

Droylsden Academy is a good school

A MESSAGE FROM MR DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE TAME RIVER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Stunning 2022 academic success at Droylsden Academy and in the Tame River Educational Trust



Overall Progress and Subject Performance

On the back of an excellent Ofsted Inspection Report in September, news has just come in this week from Ofsted's national Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) on the performance of Droylsden Academy and it makes for terrific reading. The overall academic progress made by our students, taught by our teachers, has been described as "Significantly Above the National" in the national Summary Report. This success was also achieved by our students, taught by our teachers, in English, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Science, Humanities and in the subjects which contribute to what is called 'The Open Element' - in the Arts & Sports, Food, Technology, Art and ICT. This is a really strong all-round student and school performance.

Our partner school in the Tame River Educational Trust, Mossley Hollins High School, also achieved remarkable success in 2022, as its academic performance was also reported to be "Significantly Above the National".

Performance of Students who started at Our School with Low Prior Attainment from Primary School

We are particularly pleased to report that students who arrived with us in Year 7 from primary school with low attainment, made progress over their five years with us that was 'Significantly Above the National' and in the highest 20% of such students across the country. They did very well across the full range of the subjects they studied. It is important that all our students do well but particularly important that students with fewer prior advantages benefit from our teaching and learning. The students, their parents and their carers should be enormously proud of them and the teachers who taught them.

Attendance 2021* and Attendance of the Current Year 11 in 2022

** the report has a time lag on national reporting for attendance*

It is also very pleasing to report, as we learned to live with Covid-19, that the school's attendance figures were in the top 20% of the country in 2021 when compared to schools with similar contexts

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and persistent absence (students absent for 10% or more in the year) was amongst the very lowest in the country in that year when compared to schools with similar contexts. This was fabulous news and means that a high percentage of DA students, in relation to similar students nationally, moved on to Level 3 (A Level or Equivalent, Post-16 Study). It is this strong attendance to school and focus in class that makes all the difference. Each one of the 'numbers' reported in the ISDR nationally is a real student with a real opportunity for a better life. Thank you to our families and to our outstanding Attendance Team.

However, we are very concerned with the attendance of a small number of students in the current Year 11 and a minority of students in other year groups. We are very clear that such absence will affect student well-being, academic progress and future life-chances. Any Year 11 students who miss their current Pre-Public Examinations will be required to sit them on their return so their teachers can adapt the provision to support them. We need the active and positive support of parents to ensure they work constructively with the school to make that happen.

We know you will wish to join us as we send our appreciation to our students, their families, their carers and our staff for such a wonderful achievement. The core purpose of any school is teaching and learning and when we all focus on this primary purpose it is clear we all do very well together, as one strong and supportive community. Our staff and young people need that on-going active and constructive support if they are to continue to do well. This is your academy. This is our academy. Congratulations to our students and staff.

Mr Drew Duncan

Chief Executive, Tame River Educational Trust

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Another busy week in the Science Department!

Students attending Einstein Club have been investigating acids, alkalis and neutralisation this week! The group mixed acids and alkalis together and used universal indicator to observe the colour changes as the pH changed from acid or alkali to neutral. The group also had some fun testing for hydrogen by listening for the characteristic 'squeaky pop' when a lit splint was immersed in the gas.



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Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been investigating the conservation of matter during the formation of Magnesium Oxide which they made by heating Magnesium in a crucible.



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Textiles Club

Thank you to all the students who have been involved in making the 'Technology Advent Calendar' at the co-curricular Textiles Club, we are sure everyone will agree that it looks great!

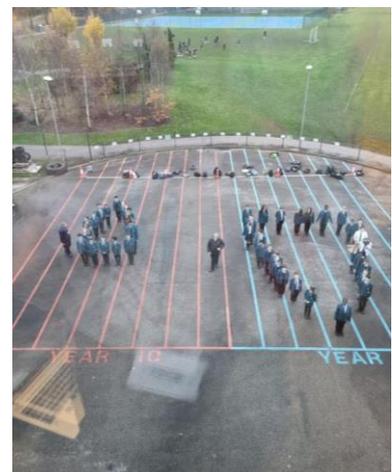
The Technology staff are in the process of putting prizes in every pocket which will be awarded to a 'Star Technologist' each day in recognition of their hard work!



