

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

West Side Story

As Newsflash goes to print, the second live performance of this year's Academy production 'West Side Story' will take place tonight, Thursday, with the final performance tomorrow, Friday. The production is sold out on each evening and, wow, what a show! A full report will appear in next week's Newsflash!



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Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition, Year 10 students have been making their own pasta and then preparing tortellini with a ricotta filling and a pesto and parmesan dressing. Top quality Year 10, maybe you should open an Italian Restaurant!



The 'Big Birdwatch'

As part of this year's 'Big Birdwatch', organised through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Academy STEM Club visited Daisy Nook Country Park this week to carry out their own research and see which species they could spot.

Last year, across the UK, over half a million people took part in the annual Birdwatch, counting over 9 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but their numbers were down by 57% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. This latest national survey will, again, give the RSPB valuable data on the health of the UK bird population.



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This week's brightest **sparx**

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Rick Wong**, **Jake Gavan**, **Lottie Hayes**, **Isabella Sinclair** and **Jai Rui Fang** who were the brightest Sparx for last week, having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

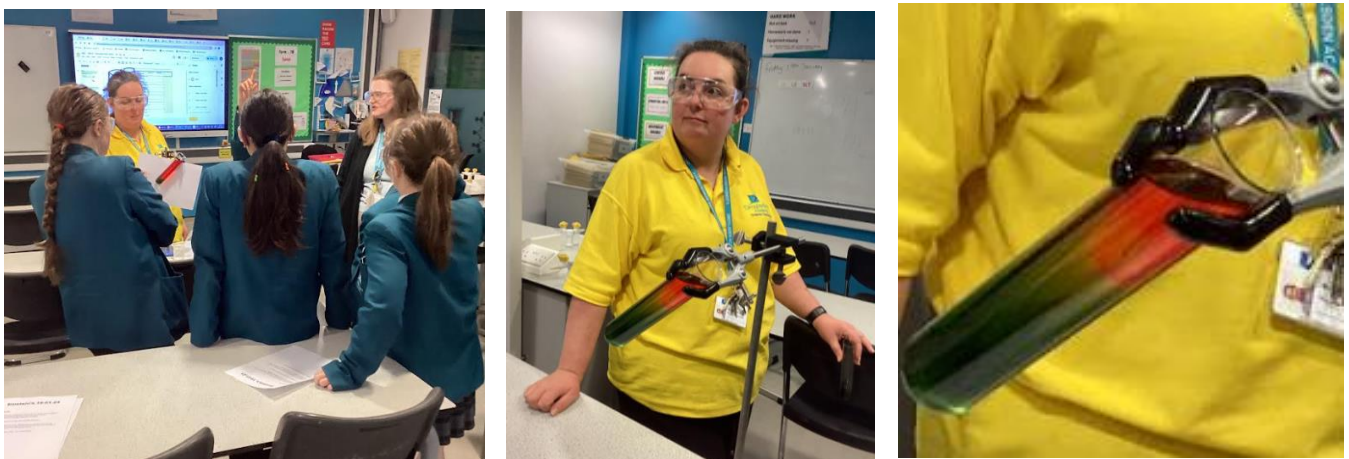
Year 7	Ka Chun Rick Wong	28,070 XP
Year 8	Jake Gavan	2,160 XP
Year 9	Lottie Hayes	6,840 XP
Year 10	Isabella Sinclair	2,694 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,163 XP



As Parents and Carers will be aware, Sparx is an online Maths resource which students can log onto at any time to practise 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.

Einstein Club

Students investigated acids, alkalis and indicators at this week's Einstein Club and created some lovely colourful patterns including a 'rainbow fizz!' The group started off by adding universal indicator to an acid and then slowly added an alkali. As the pH changed from an acid to neutral to alkali, so did the colour of their solution with the universal indicator creating their very own rainbow fizz!



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Droylsden Dance Academy

Congratulations to our Dance Academy who have been selected to perform their choreographed piece 'Our Way' at U.Dance's regional Dance Festival which will take place at the Lowry in March! U.Dance is a national festival that celebrates Youth Dance across the UK, with each region hosting a weekend of workshops, led by industry professionals, dance activities and an evening performance to showcase the talent from that area. Groups from each regional event are then selected to represent their region on a national platform.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the Droylsden Dance Academy and is testament to, and reward for, their hard work and commitment to our club. Good luck to everyone involved, we are really proud of your achievements!

Droylsden Academy will be performing at the Lowry on March 9th. Tickets will be available soon and can be purchased through the Lowry website.



Co-Headteachers' Rewards Dinner

Whilst this week's Year 8 attendees were too shy to be photographed, we would still like to acknowledge and congratulate them on their achievements!

