

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

This week, students from Years 8, 9 and 10 attended 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 looked at vocational and technical pathways as well as A Levels and, in addition, there were a number of stands where students could get information on Apprenticeships covering 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).

Feedback from the students would suggest that the event was enjoyable, interesting and informative and a number of them have now got a clear idea on their future career path!



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



Y8 Parent Teacher Evening

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended last week's Year 8 Parent Teacher Evening; we hope that meeting your child's teachers was useful and informative.

Thank you also to **Amanda Levanaviciute**, **Chau Hoang**, **Alyssa Evans** and **Anna Nwanze** who staffed Reception throughout the evening and to **Zach Devlin**, **Geraldine Morton** and **Charlie Boardman** for providing the refreshments!

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

- 98% of them agreed that their child was happy at school;
- 98% felt that their child feels safe at school;
- 98% felt that the school ensures student behaviour is good;
- 95% 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;
- 95% agreed that the Academy lets them know how their child is doing;
- 100% felt that there was a good range of subjects for their child to study;
- 96% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities;
- 95% felt that the Academy supports their child's wider personal development; and
- 98% would recommend the Academy to another parent.



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Food and Nutrition

Year 10 are currently looking at 'cereals' on their GCSE Food and Nutrition course and have made pastry using flour which is, of course, made from wheat. They have then used their pastry to make absolutely amazing Lemon Meringue Pies! The students demonstrated a high level of skill in making 'pate sucre pastry' for the pastry cases as well as a blended sauce of lemon curd and a meringue top. Wow!



This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Jayden Siu**, **Abdulah Alaboush**, **Lottie Hayes**, **Albatool Oubaid** 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	18,180 XP
Year 8	Abdulah Alaboush	4,620 XP
Year 9	Lottie Hayes	23,420 XP
Year 10	Albatool Oubaid	6,183 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,138 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.

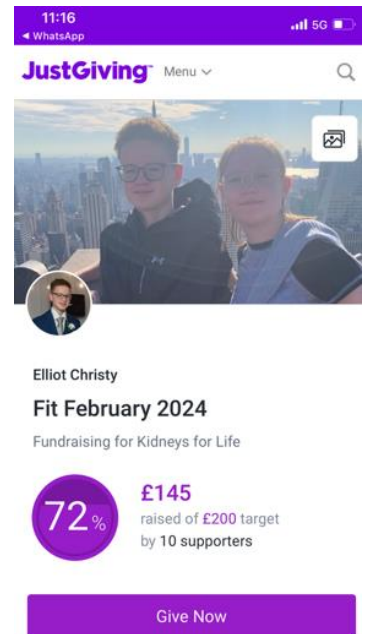
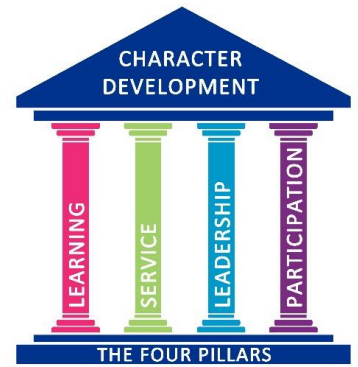
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Character Development in action

Many of you will know about the Academy programme of Character Development and the importance we place on our four key Character Pillars of **Learning, Service, Leadership** and **Participation**. This week we heard about the **Service** given by one of our students, **Elliot Christy**, from Year 7, in support of the charity 'Kidney for Life'.

Throughout the month of 'Fit February' Elliot will be completing 100 'squats' every day and hopes to raise £200 for his chosen charity. So far, he has raised £145 and if anyone would like to make a donation and help him meet and exceed his target then you can do so through the 'Just Giving' website.

The charity 'Kidney for Life' is one that is close to Elliot's heart as he, himself, suffers from chronic kidney disease and, as such, he wanted to give something back in thanks and acknowledgment of the help and support that he receives. Well done Elliot on your service to others, you are a credit to the Academy and, of course, to your family.



Afternoon Tea with Year 9!

Well done to Year 9 students on preparing an amazing 'Afternoon Tea' and then enjoying a fine dining experience, displaying impeccable manners and observing the finest of etiquette. We hope that they approached the clearing and washing up with the same degree of enthusiasm and endeavour!



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Poem of the Week

This week we have another poem by Lemn Sissay.

I have seen your greatness
The strength of your will
What it took you to get this far
Is what will take you further still



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Gracie-Mae Holland** and **Bana Oubaid** from Year 8 and **Siobhan Tweddle** from Year 10 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Gracie-Mae has been nominated by the English Department as she recently excelled in completing her T2 non-fiction writing assessment. Gracie-Mae has worked consistently well throughout the term and Miss Hudson, her English Teacher, is so pleased that her hard work and positive attitude have paid off. Miss Hudson also added that Gracie-Mae works well independently, shows a real resilience in the way she approaches her learning and that it has been a pleasure to see her grow in confidence. Well done Gracie-Mae and keep it up!

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

Bana has been nominated by the Maths Department as she works incredibly hard in lessons, is keen to volunteer answers and ideas in class and will always persevere if she is finding a topic difficult. Bana also presents her work immaculately and is always keen to help other students who may be struggling with something. Similarly, Bana works hard both in and out of school and is consistently top of the Sparx Leader Board in Maths. Well done Bana, you are an asset to the class and a pleasure to teach!

Siobhan has been nominated by the Science Department as she always works hard in lessons and is keen to contribute her ideas and opinions during class discussions. Similarly, she is always willing to help her peers when they are finding something difficult. Siobhan has met her weekly target in every bi-weekly assessment she has taken this term and Miss Patel, her Science Teacher, is delighted that her efforts have paid off.

