

Droylsden Academy is a good school

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TEACHER INDUSTRIAL ACTION

As you are probably aware, one union, the National Education Union, is taking industrial action in schools in England and Wales on **Wednesday 1st February, Tuesday 28th February** (in the North West of England) and on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March**.

All schools have been issued guidance from the Department of Education for the strike days and we will be following that guidance. Depending on which union they belong to, some teachers may be on strike and some teachers will not be on strike. Non-teaching staff are not on strike.

In next week's Newsflash, we will be able to provide you with more details of what educational service the school will be able to provide on the first strike day of Wednesday 1st February. However, the information below provides an outline for students, parents and carers. Please note, these outline plans are subject to change at short-notice as schools do not always know which teachers are in the NEU and which of them are taking strike action on a particular day.

Latest Outline Plans for Wednesday 1st February:

1. On this day there is a real **Year 11 BtEC Digital IT Examination** for 12 students which is the only externally assessed part of the course and is of critical importance to our students. **This examination will run as normal**, therefore students sitting this examination will be in school for their examination;
2. There is a **Year 11 Food and Nutrition Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)** taking place for 10 students. **This assessment will run as normal** as it is of critical importance to those students and they will be in school all day.
3. Year 11 students have their second set of Pre-Public Examinations which start on Monday 6th February (3 school days after the first strike day) and so we will do everything we can on the day to help them with their preparations. **Focussed revision work will be set for Year 11 students so they can work from home and prepare for the forthcoming exams**. It is essential that students complete all the work that is set.
4. **All Year 7 students will be in school** as this will help with their learning and provide the parents and carers of our youngest students with a high level of re-assurance;
5. **Students from all year groups whom we consider would be 'vulnerable'** by missing school **and children of 'critical workers'** (where we have advance knowledge of this) **will be in school**. More details will follow next week;
6. **Details will follow in next week's Newsflash for Years 8, 9 and 10:** At this point in time we are not able to finalise plans for these Year Groups (they may or may not be in school) but

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we will be able to give you much more detail, when we know more ourselves. If students are not in school, we will provide on-line learning which they will be expected to complete;

7. **The Year 11 PPE Revision Evening**, which was scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 1st February, **will be cancelled**.

Thank you for your understanding in what is a fast-moving situation. Please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any questions or concerns.

Have a relaxing weekend,

Mr Wilson
Headteacher

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

An Inspector Calls

A huge thank you to the English Department for rehearsing and producing their own performance of 'An Inspector Calls', the play that Year 11 are studying for their GCSE English Literature Course, to help our students prepare for their summer exam. This novel and innovative way of teaching the text and supporting our students in their understanding of the characters and the plots and sub-plots was engaging, extremely enjoyable and very effective. Thank you!



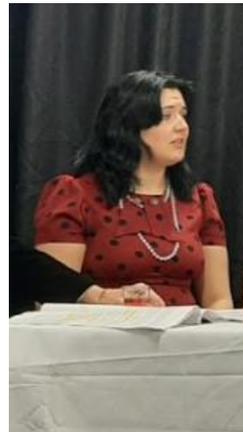
Cast:

Inspector Goole	Mr Mayell
Mr Arthur Birling	Mrs Fernandez
Mrs Sybil Birling	Mrs Jackson
Miss Sheila Birling	Miss Fitzpatrick
Mr Eric Birling	Mr Clays-Jones
Mr Gerald Croft	Mr Palmer
Edna the Parlour Maid	Miss Hudson

Director	Miss Mezzone
Stage Manager	Miss Hudson



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Volleyball

Thank you to everyone who attended last week's Volleyball Festival, over 60 of you in total, the PE Department hope that you enjoyed the evening! Thank you, in particular, to **Madhi Kareme** who encouraged five of her friends to come along with her and to our trainee Sports Leaders **Oliver Newsam, Ben Robson, Marshall Fleet, Damola Oseni, Rose Taylor, Rachel King, Neveah Smith and Aimee Butler** who helped to run the event.



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Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition, Year 10 students demonstrated real skill and technique in preparing their own fresh 'Pasta and Pesto'!



The Combined Cadet Force

This week 2 Troop put their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test in completing a command task where they had to move a set of tyres from one station to another. It was not as easy as it may sound and the Cadets had to follow a strict set of rules and 'do's and don'ts' and move the tyres in a set sequence, nothing is ever easy! We are pleased to report that there were no major disagreements and the Cadets demonstrated the ability to listen carefully, think through and solve the problem and then put their agreed solution into practice! As usual, the challenge involved a lot of fun and a lot of laughter! Let's see what the next command tasks holds!

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This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Cate Roberts, Taylor Wood, Kiki Akingbogun, Georgia Morris** and **Kiera Walker** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

This week's brightest sparx

Year 7	Cate Roberts	1,546 XP
Year 8	Taylor Wood	2,697 XP
Year 9	Kiki Akingbogun	5,050 XP
Year 10	Georgia Morris	1,177 XP
Year 11	Kiera Walker	8,928 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.

