

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

West Side Story

We are sure that everyone who was lucky enough to attend one of last week's performances of 'West Side Story' will agree that it was a brilliant, fantastic stunning and superb show; we have run out of superlatives! There were amazing performances from the whole cast, from those students playing the lead roles to those in the supporting 'ensemble', and we hope that they all enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed watching them. Thank you to all the students who provided technical and 'backroom' support too, the show would not have happened without you!



Thank you also to all the staff who have supported the production, but especially to Miss Burgess, Miss Shorrock and Miss Twigg for the time, commitment and energy they have put into the production and for the stress they have endured throughout the rehearsals! You really have done a fantastic job in giving our students such an amazing platform to showcase their talents and in giving them an experience that they will remember forever.



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TEAM JET		TEAM SHARK	
TONY	Evie Quinlan	MARIA	Mia Pearce
RIFF	Isaac Short	BERNARDO	Ruben Mistry
DIESEL	Ben Lees	ANITA	Izzy Sinclair
A-RAB	Lucas Turnbull	CHINO	Jacob Dennerly
BABY JOHN	Cate Roberts	PEPE	Lacie Nevins
ACTION	Jesse Eastham	INDIO	Sam Bratt
BIG DEAL	Daisy Phethean	CONSUELA	Olivia Deakin
SNOWBOY	Anna Nwanze	ROSALITA	Leyla Francis
ANYBODYS	Neveah Smith	FRANSISCA	Hannah Phillips
MOUTHPIECE	Holly Taylor	FRANCISCO	Rayah Norris
TIGER	Olivia Dennerley	ANXIOUS	Isabella Edwards
VELMA	Alyssa Evans	NIBBLES	Stephanie Sarcargo
GRAZIELLA	Ollie Mansell		
MINNIE	Taali Allikmaa		
PAULINE	Lexie Norris	DANCE CAPTAIN	Lily-Mae Nicholls
SHRANK Thomas Hankinson DOC Amy Lea GLADHAND Zac Devlin OFFICER KRUKPE Charlie Ricketts			
ENSEMBLE		ENSEMBLE	
Amber Carney, Jamie Ellis, Olivia Cunningham Clarke, Charlotte Travers, Megan Evans, Neesee Ama Jamera, Thomas Harrington, Sophia Faherty, Dottie Siddall and Macey Ellison		Jessica Clarke, Sophie Dean, Chloe Glover, Emilia Raynes, Kara Lea, Caitlyn Shaw, Geraldine Morton, Layla Ellison, Riley Brown, Faridat Salami, Layla Sharkey and Rubie Lillie Clark	



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Thank you too, to our very talented Technical Team who provided support with sound and lighting, the construction of the set and with the back stage set changes at each performance.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Liam Tomkinson, Sam Askew, Charlie Boardman, Oliver Phillipson, Lois Smith, Ruby Woods, Jia Yu He, Jia Kang He, Hafiz Sadiq, Jacob Bennett, Jack Nash, Rosie Sawyer, Brogan Williams and Jacob Woolstencroft



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Finally, thank you to all the Year 7 students who have been involved with the production throughout the year, through their Performing Arts Elective, either designing and making the set or props, helping out backstage or performing in the chorus.

Summer Atkinson, Mariam Balde, Daisy Benson, Brooke Bolton, Skyla Canty, Alfie Carter, Megan Carter, Lillie Clarke, Caitlin Connor-Lowe, Lucy Deakin-Dickenson, Evie Derrig, Paula Egharevba, Abigail Esayas, Sonia Galateanu, Daisy Gorst, Jennifer Hoang, Esther Igbudu, Dara Jimo, Amy Kealy, Freya Marr, Mylie McCarthy, Lucy Murphy, Jessica Nelson, Faith Nicholls, Sophia Nicholson, Isabelle O'Neill, Amareece Odigie, Scarlet Owens, Eden Phillips, Lilly Pollitt, Riley Preece, Robyn Ricketts, Lacie Rogers, Hayley Rusikie, Anabelle Savery, Cherish Uwuigbe, Eva Walklett, Marley Wild, Ruby Young, Lamar Albajouri, Savannah Barker, Tyler Barker, Alfie Boardman, Kayul Bryan, Amy Buckley, Holly Chadwick, Catherine Cowell, Louise Cowell, Ruby-Mae Cowley, Jacob Earith, Billie Fox, Eva Fredolin, Daisy-Mae Gorst, Sophia Guan, Evie Higham, Summer Holbrook-Thane, Samuel Hopwood, Ella Houshieh, Brianna Hunking, Elyssa Hutchinson, Ewadin Ikechukwu, Ivan Ilevbare, Jaden Lee, Ruby-Leigh Mason, Taliyah Onile-Ere, Izzy Parker, Sophie Phillips, Fletcher Quinlan, Umaiza Mehmood, Ellie Sharrock, Millie Smith, Charlotte Stanley, Amelia Tiffany, Hayley Tomkinson, Isabella Valencia, Macy Whipday, Jacob Whittaker, Ava-Lillie Yuille and Richard Zamazal