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 10 school weeks left, just 50 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

We hope that your Pre-Public Examinations are going well. The timetable for your remaining examinations can be found below:

Date	Session	Exam
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.



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CULTURE DAY

At the time of going to print, it is the eve of our first Culture Day which will be held tomorrow, Friday 9th February!

The students organising the event have already led an Assembly to raise awareness of our celebration and have organised, and will be running, a number of activities tomorrow too. Similarly, they have worked with the Catering Team on creating a special break and lunch menu!

Good luck everyone, we are sure that we will all enjoy this special day for our school and a full report will appear in the next edition of Newsflash.



One school, many wonderful and amazing cultures!

UPDATE FROM THE CATERING TEAM

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Chicken Curry & Rice	Beef Lasagne, Veg or Salad	Roast Dinner	Tex Mex Meat-Balls & Rice	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Veggie Sausage, Potatoes & Corn	Chickpea Curry & Rice	Veggie Roast Dinner	Frittata, Potatoes & Corn	Cheese Whirl, Chips & Beans
Lighter Bites	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling	Jacket Potato & Filling



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An important message from Tameside Public Health



PUBLIC HEALTH

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE · AUDENSHAW · DENTON · DROYLSDEN · DUKINFIELD · HYDE · LONGDENDALE · MOSSLEY · STALYBRIDGE

Dear Parent / Carer

The UK Health Security Agency have declared a Measles national incident following a very extensive outbreak in London and the Midlands and further outbreaks of infection are expected across country. You may have seen the national media coverage on the BBC and other news channels.

Measles is extremely infectious and spreads very easily to people who have no immunity. The illness can be serious. The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination (2 doses of the MMR vaccine).

What is measles?

Measles is a disease which spreads very easily. People with measles can get a cough, runny nose, rash and fever. Measles can be serious, particularly for people whose immune system is not working normally. In some people it can cause complications, including ear infections, chest infections, and pneumonia. In very rare cases, some people who get measles can develop serious complications which can be fatal.

How do you catch measles?

The measles virus lives in the nose and throat of infected people. A person with measles can infect other people from 4 days before their rash appears until four days after the rash appeared.

Most older children and adults are immune to measles – either because they had measles as a child or because they have been vaccinated – and so are unlikely to catch measles.

How do you prevent measles?

Measles can be prevented by 2 doses of a highly effective vaccine.

All children and adults born after 1970 should receive **2 doses** of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. This is part of the UK routine immunisation schedule (dose 1 typically given at 13 months of age; dose 2 at 40 months of age, before the child starts school).

The MMR can also be given to older children, teenagers and adults if they have missed out on vaccination. **If you / your child have not had 2 doses of MMR, contact your doctor to discuss vaccination.**

What if you become unwell?

If you or your child become unwell and think it could be measles:

- Seek medical advice – **call** your GP / NHS walk in centre / NHS 111 for advice
- **It is important to inform the GP / walk-in centre before attending so that you can be seen in a separate area to prevent spread to other patients.**
- Do not go to school, nursery or work for the four days after the rash first appeared
- Limit your contact with other people and avoid those who:
 - are pregnant
 - are under 12 months old or have not had the MMR vaccine
 - have a weakened immune system
- **Inform your school or employer**

Further information can be found on the NHS website at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/> and in the measles information leaflet from the NHS [MEASLES - Don't let your child catch it - Schools version \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/pubs/DA01046.pdf).

Debbie Watson
Director of Public Health

The
Academy Co-Curricular Timetable

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Clubs and Societies (2024)



Monday

Band Practice
Astroturf
Photoshop
Quiz Club
Sparks Club
Y7 Table Tennis
Droylsden Voices
Volleyball

Tuesday

Band Practice
Astroturf
Gym Club (all)
Photoshop
Reading Club (Y7-9)
Science Reading
Sparks Club
Y7 Table Tennis
Volleyball

Wednesday

Band Practice
Astroturf
Connect Club
Creative Courage
History Club
Photoshop
Sonic Screen
Y7 Table Tennis
Chess Club

Thursday

Band Practice
Astroturf
News at 1
Y7 Table Tennis

Friday

Band Practice
Ernest's Club
Gym Club (Girls)
Ukulele and Guitar
Volleyball

Lunch

Band Practice
Dance Academy
Robot Club
Football (Y10 boys)

Origami Society
Band Practice
Year 7 Electives

Band Practice
Further Maths (Y10)
KS3 Art Club
Table Tennis
Football (Y9 boys)

Band Practice
Combined Cadet Force
Further Maths (Y11)
KS3 Art Club
Football (KS3 girls)
Volleyball
Football (Y8 boys)
Art Catch Up (KS4)

Band Practice
Gardening Club
STEM Club
Football (Y7 boys)

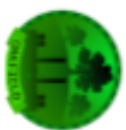
After School

For further information about any of these clubs, please see the e-booklet

in the 'Co-curriculum' section of the Droylsden Academy website.



Don't forget to get your Club Passports signed to score points for your House! Please give your completed passports to your form tutor.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as – if they spend most of their time on social media – they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us – regardless of age – into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

KEEP SCROLLING

WIN TO WIN

27 new posts

Advice for Parents & Carers

ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends – or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.



ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it – and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off – or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps – can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.



MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity – or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will re-open after the half-term break on Monday 19th February at 8.30am.

Parent Teacher Evening for parents/carers of Year 11 students will take place on Thursday 7th March.

Booster immunisations for Year 9 students will take place in the week beginning Monday 11th March.

The Droylsden Schools Partnership Vocal Evening will take place on Thursday 14th March.

The Year 10 Drop Down Day on 'Becoming an Adult' will take place Monday 18th March.

The Year 11 GCSE Geography Residential to the East Yorkshire Coast will be held over the weekend of Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March.

We will be breaking up for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 28th March at 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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