

Droylsden Academy is a good school

CHLOE ROWLAND

The funeral of Chloe Rowland, who passed away last month, took place on Thursday 5th December. Representatives from the Academy attended the service and Mrs Shaw, Chloe's Key Worker, read a eulogy for Chloe on behalf of our school. A transcript of the eulogy can be found below. After the service, students across all year groups lined the route along Manor Road and laid flowers as the cortege passed in front of the Academy on the way from St Marys to the Cemetery. This solemn and moving tribute and act of remembrance was observed immaculately by all our students and we hope that it brought some comfort to Chloe's family on this most difficult of days.

My memories of Chloe by Christine Shaw

In September 2018 I was introduced to a new student. She had long copper hair that went past her waist, sparkling eyes and the most beautiful smile which would have lit up any room. Her name was Chloe Rowland. I was asked to be her key worker and was honoured to take on the role. Chloe was in a wheelchair but this did not stand in her way; her Mum and Dad wanted her to be treated like any other student and I was determined that she would be.

I want to share some memories of my precious time with her.

Chloe was an intelligent student who loved every lesson she went into, she worked hard and was always committed. Her love was English and especially reading, she wanted to be an author and have an international best seller. She wanted a big house with five bedrooms, she said I could stay at weekends and we would read and watch the stars.

I would take Chloe into the Gym where she would do some boxing and into the Sports Hall to play Table Tennis. She also loved Dance and Drama and these activities became part of her PE/Expressive Arts sessions. I introduced Chloe to the garden where we planted herbs, flowers and vegetables; this was Chloe's favourite place and we visited it as often as we could. She would listen to the birds singing and she would read; it was wonderful to see her get lost in her favourite book.



Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



We had lots of fun times together and once when Chloe was doing some art work she knocked a full pot of glitter over! She was covered from head to toe in glitter and I had to take her to maintenance and borrow a vacuum cleaner and vac her down; Chloe of course found it hilarious! Another time we visited the garden and Chloe's wheelchair got stuck in the mud. I tried to get her out but the wheelchair was stuck and I had to run into school and get the caretaker to help get her out. Chloe drenched her Dad one afternoon when we took him down to see the new wet room. Chloe got hold of the remote control, pressed it and the water from the toilet drenched Dad.... apparently it hadn't been programmed, Chloe laughed so much.

Chloe would always take her shoes off at some point during the day, the problem was she never told me when! One day I found one in Science and the other in English; at the end of the day Dad would say 'shoes off again Chloe', it became part of the routine. Chloe loved Wednesday as it was 'Roast Dinner Day' and she would always ask for an extra Yorkshire Pudding; she loved her food and always enjoyed social times. Chloe also raised money for the Dogs Trust and the Academy became the proud owners of a puppy called Sweep.

I had a beautiful relationship with Chloe and she flourished. She loved life and she adored school. Chloe asked once why teachers had holidays as she wasn't able to come to school! Chloe was in every after school club that was at the Academy.

On her last day at school she was fine, she worked hard all day as always and was excited because her Nan was picking her up from school. At the end of the day on Thursday, she gave me a cuddle as always and we said goodbye. Chloe will always have a special place in my heart. I have so many special memories which will stay with me.

Chloe, I was privileged and proud to support you during our 16 months together. You will be special to me forever. So go fly with Tinkerbelle, ride on the unicorns and swim with the mermaids.

Goodbye for now

Lots of Love

Mrs Shaw xxx



Chloe Alisha Rowland (2006 – 2019)

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Year 11, there are only 17 school weeks left, just 85 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Last September, in Edition 1 of Newsflash for this academic year, we reported that there were just 29 school weeks or 145 days in school to go. How quickly have those 60 days gone?

Make sure that you have 100% attendance over the last two weeks of term. If you are absent, lessons will continue without you and you will miss important work, information and exam preparation.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Tameside Cross Country Championships

The Academy Cross Country Team took part in the Tameside Championships this week. The event was held at East Cheshire Harriers with the Academy team competing against students from other Tameside schools. Our students performed brilliantly with a number of them finishing in the top 20 of their respective races, meaning that they will now go on to represent Tameside in the Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships at Heaton Park.

