

July 2024

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

RE: End of The Academic Year

Thank You

We write to you at the end of another busy and productive academic year. Thank you to our parents and carers; we are very grateful for the enormous amount of positive support that we have received and we are equally grateful for the huge amount of work put in by our staff and governors. As the summer break approaches, we would like to congratulate our students for their politeness, hard work and honesty, for their individual and collective successes and for demonstrating superb character in their learning, service, participation and leadership.

Leadership of the Academy and supporting the improvement of Tame River Education Trust Schools:

We are pleased to inform you of the recent appointments of Mr Eade and Mrs Fernandez-Arias as Assistant Headteachers. Both Mr Eade and Mrs Fernandez have a track record of excellent results, are highly experienced and long standing leaders at the Academy. They both know the school, our students and the community extremely well; they bring a collective passion, drive and determination to get the very best for our students and families and we know that you will wish them well as they step into their new roles.

We have had the privilege of witnessing the growth, achievements and extraordinary potential of your children over the last year as Co-Headteachers and we cannot wait to see what next year brings. As Droylsden Academy continues to go from strength to strength, it is only right that we support other local schools to improve education across Tameside. From September, we will provide leadership support to Hyde High School, the newest member of the Tame River Educational Trust, to improve the life chances of the Hyde community. Please be assured that Droylsden will always be our first priority and we will work with Mr Wilson, CEO of the Trust and former longstanding Headteacher of this school, to ensure that our students benefit from this partnership work with other schools. You can find out more about the Tame River Educational Trust, including our mission and our core educational purpose, directly from our Trust Website: www.tret.org.uk

The Past Year – Highlights:

The Class of 2024:

We said farewell to our Year 11 students a few weeks ago. After 5 years at the Academy the Class of 2024 sat their public examinations and they now have a nervous wait until results are released in August. We are sure that you will join us in wishing the Class of 2024 good luck as they start the next phase of their education, training or employment. We are sure that their hard work will have paid off and look forward to celebrating with them in August.

The Class of 2029:

We were extremely pleased that over 600 parents named Droylsden Academy as a preference for their child in September. This means that for the eighth year running our new Year 7 is heavily oversubscribed and we have an extensive waiting list with many parents appealing for a place with us. This is great news for the school and a sign of our strong reputation in the local community.




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We welcomed our new students to the Academy earlier this month for their transition days. The days allowed students to understand what life is like at university and embed aspirations of the future. They also learnt our important routines and values whilst studying the Droysden Way. Students also sampled a variety of lessons so that they could put the Droysden Way into practice and we look forward to officially welcoming the Class of 2029 in September. The new Year 7 have compulsory holiday tasks in English and Mathematics which we will build on as they begin their 5-year journey at the Academy; we hope they find this work useful and enjoyable.

Beyond the Classroom:


There have been so many highlights again this year. We hope that you get the chance to read our weekly Newsflash; like us, you will be very proud of the wonderful achievements of our students and staff. Our latest co-curriculum programme is below and this gives you a flavour of the wide range and variety of activities beyond the classroom available to students. Well done to all students who have participated in character building activities over the year and thank you also to the staff who give their time to plan and deliver these sessions.


Electives (2024)







	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Astroturf Photoshop Quiz Club Sparx Club Y7 Table Tennis Droylsden Voices Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Astroturf Gym Club (all) Photoshop Reading Club (Y7-9) Science Reading Sparx Club Y7 Table Tennis Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Astroturf Connect Club Creative Courage History Club Photoshop Sonic Screen Y7 Table Tennis Chess Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Astroturf News at 1 Y7 Table Tennis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Einstein's Club Gym Club (Girls) Ukulele and Guitar Volleyball
After School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Dance Academy Robot Club Football (Y10 boys) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origami Society Band Practice Board games Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Further Maths (Y10) K53 Art Club Table Tennis Football (Y9 boys) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Combined Cadet Force Further Maths (Y11) K53 Art Club Football (K53 girls) Volleyball Football (Y8 boys) Art Catch Up (K54) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Practice Gardening Club STEM Club Football (Y7 boys)

For further information about any of these clubs, please see the e-booklet in the 'Elective' section of the Droylsden Academy website.





