

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS

## Literacy - Shakespeare Reading Event



As part of our *Power of Language Strategy*, we run a series of whole school reading events through a common theme. Some of our reading events so far this academic year have included Black History Month, Remembrance and British Science Week. A key aspect of each event is that all students, (including our struggling readers) encounter reading material that enables them to retrieve key information; enjoy the text for its own sake; analyse meaning; read strategically and make links. We often encourage students to explore a 'Big Question' and practise reading fluency too.



On Wednesday 23rd April, we commemorated William Shakespeare's birthday, (which coincides with St George's Day) and the contribution he has made to the English Language as a whole, the literary heritage of this country and the wider world.



Key Stage 3 students in English had a super time playing with abridged versions of some of Shakespeare's plays, using expressive voices and wearing sometimes ridiculous costume choices! Year 7 played *Much Ado About Nothing*; year 8 played *King Henry V* and year 9 played *King Lear*.

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In addition, English department staff and Mrs Ormrod, our librarian, wore Shakespeare themed t-shirts and students took part in an activity to match the Shakespearean quotes to their meanings where they learned that that 'tongue-tied', 'in a pickle' and 'vanished into thin air' have their origins in Shakespeare works.



### Year 11 Drama

Before the Easter break, our Year 11 Drama cohort completed a "Year 11 Showcase" of their recent scripted exam work. They shared their work with their parents, carers, and friends in a special performance evening in the Drama Studio.



At the event, they performed their scripted exam pieces in full costume, with complete technical support including lighting, sound, and set, reviving their roles one final time before the written exam season.

They showcased extracts from *Julie*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Underdog: the other, other Brontë*. It was a fantastic event and clearly showed off their hard work, creativity, ongoing professionalism, and passion for the subject. We are incredibly proud of everything the students have achieved and of the way they rose to the occasion with such confidence and maturity!



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One of the actors, **Millie Haggerty**, had the following feedback:

*I really enjoyed performing "Underdog" - playing the role of Emily Brontë was such a rewarding experience. I loved diving into her character and exploring the complex sibling dynamics throughout the play. It was a really powerful experience, to bring their story to life and show how their relationships shaped their work and identities. What I especially loved was how the play highlighted the fight for women's rights. It felt meaningful to be part of something that advocated for equality and gave a voice to women who were often overlooked. I found it both inspiring and fun, and it's made me even more excited to take on future roles that carry strong messages and allow me to grow as a performer.*



### Royal Exchange Theatre – Careers in Theatre

In partnership with The Royal Exchange Theatre, Droylsden Academy, along with other schools, was invited to attend their 'Careers in Theatre' event held at the 'Den' at Stalybridge Civic Hall.



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Students gained insight into a wide variety of theatre industry careers. The Royal Exchange led interactive activities with theatre staff, artists, and practitioners who discovered the different elements that make a producing theatre come to life.



This what Year 10 Drama student **Leyla Francis** (and renowned *Madame Thénardier*) said about the event:

*We went to visit the Den in Stalybridge, which was so fun and intriguing. We learned about all the different jobs that are actually involved in the theatre, not just performance. We looked at how different jobs link to different departments and how they can all work together.*

*The best part of the event was when we all assigned a fairy tale to work on but we were instructed to change the setting of it. We picked "Jack and the Beanstalk" which we renamed it "Jack and Barry". In the end, it was set in a dystopian future and all the characters were renamed and changes (e.g. the giant became Barry the princess). Each school got an aspect to work with, and we assigned soundscape, which was very challenging - we added eerie sounds, shouts, screams, fire crackles, thuds!*

*It was an amazing experience. We got to show the other schools our masterpiece, and they got to show theirs. I think the costume was everyone's favourite!*

*Finally, after more exploring it was Quiz Time! I'm pleased to say Droylsden Academy absolutely smashed the quiz and won!*

*We found this day really invaluable and it gave us a further insight into the world of Theatre.*



### Religious Studies: Visit to the Fairfield Moravian Settlement

Recently, a group of Year 7 students visited the Fairfield Moravian Settlement to find out more about the culture, beliefs and lifestyles of these early settlers in Droylsden.

