

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

United Kingdom Maths Challenge

Earlier this term, students from Years 9 and 10 sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust). The Challenge is designed to test the top mathematicians in the country and the highest achieving students nationally can achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold status.

Congratulations to the following students from Years 9 and 10 who achieved Silver and Bronze Awards in this prestigious national competition:

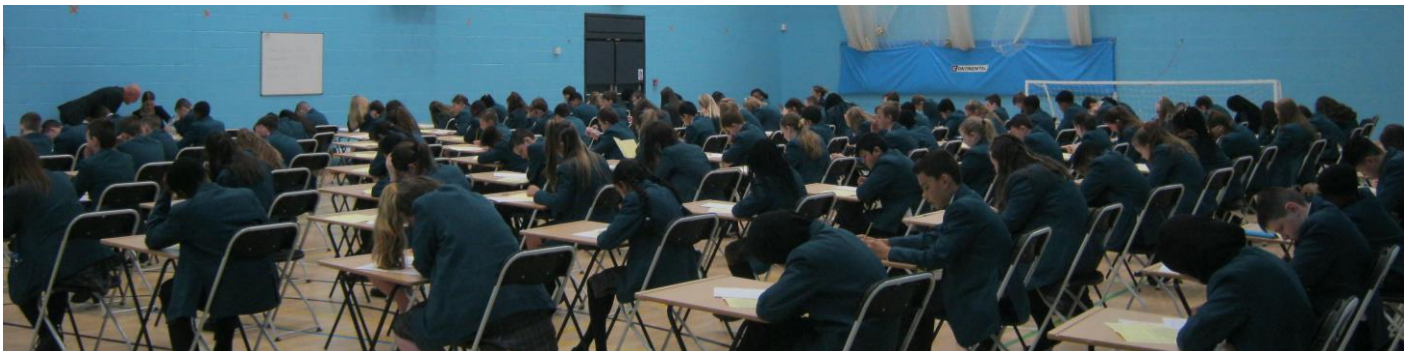
Silver Award

Rona Amiri, Alex Leonard-Walker and Malakai Garner. Rona achieved the highest mark in the Academy.

Bronze Award

Sayeida Talukdar, Joshua Wilson, Menal Aamir, Jack Beckett, Sammy Hampson, Ben Evans, Max Gee, Jack Taylor, Kacey Devenport, Tracy Nwanze and Ha Young Cho

Students from the Excel Maths Groups in Years 7 and 8 sat the UKMT Junior Challenge this week and we look forward to their results in due course. The photo below shows the students sitting the Challenge under strict exam conditions.



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Greater Manchester School Games

Congratulations to the Academy Year 9/10 and Year 7/8 Volleyball teams who took part in the Greater Manchester Schools Games this week, as Tameside champions, competing against the best schools from across the region. After playing some fantastic Volleyball, the Year 9/10 team won the Gold Medal and the Year 7/8 team won the Bronze, with some brilliant performances. **This is the first time we have won a Gold Medal at the Greater Manchester Schools Games and to be crowned as the best team from across all the schools In Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan is an outstanding achievement!** Well done to both teams on some incredible performances and on displaying a fantastic attitude throughout the day.

Year 9/10 Volleyball team

Greater Manchester Champions

Emmanuel Akubo
Reiss Gore
Michael Bawuah
Aaron Bile
Jessy Lukusu



Year 7/8 Volleyball team

Greater Manchester Bronze Medal
Winners

Dylan Smith
Michael Sarpong
Gad Amakye
Emanuel Bawuah
Lamech Asamoah Tannor
Nana Osei Asabere

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Droylsden Academy 'Bake off'

After an extremely competitive and close-run 'Victoria Sponge Cake' quarter-final, Harmony McCann was named as 'Star Baker' of the round. Harmony created a beautiful 'Very Berry' sponge cake, with fruit on the top and a delicious fruit compote inside. Joining Harmony in the semi-finals will be Molly Nash, Stephanie Owusu, Sammy Hampson and Elisa Morreale. Congratulations to all our semi-finalists.