Thank you also to everyone who has sent messages to the Academy to congratulate the cast and crew on the production. Three of the many messages we have received can be found below.

'I would like to take this opportunity to say how lovely it was to attend the show last night. It was outstanding and every student and all the staff who made the show happen are an absolute credit to both themselves and the Academy. My family and I would definitely give it a five-star rating and look forward to visiting future events.'



'I just wanted to get in touch to say thank you for putting on such a great show! We were all absolutely blown away with how professional it was. Walking into the entrance felt like we were walking in to a West End Theatre, not a school and it was immediately clear to see how much work the staff and pupils put into it. Our daughter loved every minute of it and can't wait to find out what the production will be next year. What a talented bunch of young people you have, they were unbelievable!

'We attended West Side Story last night, the show was amazing, very professional, from the ensemble to the lead characters. Everyone put their heart and soul into the performance. The set, music, lighting and choreography were just brilliant, what a lot of hard work has gone into the production. Well done to all the staff and pupils for a great show!'

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Maths, Computer Science and Physics XL Conference at Ashton Sixth Form College

A group of Year 10 students were invited to attend a Maths, Computer Science and Physics Conference at Ashton Sixth Form College last week. The Conference was for the most able Year 10 students from across Tameside and was held as part of the programme run by the XL Academy based at the College.



During the day, students attended a lecture on Artificial Intelligence and Complex Phenomena, delivered by a Keynote Speaker, and then took part in Maths, Physics and Computer Science Workshops on topics ranging from number patterns to complex mathematical problems, the atom, black holes and the evolution of the universe! Finally, the students attended a presentation on the entry requirements for, and the opportunities open to, students who go on to study at leading Universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Ibrahim Ali Muhammad, Hafiz Bowale-Sadiq, Jia Kang He, Chloe Ma, Alyssa Evans, Arion Caka, Freddie Jones, Samuel Brat Richard and Haya Noor

The Droylsden Academy Culture Day!

Thank you to **Lily Abdi, Neha Narsullah, Mustapha Samad, Talha Tahir, Ibrahim Ali Muhammad, Haya Noor, Kashaf Mehmood Parveen, Muneeba Muneeba, Blessed Agbonlahor, Alisha Maryam, Folabomi Awojuola, Liam Cameron McClusky and Hao Xuan Yu**, all photographed here, and all the other students involved in organising the Academy Culture Day which will take place next Friday.



The students have already led an Assembly to raise awareness of the forthcoming celebration and will be organising and running a number of activities on the day, as well as creating a special break

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and lunch menu! Further information will be sent out next week, along with guidance on what students can wear should they wish to, and we hope that everyone enjoys this special day for the Academy.

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	Mr Lowe
Mrs Sybil Birling	Mrs Jackson
Miss Sheila Birling	Miss Hudson
Mr Eric Birling	Miss Fitzpatrick
Mr Gerald Croft	Mrs Abel
Edna the Parlour Maid	Mrs Fernandez