As part of the visit, the students had a tour of the settlement and learnt about the history of the Moravian Church.



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After the tour of the settlement, the students visited the College and the museum where they looked at the artefacts on display and found out how the early settlers used to dress.



Thank you to Sister Barbara and Sister Carol for welcoming us to the Moravian Settlement and for such an interesting, informative and enjoyable day.



If you are interested in visiting the Fairfield Moravian Settlement you can book adult tours or attend their Heritage Day on September 14th 2025.



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## Easter Egg Competition

The results of the design an Easter egg competition are in. As you can see from this photograph, all entries were mulled over seriously by our judges and difficult decisions had to be made.

In third place: **Tanisha Acheampong** for Oakfield  
In second place: **Nathan Kelly** also for Oakfield  
And in first place **Maddie Chadwick** for Saxon.



Congratulations! All winners will receive gift vouchers. Please come to Student Services to collect your prizes.

## ELECTIVES ROUND-UP



### DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Success

On 25th April, our Y9 participants completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award practice expedition around Calf Hey Reservoir near Haslingden.



The focus was on developing navigation skills, as teams worked hard to master map reading, compass use, whilst following a route across the moors to the summit of Hog Lowe Pike. Walking practice was key, building stamina and confidence with each kilometre covered. Teamwork shone throughout the journey, with groups supporting one another, sharing navigational responsibilities, and problem-solving together when they did make a wrong turn!



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The expedition provided a valuable opportunity to refine essential outdoor skills in preparation for the qualifying expedition on 20th and 21st May.



Well done to everyone for their effort and resilience!

**Matthew Laing, Dmarrio Callaghan, Morgan James-Monk, Cash Johnson-Davies, Pijus Kuraitis, Archie Nixon, Riley Rutter, Sophia Butler, Lily-Mae Nicholls, Cate Roberts, Lois Smith, Holly Taylor, Umair Akeel, Joseph Murphy, Nathan Philip, Curtis Stansfield, Aaron Tailor, Camille Reyes and Yanying Wu.**

### Gardening Elective

The wonderful weather we have been having since our return after Easter has allowed our tulips to bloom! We planted our pumpkin seeds and we are hoping this might be the year we finally get some pumpkins!



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## Einstein's Elective

Fire is back - this time in the guise of exploding soap bubbles!

The bubbles contain methane gas which is highly flammable. When the flame is put into the bubbles on the teachers hand it combusts.



Mrs Schofield, our resident Science pyromaniac, looking uncharacteristically anxious.

Ms Cairns, looking very much like this is just a regular part of her day job.



## Dance Academy

Over the Easter break, students in our Dance Academy Elective were selected amongst a large number of applicants to perform at the Lowry as part of the North West platform, U.Dance.

The dancers spent the day taking part in a number of workshops with industry professionals including the National Youth Dance Company and MM Twins Jazz, followed by an evening show and performance. The whole day was an incredible experience for our fantastic dancers who were commended on their politeness and performance skills!

The piece 'LAMINA EHT', explores the layers of sound within the accompaniment alongside animalistic characteristics. You can see it [here](#).

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## REWARD LUNCHES – IN RECOGNITION OF UPHOLDING OUR ACADEMY VALUES

Our excellent Year 11 Senior Prefects were recognised for their leadership and the contribution they make to the smooth running of the school.



The students were:

Kiki Akingbogun, Raffya Smagulova, Kenzie Gallagher, Samuel Askew, Oliver Newsam, Zac Devlin, Marshall Fleet, Jia Kang He, Priscilla Joel and Alyssa Evans.

