

Droylsden Academy is a good school

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TEACHER INDUSTRIAL ACTION

As you will be aware from the media, and the information posted in last week's Newsflash, the National Education Union is taking industrial action in schools in England and Wales on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** (in the North West of England) and on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.

Following on from the information you have already received, I would now like to confirm the arrangements for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

- 1. Year 11 students taking the BtEC Digital IT Examination and the Food and Nutrition GCSE Practical Assessment should attend as normal.** These exams and assessments are critically important assessed parts of the course and it is crucial that students attend. Year 11 students not involved in these assessments will work from home (see below);
- 2. All Year 7 students will be in school** as normal as this will help with their learning and provide the parents and carers of our youngest students with a high level of re-assurance.
- 3. Most students in Years 8 to 11 will work from home** on Wednesday (see below).
- 4. Some students from Year 8 to 11 whom we consider would be 'vulnerable'** by missing school will be invited to attend as normal. Parents and Carers of these students will be contacted directly by our pastoral team. Please do not send your child in unless you have been contacted by the school. We may have capacity to accommodate some children of 'critical' workers on this day, but places will be very limited. Parents and Carers who are 'critical' or 'key' workers should contact the school if they would like their child to attend school on the day. To request a place for your child, please contact the school reception. Again, please do not send your child into the building unless you have a place for your child confirmed by the school.
- 5. Focused revision work will be set for those Year 11 students working at home so that they can prepare for their forthcoming Pre-Public Examinations which start the following week on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February.** It is essential that Year 11 students complete all the work that is set.
- 6. Similarly, online learning will be set for students from other year groups who are working at home** and, again, this work must be completed.

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Meals will be provided at lunchtime as normal for those students attending school. If your child will be at home on the day, and is eligible for a free school meal, then they can collect a packed lunch from school. This can be collected from school on Wednesday morning. Mr Wakefield has emailed all eligible families to ask them if they wish to order a packed lunch. A packed lunch will only be prepared and left for collection if parents/carers have replied to the email and ordered one.

Details will be sent in advance outlining the arrangements for the remaining national/regional strike days scheduled on Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.

Thank you for your understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any questions or concerns.

Mr P Wilson  
Headteacher

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

### The Grand 'MasterChef' Final

Congratulations to **Nassim Rivoire** from Year 7 who was crowned the new Droylsden Academy MasterChef Champion 2023 at last week's final held at the prestigious Tameside One Restaurant in Ashton. Congratulations also go to **Bethany Mwocha** and **Tyler Wolstencroft**, this year's runners up, who, along with Nassim, had successfully reached the final having won through the earlier qualifying rounds held at school.

The final was judged by professionals from within the catering trade who were very impressed by the quality of the dishes prepared by all three competitors. After a lot of deliberation, Nassim was finally crowned winner, having prepared and served up a delicious meal of Lemon, Olive and Herb Chicken with Paprika Chips and a dessert of Chocolate Brownie. The event was also covered by the local media and the three finalists are now stars of both the press and radio!



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## Technology

Year 9 students are coming to the end of their Lamp Project and Mr Jones has been delighted with the creativity and level of technical skill shown by the group. The students have now reached the assembly stage of the project and have worked hard to complete a high-quality product which they will now critically evaluate. Well done Year 9!



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## Attendance Award

We were delighted to receive an award for student attendance this week with the announcement that the Academy was in the top 25% of similar school nationally for attendance rates over the Autumn term. Clearly, regular attendance is absolutely crucial to student progress and achievement and Mr Wilson would like to thank staff and parents and carers and, in particular, the Attendance Team for encouraging and ensuring students arrive every day, on time and ready to learn.



