

## Droylsden Academy is a good school

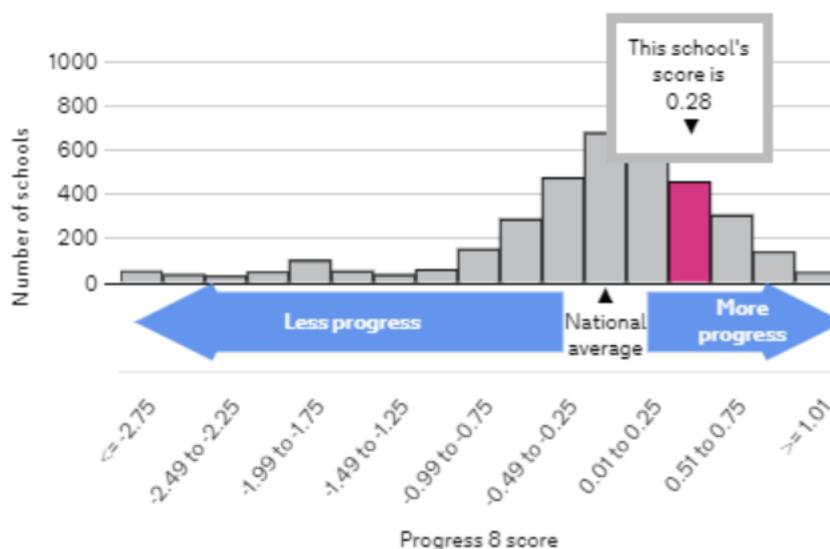
### IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

#### Provisional Academy Performance Data for 2022

We are pleased to report that, following the release of the provisional GCSE Performance Data by the Department For Education, Droylsden Academy was ranked joint second in Tameside when compared to other High Schools and Academies against the key indicator of overall progress. Our progress score of +0.28 also placed Droylsden as the joint highest performing co-educational or mixed school in the Borough.

A school's progress score measures the progress that students actually make against the progress they were expected to make when they started at that school in Year 7. A positive or '+' score means that students have made more progress than expected and a negative or '-' score means that students have made less progress than expected. A score of +0.5 means that students have achieved, on average, half a grade higher in each subject than they were expected to and a score of -0.5 means that students have achieved, on average, half a grade lower in each subject

The Academy progress score of +0.28 means that our students achieved, on average, around a third of a grade higher in each subject than they were expected to. This is a significant achievement which builds on the success of 2019, the last time that students sat national examinations. It is also significantly higher than the average Tameside progress score of -0.22 and the average national progress score of -0.03. The following graph is taken from the DFE Website.



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## Tame River Educational Trust Maths Battle Update

Regular Newsflash readers may remember the article in Edition 7 about the first TRET Maths Battle between Year 8 teams from Droylsden Academy and Mossley Hollins. There were a few 'Jacks' competing on both teams, which led to a bit of confusion, but the actual winner of the 'Head to Head' was **Jack Morgan** from Droylsden Academy!



Well done to all the 'Jacks', and to all the other students who took part, and congratulations to the winning team, pictured here, of **Jack Morgan, Charlie Morgan** and **Thomas Bradbury**.



## History Club

The History Club meets every Wednesday and gives students the opportunity to research and present their findings on countries, time periods or events not normally covered in the school curriculum. Each week, the guest presenter will give a ten-minute presentation on their particular topic of interest and then, along with Mrs McCallum, lead a short discussion and 'Q & A' session with other members of the group.

Last half-term, **Rayah Norris** gave a presentation on Egyptian Mythology, **Taali Allikmaa** on Freida Kahlo, the Mexican painter, and **Eden Rutter** on the gruesome topic of serial killers! Mrs McCallum would like to thank all three students for their contribution and commented that she has also learnt a lot herself through running the club!

If any other students are interested in attending the History Club, then you will be very welcome to join the group each Wednesday lunchtime in M15!



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# 7R 'WONDERWALL'

## Choir of the Year!

Congratulations to 7R who have been crowned as Droylsden Academy Choir of the Year with their rendition of 'Wonderwall'. The Form can be seen performing their song below and then enjoying their 'Rewards Breakfast' in recognition of their success. Well done 7R!



## And the winner is.....

Congratulations to **Ikram Gudeta** who won the draw for a £50 Amazon Gift Card having attended Futures Evening which was held before the half-term break. Ikram's name was entered into the draw having had a 'meaningful encounter' with LTE, the Social Enterprise group who provide integrated education and skills training opportunities and who were represented on the evening.