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



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A new co-curricular timetable will be published in September; you can read more about our co-curricular offer in our eBook on the Academy website [Co-Curricular Timetable](#).

Congratulations to all our students who have been featured in our Newsflash as 'Students of the Week' and to all students who were awarded 'Character Badges' at our annual Character Awards Evenings this year.



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The Droylsden Schools' Partnership continues to allow the Academy to work very closely with our partner primary schools. Our students and primary aged students have benefitted from some superb events and competitions, most recently the annual Bake-Off competition and the Primary Schools' Sports event, which were hosted at the Academy.

Students have also benefited from a wide range of educational visits and field trips, both locally and further afield. Our Combined Cadet Force (Army CCF), led by Major Webb and our CCF staff, continues to grow at pace and we have over 100 cadets. We also have growing numbers of students taking part in the prestigious Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Congratulations and thank you to all our students who have made a fantastic and significant contribution to Sports and/or Performing Arts at the Academy this year. They include Performers, Sports Leaders and Competitors and their contributions were recognised at our recent Sports and Performing Arts Evening.

Our busy physical education curriculum has continued with students continuing to excel in a range of sports including athletics, football, trampolining, table tennis, basketball and volleyball.

It has been a superb year for Performing Arts. Students performed '*West Side Story*' in January, having worked tirelessly since the beginning of the academic year and the run of performances played to full houses and standing ovations. Preparations are now taking place for next year's production of Leonard Bernstein's gripping and moving '*Les Misérables*'.

A huge well done to all our students who were involved in the Academy Dance productions at the Lowry, as part of the nationally acclaimed Dance Schools Festival. Well done too to everyone involved in '*Voice of Droylsden Academy 2024*' – it was a great competition and a fantastic final, with Rayah Norris judged to be the winner.

This year saw our first Culture Day, led and organised by students, which saw students and staff dress in their cultural clothing, raising money for children involved in conflict around the world. There have been so many other memorable occasions as we marked Pride Month, various religious celebrations and celebrated foods from different cultures.

School Council and Student Ambassadors continue to canvas their peers for their views and opinions about what they enjoy at school, what can be improved and how the school can develop further. Student Leaders lead change and work closely with Senior Leaders and this is such an important part of what we do.

Our House System has raised significant funds for our nominated charities this year; *Reuben's Retreat*, *Mustard Tree*, *The Anthony Seddon Fund* and *When You Wish Upon a Star*. On the last day of the first half term we celebrated the nationally recognised 'Wear Red Day' and managed to raise £338.44 in total. In December we collected a tremendous amount of donations for Saxon's House charity - Mustard Tree. These were dropped off in time for Christmas at the warehouse based in Ancoats. Students wrote Christmas cards for the Park View Care Home in Clayton, and the school's Christmas Jumper Day raised a further £264.08. Just before Easter Droylsden Academy celebrated the House Community Quiz and raised £200 in total from selling tickets and the raffle.

We are so incredibly proud of our students for all of this work in support of such worthy causes.

We are looking forward to celebrating the academic achievements of our students at our annual Awards Evening later this month. Congratulations in advance to all our prize winners and well done on your achievements!



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We also look forward to Sports Day, and PRIDE day coming up before the end of term. Photos of these wonderful events will be in the Newsflash.

Staff Leaving and New Appointments:

As is the case in every school at the end of an academic year, we say farewell to some colleagues. The following staff will be leaving the Academy due to retirements, promotions, changes of circumstances and relocations. We wish our colleagues well in their new ventures and thank them for their hard work and service.