## This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Dmarrio Callaghan, Katie-Louise Cosgrove, Macella Mares, Georgia Morris** and **Jack Albinson** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

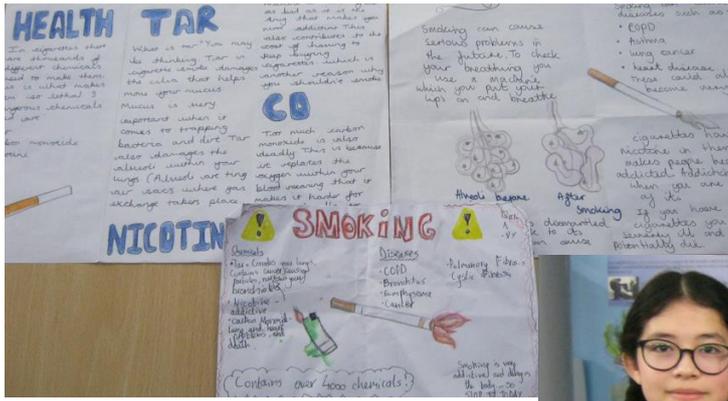
## This week's brightest sparx

Year 7	Dmarrio Callaghan	1,508 XP
Year 8	Katie-Louise Cosgrove	1,279 XP
Year 9	Macella Mares	9,147 XP
Year 10	Georgia Morris	1,420 XP
Year 11	Jack Albinson	15,540 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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**Make Smoking History!**

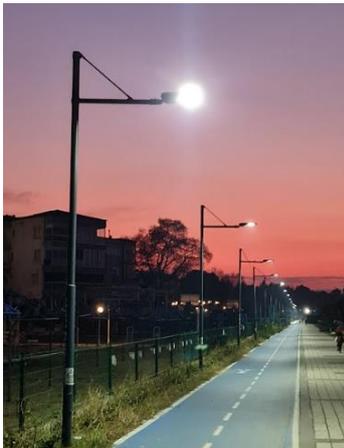
Well done to **Isabella Stanley, Taali Allikmaa** and **Ruby Golborn** on producing well researched, informative and eye-catching anti-smoking posters for their homework.



Miss Barrett-Chapman, their Science teacher, was impressed with the level of detail included and wanted to acknowledge their hard work in Newsflash.

**Photography**

Thank you to **Islam Alkhatib, Rocco Colebourne** and **Chris Wright** for submitting the following photos and edits from their GCSE Portfolios.



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## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Harrison Hutton** from Year 8 and **Tida Badjie Sane**, **Daisy Phethean** and **Laura Herscovici**, all from Year 9, on their nominations as Student of the Week.

Harrison has been nominated by the Science Department for his excellent contribution in lessons this week. Not only has he been incredibly helpful in taking on roles of responsibility around the classroom, but he has also volunteered some great answers in class discussions. A really good week Harrison, well done!



Tida has been nominated by the Maths Department as she always works hard and will always ask for help if she needs it. She also asks intelligent and considered questions that help her understand the work and make good progress. In addition, Tida is a polite and positive student, a real asset to the class!

Daisy has been nominated by the English Department for her consistent hard work and engagement in lessons. Daisy has created some truly innovative pieces of work this year, including a drama-sketch-style presentation and a remarkable sonnet about her drum kit which can be found below! A sonnet is a 14-line poem with a complex rhyming and metrical structure, which Daisy accomplished superbly, a real achievement. Daisy loves playing the drums and was photographed practising on the school kit!

### **The Difficulty of Loving Inanimate Objects**

Both my eyes lock with its black leather seat,  
Like a sip of cold water in the strong heat.  
I think about them all day, every day,  
Remembering how great it feels to play.  
But then I realise, to make a beat,  
I must hit them, kick them, with my own feet.  
I wish there was a way to explain my love,  
Of all the words, one is just not enough.  
But still it speaks to me in different ways,  
In rhythms and sounds words can't explain.  
The better I get, the better that they sound,  
The more I play, the more that I have found.  
That this is your true meaning and your purpose:  
The best at intros, choruses and verses.



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Finally, Laura Herscovici has been nominated by Ms Hickman, her Photography teacher, for the wonderful photographs of the Academy she took during the recent cold and frosty weather. Ms Hickman was delighted with Laura's work and has submitted the following photographs for submission in this week's Newsflash.