Ikram had attended Futures Evening both in her role as a Prefect and as an event attendee and we cannot think of a worthier winner! Her name was randomly drawn out of the hat by **Brogan Williams** as witnessed by those students present in the Library.

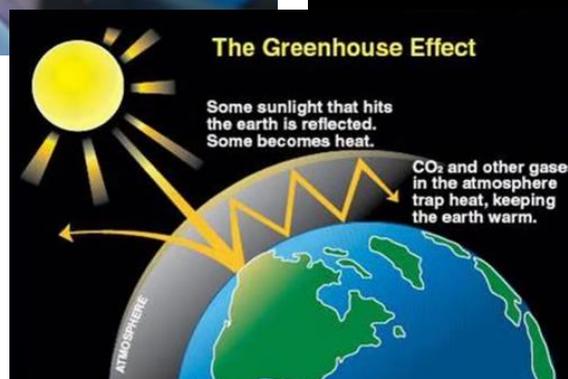


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## Amazing Homework!

Congratulations to Liam Tomkinson from Year 9 for producing a wonderful piece of Geography homework on climate change. Mrs Banks, Liam's Geography teacher, commented that she was delighted with the enthusiasm, commitment, effort and creativity that he has shown in researching and presenting such a fantastic piece of informative reporting. You can see Liam's report through the link below:

<https://youtu.be/IjplfqRZnQ>



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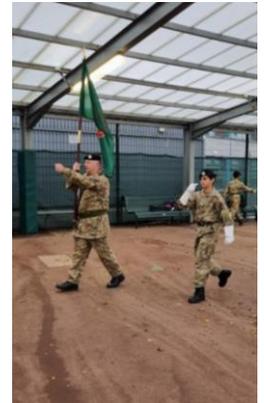
## Outdoor Education

This week, students following the Outdoor Education Pathway, as part of the Academy Electives Programme, studied the school grounds to find out how we can support and nurture the local wildlife. Having now audited what is in place, the group will put forward a number of proposals as to how we can become more 'wildlife friendly' and increase the biodiversity of the Academy site. The students will then be getting their hands dirty as they put their plans and proposals into action!



## The Combined Cadet Force

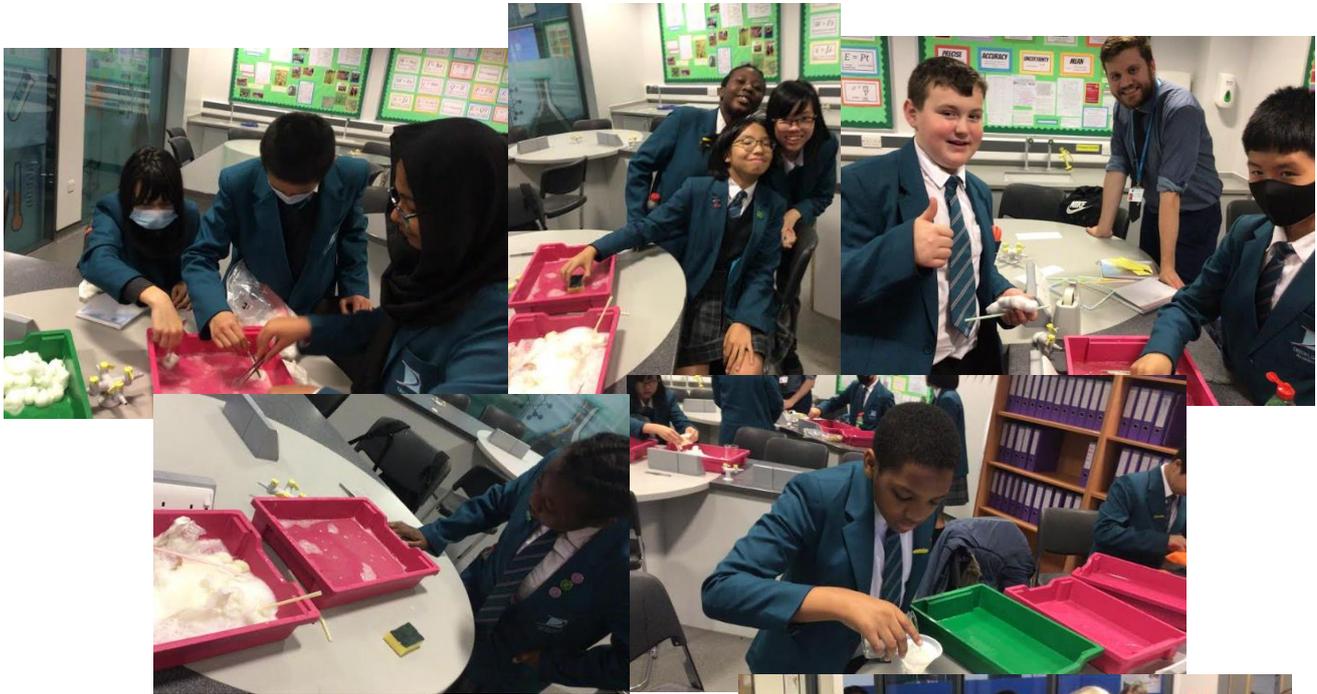
With Remembrance Day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, the CCF are preparing for their Remembrance Parade. Thank you to the senior '2 Troop' for instructing and helping '1 Troop' as they learnt and practised drill including how to march, halt and stand at attention. 2 Troop demonstrated really good leadership skills and 1 Troop are making good progress. The Contingent will soon be embarking on an NCO training programme where our Cadets will have the opportunity to develop and gain recognition for a range of skills including leadership, co-operation and teamwork.



