

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO THE ACADEMY CALENDAR AND TERM DATES

Please note the following changes to the holiday and term dates for the next academic year, 2020 to 2021, as previously published by Tameside and detailed on school websites. **Schools in Tameside will break up for the Whitsun Half Term Holiday on Friday 28th May 2021, and not on Friday 21st May as previously published, and return on Monday 7th June.** Tameside apologise for this error. Full details of holiday and term dates for the remainder of this academic year, and the academic year 2020 to 2021, can be found later inside this edition of Newsflash.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Under 14 Girls Football

Congratulations to the Under 14 Girls Football Team who competed in a schools tournament at Manchester City last week.



Ruby Johnson Diya Jairath-Fernandez Megan Savage Daisy Wagstaff Rose Taylor
Caitlin Beckett Erin-Leigh Clarke Jennifer Astle Millie-Jo Bayley

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

The team came 3rd overall in their qualifying group meaning that we qualified for the semi-finals where we played Denton Community College. However, despite a 1-1 draw with Denton, we were unfortunately eliminated as Denton had beaten us narrowly in the earlier qualifying rounds.

The semi-final defeat put Droylsden into the 3rd/4th place play-off final where another great performance saw us beat Failsworth and clinch 3rd place overall. Well done to everyone in the squad on a great day's football!

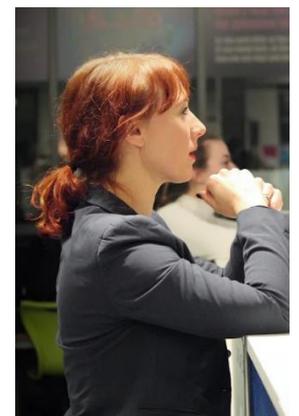
'Ignite' Speech Night

The Academy held its first ever 'Speech Night' last week when students had the opportunity to take part in an evening of 'public speaking'. The students have been following an Oracy programme in English lessons this half term and had prepared speeches on the theme of 'Community, Service and Humanity', a topic that links to and helps reinforce our four character pillars of Leadership, Participation, Service and Learning.

DROYLSDEN
Academy

presents our first ever

IGNITE SPEECH NIGHT



Over the last few weeks students have covered the techniques employed by great orators including the use of key phrases, metaphor and rhetoric. They have also learnt how to engage their audience through the use of timing, eye contact and change in tone and all these skills were clearly evident on the night.

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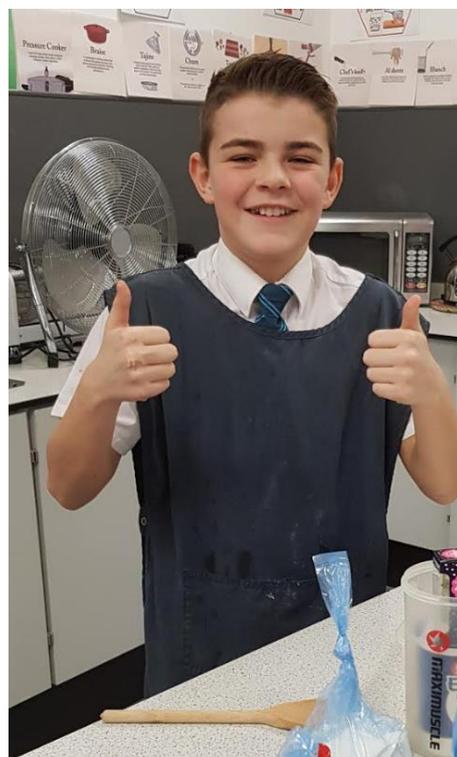
Congratulations to all the students involved and Mrs Jackson, who organised the evening. We are all really proud of you and the progress you have made. You delivered your thought provoking and inspiring messages with confidence and passion.

Cory McBennett Oliver Legg Isabella Heywood Harry Chambers Angelo Moraru Keira Hilton
Bradley Gilbert Violet Hodges-Blackshaw Charlotte Morris Brogan Williams Zhaine Linney
Ellie-Louise Carter Isabel Murphy Neha Nasrullah Rose Taylor Caylan Brenan-Wood



Individual student news and successes

Congratulations to James Whyte on achieving his qualification and accreditation in Food Hygiene and to Alfie Haggerty who was named 'Chef of the Week' after winning the final heat of this year's 'MasterChef' competition.



