

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Open Evening

The Academy held its annual Open Evening this week when families of prospective Year 7 students could visit our school, meet staff and students and find out a little bit more about us. Photographs and a report on this important event in our calendar will appear in next week's Newsflash.

The 'Greenpower' Project

Last term, a group of students designed and built a 'green' solar powered go-cart as part of the 'Greenpower' Project. The students spent two days on the 'design and build' part of the project at Tameside College and this week they attended the 'Greenpower Challenge' at Aintree, in Liverpool, where they had the opportunity to race their go-cart against other schools, colleges and universities from across the country. We think there were around 40 competitors altogether and that we were about 19th overall! A little vague perhaps but we'll settle for a top half of the Leader board finish!



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



Character Pillars

Assemblies this week focussed on our four 'Character Pillars', Learn, Lead, Serve and Participate. These four Character Pillars are fundamental to our school and students are encouraged to record evidence of how they have demonstrated these strong character traits through our Character Development Programme.

Students can gather evidence in a number of different ways. For instance, a student may have shown service by helping others in an organised community event or they may have participated in a school production or sporting fixture. Likewise, a student may have demonstrated great learning by making strong academic progress in a range of subjects, or they may have shown leadership by organising and leading other students in an activity.

Successful completion of activities related to any of the four Character Pillars earns points towards a prestigious enamel badge which students may wear on their blazer in recognition of their achievements. There are three levels of award for each of the Character Pillars, Apprentice, Graduate and Master, with each one having gradually more challenging success criteria to meet.



LEARNING SERVICE LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

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Thank you

Mr Wilson was delighted to receive the following email from the Willow Wood Hospice this week. The Hospice wanted to acknowledge the contribution that Rosie McCormick had made over the summer holiday as a member of their volunteer team.

*'Dear Mr Wilson, I am emailing you with regards to Rosie McCormick. During the six week school holiday, Rosie decided she wanted to do some volunteering work and took it upon herself to come and help at the Willow Wood Distribution Centre. Rosie was very polite and reliable and got on really well with all the staff and the other volunteers. She worked extremely hard sorting through the daily donations and I would like to pass on a huge **thank you** to her for all her help. Rosie is a real asset to your school.'*



This is wonderful example of how our students can demonstrate and achieve against our four Character Pillars; well done Rosie you are a fantastic Ambassador for Droylsden Academy.



Visit to the Lowry Theatre

The Year 11 GCSE Drama Group visited the Lowry Theatre last Friday evening to watch a performance of 'A Taste of Honey', one of the plays they are studying as part of their course. The play, written by Shelagh Delaney, is an exhilarating depiction of working-class life in Salford in post-war Britain and has received great reviews. The students attended a workshop at the Lowry prior to the performance to find out a little more about the characters, story line and production and this should be a great help when it comes to completing their coursework assignments.

Carry on climbing!

Students visiting the Manchester Climbing Centre are now half way through their accredited climbing course. Students who complete the course will achieve a formal qualification which will also count towards their GCSE PE practical assessment mark and their final GCSE grade.



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GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 26 school weeks left, just 130 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place on **Thursday 17th October**. Further information will be sent out next week.

Remember to attend as many Open Days and Open Evenings at our local colleges as you can, so that you are really well informed and can make the right choices for your future.

College	Open Days
Tameside College	Monday 30 th September 6.00pm – 8.00pm Saturday 19 th October 10.00am – 2.00pm Monday 18 th November 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Clarendon Sixth Form College	Wednesday 25 th September 6.00pm – 8.00pm Saturday 19 th October 10.00am – 2.00pm Monday 18 th November 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Ashton Sixth Form College	Saturday 28 th September (time to be confirmed) Tuesday 22 nd October (time to be confirmed)
The Manchester College	Thursday 3 rd October (time to be confirmed) Thursday 5 th March (time to be confirmed)
Xavarian College	Saturday 5 th October 10.30am – 2.00pm Sunday 13 th October 10.30am – 2.00pm
Oldham Sixth Form College	Saturday 5 th October (time to be confirmed) Monday 21 st October (time to be confirmed)

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Katelyn Yemm from Year 10 who has been nominated as Student of the Week.

Katelyn has been nominated by the Mathematics Department as she has made a really impressive start to Year 10. As well as working hard in class, she has also completed extra work outside of lesson time to help boost and secure an excellent grade at GCSE. At lunch time she, along with other students, has been helping the department organise a Maths 'Problem of the Day' in the Maths area. She also helped out at Open Evening and is an excellent role model for all the students in the Academy. Well done Katelyn and keep up your wonderful attitude to Academy life.



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'SchoolsGateway'

We are making communication easier, faster and more effective

We are always looking for ways to communicate more effectively with parents and families, as well as reducing our carbon footprint and, after a review of our current home/school communication methods, we have taken the decision to invest in and develop our use of the **SchoolGateway**. This system will improve things significantly by providing a two-way communication system between home and school, a more reliable way to receive correspondence from us and, of course, a convenient way for families to pay for items such as school trips and dinner money.

How does SchoolGateway work?

SchoolGateway works via an app and a website and provides a single point of contact that allows you to receive messages, pay for items including school meals, view information and respond to notifications free of charge. This system will also enable you to see important information about your child at any time either online or on your smartphone using the **SchoolGateway** app.

Through the app you will be able to:

- View your child's lesson timetable
- View achievement, behaviour and attendance information about your child
- Keep up to date with the latest information about your child
- Notify us of any reason for their absence
- Check and update your contact details and those we hold for your child
- View lunch money balances
- Give online consent for activities such as school trips
- Make payments via Instant Bank Transfer, debit or credit card
- Communicate free of charge*

*Downloading the **SchoolGateway** app enables FREE two-way communication between yourself and the school which will assist us in reducing the amount of money we spend each year on text messages.

Setting up a **SchoolGateway** account is quick and simple. Whether you are accessing **SchoolGateway** via the app or through the website, you will be guided through the set-up on your chosen device.

Please remember to allow "Push Notifications" when you install the app so that you get a notice each time we send you a message. Failure to do this will mean that, whilst the message is still delivered, you won't know about it until you open the app.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.droylsdenacademy.com/schoolgateway/157320.html>

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be a visit to the Palace Theatre for Year 8 students on Friday 27th September to watch a performance of 'Horrible Histories'.

HPV vaccinations will be given to Year 8 students in week beginning Monday 30th September.

'Futures Evening' will be held on Thursday 10th October and will give students in Years 9, 10 and 11 the opportunity to start planning for their post 16 provision.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place on **Thursday 17th October**. Further information will be sent out next week.

The Academy will break up for the half-term holiday on Friday 25th October.

JOB VACANCY AT THE ACADEMY

Assistant Caretaker

Pay Scale: Band B, Point 3 – Point 4 (£9.61 - £9.81 per hour)
Contract: Full Year
Hours: 36 hours per week
Closing Date: 16th October 2019 (12.00 noon)
Start Date: As soon as possible

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

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 electronically to:

hr@droylsdenacademy.com

or by post to:

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