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## Meanwhile in Science....

In STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), students have been investigating how best to disperse oil from water in the event of a spillage at sea...

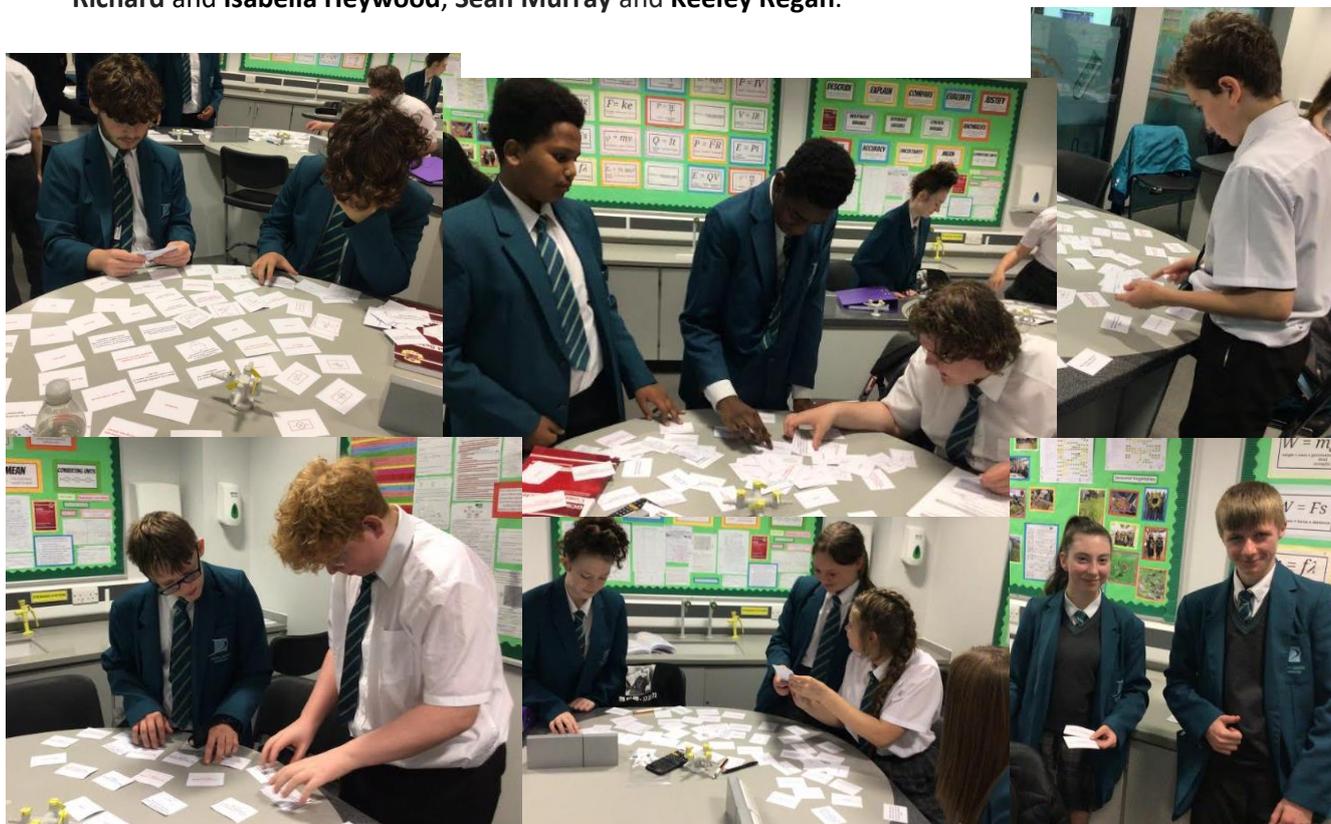


...whilst at Einstein Club, students have been wowed by methane bubbles and collapsing cans!