Alfie made a wonderful dish of Chocolate Brownie with Caramel Sauce which was enjoyed by all of the judges and he will now go straight through to the quarter-final along with Jack Crowther, Jamie Arora, Gift Givens, Rory Hand, Callum Parker, Befe Gudeta and Brogan Williams.

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Last year's 'Bake Off' winner, Harmony McCann, has accepted the invitation to help judge the remaining rounds of this year's MasterChef competition. In the quarter-finals, the competitors have to cook a dish which has either potato or tomato as one of the main ingredients. One to look forward to!

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition...

Our Christmas cakes started off like this....



And ended up like this!



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Leadership Celebration

Members of the Academy Leadership Team meet with students each week in recognition of their achievements, skills, personal qualities or contribution to Academy Life. This week, Mr Mayell had a breakfast of Hot Chocolate and French Pastries with a group of students who have demonstrated outstanding progress and attainment in their lessons.



Eric Bayo-Vergara Tom Cronshaw Ruby Johnson Cameron Murray Menal Aamir Lily McKenna

Droylsden Schools Partnership

Thank you to Mrs Hirst and the Catering Team for preparing a Christmas Meal for Year 5 pupils from our Partner Primary Schools. We hope that they have all enjoyed their visits to the Academy and that Santa will bring everything on their Christmas Present list! The photograph here shows Year 5 from St Marys tucking into their Christmas Dinner.



Thank you also to Reiss Gore, Emmanuel Akubuo and Jessy Lukusa, three of our Sports Leaders, who ran a Basketball Tournament for four of the primary schools in the Droylsden Schools Partnership, St Mary's, Moorside, Greenside and Manchester Road. The students ran two tournaments, one for Year 3 and one for Year 4, with Manchester road winning both of them! Have you considered careers as PE Teachers Reiss, Emmanuel and Jessy?



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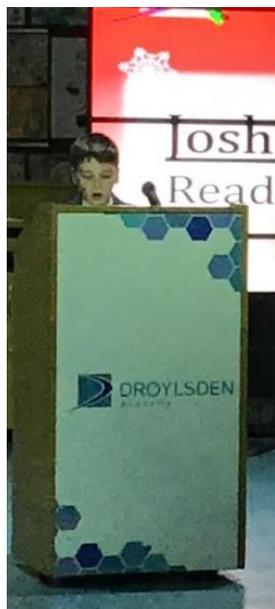
The Academy Christmas Concert

Thank you to all our readers and performers who made this week's Academy Christmas Concert a really special evening which raised around £300 towards Ronald McDonald House, a donation which will be made in memory of Chloe Rowland. The evening opened with a 'Welcome' and a reading by Rosie McCormick and was followed by solo and group vocal, dance and instrumental performances from students across all years.

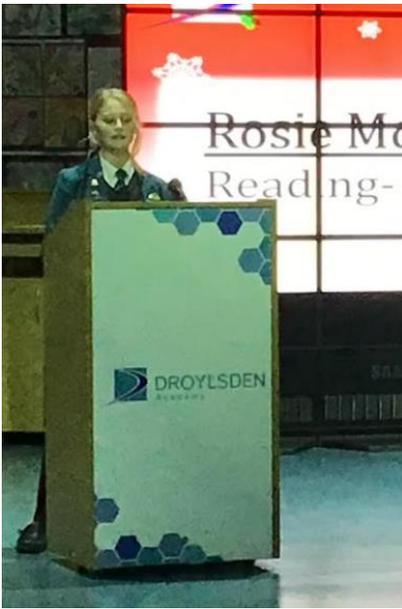
Thank you to everyone who took part but particularly to Rosie McCormick, Isabel Murphy, Noah Edwards, Evan Hughes and Befe Gudeta who read passages from the Bible and to Mia Culpin, Han Yun Yu, Ellie Louise Carter, Sehar Ali, Alfie Haggerty and Xiu Huang for their solo performances. Thank you also to Mrs Burgess and the Performing Arts Department for all their hard work in making the evening such a success.