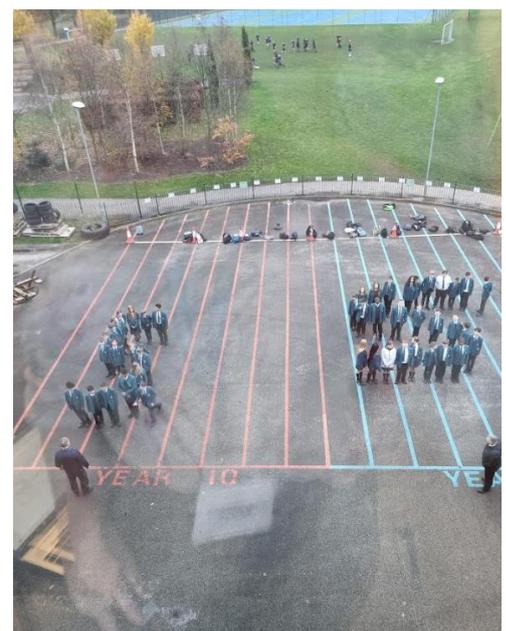
Outdoor Education

This week, students studying the Outdoor Education Elective had to complete the 'Birds Eye View' challenge and create shapes, letters or objects which could be read or recognised from above!

This activity required the students to work together in a much bigger group than usual, which proved to be an issue initially, but Mr Goodier and Major Webb commented that the natural leaders soon came to the fore and got all the team members into shape (literally!). Not only was the exercise a lot of fun, but the group are also really starting to understand the importance of leadership and team work in completing tasks and challenges. As the saying goes, there really is 'no I in team'.



Mrs McCallum was up on the third floor taking the photographs here. Can you recognise the shapes or letters in each one?



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This week's brightest **sparx**

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **David Zhen, Ebony Banks-Gannon, Hafiz Bowale-Sadiq, Priscilla Anyangbeso** and **Maddison Briggs** who are this week's brightest Sparx having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website. Photos of David, Ebony, Hafiz and Priscilla can be seen below.

Year 7	David Zhen	2,259 XP
Year 8	Ebony Banks-Gannon	1,511 XP
Year 9	Hafiz Bowale-Sadiq	11,067 XP
Year 10	Priscilla Anyangbeso	892 XP
Year 11	Maddison Briggs	4,779 XP



As parents and carers will be aware, Sparx is an online Maths resource which students can log onto at any time to practice and reinforce or develop their understanding of a topic, revise and complete homework tasks. Students are awarded 'XP Points' every time they attempt a question and evidence clearly shows that regular use of Sparx boosts a child's GCSE Grade. Parents and Carers can receive Sparx updates for their child by email and we hope that they will encourage their child to use this brilliant resource regularly at home.

The Student Council

Thank you to **Pippa Mansell** from Year 10 for the following report from this week's meeting.

In Tuesday's meeting we discussed a number of different topics including a Student Council Motto, 'Double Door' duty and the Rewards Ambassadors.

The students at the meeting wanted to come up with a motto that represents the Student Council and describes what it does. We had some brilliant suggestions from different year groups. When the final decision is made, the motto will go up on our Student Council Noticeboard which should be set up in school soon. This board will have updated information on it that all students can check regularly and read through.

From the Student Voice Google Response Forms we received back, we found out that some students have raised concerns over the 'Double Door' duties, a system where Prefects hold the corridor doors open at lesson change-over to help student movement around the building. Whilst everyone agreed that the duty was important, it did lead to Prefects being late for lessons if other students didn't help

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out too. Members of the Student Council will ask the Head of Years to remind students about the protocols of 'Double Door' duty and the importance of holding the doors open if they are near the classroom that they are waiting to go into. All of this information will be given to the students in their assemblies.