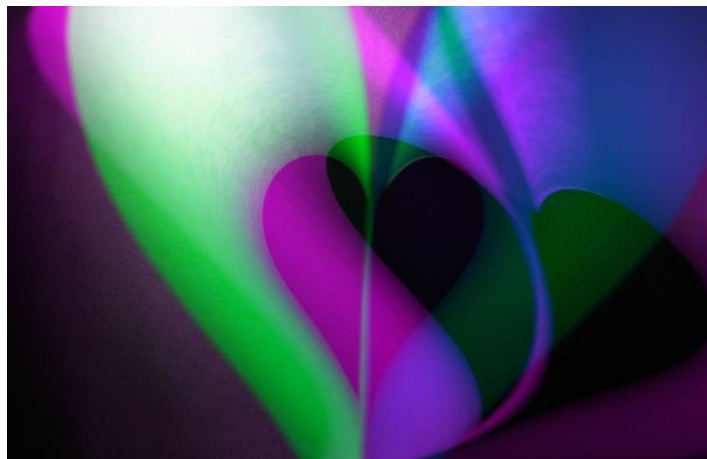
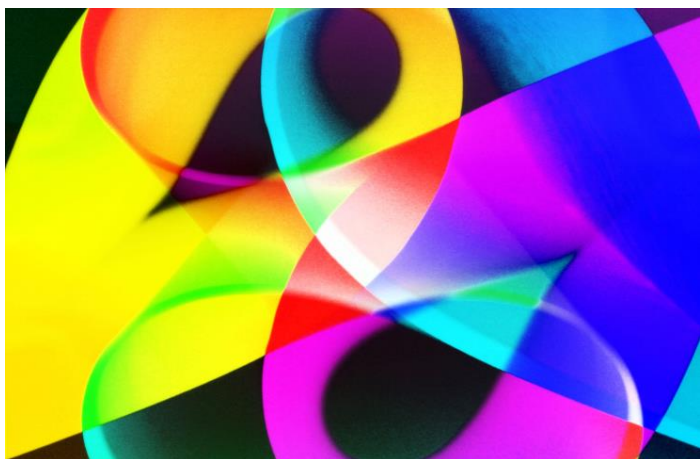
Sound Engineer	Mr Acton
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Photography

Congratulations to **Geraldine Morton**, from Year 10, who has been nominated as Photographer of the Month for January. The two stunning edits below have been taken from Geraldine's GCSE Portfolio.



This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Jayden Siu**, **Hayley-Jane McGeever**, **Lottie Hayes**, **Kwan Lor** and **Jai Rui Fang** 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	Jayden Siu	19,355 XP
Year 8	Hayley-Jane McGeever	7,583 XP
Year 9	Lottie Hayes	6,630 XP
Year 10	Kwan Lor	1,690 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,154 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.

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Poem of the Week

This week we have another poem by Lemn Sissay

'Not lost,' said the sun
At the start of the day
'Just following the sky
And finding my way'



The 'Droylsden Masterplan'

As you may be aware, Tameside are drawing up a 'Droylsden Masterplan' with the intention of developing a 'more vibrant town centre'. The Council will use £100,000 of funding from 'Homes England' to develop their plan and are currently drawing up short, medium and long-term goals which will cover the next 20 years. The Council hope to implement a sustainable future for the town and are looking to seek further investment and funding to develop their vision.

Last week, Matt Baker from Rise Associates, working in partnership with Tameside MBC, came into the Academy to canvas the views and opinions of our students as part of the wider consultation process. Mr Baker met with an Academy focus group over a working lunch and was very impressed with their ideas and what they had to say. He was particularly interested in what it felt like to grow up, socialise and go to school in Droylsden, and what amenities and services the students would like to see in the blueprint for the future. At the end of the meeting Mr Baker commented on what an impressive bunch of young people he had met and how 'clued-up' they were.

Thank you to all the students who took part in the consultation. If anyone in your household would like to voice their opinions, then they can do so by following the link below:

www.droylsdentowncentre.co.uk

Library Rewards Lunch

This week, Mrs Ormrod was delighted to host a Rewards Lunch for members of the Student Librarian Team to thank them for their hard work. Thank you also to Mrs Heslop who provided an excellent buffet which was devoured with gusto!

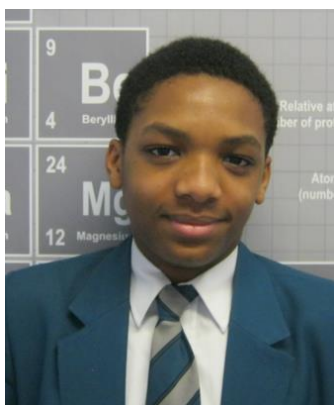


Makeen Acheampong, Brogan Carter, Ksenia Cotov, Thomas Harrington, Freddie Jones, Nadiya Tiplady, Brogan Williams, Donny Zheng, Noah Brown and Georgia Morris

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Suri Tang** from Year 9, **Hafiz Bowale Sadiq** from Year 10 and **Gift Otabor** from Year 11 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Suri has been nominated by the English Department as she has made a tremendous start since joining the Academy just before Christmas. Suri's work is exemplary and detailed and shows a good understanding of the poems we are currently studying. Similarly, Suri has a great work ethic and a really positive attitude to learning; she is an excellent role model for others and deserves to do well. Keep up this fabulous work Suri!