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Corey Leith from Year 7, Valerie Asamoah, Diya Mistry and Han Yun Yu, all from Year 9, and Deacon Leigh-Darraugh from Year 11 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Corey has been nominated by the Maths Department as he has settled into the Academy really well, has grown in confidence throughout the term and is making terrific progress. Corey is always polite and extremely hardworking and, in addition, he was crowned the joint champion of the 'Times Tables Rockstars' last Friday, an achievement he should be really proud of. Keep up the outstanding work, Corey!

Valeria has also been nominated by the Maths Department. She has been nominated for her continued hard work and resilience and for her fantastic attitude. Valeria is always polite and always has a smile on her face. Similarly, her hard work has really paid off this term and as she recently exceeded expectations on her T1 Assessment. Congratulations Valeria and keep it up!

Deacon has been nominated by the Science Department for consistently meeting and exceeding his target grade in his weekly Science assessments. He has worked really hard this term, he has attended additional after school revision sessions and prepared really thoroughly for the recent Pre-Public Examinations. Well Done Deacon, keep it up, you deserve to do well!

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Finally, congratulations to Han Yun Yu and Diya Mistry who have both been enrolled onto the Academy 'Linguist Roll of Honour' for their achievement in, and contributions to, Languages. Han Yun performed exceptionally in the recent T1 Spanish Assessment and Diya has proved to be an exemplary student on all aspects of her French course. Well done to both students.



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 14 weeks into your final year and there are only 17 school weeks left, just 85 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 Friday. If you are absent, lessons will continue without you and you will miss important work, information and exam preparation.

THE ACADEMY CALENDAR AND HOLIDAY DATES

Following on from the amendment to the published calendar and holiday dates on the front page of this edition of Newsflash, this is a reminder of the Academy Calendar for this and the next academic year.

The current Academic Year (2019 to 2020)

Autumn Term

We will close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 20th December at 12.00pm.

Spring Term

The Academy opens for students on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 14th February and re-open on Monday 24th February.

We close for the Easter Holiday on Friday 3rd April.

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Summer Term

The Academy opens for students on Monday 20th April 2020.

We will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 22nd May and re-open on Monday 1st June.

We close for the Summer Holiday on Thursday 16th July.

The next Academic Year (2020 to 2021)

Autumn Term

The Academy opens for students on Thursday 3rd September 2020.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 23rd October and re-open on Monday 2nd November.

We close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 18th December.

Spring Term

The Academy opens for students on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 12th February and re-open on Monday 22nd February.

We close for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 1st April.

Summer Term

The Academy opens for students on Monday 19th April 2021.

We will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd May.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 28th May and re-open on Monday 7th June.

We close for the Summer Holiday on Monday 19th July.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Attendance Christmas Draw

The Academy Christmas Draw will take place next week!

Have you had 100% attendance and excellent punctuality over the last half term? Will your name be in the hat and will you have a chance of winning one of these great prizes?

1 st Prize	A Mountain Bike and helmet
2 nd Prize	£75 Voucher
3 rd Prize	£50 Voucher



Good luck to all our '100%-ers'!

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Get out your Christmas Jumpers!

A message from Diya Mistry and the School Council.

On Friday 20th December, you have option of wearing a Christmas Jumper to school in return for a donation of £1 to our memorial fund for Chloe Rowland. Please support the day so that we can raise as much money as possible.

Remember, you must still wear your Academy uniform including your blazer.



E-Safety

With the vast array of Social Media Platforms and Apps available, E-Safety can be a huge concern for parents. With this in mind we will be publishing a series of guides which we hope will help you keep your children safe and secure. The fourth guide on 'Friends and Followers' can be found on the back page of this edition.

With Christmas approaching, parents may be thinking of buying a games console or a game for their child. As with any form of technology or online space, adult offenders can use gaming platforms to target children and build relationships with them. Understanding the different elements of gaming, and how they can be used by offenders, can help you keep your child safe. The link here contains some really useful information:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

The following link can also help you in setting up the parental controls for your child's console:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/gaming-consoles-for-children/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The trip to the Lowry to watch a performance of 'The Grinch' will take place on Wednesday 18th December.