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Meanwhile, Year 10 have been revising for their forthcoming assessment on electricity by matching up as many questions to the correct answers as possible. Congratulations to the two winning teams made up of **Kloe Evison, Ellie Senior, Kaitlan Postill-Townsend, Desaray De Pauw** and **Success Brat Richard and Isabella Heywood, Sean Murray and Keeley Regan**.



...and Year 11 have been learning how to test for and identify unknown gases as part of the topic on Chemical Analysis. The test for hydrogen gas is called the 'squeaky pop' test, so called as there is a 'squeaky pop' sound when a lit splint is immersed in the gas. The lesson is always popular with students and in a competition to see who could make the most 'squeaky pops' from one boiling tube of hydrogen, **Favour Otabor** was the winner with 7, followed by **Demi Metcalf** and **Stephanie Owusu** with 5!



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### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kyle Shaw, Harry Hoban, Charlie Greenhough, Toni Walsh, Lyla Hafford and Ruby-Jess Taylor** who have all made an encouraging start to Year 11, showing a renewed application and effort across their different subjects. Ms Mezzone met with the group for a Rewards Lunch this week and really enjoyed speaking to them all about their interests and future ambitions. She was also impressed with their politeness and maturity. Well done Kyle, Harry, Charlie, Toni, Lyla and Ruby-Jess, we are sure that your hard work and positive start to the year will be reflected in your GCSE grades next summer.



### Food and Nutrition

Year 8 students studying Food and Nutrition made a start on their Celebration Cakes this week! This is a three-week project in which they will make their fruit cake and marzipan and then ice and decorate their finished product. There are lots of skills to master and, if previous years are anything to go by, there will be lots of creative flair and lots of fun! Photographs to follow in three weeks!



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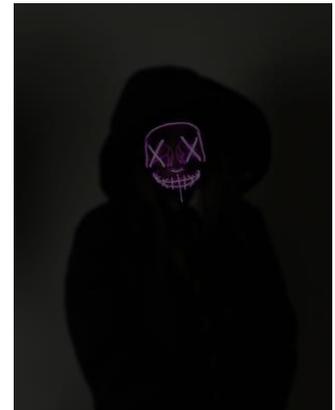
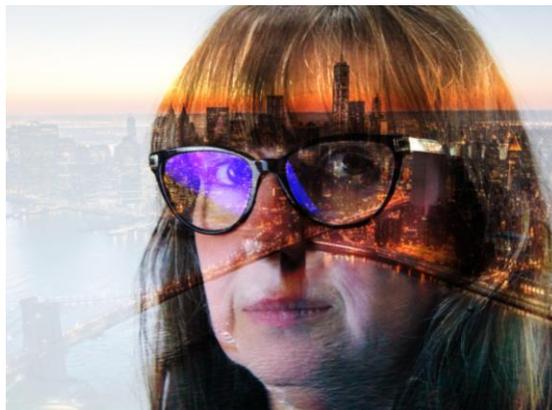


## Wear Red Day

Thank you to staff and students who participated in the nationally celebrated 'Wear Red Day', on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October, as we joined together to show racism the red card. The day was a great success and so far, we have raised £332! There are some staff and students who are still to hand in their £1 donation but don't worry it's not too late and Miss Worsley will be delighted to receive your contribution! As a school, we are looking forward to celebrating this important day again next year.

## Photography

Thank you to **Katie Siddall** and **Alex Hume** from Year 11 and **Ellie-Louise Carter** and **Alfie Weir** from Year 10, for submitting the following edits from their GCSE Photography Portfolios.



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Daniel Bilewicz** and **Thomas Howard** from Year 7, **Keith Evans** from Year 8, **Alina Lozan** from Year 9 and **Teegan Jones-Harrison** from Year 10 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.

Daniel and Thomas have both been nominated as Philosopher of the Week by Miss Worsley as they always produce fantastic pieces of homework which exceed her expectations. Miss Worsley is really proud of you both and would like to thank you for your hard work!

Keith has been nominated by the Science Department as he has been working really hard in lessons over the last few weeks and has contributed some brilliant answers in class. He was also very

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helpful during the practical session on Wednesday in making sure that all of the equipment was handed out and put away correctly. Thank you, Keith!