In the Year 7 Championships, Fares Albelil finished in 2nd place in the Boys race and Rose Taylor and Harri-Ann Fleet finished in 9th and 11th place respectively in the Girls race. Well done to the other Year 7 team members, Luca Derbyshire, Dylan Hall, Samuel Otabor, Oliver Gemmell, Violet Hodges-Blackshaw, Endurance Arhunande and Tallulah Connolly who also represented the Academy.



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In the Year 8/9 Championships, Abraham Joel finished in 10th place 9ⁱⁿ the Boys race with Ruby Johnson finishing in 17th place in the Girls race. Well done to the other Year 8/9 team members, Jennifer Astle, Erin-Leigh Clarke, Ruby-Jess Taylor, Ikram Gudeta, Tavon Forrest, Frank Kiriuki, Cole Scott-Lawlor and Dylan Smith who all ran well.



In the Year 10/11 Championships, Festus Chale, Jack Beckett and Dalil Alhassan finished in 8th, 9th and 10th place respectively in the Boys race with Taylor Megram and Lucy Alderson finishing in 9th and 12th place in the Girls race. Well done to the other members of the Year 10/11 team, Bailey Harrison, Zainab Ibraheem and Mia Walker who all finished in the top 25 in their respective races.

Awards Evening



Last week we welcomed back the 'Class of 2019' for their Awards Evening and reflected on their successes and achievements whilst at the Academy. It was lovely to catch up with the year group again and find out about the courses they are now studying at College and their future plans.

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Congratulations to everyone who attended and collected their GCSE Certificates and, in particular, to the following students who were nominated for special Academy Awards:

Sophie Owen and Samuel Farrell who both received Awards for Academic Excellence;

Jonathan Le who received the Award for Academic Excellence sponsored by Tameside College;

Jack Gee who received the Award for Academic Achievement sponsored by Clarendon 6th Form College;

Maham Khan who received the Award for Outstanding Progress;

Daniel Shepherd who received the Award for Endeavour; and

Daniel Shaw who received the Award for achieving 100% Attendance throughout his five years at the Academy.



Droylsden Academy PRIDE Day

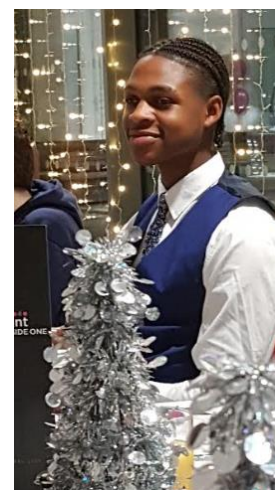
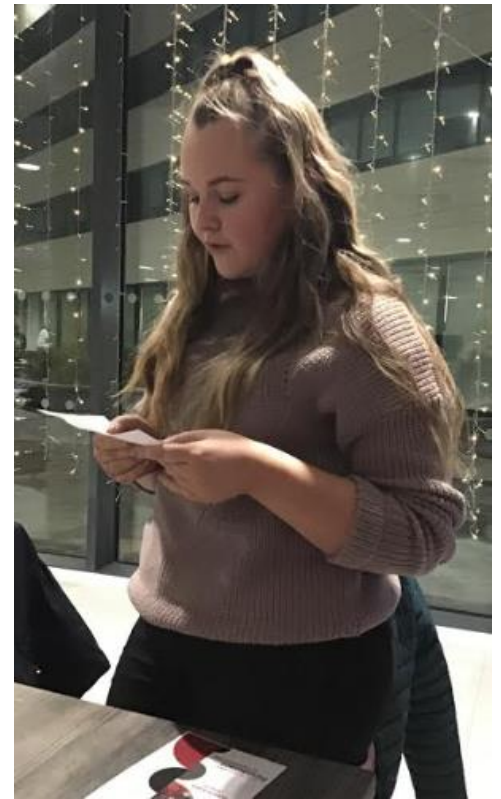
We held our first PRIDE Day last Friday when we raised funds for the local LGBT Youth Community Group. The Atrium was decked out in flags, students wore coloured socks for the day, music was played over the sound system at break and lunchtime and there was also a raffle and a 'cupcake' sale! Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



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Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition.....

