

Droylsden Academy is a good school

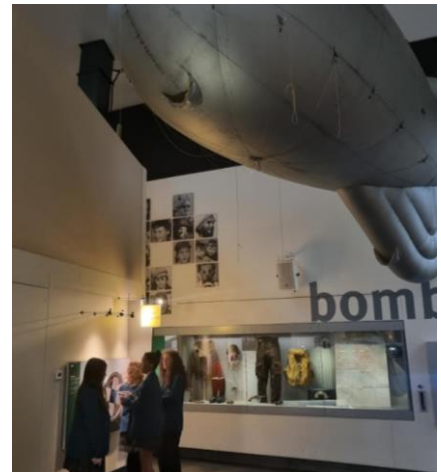
IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Visit to the Imperial War Museum

Around 60 Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum in Salford this week, to find out more about the causes and consequences of war in the 20th Century. Throughout the year, the students have been learning about World War 1 and World War 2 and the visit gave them a great opportunity to consolidate and develop their understanding of the topics they have covered in class. The students also found out about the 'Cold War', a key module they will study should they choose to take GCSE History.

As well as reading information on the displays, the students were also able to watch a range of videos, have a go at coding secret messages, look at some real army technology including tanks, planes and grenades, and find out what trench foot really smells like!

The group had a really interesting and informative visit and it was also lovely to hear numerous comments and compliments about their behaviour and the way that they engaged with the staff and volunteers who work at the museum. Well done Year 9 on being great ambassadors for our school!

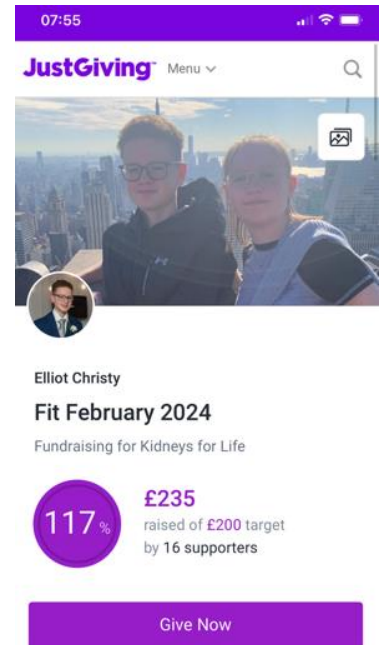


Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



Rewards Lunch

Congratulations to our Year 8 Zero Heroes, **Dexter Adams, Faisal Nawaab, Kate Hammersley, Grace Lawton, Kara Lea, Jasmine Lockie, Anya Raue-Lewis, Curtis Stansfield, Holly Taylor** and **Jaya-Leigh Young**, who were all invited to last Friday's Rewards Lunch. Zero Heroes are students who not only work hard and make a wonderful contribution to the school, but also have no Behaviour Points, no absences and no late marks!



Mission accomplished!

Our regular readers will remember that **Elliot Christy** from Year 7 set himself a target of raising £200 for his chosen charity, 'Kidney for Life', by completing 100 'squats' every day throughout 'Fit February'. We are now pleased to report that Elliot met and exceeded his target by raising £235!

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!

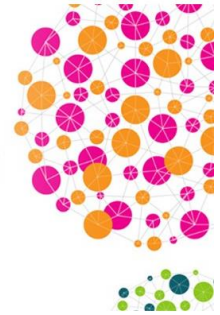


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Science

Next week, 8th to 15th March, is British Science Week and there will be lots of ways in which students can get involved including competitions and activities which will run at both STEM Club, on Thursday after school, and at Einstein Club during Friday lunch time. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will find out more about the programme during their Assemblies next week.

8-17 March
**British
Science
Week
2024**



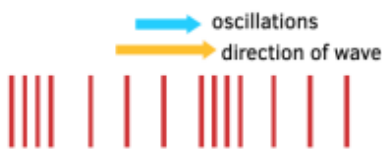
The theme for this year's celebration is 'Time', a fitting topic with 2024 marking the 30th anniversary since the first British Science Week back in 1994, and an opportunity to look back at developments over the last three decades and take a glimpse into the future!