The final point we considered at the meeting was the Rewards System. Many students have already volunteered to become Rewards Ambassadors and we will look at ways of improving our current system.

Pippa Mansell (Year 10)

The Combined Cadet Force

Following on from last week's Parade where Cadets learnt about 'Bandages and Bleeds', 2 Troop continued to work towards their First Aid Badge by learning about CPR, how a Defibrillator works and how to prevent a casualty from choking. As well as learning these new skills, 2 Troop also re-visited topics they had covered over the last few weeks including primary survey and the recovery position.

The group should complete this important part of their training soon and the Cadets can then be tested, accredited and awarded their First Aid Badge. Good luck!



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Year 7 Settling-in Evening

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended last week's Year 7 Settling-in Evening, we hope that meeting your child's Tutor was useful and informative.

We were pleased that, of the 130 parents who filled in an Academy questionnaire during the evening:

- 99% of them agreed that their child was happy at school;
- 99% felt that their child feels safe at school;
- 99% felt that the school ensures student behaviour is good;
- 91% agreed that the Academy made them aware of what their child would be learning throughout the year;
- 100% agreed that the Academy had high expectations of their child;
- 100% felt that their child was doing well;
- 96% agreed that the Academy lets them know how their child is doing;
- 99% felt that there was a good range of subjects for their child to study;
- 98% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities;
- 98% felt that the Academy supports their child's wider personal development; and
- 100% would recommend the Academy to another parent.



Photography

Thank you to **Saffron Hall** from Year 10 for submitting this edit from her GCSE Photography Portfolio.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Daniel Bilewicz** from Year 7, **Brendle Yak** from Year 10 and **Marley George** from Year 11 on their nomination as Student of the Week.



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Daniel has been nominated by the Maths Department as he is very enthusiastic and hardworking member of the class who clearly enjoys the subject. Daniel is always amongst the first in the group to complete his sparx homework and then spends time in the Maths Open Zone after school completing some independent learning. Well done Daniel and keep up the good work!

Brendle has been nominated by the Science Department as he is really working very hard at remembering his key facts and completing his homework and, as a result, has now exceeded his target grade in 3 of his bi-weekly assessments. Keep up the brilliant work Brendle, Miss Patel is really proud of you!

Marley has been nominated by the English Department as he has made good progress on the Language and Literature courses over Key Stage 4. This has been particularly notable in his work this year in Literature this year where he has demonstrated a sound understanding of Macbeth and produced some good pieces of creative writing. Well done Marley and keep it up, your hard work will pay off in the summer!

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 18 school weeks left, just 90 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Key Dates

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

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

You will be receiving the results of your Pre-Public Exams over the next two weeks. Whilst we hope and expect that many of you will be very pleased with your results, there will, inevitably, be some who are disappointed. The main purpose of the Pre-Public Exams is to prepare you for your final GCSE examinations next summer, to find out what you know and understand and to identify areas that you still need to work at. The Pre-Public Exams will also have shown some of you that there are no short cuts and that the only way to guarantee success is through hard work and thorough preparation. The important thing for all of you is that you learn from the experience and any mistakes you may have made and give yourself the best possible opportunity to succeed next summer.



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College applications

Remember, you must submit any college applications by the appropriate deadline.

College/Education Provider	Application Deadline
Ashton Sixth Form	Friday 16 th December 2022
Clarendon College	Rolling deadline: will close when the courses are full
Connell Co-op College	Tuesday 31 st January 2023
Laurus Ryecroft Sixth Form	Friday 2 nd December 2022
Loreto College	Friday 13 th January 2023
Tameside College	Rolling deadline - will close when the courses are full
Xaverian College	Friday 13 th January 2023
Oldham Sixth Form	Friday 2 nd December 2022
The Manchester College	Rolling deadline: will close when the courses are full

If your chosen college or provider is not listed above then it is really important that you check their website and submit your application on time.