The Academy will break up for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 20th December at 12.00pm.

The Academy will re-open for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th January at 8.30am

Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will take place on Thursday 16th January. Further information will be posted home to the parents/carers of Year 9 students next week.

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The whole concept of social media relies upon users having friends and/or followers. 'Friends' tend to be those with whom users will share their own personal profile. It's usually a mutual relationship with both parties able to engage and interact with everything their friends post online. 'Followers' on the other hand can typically be just one-way relationships and, dependent on the platform, only provide access to certain aspects of an individual's profile, such as a person's content feed. A common trait that often exists between the two however is the desire to gather as many friends or followers as possible.



What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'FRIENDS & FOLLOWERS'



POSSIBLE 'FRIEND ENVY'

Children may compare the number of friends or followers that they have with their own online friends and people they know. In some cases, this could lead to 'friend envy', particularly if they see this as a sign of popularity. This could lead to your child showing signs of jealousy and resorting to sending friend requests to people they don't know that well, or even strangers, in a desperate bid to increase their own status online.



OPEN DOOR POLICY

Another way that children can increase their following is by leaving their accounts open so that they can be easily found, and anybody can view their posts. This is in the hope that other users will like their posts and decide to follow them, therefore increasing their numbers. Once again, this can leave your child vulnerable to being followed by strangers or people who have dishonest intentions.



FEELINGS OF REJECTION

Just like increasing friends and followers can bring a sense of happiness and satisfaction, so the loss of friends and followers can cause children to suffer feelings of sadness and rejection. Depending on how invested your child is in their social media activities, this could influence their attitude and behaviour offline and potentially have a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing.



COLLECTING 'FAKE' FRIENDS

Children who feel under pressure to increase their friend count or want to increase their following as quickly as possible can be vulnerable to collecting 'fake' friends. They may, for example, accept friend requests from people they don't know very well or from complete strangers, inadvertently leaving themselves open to online bullies, trolls or even the possibility of being groomed.



CONSTANT NEED TO PLEASE

As children start to gain more friends or an increasing number of followers, they might start to feel an added level of pressure to provide them with more interesting and likeable content. Almost as if they now have an audience waiting, this constant need to please may be an extra burden that pushes your child into oversharing personal information or posting material that is inappropriate or offensive, inaccurately portraying what they're actually like in the offline world.

Safety Tips For Parents

BE THEIR FRIEND OR FOLLOWER

The best way to know who your child is friends with online or who follows them is to be their friend or follower yourself. This will allow you to see who your child is engaging with most online or open up discussions about how they know certain people they've added to their network who you haven't heard them speak about before or you yourself don't know.

TURN ON PRIVACY CONTROLS

All social media platforms have their own privacy controls which can be used to help protect children online. For instance, removing the ability for strangers to comment on public posts or having a screening process for friend or follow requests is good practice which can help to ensure your child's experience online is a safer one.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

If privacy measures have been put in place, then usually your child will receive a notification if somebody tries to befriend them online. Talk to your child about making sure they don't open up their personal life to people they don't know and that if they are ever in any doubt, they should never accept a friend request from a stranger.

BEHAVE ONLINE AS THEY WOULD OFFLINE

Your child's behaviour online should always be treated as an extension of their behaviour offline. Discuss with your child the pitfalls of trying to be somebody they're not and that trying to please everybody will only make them unhappy. Tell them that they should be proud of who they are and that they should always behave in an appropriate and responsible way when posting content online.



TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE VALUE OF REAL FRIENDSHIP

Social media can often distort what true relationships and friendships should actually be like. It's important to teach your child the value of true friendships and that meeting and speaking to people face to face in the real world, offline, is often a better way to build a more trusting and confident relationship with someone rather than just speaking to them online.



DISCUSS WHAT BEING POPULAR ACTUALLY IS

A higher number of followers can be a measure of popularity but can also lack substance beyond just the number itself. Discuss with your child that popularity can come and go and that a large number of followers doesn't necessarily mean a large number of friends, particularly online where the real value in a relationship cannot be accurately determined.



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