## GCSE COUNTDOWN

**Year 11, there are only 13 school weeks left, just 65 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.**

Your second set of Pre-Public Examinations start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February and it is essential that you revise and prepare thoroughly for them. Every time you read through your notes, a little more 'sticks' with you, you consolidate on your learning and you reinforce your understanding; the time you spend is never wasted. Your Pre-Public Examination timetable can be found below:

Date	Session	Exam
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 1)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 1) Health and Social Care External BTEC Exam
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 2)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 2)
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 3) DIT External BTEC Exam
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 3)
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 4)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 4)

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Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Any remaining students )
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Any remaining students)
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Maths Paper 1
	pm	Business Studies
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	English Language
	pm	Geography
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Triple Science: Biology Paper 1 Combined Science: Biology Paper 1
	pm	Spanish (Listening & Reading) Foundation and Higher French (Listening & Reading) Foundation and Higher
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Maths Paper 2
	pm	Spanish (Writing) Foundation and Higher French (Writing) Foundation and Higher
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Drama Art
	pm	Art
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	History
	pm	Design & Technology Music
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	English Literature Health & Social Care
	pm	Religious Studies
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Triple Science: Chemistry Paper 2 Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 2
	pm	Geography Paper 2
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Maths Paper 3
	pm	Photography GCSE PE (Practical)
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	am	Computer Science
	pm	GCSE PE (Written)



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## NEWS FROM THE CATERING TEAM

The Hot Meals Menu runs on a 3 week cycle. Next week will be the Menu for Week 1.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Salmon Fishcakes, Potatoes & Peas	Sausage, Mash, Peas or Beans	Roast Beef Dinner	Meatballs, Potatoes & Veg	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Mixed Pepper Pasta Bake	Chickpea Curry & Rice	Veggie Roast Dinner	Frittata, Potatoes & Veg	Veggie Mince Pie, Chips & Peas
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
Fish Fingers on a Bun	Giant Hotdog	A large slice of Pizza	Spicy Beef in a Wrap	Pepperoni & Cheese Quesadilla

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
Chicken, Rice & Curry Sauce	BBQ Pasta Bake	Chilli Beef Pin Wheel & Salad	Mac & Cheese	Fried Chicken, Chips & Corn

The Catering team look forward to feeding you next week!



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### Tameside Family Hubs

Tameside are creating a new brand for their Family Hubs and are keen to get the views from school communities on two design options to help them choose the most appropriate one.

Family Hubs will be opening in Tameside in April and will bring existing family-help services together to improve access and connections between families, professionals, services, and providers. Tameside want the branding to be friendly and welcoming and to engage families.

Tameside would really appreciate your help in choosing the brand by completing the survey which can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FamilyHubsBrandingSurvey>

The survey will only take a couple of minutes to complete and is live until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

Thank you!

### The Community Pantry



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# 12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

## WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

### 1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

### 2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

### 3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

### 4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version – by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

### 5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

### 6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' – such as your birthplace or a pet's name – in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

### 7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

### 12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency – even if they appear to come from someone you know.

### 11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates – so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

### 10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure – criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

### 9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com) (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack – or simply as motivation to review your account security.

### 8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun – so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

## Cleaner

**Pay Scale:** Grade A, Point 1-2 (Actual starting salary £7,034)  
**Contract:** Permanent, Full Year  
**Hours:** 12.5 Hours per week  
**Closing Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023  
**Start Date:** As soon as possible

We are looking for a reliable, hardworking and dedicated Cleaner who will help to maintain a high standard of cleanliness around the Academy as well as ensuring the safety of the school environment. Interested applicants should complete a Droylsden Academy Application Form and Equal Opportunities Application Form available at

<https://www.tret.org.uk/vacancies/droylsden-academy-vacancies/>

Completed applications should be emailed to [hr@droylsdenacademy.com](mailto:hr@droylsdenacademy.com) or posted to Human Resources Department, Droylsden Academy, Manor Road, Droylsden, Manchester, M43 6QD.

### 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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