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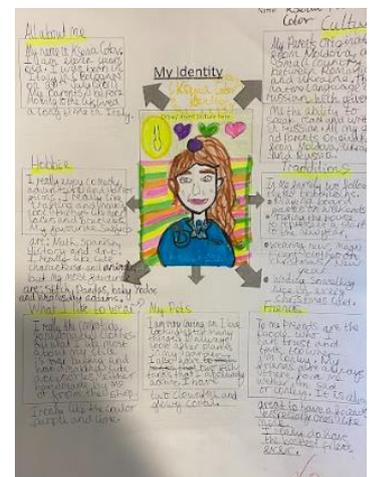
Outdoor Adventure

This week, students following the Outdoor Adventure pathway of the Academy Electives Programme have been discussing and creating their own campfire games! The students were given a list of possible resources (including playing cards, a water bottle and a rope!) and had to come up with their own ideas of games that they could play after a long day trekking through the countryside. As well as coming up with their own ideas, including 'The Card Loop', 'Capture the Cards', 'Tic Tac Toe', 'Magic', 'Duck Duck Goose' and 'Get the Water Bottle', the group also enjoyed playing 'River Bank' a game that Mr Goodier taught them, with the competition ending in an honourable draw!



Amazing Homework!

Well done to **Ksenia Cotov** for an amazing piece of homework which Mr Clays-Jones, her English teacher, has submitted to Newsflash. The class were asked to produce a 'Mind Map' about their identity including the things that are important to them. Ksenia's completed piece of work was a superb example of effort, hard work and great presentation! Great work, Ksenia, keep it up!



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Our Anti-Bullying Campaign

Thank you to all of the students who have trained as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and who are involved in the Academy Anti-Bullying Strategy. This week, eight of our Ambassadors met for a working lunch to discuss the key priorities for 2023. There were many excellent ideas to help minimise and reduce bullying as well as to support those who may be the victim of some unacceptable or unpleasant behaviour.

Mollie Clarke
Faith Aghahowa Ebogen
Taylor Wood
Neveah Smith
Mille Haggerty
Lottie Hayes
Katie Cosgrove
Jayden Dewsbury



Young Enterprise

A group of Year 10 GCSE Business Students are forming their own company through the 'Young Enterprise' scheme! This week, they met up with their Business Advisor, Rachel Lee, who currently works as an Analyst for KPMG. They also had their first meeting with the Educational Partnerships Manager from Young Enterprise via an online video call. The session was a productive one and allowed the group to ask vital questions and give them a starting point. The group will now brainstorm business ideas and a brand image before moving forward. Good luck!

Oscar Williams Doe Ncha
Ruby Miller
Samuel Owusu
Yan Bassirou Samb Gueye
Brogan Williams



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Chloe Gibson** from Year 7, **Talli Allikmaa** and **Niall Weatherbed** from Year 8 and **Layton Williamson** from Year 10 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Chloe has been nominated by the Science Department as she has had a fantastic week in class! Her contributions to class discussions have been excellent, especially when describing the importance of pollinators, bees and butterflies in particular, to fertilization and seed formation in the reproductive cycle of flowering plants. Well done Chloe, you are a confident and enthusiastic student and an asset to the class!

Taali has been nominated by the English Department as she has demonstrated some excellent reading and performing skills during our 'Romeo and Juliet' lessons! Alongside this, she is consistently working hard and making excellent progress. Well done and thank you Taali!

Niall has been nominated by the Science Department as he is an enthusiastic member of the class who always contributes to class discussions through asking intelligent questions or volunteering his views or answers to questions. He has also completed some excellent practical work this week and routinely models our values of hard work, politeness and honesty.

Layton has been nominated by the English Department as he is such a diligent and enthusiastic student. He is also such a generous classmate and will always help and support others, as well as making excellent progress himself. Thank you, Layton, you are a great example and role model for others!

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AND NEXT WEEK, WE WILL BE SERVING.....

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

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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:

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

Have a nice weekend and we look forward to feeding you next week!



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 14 school weeks left, just 70 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

There are no short cuts or easy routes to exam success. Those of you who commit to your studies, work hard and prepare thoroughly will do well; those of you who don't will not. Take control of your future now.



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We would like to wish all the cast and crew of 'Footloose' the very best of luck for next week's performances on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening. We are sure you are going to be amazing!

DROYLSDEN ACADEMY
PRESENTS

Footloose

YOUTH EDITION

Stage Adaptation by
DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE

Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford
Music by TOM SNOW Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD
Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR,
KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN



25th-27th January, 2023
7pm (doors open from 6:40pm)
Tickets available from Student Services

Adult tickets £4
Concessions £3
Under 5s watch for free



TWITTER

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur, Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There will be performances of the Academy Production 'Footloose' on the evenings of Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January.

The Parent Teacher Evening for parents and carers of students in Year 8 will take place on Thursday 2nd February. Further information will be sent home to parents and carers over the next week.

Year 7 students will attend workshops on the dangers of knife crime during week beginning Monday 6th February.

The Academy will break up for the Half term Holiday on Friday 17th February.

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

<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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