Year 11 students experienced a four course dinner at 'Tameside One' this week where they found out more about 'dining etiquette' and customer service as well as having a lovely meal out! The students will use the experience as a basis for a GCSE coursework assignment which will go towards their final grade. Thank you to Kenzie, Nikita, Kiera, Kaci and Sara who gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Arnold, Miss Ball and Mrs Owen for all the help and support they have given to the group throughout the course.



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Back at the Academy, students in Years 8 and 9 make their Christmas cakes! Last week we marinated the fruit, this week we cooked our cakes and next week we will be decorating them!



Remember, this isn't just cooking, this is Art, Collaboration, Confidence, Communication, Creativity, Geography, History, Mathematics, Organisation, Problem Solving, Science and Time Management!

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Basketball

This week, the Year 7 Basketball Team took part in the Tameside Schools Games at Alder Community High School. The students have been attending the Basketball Club after school every Wednesday, with coaches from Manchester Giants, and have been developing their skills and gameplay! The team played against six other schools from across Tameside, playing some excellent basketball as well as displaying excellent sportsmanship! Well done to Fares, Samuel, Cameron, Alfie, Osaid and Yan!



Back at Droylsden, students from Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in their own Academy games. Well done to the winning team from Year 7, made up of Alfie-Lee Murphy, Cameron Sheehan, Fares Albeleli, Ilir Caka and Bassirou Gueye and Years 8/9, made up of Luke Manning, Daniel Ihejirika, Lamech Asamoah Tannor, Muhammed Aliu and Nana Kwame Asabere.



Leadership Celebration

Members of the Academy Leadership Team meet with students each week in recognition of their achievements, skills, personal qualities or contribution to Academy Life. This week, Mrs Arnold had a breakfast of Hot Chocolate and French Pastries with a group of students who have demonstrated real character as members of their year group and the Academy.



Bradley Gilbert Isabel Murphy Nana Asabere Aleena Iqbal Mia Culpin Damian O'Connor

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Individual student news and successes

Congratulations to Ruby Miller from Year 7 who competed in the 2019 World Karate Championships for her Club, Kobra Kan Karate Do, where she won Gold! Ruby is not one to shout about her achievements from the roof tops and took a little persuasion from her Form Tutor, Miss Stoakley, to appear in Newsflash!



Congratulations to Elisa Morreale who was named 'Chef of the Week' in the first heat of 'The Droylsden Academy Master Chef'. Elisa made an amazing Nutella cheesecake and had to fend off other competitors and staff who wanted to take some of it home with them. Elisa goes straight through to the quarter finals along with Favour Otabor, Daniel Dadashzadeh and Angelo Moraru.



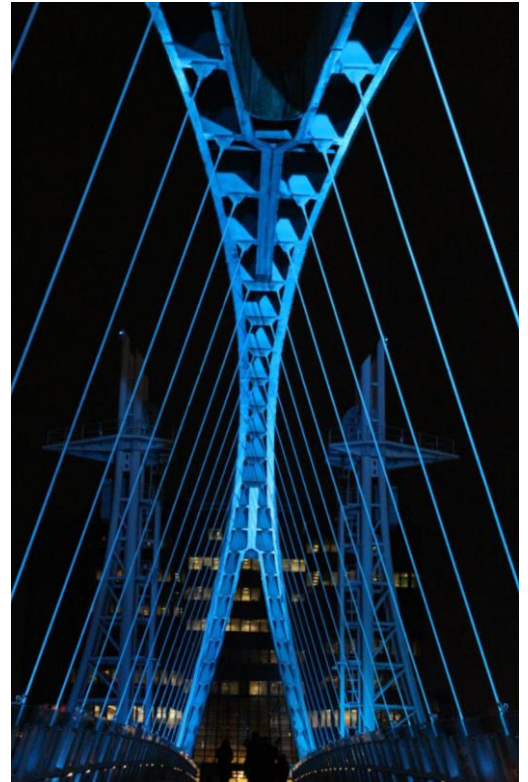
Meanwhile we have our very own Palaeontologist in Isabella Heywood and congratulations to Rory Hand on receiving a Tameside Mayoral Badge when he met and spoke with the Mayor in Ashton. Isabella found her fossil when she was on holiday in Wales and brought it into the Academy to show the Science Department.