There will also be an opportunity to review the book 'Project Nought', by Chelsea Furedi, a fictional novel set in 2122, where Tech Conglomerate 'Chronotech' sponsor a time-travel programme enabling students to study history for real by travelling back in time!

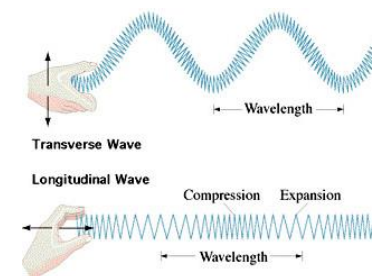
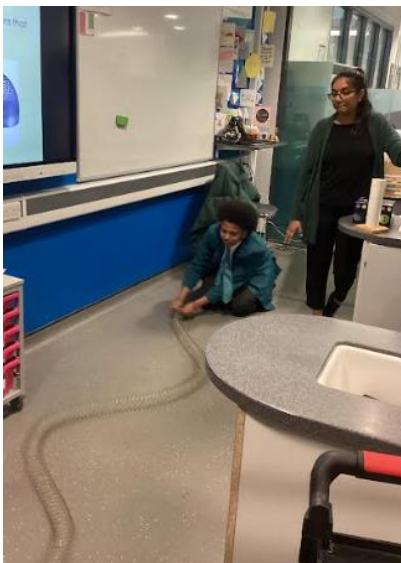
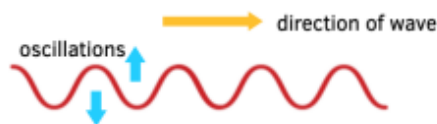
Time is the key to so many discoveries in Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths so why not get involved and find out more!

Meanwhile, back in the classroom, Year 11 students have been using a 'Slinky' to understand how different forms of energy travel from one place to another by Longitudinal or Transverse Waves!

Longitudinal Waves

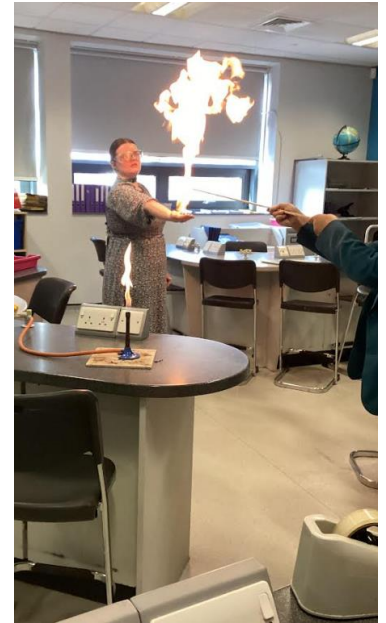
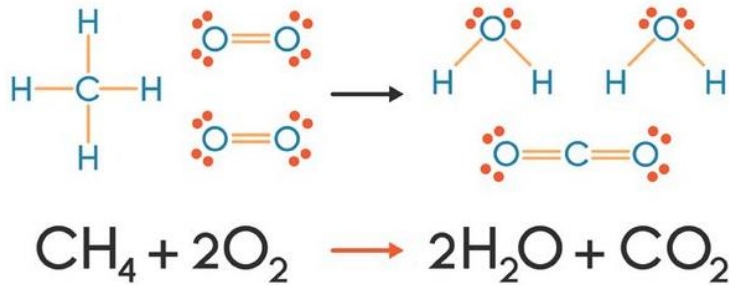


Transverse Waves



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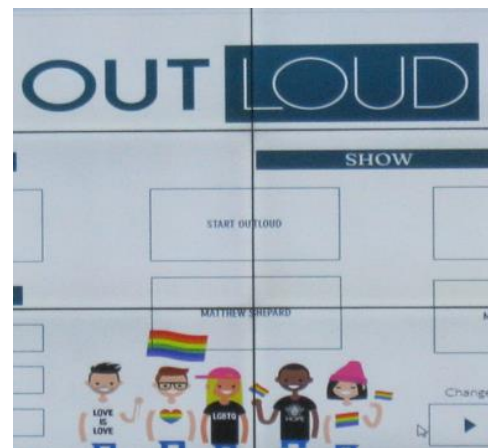
And at Einstein Club, students had fun with methane bubbles! Remember, Einstein Club is open to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9, so why not come along each Friday lunchtime or ask your Science teacher for more information?