GCSE COUNTDOWN

All Year 11 students have now been issued with their GCSE examination timetable. The timetable for the two weeks leading up until the May Half Term Holiday is shown below. **Please look through your child's examination timetable with them and familiarise yourself with the dates and times of the exams that they will be sitting.**

| Date | Session | Exam |
|---------------------------|---------|--|
| Mon 13 th May | am | Computer Science Paper 1 |
| | pm | |
| Tue 14 th May | am | French (Listening and Reading) |
| | pm | Triple Science: Biology Paper 1 Combined Science: Biology Paper 1 |
| Wed 15 th May | am | Portuguese (Writing) Urdu (Listening and Reading) PE Paper 1 (Fitness and Body Systems) BTEC Health & Social Care (Resit): Health & Wellbeing |
| | pm | English Literature Paper 1 |
| Thur 16 th May | am | Triple Science: Chemistry Paper 1 Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 1 |
| | pm | Computer Science Paper 2 |

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| | | |
|---------------------------|----|--|
| Fri 17 th May | am | French (Writing) |
| | pm | Drama (Performance and Response) PE Paper 2 (Health and Performance) |
| Mon 20 th May | am | |
| | pm | Portuguese (Listening and Writing) |
| Tue 21 st May | am | Maths Paper 1 (Non Calculator) |
| | pm | Geography Paper 1 |
| Wed 22 nd May | am | Spanish (Listening and Reading) Urdu (Writing) Chinese (Listening and Reading) |
| | pm | Triple Science: Physics Paper 1 Combined Science: Physics Paper 1 |
| Thur 23 rd May | am | English Literature Paper 2 |
| | pm | |
| Fri 24 th May | am | Italian (Listening and Reading) |
| | pm | - |

The following photographs show Year 11 students taking their GCSE Art practical examinations this week. We hope that the exam went well.



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PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP ON IMPROVING

The Senior Leadership Team are beginning the process of writing the new Academy Improvement Plan (AIP). This plan will have the priorities, plans and actions that will be required between 2019 and 2021 to bring further school improvement. The plan we write drives all our meetings and our work over the next two years so it is incredibly important that we get this right for you.

As part of this process, we are determined to hear the ideas of as many key stakeholders as possible, especially those of students and their parents/carers.

To help us with our planning, it would be great if you could share any ideas that you may have about how we can further improve our school. Please be as constructive as possible. There are plenty of forums where students and parents can raise concerns or praise the school but this request is more specific.

The key questions are:

1. What priorities should the school have for 2019-20 and 2020-21 and why?
2. What actions should the Senior Leadership Team put into place to drive this improvement?

If you have any suggestions or ideas please let us know via email at:

admin@droylsdenacademy.com

marking your message as either Student AIP Suggestion or Parent/Carer AIP Suggestion accordingly.

The deadline to allow us to properly consider your ideas is Friday 17th May 2019. We would be most grateful if you could find a little time to share your thoughts.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The book of the week is 'Star by Star' written by Sheena Wilkinson. The following review was written by Olivia Brennan in Year 7.

'15 year old Stella was brought up in Ireland by her suffragette mother. When her mother dies from the flu pandemic sweeping across Europe in November 1918, Stella is sent to live with her estranged aunt who runs a boarding house. This coincides with a time of great change for the country as women are allowed to vote for the first time. Stella is determined to follow in her mother's footsteps to help make history and, whilst her age denies her the right to vote herself, she goes to great lengths to ensure a former suffragette hunger-striker and childhood friend of her mother is able to cast hers.



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In Stella, Wilkinson has created a strong memorable character and has successfully managed to capture the awkwardness of being a teenager. She is a hugely relatable protagonist, particularly to a young person, as she is just like any teenager today. I felt great empathy towards her and I loved how she felt so strongly about things and spoke her mind.

All in all, this is an extremely refreshing and worthwhile read from, clearly, a very talented author. It is the first Sheena Wilkinson novel I've read and after reading 'Star by Star' I will be going back for more. I would recommend the book to anybody, mainly girls, whether they're interested in historical fiction or not. Recommended for ages 11+.'

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

The Academy Governing Body, Senior Leadership Team and staff have been discussing changes to the school day which we would like to implement at the start of the next academic year in September. As part of the consultation process, Mr Wilson has spoken with all year groups during this week's Assembly and each student has been given a letter to take home for their parents/carers. A copy of the letter can be found below.

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: CONSULTATION - CHANGES TO OUR SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS



Each year we review key aspects of our school provision in order to ensure that your child is provided with the opportunities to develop into a healthy young adult with strong character traits so that they have the best chances of academic success.

This year we have undertaken an extended 5 month review of our Curriculum Offer. This school improvement process has taken place against a background of significant national change in education, including a requirement for all schools to provide a broad, balanced and rich curriculum.