## STUDENTS OF THE FORTNIGHT



Year 11's **Jesse Eastham** has been nominated for **English** by Ms Hudson. She says, *Jesse has been preparing so well for his upcoming GCSEs both in and out of lessons. His dedication, diligence and hard work is admirable and I look forward to seeing what he achieves both academically, and on the stage, in the future!*



Also, for English, Mrs Moss has chosen **Archie Wagstaff** who is in Year 10. She praises him for *always polite, hard-working, honest and excellent listener - a pleasure to teach.*

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Miss Fitzpatrick also recognises a student for English. She says of **Lewis Walker**, who is in Year 8, *Lewis delivers speeches with so much confidence and skill - he is always a pleasure to watch.*



In **Science**, Ms Sandiford has nominated Year 10's **Isabella Edwards** for her *outstanding performance in her recent T2 assessment and for her hard work and effort in lesson every day.*

**We are great learners because of our politeness, hard work and honesty.**

**Eden Rutter**, who is also in Year 10, has been recognised by Mr Evans for her *consistent excellent effort and performance in Science lessons and assessments.*



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In **Maths**, Mrs Wood has nominated **Rubie-Lillie Clark** from Year 8. Mrs Wood remarks that *Rubie always tries her hardest in Maths lessons. She is exceptionally quick with her times tables which is helping her succeed in many other areas of Maths.*

*Her homework is always completed to 100% and she is always willing to volunteer answers in lessons. She is always cheery and brings a ray of sunshine to my day.*

Another Year 10 Maths student has been recognised by Miss Barratt who has chosen **Reuben Hadfield**. She writes: *Reuben has been working really hard in Maths over the last few weeks. He regularly asks for help and responds well to feedback. His resilience is improving and this is showing in his work as he makes good progress. Well Done Reuben!*



In Humanities, Mr Peet has nominated **Brooke Feehily**, who is in Year 9, for **Geography**: *Brooke demonstrates great attitude every lesson. She is really keen to demonstrate her engagement with the subject. Well done Brooke!*



Mrs Bugler has nominated **Jayden Dewsbury** from Year 10 for *working so hard in Religious Studies and how well he articulates his opinions around sensitive topics such as euthanasia. Well done Jayden!*

In **History**, Mr Mosley has nominated **Darcie Jennings** - Year 8 - for her *outstanding resilience and effort in history. Darcie is incredibly inquisitive in our historical enquiries and doesn't shy away from any difficult questions.*



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### Year 11 Revision Sessions – during the half-term holiday

The following sessions are being offered over the half-term holiday period. Please note that students choosing to attend will need to arrive on time for safeguarding reasons and because staff will be unable to attend to the front door to let students in. If students are late, they won't be able to participate as students need to be signed in and out of the building.

Wednesday 28th May	Geography Mrs Banks M27 - All welcome (Paper 2 - CEW and Paper 3 focus fieldwork) 10am-12.30pm
Thursday 29th May	English Language 11XE1 with Mrs Fernandez 10am -1pm

### Electives - Fencing opportunity at Droylsden Academy

We have been able to secure the services of the British Fencing association and are in a position to offer a 6-week fencing course to students in Years 7 to 10.

The Elective will take place from 2:45pm to 3:45pm on Friday afternoons, commencing on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Assuming that all places are taken up, it is anticipated that the cost will be £18 for the entire duration of the course. All equipment will be provided and a copy of the risk assessment is available upon request.

If you would like your child to take part then please complete this short [form](#).



### A Message from Springboard for our current Year 11

Through the Academy's involvement with the [Hospitality Connect](#) project and our partnership with the Alan Hotel in Manchester, an offer has been to Year 11 students who might be interested in a career in Hospitality, or even a job for the summer.

Springboard are delighted to announce that they will be once again running their exclusive school/college leavers programme this year and would like to invite your child to take part. Their free **Springboard to Hospitality – Summer Kickstart Programme** is aimed at 15-18-year olds in Greater Manchester who are looking to upskill in hospitality. The programme will comprise of four days of training week commencing 9th July and a five-day work placement, week commencing 16th July.

The programme will provide students with the opportunity to gain industry related qualifications, whilst also working on their communication style, interview technique, employability skills and CV. As

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# SPRINGBOARD TO HOSPITALITY SUMMER KICKSTART

**FREE** two-week course for **16-18** year-olds interested in opportunities within hospitality. No experience or qualifications needed—just a positive attitude! The course offers the chance to gain industry qualifications, improve communication, interview skills, and CV building. Includes a work placement, plus the chance to connect with employers for potential job opportunities. Kick-start a career in hospitality today!