No Place for Bullying and Discrimination

The Academy hosted 'OUT|LOUD' this week, an engaging and educational performance and workshop, that explores the real-life experiences of young people in dealing with issues like bullying, discrimination, and inclusivity. The play, delivered in collaboration with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council's Community Safety Partnership, is targeted at Key Stage 3 students and aims to ensure that students acquire essential Life Skills and continue to develop into compassionate and well-rounded young people.

Thank you 'OUT|LOUD', feedback from students would suggest that, whilst the performance was really engaging and enjoyable, it was also informative and thought provoking and delivered a strong and very important message.



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Young Enterprise

You may remember that, last week, a group of Year 8 students took part in an Enterprise Day organised through the Princes Trust. The students were divided up into teams who competed against each other in a business simulation game before going on to work with business mentors in developing and pitching their own business ideas.

Similar Enterprise Days were held in lots of school across Greater Manchester with the results taken forward to a regional panel of judges who then compared the performance and ideas of all the competing teams to identify the best. Whilst we did not win any of the regional awards, our students did really well with our combined team score placing Droylsden Academy in fourth place overall!

A special mention should also go to the Academy winning team from last week, made up of **Samuel Wilson, Matthew Laing, Ella Whitehead, Anya Raue-Lewis and Rosie Sawyer** who were the fourth highest scoring team from across the region and to our second placed team from last week, made up of **Curtis Stansfield, Caleb Bebbington, Aaron Tailor, Noah Blemmings and William Haughton** who came in 7th place. The two teams can be seen below.



Poem of the Week

The Poem of the week is 'The Laughing Heart' by Charles Bukowski.

Your life is your life
Don't let it be clubbed into dank submission.
Be on the watch.
There are ways out.
There is a light somewhere.
It may not be much light but
It beats the darkness



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Skill at Arms!

Over the last two weekends, selected Cadets from Droylsden Academy Combined Cadet Force have travelled to the Regular Army Base at Fulwood Barracks in Preston to carry out 'Skill at Arms' Training on the L98A2 5.56 mm GP Rifle. This mandatory training is the first step on the weapons pathway that will lead these Cadets to the point where they will be sufficiently skilled and trusted to fire the rifle, with live ammunition, on a number of full-bore range practices at Annual Camp in June.



During the intense and highly disciplined training course, the Cadets first learned how to strip, clean, maintain and assemble their weapon from its basic parts before covering the strict sequential drills to load, make ready to fire, apply fire and then unload. Finally, they learned how to rectify common faults and to carry out the stoppage drills.

The final assessment, the Weapons Handling Test, is tough and only a mark of 100% is good enough to pass. With this in mind, there were a few nerves when our Cadets waited anxiously to take their test under the watchful eyes of their instructors, Sergeant Major Helen Jackson, Chris Sumner and Colour Sergeant Goodier. One by one they filed into the 'Testing Chamber' to find a weapon on the floor and the instruction *'take control of the weapon'*!



And the results? At the end of the day, Major Webb was delighted to report that all the hard work had paid off and that all the Droylsden Cadets who attended the Skill at Arms Training had passed!

Training and testing aside, there were many highlights of the visit to Fulwood too, not least the amazing lunchtime 'scoff' served up in the 'Cookhouse', followed by a little relaxation before marching back to work!

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The Cadets had a really fantastic time at Fulwood and special thanks must go to Major Webb, Second Lieutenant McCallum, Sergeant Major Sumner, Sergeant Major Jackson, Colour Sergeant Goodier and Officer Cadets Dayare, McNaboe, Walmsley and Johnson for their time and commitment in making the three days such an amazing and memorable experience.