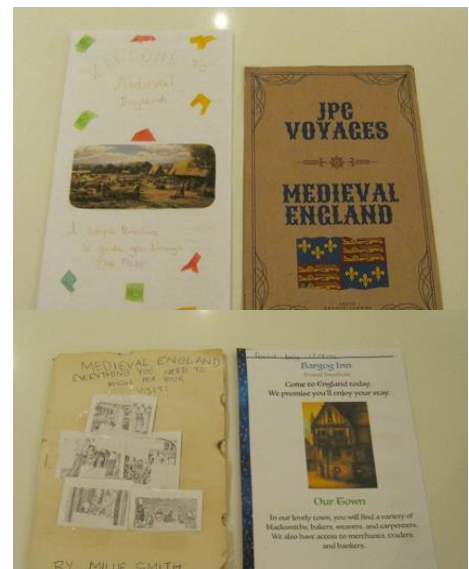


Congratulations to **Darcey Jennings, Thierno Barry, Mylee Dunbar, Blake Howell, Kyrah Pinnock, David Oprea, William Haughton** and **Harry Rowan** on the progress they have made this term.

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History Homework!

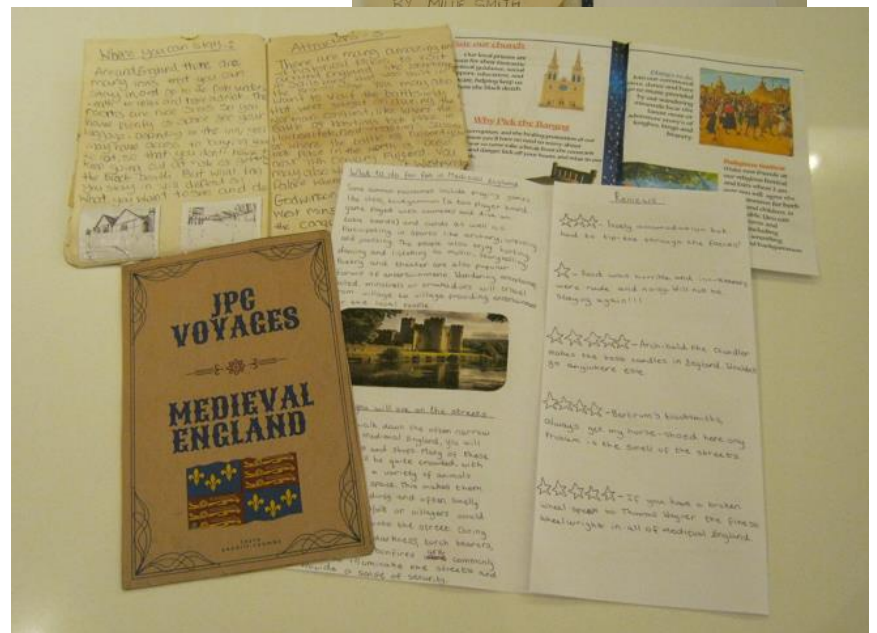
Year 7 students have been learning about life in Medieval England and were asked to produce a travel guide advocating a stay in a village or town of their choice! There were some wonderfully creative, amusing and historically detailed submissions and well done, in particular, to **Jayce Pennill-Coombs, Daniel Kelly, Millie Smith** and **Amy Sinacola** for their travel guides which Miss Naylor has selected as fantastic examples for Newsflash.



Poem of the Week

This week we have another poem by Lemn Sissay.

*Rise, rise from your bed
There are dreams in the air
Harvest light for days ahead
And shine it everywhere*



And our Poet of the Week!

And this week, we have our very own Poet of the Week too, **Emmie Parker** from Year 7, who has penned this wonderful poem entitled 'Music'!

*'Firstly, start with a bowl of styles,
Sprinkle in some Rock and a pinch of Pop then stir until it looks like 'thunderbolts
and lightning, very, very frightening',
Then slice some notes and mix,
After that, add some guitars, and bake some pianos,
Tip: Try not to drop it on the floor, otherwise you might be upset and your parents will say 'Now then
mardy bum'.
To make sure this doesn't happen, add in some chopped up drums and fry some trumpets and flutes,
Don't forget to add some talented musicians,
Then boil up some lyrics,
That's how you get a good song, that you can show your friends!'*



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Amanda Chukwuma** from Year 7 and **Alfie McGhee** and **Priscilla Anyangbeso** from Year 11 on their nominations as Student of the Week.



Amanda has been nominated by the Maths Department as she is working exceptionally hard and always has a smile on her face! Amanda is also making excellent progress and her work is always of a consistently high standard. You are a pleasure to have in the classroom Amanda!