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Footloose



The Academy Production will be performed over three nights on 25th, 26th and 27th January. Tickets are now on sale at Student Services priced at £4 for adults and £3 for concessions with free places for children under 5.

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Our Charity Appeals



Please join in with our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16th December and make a donation to the House Charities the we are supporting.

Oakfield	Reuben's Retreat	https://www.reubensretreat.org/
Saxon	Mustard Tree	https://mustardtree.org.uk/
Albion	The Anthony Seddon Fund	https://tasfund.org.uk/
Victoria	When you wish upon a Star	https://www.whenyowishuponastar.org.uk/

Mustard Tree Donation

Over the next three weeks we are going to be supporting Mustard Tree with their 'Winter Wish List'. Please look at the poster here, produced by **Evie Quinlan**, for ideas and suggestions as to what you can bring in and donate. As this is a House event, all students who get involved with this will receive House Points in recognition of their support for this worthwhile charity.

Mustard Tree Winter Wishlist!

We need you!

It is nearly Christmas and people are struggling to provide for themselves or their family. So, this year we are supporting the charity 'Mustard Tree' and are in need of your donations.

Mustard Tree are looking for a number of things, but even one small donation from you could make the biggest impact on someone's life. They are in need of: tinned items, mince pies, UHT milk, kitchenware, tea bags, coffee, sugar, Pot Noodles, savoury snacks, gluten free and dairy free items. They would also really appreciate any old, unwanted Christmas decorations and/or warm clothes.

Deadline for donations is Wednesday 14th December. For any more information, please contact Miss Worsley.

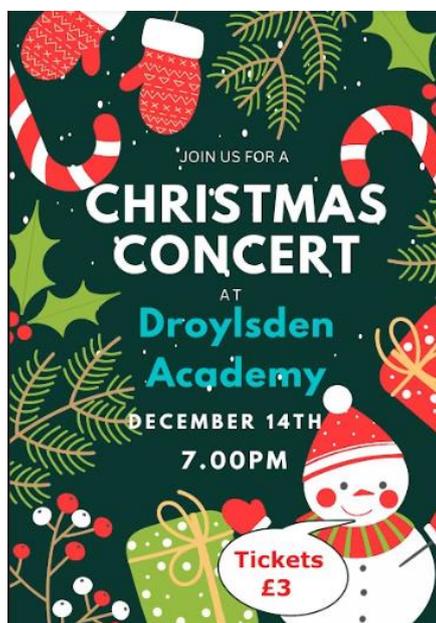
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The Academy Christmas Concert

Don't forget this year's Christmas Concert which takes place on Wednesday 14th December.

Tickets are on sale at Student Services, priced at £3 each.

It would be lovely to see you there!



Lost Property

We have a large pile of lost property at Student Services so if your child has lost a coat, bag or their PE Kit, then tell them to check whether it has been handed in or not. Unfortunately, we do not have room to store all of the lost property and anything which has not been claimed by the end of term will be donated to a charity shop or a charitable organisation.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 11 Recognition Evening for the 'Class of 22' will be held on Thursday 8th December.

The Academy Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 14th December.

The Academy Christmas Carol Concert will be held on the evening of Wednesday 14th December.

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Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.

RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.

UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'

PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.

RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).

ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.

DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.

PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming IDs. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.

REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.

DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.

TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.

Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthral young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

❤️ 73

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound plings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53202505>

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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

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

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

JOB VACANCY AT MOSSLEY HOLLINS HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Tutor Level 3 (Literacy+)

Pay Scale: Grade E, Point 11-16 (Actual starting salary of £19,354 at Point 11)

Hours: 34 hours per week (term time only)

Contract: Permanent

Closing Date: Monday 5th November 2022 – 12 noon

Start Date: As soon as possible

Further details are available on the school website at www.mossleyhollins.com

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