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And finally, in the Art Department....

A second group of GCSE Photography students visited Salford Quays to take photographs against the night sky line for their coursework portfolios.



The two photographs below are examples of how the students have digitally manipulated their photographs back at the Academy.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Magazines

The Library has taken delivery of a new set of magazines, selected to tempt even the most reluctant reader. Titles include 'BBC Wildlife', 'Four Four Two' (football), 'All About Space', 'Science Focus', 'Q Magazine', 'Total Film', 'Shout' and 'Spider-Man'. Come up to the library at break, lunch or after school and have a browse. Please let Mrs Godrich know if there are any other titles you would like her to order; she is always open to suggestions!

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New Library Opening Times

The library is now fully open from Monday to Wednesday from 8.15am to 4.00pm. The Student Librarians are in charge on Thursdays and Fridays when the library is open before school, at break and at lunch. It will not be open after school on these days. Mrs Godrich has now also taken on the role of Careers Education and Information Co-ordinator and the Library is to become the hub for all information related to Careers, Colleges, Universities and Apprenticeships. She will be working alongside Mr Lee Jackson from Positive Steps to ensure that information for students of all ages is kept up to date and that students get access to the best advice and guidance possible.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Mihai Voicu from Year 7 and Ellis Gregory from Year 9 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.



Mihai has been nominated by the Maths Department as he has worked fantastically hard so far this year. He puts 100% effort into all his lessons and is always willing to contribute to class discussions. Mihai has impressed so much that he has been moved up a higher set. Well Done Mihai and keep it up!

Ellis has also been nominated by the Maths Department as he always works hard and stays resilient and positive even when the work is difficult. Ellis has become more confident in the subject as the year has gone on and will often help his peers if they are struggling. Ellis is always polite and is a pleasure to teach. Keep up the fantastic work Ellis.

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The Academy Christmas Concert

Please join us for an evening of Classical and Contemporary Music and Dance at the Academy Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11th December.

Tickets, priced at £2.00 each, are available from Student Services. All proceeds will go to Ronald McDonald House, a charity which provides hospital accommodation for the families of seriously ill children.

E-Safety

With the vast array of Social Media Platforms and Apps available, E-Safety can be a huge concern for parents. With this in mind we will be publishing a series of guides which we hope will help you keep your children safe and secure. The third guide on 'Fifa 20' can be found on the back page of this edition.

With Christmas approaching, parents may be thinking of buying a games console or a game for their child. As with any form of technology or online space, adult offenders can use gaming platforms to target children and build relationships with them. Understanding the different elements of gaming, and how they can be used by offenders, can help you keep your child safe. The link here contains some really useful information:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

The following link can also help you in setting up the parental controls for your child's console:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/gaming-consoles-for-children/>

Attendance Christmas Draw

Remember, 100% attendance and excellent punctuality over the half term gets you in the 'Grand Christmas Draw' where you could win one of these great prizes!

- 1st Prize A Mountain Bike and helmet
- 2nd Prize £75 Voucher
- 3rd Prize £50 Voucher



Classical and contemporary music and dance
7.00pm, Wednesday 11th December,
The Atrium, Droylsden Academy
 Tickets available From Student Services - £2.00



All proceeds to Ronald McDonald House

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The Academy Christmas Concert will take place on the evening of Wednesday 11th December.

The trip to the Lowry to watch a performance of 'The Grinch' will take place on Wednesday 18th December.

The Academy will break up for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 20th December at 12.00pm.



You don't need to be the biggest football fan in the world to have heard of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) - the governing body for football. And, the video game series bearing the organisation's name is one of the most successful ever. The lure of this football series is that official licensing gives your child the opportunity to play games in the role of their favourite players. They can either work through a story mode version of the game or play online in competitions against other players. The game, released annually by Electronic Arts under the EA Sports label, is available for a range of consoles, and there are also mobile versions available for smartphones and tablets.