Alfie has been nominated by the English Department as he is working incredibly hard for his Pre-Public Examinations. Alfie always asks for detailed feedback, listens carefully and then acts on the advice and guidance he has been given. Mrs Shareef, Alfie's English teacher, also commented that it has been wonderful watching him mature into the polite young gentleman that he is today. Keep working hard Alfie, you are building yourself a great foundation for success!

Priscilla has been nominated by the Science Department as she has made a really good start on her preparation and revision for her final examinations. All students are given revision packs to complete and Priscilla has already completed her first one and is working hard to remember all the key information and practise all the skills she will need. Miss Sandiford, Priscilla's Science teacher, is delighted with the progress she has made and has high expectations of GCSE success.

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 29th January 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.



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Your Pre-Public Examination timetable can be found below:

Date	Session	Exam
Mon 29 th Jan	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 1) Photography
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 1) Business Studies
Tue 30 th Jan	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 2)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 2)
Wed 31 st Jan	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 3)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 3)
Thurs 1 st Feb	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 4)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Group 4) Photography
Fri 2 nd Feb	am	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Any remaining students)
	pm	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam (Any remaining students)
Mon 5 th Feb	am	Maths Paper 1 Photography
	pm	French (Listening and Reading)
Tues 6 th Feb	am	English Language GCSE Practical
	pm	Spanish (Listening and Reading)
Weds 7 th Feb	am	Triple Science: Biology Combined Science: Chemistry
	pm	Geography Paper 1
Thurs 8 th Feb	am	Art
	pm	Art
Fri 9 th Feb	am	Maths Paper 2
	pm	Statistics Paper 1 Drama (Written Paper)
Half Term Holiday		
Mon 19 th Feb	am	History
	pm	Religious Studies
Tues 20 th Feb	am	English Literature Music
	pm	Geography Paper 2
Weds 21 st Feb	am	Combined Science: Biology
	pm	Design and Technology Further Maths
Thurs 22 nd Feb	am	Maths Paper 3
	pm	Statistics Paper 2 GCSE PE (Written)
Fri 23 rd Feb	am	Computer Science

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NEWS FROM THE CATERING TEAM

Next week, the Catering Team will be serving...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Tandoori Chicken & Rice	Beef Lasagne, Veg or Salad	Roast Dinner	Mince Beef & Onion & Mash	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Cheese Omlette & D'phinoise Pots	Veggie Sausage & Pasta Bake	Veggie Roast Dinner	Chick Pea Curry & Rice	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
BBQ Pasta Bake	Chicken Curry & Rice	Spicy Chilli Beef with Wedges	Pasta Arrabiata	Fried Chicken, Chips & Corn

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chickenburger on a Bun	Giant Hotdog	A Hot Panini	A Large Slice of Pizza	Cheese & Onion Pasta

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Measles and MMR Jab

As many of you will have seen recently in the news, there is a national concern about the uptake of the MMR jab and the risk that this presents a serious measles outbreak. Intra Health are currently offering a catch-up programme for the vaccine, but unfortunately, the take up at present is low across Tameside. Parents and carers are encouraged to take up the offer from Intra Health or contact their local GP to ensure that the serious long-term health risks of measles are mitigated. 1 in 5 people with measles will need hospital treatment and 9 in 10 unvaccinated children will catch measles if someone in their class has it.

Tameside Health have also advised that adults should check their own immunisation status, as it is known that there are a number of adults (particularly those aged 18 – 35) who may be missing one or more doses and therefore will be vulnerable to infection. If you are unsure, you can check your records via the NHS App or by speaking to your GP Practice.

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It is never too late to get the MMR vaccination – children and adults alike can get it via their GP Practice if they are missing a does or doses.

Online Safety

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself – and your valuable personal info – safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.



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NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosy around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

ONLY USE AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

REMOVE TEMPTATION

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

TALK TO A TRUSTED ADULT

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos, listening to music or calling someone can all help to pass the time while we're on the bus, waiting in a queue or walking down the street. It's important to remain mindful of other people, though; they might not want to hear your tunes or your conversation. Likewise, if you're calling from a public place then don't forget that anyone could overhear something personal about you.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings – or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos; this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

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Breaking up for Easter

Please note that we will be breaking up for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 28th March at the earlier time of 12.00 noon. We will be breaking up for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 9th February at the usual time of 2.35pm or, for Year 11 students, 3.35pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parent Teacher Evening for Parents and Carers of students in Year 8 will be held on Thursday 1st February.

The Academy will break up for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 9th 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 Good, 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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