Staff Leaving:

- Mrs Bamford (Maths Teacher)
- Mr Bambridge (MFL Curriculum Leader)
- Mr Guan (Maths TA)
- Mrs Fish (Co-Headteachers' PA)
- Mr Kerwin (Maths Teacher)
- Ms Sherlock (Director of Learning Support)
- Mrs McDonnell (Science Teacher)
- Ms Eato (English Teacher)
- Mrs Sheridan (Maths Teacher)
- Mrs Jousset-Essimba (Languages Teacher)

New Staff in September:

- Ms Checkland-Harding (English TA)
- Ms Keller (Maths TA)
- Mr Ahmed (Science Teacher)
- Ms Stead (English Teacher)
- Ms Irlam (Assistant Curriculum Leader PE)
- Mr Naveed (Teacher of Maths)
- Ms Horrocks (Teacher of Maths and PE)
- Mr Fitzpatrick (Curriculum Leader MFL)
- Mr Cadwallader (Teacher of Maths)
- Ms Eva (Teacher of Business Studies)
- Mr Thierry (Assistant Curriculum Leader of MFL)
- Ms Turner (Office Manager)
- Mr Merolle (Technician)
- Mr Pollard (Humanities Teacher)
- Mr Ekhuere (Cleaner)

Strong Attendance = Better Academic Performance:

We were delighted to continue to see our attendance increase above national and local comparisons. Clearly, regular attendance is absolutely crucial to student progress and achievement and we would like to thank staff, parents, carers and our Attendance Team for encouraging and ensuring students arrive every day, on time and ready to learn. Some students can still attend more, and this will continue to be one of our top priorities.



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Please may we take this opportunity to remind all parents that there is an expectation that your child will have 100% attendance (barring serious illness or authorised absence). For example, even 95% attendance equates on average to a child missing half a day of school every two weeks. This is roughly 10 days missed over an academic year; a significant amount of learning time lost. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and on time for the start of the day by 8.30am at the very latest.

Whilst the Academy accepts that there are times when absence from school cannot be avoided, these occasions must be kept to a minimum. In-line with national directive, the school will not authorise holidays in school time and fines will be issued. Where attendance drops below an acceptable threshold, parents will receive penalty notices and may be asked to attend court to explain their child's absences. We make no apologies for this approach; regular attendance is one of the key factors in ensuring that children make progress at school and it is our duty to safeguard our students' learning. Please support your child by ensuring that they attend school every day.

The New School Year:

The Academy will close at **12.00 noon on Tuesday 23rd July**.

The new academic year begins on Wednesday 4th September as follows:

- Our new **Year 7 students must arrive at school by 8.25am at the latest**. This will allow them to settle in on their own (school will be open from 8 am)
- Students in **Year 8, should arrive at school no earlier than 9.30am for a 9.45am start**
- Students in **Years 9,10 and 11, should arrive at school no earlier than 10.45 am for an 11am start**

Please note - staff will be in school training and preparing for the year ahead on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September.

Whilst it is important that students take time to enjoy their summer break, it would be a good idea for students in all year groups to 'get ahead' over the summer, perhaps using a small amount of their holiday to recap on their learning this year or prepare for the topics and subjects they will be studying next year. Please see our website for more information and we will write to you in the new academic year with more details on exactly what students will be studying each term in each subject in our 2024/25 curriculum. For those students who have missed any lessons, we urge you to catch up with your lost learning on Google Classrooms. If you do not, you may struggle on your return in September.

There are also some excellent resources provided by the nationally acclaimed Oak Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> this resource, together with resources from BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> provide a host of exciting and interactive learning opportunities for all students. Resources are age appropriate and are available for the vast majority of subjects right up to GCSE level.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest appreciation for your support, collaboration, and trust in our first year as Co-Headteachers. It has been an immense privilege for us to serve you and your child over the years, but even more special this year. We look forward to seeing that our students continue to work hard, be polite and honest in the coming year.



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We hope you and your family have time to rest over the coming weeks and that you have an enjoyable summer. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can support you with any aspect of your child's learning and progress.

Yours faithfully



Mr E Mayell
Co-Headteacher



Mrs G Arnold
Co-Headteacher



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