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask>

Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve

**Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work**

**Letter from Mrs Smith, the Academy COVID Testing Manager**

Dear Parent/Carer



**Re: Update on Home Testing for Students**

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep Droylsden Academy as Covid safe as possible.

To further improve our system of home testing we are asking all student to complete their Lateral Flow test twice a week each Wednesday and Sunday. This new system will start on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

The result should continue to be recorded with the NHS using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

**and** also on the Droylsden Academy Reporting system using this link:

<https://forms.gle/4J28DFkX5j3uyxA67>

Home testing is a vital resource in keeping the Academy, our community and all students and staff as safe as possible.

To assist you, and to act as a reminder, we will be sending out email messages to all parents/carers each Wednesday and Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs G Smith  
Academy COVID Testing Manager

**Please check your child's account**

Please ensure that your child has enough money on their account to pay for their meals. A number of students are in the 'red' at the moment and It may be worth checking your child's account on Schoolcomms, just in case, and topping it up if necessary.

Thank you

The logo for Schoolcomms features the word 'Schoolcomms' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'School' is in blue and 'comms' is in red.

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

## Caretaker

**Pay Scale:** Band B, Point 3 to Point 4 (£9.88 - £10.08 per hour)  
**Contract:** Full Year  
**Hours:** 36 per week  
**Closing Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 12.00 noon  
**Start Date:** As soon as possible

We require a reliable, flexible and hardworking Caretaker to provide efficient and effective support to the Academy to ensure that the general appearance of the building and surrounding areas are maintained in accordance with the required standards.

### 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 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.***

It is our intention that Droylsden Academy will form a Multi Academy Trust with other local Secondary Schools in the near future. This will not alter your employment except that the name of the Trust (not the Academy) will change. You can find more information about this at: <https://www.droylsdenacademy.com/tret/417608.html>

Interested applicants should complete a Droylsden Academy application form and equal opportunities application form available on the school website at

<http://www.droylsdenacademy.com/work-at-droylsden-academy/3527.html>

Completed applications should be returned by email to:

[hr@droylsdenacademy.com](mailto:hr@droylsdenacademy.com)

or posted to:

**Human Resources, Droylsden Academy, Manor Road, Droylsden, Manchester M43 6QD.**