What parents need to know about FIFA 20



CONSTANT SERIES REFRESHES

The big selling point for the FIFA range of games is that it FIFA includes current players; a feature which no other football video game offers. However, this means that a new version of the game is released every year, with updated teams, players and stadia, plus new gameplay features and tweaks. And, with every annual update of the game, there is an expectation that it will be far better than the previous one, so the pressure to upgrade and buy the new version is likely to be immense!

FAKE EMAILS AND SCAMS

Your child may receive an email or see a message on social media or in forums which appear to be a genuine FIFA promotion. While the link may seem like a FIFA login page, it's a phishing scam to capture a login name and password. Scammers may use names that sound legitimate, like 'EA Admin' or 'FIFA Developer'.



JUST ONE MORE GAME

Your child could be playing FIFA games on their computer or console for very long periods of time. That's not to say that computer-based matches are a full 90 minutes long, but a series of 20-minute matches can very quickly fill up a day! The World Health Organisation has classified 'gaming disorder' as a mental health problem - this is when children have trouble controlling their gaming behaviour and let it reign over their lives and daily routine.



IN GAME CHAT

While the FIFA video game is suitable for children of all ages as it does not include any inappropriate content, there is the issue of in-game chat. Your child can play with other people online and chat with them using headsets. As this is largely unregulated, it could mean that your child is exposed to language or conversations that you deem unsuitable.



BUYING ADD-ONS

In-game purchases are to be expected in any modern game and FIFA is no different. FIFA Ultimate Team (commonly called FUT) is a mode in FIFA that lets gamers build teams of players from any league, playing both offline and online to win coins. These can be used to buy better players or packs containing random players. While some purchases can be made using in-game currency, other purchases involve spending with real world money, which could become expensive. There have been reports of parents receiving large credit card bills resulting from in-game purchase made by their children.

FIFA GAMEPLAY

The FIFA series has been criticised for the competitive nature of gameplay leading to aggression in some players. Add to this the chance to converse with other players via in-game chat, and the potential for anger levels is likely to rise... especially if you're losing heavily!



Top Tips For Parents

ABOUT THE SERIES REFRESHES

As a parent, the implications of this really depends on the age of your child and your relationship with them. It may be that playing and sharing games is part of your family life and so this isn't a problem, but just be mindful that being involved with the FIFA franchise is unlikely to be a one-off event - it's the start of a gaming journey that could last for many, many years and involve numerous (potentially expensive) upgrades.



STEER CLEAR OF SCAMMERS

You should teach your children to stay clear of scams. Explain to them that they must be wary of any link which asks them to either verify their username and password or provide other sensitive information; game developers will never send a message asking for login information. Console messages, emails and websites, or social media posts promoting contests for in-game content, such as packs, players, or coins requiring login information are fake.



MONITOR ACTIVITY

The parental controls on consoles can be used to restrict the amount of time spent playing. Physically monitoring how much time your child is spending in FIFA is recommended - just as you might monitor how much time they spend watching TV. Keep an eye out for warning signs, such as a lack of interest in other activities, tiredness or fatigue, neglect of personal hygiene, changes in character or anger issues where your child is told to stop playing a game.



HAVE THEM REPORT ABUSE

It's unlikely that you'll be able to convince your child to play FIFA without making use of the chat facility - it's something that adds to the experience. However, you should ensure your child is aware of how to silence any abusive players and how to report anyone who becomes problematic.



RESTRICT PURCHASES

To spend real money in FIFA, a credit or debit card must be linked to a gaming account, so ensure that your card is not being used for this! There's also support for PayPal payment, so also check who has access to this type of account. Depending on the platform your child is using to play FIFA, there are different parental controls that can be put in place to restrict spending should you allow them to link a card to their account. There is also a payment option called Paysafecard, which allows you to make payments online without the use of a bank account or credit card. As you can top up balances, this makes it easy to control spending.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Monitoring in-game chat may be difficult as you're likely to only be able to hear one side of a conversation. However, noticing how your child is reacting may be a reasonable indicator of the general mood. Dealing with both the frustrations of a game as well as troublesome people can serve as useful life lessons, but as a parent, you know your child better than anyone else. If you notice your child is getting too upset or angry, that's the time to intervene and try to encourage them to take a break from the game.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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