'That's the best day of my life so far!' (Cadet Laura-Elena Herscovici)

'It's a bit noisy but otherwise not as bad as I thought it might be!' (Cadet Olivia Jarvis)

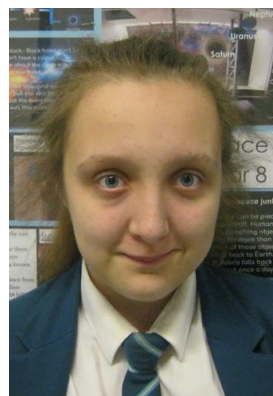
'I cannot believe I passed that!' (Cadet Brogan Carter)

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Eva Walklett**, **Jake Gavan**, **Lacey Walker**, **Lara Nanji** 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	Eva Walklett	4,166 XP
Year 8	Jake Gavan	4,960 XP
Year 9	Lacey Walker	6,556 XP
Year 10	Lara Nanji	6,927 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	4,341 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. 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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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Olivia Cunningham-Clarke** from Year 7 and **Marvin Chukwuma** and **Mohammed-Essa Rafique** from Year 9 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Olivia has been nominated by the English Department for her super World Book Day craft piece on 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which was wonderful. Olivia has also been nominated as she a polite, hardworking and helpful member of the class and a pleasure to teach.

Marvin has been nominated by the Science Department as he is working extremely hard and achieved an excellent score in his recent T2 Assessment. Marvin always completes all tasks to an excellent standard and regularly contributes to class discussions, demonstrating a good knowledge of the topics we are covering. Similarly, he always carries out experiments safely showing good practical and leadership skills. Well done Marvin, you are having a really good year in Science!

Essa has been nominated by the Maths Department as he has recently been moved up to a higher class and is excelling in his new group. He works extremely hard in every lesson and goes above and beyond in completing his Sparx homework. Similarly, Essa is keen to answer questions in class and regularly completes extension work. As well as being a great Maths student, Essa is also an amazing Junior House Captain and is extremely well organised! Well done Essa!

Congratulations also go to our three Humanitarians of the Week, **Rayah Norris** from Year 9, **Raffya Smagulova** from Year 10 and **Lewis Hartley** from Year 11.



Rayah has been nominated for consistently working hard In History, Raffya has been nominated for her hard work and participation in Religious Studies and Lewis has been nominated for excellence in Geography.

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GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 7 school weeks left, just 35 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

There will be a revision programme at the Academy during the Easter Holiday, further information on subjects, dates and times will be published in Newsflash in due course.



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 and Potatoes	Chickpea Curry & Rice	Veggie Roast Dinner	Frittata with Potatoes & Corn	Cheese Whirl, 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	Pasta Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Chicken Pasta Bake	Sausage, Chips & Beans

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Breakfast, the most important meal of the day!

Breakfast is often called the most important meal of the day and for good reason.

As the name suggests, breakfast breaks the overnight fasting period; It replenishes your supply of glucose to boost your energy levels and alertness, while also providing other essential nutrients required for good health!



Please encourage your child to have a good breakfast to set them up for the day.

And don't forget that Breakfast Club is open every morning at the Academy from 7.45am to 8.30am if things at home are busy, busy, busy!

Attend, attend, attend!

Good attendance at school is absolutely crucial if you are to achieve your potential but unfortunately, post-COVID, attendance rates across the country are down. As at all schools, we are working hard at re-establishing and embedding all those good habits, including regular attendance and good punctuality, to ensure all our students succeed.

As an added incentive to attend every day, we are holding a Prize Draw which will run over the remaining four weeks of this term. Each week that a student has 100% attendance, their name will be put into the Draw, so 100% attendance over the remaining four weeks will mean that they have four entries in the Draw and four chances to win!

And the prizes? A First Prize of £100 at an online Retailer of choice, a Second Prize of £50 and a Third Prize of £25! Well worth winning!

Between now and the end of term

You have to be in to win

every full week you do, your name is entered into a prize draw

Winner gets £100 voucher for online retailer of choice
2nd place gets £50 3rd £25

More times you are in the better the chance to win!

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8



Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).



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