Alina has been nominated by the Maths Department as she always works quietly and studiously in lessons and completes her work to a good standard. She is also top of the 'Sparx' leader board for her homework points too and regularly completes extra independent learning tasks.

Teegan has also been nominated by the Maths Department as Mrs Egan has been really impressed with her effort and hard work in class. Teegan always gets involved in the lesson, contributes and completes all her classwork and goes above and beyond when completing her homework. Mrs Egan often uses Teegan's work as an example of good practice and is delighted with her commitment and positive attitude to the subject. Well done Teegan!

## GCSE COUNTDOWN

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

### Key Dates

Your first set of Pre-Public Examinations will take place from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Your second set of Pre-Public Examinations will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February.

A second Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

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As detailed above, your Pre-Public Examinations start on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November and it is essential that you prepare and revise thoroughly for them. Your Pre-Public Examination timetable can be found below:

Date	Session	Exam
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	am	English Language
	pm	Business Studies
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	am	Maths Paper 1
	pm	Geography
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	am	Triple Science: Physics Combined Science: Physics Paper 1 Design and Technology Music
	pm	-
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	am	Maths Paper 2 Digital information Technology Drama
	pm	-
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	am	Maths Paper 3
	pm	Computer Science
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	am	History French (Listening and Reading) Foundation and Higher
	pm	Spanish (Listening and Reading) Foundation and Higher
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	am	Triple Science: Chemistry Combined Science: Biology Paper 2 Spanish (Writing) Foundation and Higher French (Writing) Foundation and Higher
	pm	Religious Studies
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	am	Art
	pm	Art
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	am	English Literature Photography
	pm	GCSE PE



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## NEWS FROM THE CATERING TEAM

Our Hot Meals Menu runs on a 3 week cycle. Next week will be the Menu for Week 3 which can be found below:

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Meat Option</b>	Chicken Curry & Rice	Sausage Casserole & Potatoes	Roast Dinner & Trimmings	Mac & Cheese	Beefburger in a Bun & Chips
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Veggie Chilli & Rice	Cheese Whirl, Potatoes & Beans	Veggie Roast Dinner	Veggie Lasagne & Sweetcorn	Veggie Sausage & Chips
<b>Lighter Bites</b>	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling

We also have a 'Grab & Go' Menu. The Menu for next week is:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Indian Style Flatbread	Crispy Chicken on a Bun	Fishburger on a Bun	Pizza Sub	Giant Sausage Roll

Finally, we also have a Menu for the meals we serve from the Pod. The Menu for next week is:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Sweet & Sour Chicken & Rice	Pasta & Meatballs	Cheese & Onion Pasty & Beans	Jerk Chicken, Rice & Peas	BBQ Chicken, Rice & Peas

As you may be aware, the Catering Team have prepared a guest dish each week throughout October to help celebrate Black History Month. The dish served in the week before half term was Moroccan Chicken, a spicy and savoury, sweet and flavourful dish with a thick sauce!



The dish was suggested by **Favour Otabor** who can be seen with the team in the photo here. Thank you for your suggestion Favour, we are sure everyone enjoyed it.

That's all for this week and we look forward to feeding you next week!



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Online Safety

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING  
**18**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

### LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

### REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

### BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

### RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

### ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.



## Tameside Toy Appeal

**Tameside Toy Appeal 2022**

We need new toys/gifts suitable for children and young people aged 0-18 years  
e.g. books, gloves, hats, pyjamas, scarves, slippers, socks.



**Tameside Toy Appeal 2022**

Making a difference in your community this Christmas.



**We are a drop off point for donations and are proud to support Tameside Toy Appeal 2022.**

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING?



**TAME RIVER**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
TEACHING & CURRICULUM  
INSTITUTE



If so, why not 'Train to Teach' with us here at **The Tame River Teaching & Curriculum Institute** through School Direct in partnership with the everyonelearning@ Hawthorns Kingfisher , Tame River Teaching and Curriculum Institute.

We are currently recruiting for **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Geography, History, Maths, PE with Ebacc, Art, RE, Computer Science and MFL.**

School Direct allows Trusts and schools to request training places directly, select the ITE (Initial Teacher Education) provider of teacher training they want to work with and agree the content and focus of the training, in line with national standards for teachers.

Our new Trust, Tame River Educational Trust, plays host to training and placements in very strong schools (Mossley Hollins High School, Ofsted Outstanding, and Droylsden Academy, Ofsted Good) and we are working in partnership with other schools in Tameside. Bursaries are available!

For further information please contact [e.duggan@tret.org.uk](mailto:e.duggan@tret.org.uk)

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options>

Apply here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training> Course Provider Code 2A1

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