### What to Expect

- Free training providing skills and opportunities for working in Hospitality
- 3 industry recognised qualifications
- Opportunity for full or part time employment/apprenticeships
- Support with travel

For more information: [careers&education@springboarduk.org.uk](mailto:careers&education@springboarduk.org.uk)



To apply



well as taking part in hands on activities to gain new skills or enhance the skills and knowledge that they already have.

Following the course, students will gain access to employers, with the potential to gain full or part time employment and apprenticeship opportunities!

This programme is open to school leavers in **Greater Manchester** with an interest in the hospitality industry. No experience or qualifications are required to apply for the course, just a great attitude!

Parents and carers can apply on behalf of their child using the QR code on the parent flyer (below). You can also [apply here](#) for ease.

Applications are now open, and places are limited, so please apply as soon as possible if your child is interested

If you have further questions about this summer programme then please do not hesitate to reach out to Kerry Mabbley at [kerrym@springboarduk.org.uk](mailto:kerrym@springboarduk.org.uk).

## Career Opportunities – Choices and Careermag

# CHOICES MAGAZINE

The monthly parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education



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Building a Strong Network

UCAS Application Key Dates

The 'Experience vs. Education' Debate

**Careermag for Parents, Carers, and Guardians Issue 13 – May 2025**

Parents and carers can also sign up for an additional free Careers Newsletter called Careermag [here](#).

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## A message from our Catering Team

This week, we will be serving:



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausage and Mash	Jerk Chicken with Rice	Roast Dinner with Trimmings	Mince Beef and Onion Pie	Fish Fingers, in a bun, Chips and Peas
Cheese And Onion Pasty, Potatoes and Beans	Mac'n'Cheese	Veggie Roast Dinner with Trimmings	Cheese And Onion Pie, Potatoes and Sweetcorn	Veggie Burger Chips and Beans
Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling

And from our 'Grab and Go' menu:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BBQ Pasta Bake	Chicken Curry and Rice	Spicy Chilli Beef with Wedges	Chicken Strips with Rice	Chicken with Vegetables and Chips

And from our Juice Bar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jumbo Sausage in a Roll	Chicken Burger	Pizza slice	Cheese And Peperoni Panini	Jumbo Sausage Roll

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And week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> May:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli with Rice	Meat and Potato Pie	Roast Dinner with Trimmings	Sausage Plait with Mash and Beans	Jumbo Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas
Frittata with Potatoes and Sweetcorn	Veg Chilli with Rice	Veggie Roast Dinner with Trimmings	Cauliflower Curry with Rice	Veggie Sausage, Chips and Beans
Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling	Jacket potato and filling

And from our 'Grab and Go' menu:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli and Rice	Chinese Chicken with Rice	Spicy Beef Tacos and Wedges	Jerk Chicken with Rice	Sausage, Chips and Beans

And from our Juice Bar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Burger in a Bun	Jumbo Sausage Roll	Pizza slice	Cheese and Peperoni Panini	Beef Burger in a Bun



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## Academic Year 2024 to 2025

The term dates for the remaining academic year are as follows:

### Summer Term.

We will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and re-open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

We close for the Summer Holiday on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

- The GCSE examination period runs until the 25<sup>th</sup> of June
- There is a scheduled trip for Year 10 Photography students on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- There is a workplace encounter visit for Year 10 to BakerHicks in Salford on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May
- The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition takes places on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of May.
- The Academy closes for the half-term break on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and opens again on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- There is a Religious Studies visit for Year 8 to the Manchester central Gurdwara. This is scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

### 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 the School Led Route 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 Led training 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.

The 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 [K.Oag@mossleyhollins.com](mailto:K.Oag@mossleyhollins.com)

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options>

Apply here <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training> Course Provider Code 2A1