Hafiz has been nominated by the Science Department for his hard work and the excellent progress he is making in GCSE Triple Science where he consistently achieves Grade 9, the highest grade possible, in all his assessments. Hafiz is a gifted scientist who always models the academy values and is an asset to the class.

Gift has been nominated by the Maths Department as she is working so hard, both in school and at home, and is making great progress. As a result, Gift is now able to answer the cross-topic GCSE questions confidently and her scores on her fortnightly assessments are amongst the best in the class. It has also been lovely to see Gift grow in confidence and Mrs Egan, her Maths teacher, is confident that her hard work and application will be rewarded in the summer exams.

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 12 school weeks left, just 60 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Your second set of Pre-Public Examinations have started this week and we hope that they are going well. The timetable for your remaining examinations can be found below:

Date	Session	Exam
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)

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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 Health and Social Care Drama performances (by appointment)
	pm	French (Writing) Spanish (Writing)

The speaking exams for French and Spanish will be held in week commencing Monday 26th February.



CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Next week, students from Years 8, 9 and 10 will be attending presentations, delivered by both Tameside and Clarendon College, aimed at outlining and explaining the opportunities open to them once they leave the Academy. The presentations will take place on site and all students should come to school as they would for a normal day.

Each presentation will last around 30 minutes and will look at vocational and technical pathways as well as A Levels. In addition, there will be a number of stands where students can get information on

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Apprenticeships in a wide variety of Employment Sectors including Care (Health, Dental and Early Years), Construction (Plumbing, Brickwork, Carpentry and Joinery), Science and Technology (Engineering and the Automotive Industry) and the Service Industry (Hospitality and Hair and Beauty).

We hope that all our students will find the presentations interesting and informative.

NEWS FROM THE CATERING TEAM

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Chilli Con Carne & Rice	Sausage & Mash	Roast Dinner	Spaghetti Bolognese	Fish Finger Butty & Chips
Vegetarian Option	Quorn Spaghetti Bolognese	Mac 'N' Cheese	Veggie Roast Dinner	Cheese & Onion Pie and Mash	Veggie Burger, Chips & Beans
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
Mixed Pepper Pasta Bake	Chicken Wrap & Wedges	Cheese Whirl & Wedges	Chicken Madras & Rice	Sausage, Chips & Beans

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
Jumbo Hotdog	Burger on a Bun	Cheese & Pepperoni Panini	A Large Slice of Pizza	Chicken Strips in Khobez Bread

And on our Culture Day on Friday we will be serving.....

CULTURAL DAY!




MAIN COUNTER :
 Chicken Madras , Rice , Samosa
 Vegetarian Enchiladas
 Fish , Chips , Mushy peas

GRAB AND GO :
 Chinese Chicken , Broccoli , Spring Rolls , Prawn Crackers Chips ,
 Rice

JUICE BAR :
 Spicy Kebab , Naan , Yogurt Sauce

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024





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Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

Have you checked if your child is eligible for free school meals? **If your child is eligible then, as well as receiving a free meal at school during term time, families also get a supermarket voucher to help with the food shopping bill during the holidays.**

**FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS**
Information & Support



The vouchers are worth £15.50 per week, so families receive a voucher for £15.50 for each Half-Term Holiday, £31.00 for the Christmas and Easter Holidays and £93.00 for the Summer Holiday. This has been a great help for a lot of our families with the increasing costs that we are all facing.

If families are in receipt of any of the following, then their child should be eligible for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support Under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit – In England, if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get). If your child is currently eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022

It is really easy to check if your child is eligible for free school meals using the link below; it only takes a few minutes and you usually get an answer straight away.

<https://www.droylsdenacademy.com/parents/academy-meals-online-free-school-meals-applications/>

The link can also be found on the Academy website.

**FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS**
Information & Support



If you are not claiming for free school meals, but are eligible, then you are missing out on support that may really help your family.

If you would like any help checking your eligibility, then please contact Mrs Hankinson on Reception.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

We will be breaking up for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 28th March at the earlier time of 12.00 noon.

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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