To balance these demands it has been necessary for me to assess the current curriculum provided for your child and to plan changes which I believe will provide a future-proofed curriculum. In order to achieve this, I am proposing a change to the timing and structure of our school day as outlined below.

From September 2019:

- An increase in the number of lessons each week for all students. This will provide additional teaching time for key subjects and enhance the opportunities for the study of Life Skills (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education, On-line Safety, Careers and Citizenship Education). This means the introduction of **six 60 minute lessons each Monday** (one or more of these may be taught as double lessons) as opposed to the current five 60 minute lessons. **Therefore, each Monday the formal school day will finish at 3.35pm for all students.**

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- **A change to the length of the school day for Year 11** students every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday so that **their formal school day will finish at 3.30pm on these days.**

The additional learning time each day for Year 11 is a formalisation of our current “Lesson 6” provision. As it stands, many of our Year 11 students choose to stay back after school each day for additional study. Some students are invited to stay back and they attend Lesson 6 sessions. This means however, that our current “Lesson 6” sessions are not available to all. From September all Year 11 students will have a formal additional lesson every day of the week. Feedback from teachers and many students has been that this additional learning time is vital in ensuring that our Year 11 students are as prepared as possible for their GCSE examinations.

You may be aware that the new GCSE examinations place significantly increased demands on students. With these increased expectations of what students need to learn, remember and understand, high quality learning time is essential for success. My determination is that any Year 11 student who leaves Droylsden Academy will be equipped to compete with the best students in the country for higher education places and in the employment market. I am convinced that an extended school day for Year 11 students will allow our students the best possible chances to achieve this.

To clarify, from September 2019, school will start at the same time as now (students to be in the building by 8.25am) but it will finish an hour later for **all students every Monday at 3.35pm**. There will be no change to the current school day for Years 7 – 10 each Tuesday to Friday. However, **the school day will end at 3.30pm for Year 11, Tuesday to Friday**. The timings and lengths of breaks and lunchtimes will remain as they are now.

I believe that the proposed changes, which have been made after full consultation with staff and Governors, will allow us to provide your child with a curriculum structure which is broader, more balanced and richer. It will further support their academic learning needs whilst providing additional opportunities to develop essential life skills.

If you would like to submit any feedback or if you have any questions about the proposed changes to the timings of the school week, please contact me at school before 4.00pm on **Thursday 23rd May 2019**. Please email me at the following address: bfish@droylsdenacademy.com marking your email: School Day Consultation.

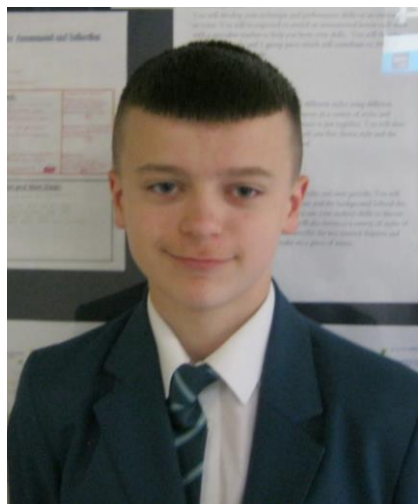
Thank you for your support with this consultation process and I look forward to your feedback.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Wilson
Headteacher

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Cameron Murray from Year 8 and Harris Mahmood from Year 11 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.



Cameron has been nominated by the Maths Department as he continually works hard during lessons, completes all work to a high standard and usually completes an extension task too. He has a positive attitude towards learning, takes pride in all of his work and is always polite. Cameron's recent E1 Assessment reflects his hard work as he achieved an impressive grade.

Harris has been nominated by the English Department as he always goes above and beyond anything that is asked of him in class. His enthusiasm and diligence has led to a significant improvement in his work. Keep this up Harris and you will reap the reward in your forthcoming GCSE examinations.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Bookflix and relax!

Look out for the display at the entrance to the library which is set out like a 'Netflix' screen showing the current top trending book titles and new releases, as well as 'Top Picks' for each year group. Any student taking out one of the books listed on the display will receive a Pride Point so get reading!

The Grand Library Book Sale

Remember to take a look at the 'Grand Library Book Sale'! All monies raised from the sale of pre-loved library books will go back into the library and its activities. Books start at 10p and there are some great deals to be had. Pop along at break and lunch to peruse the tantalising titles that are on offer! The Sale will end on 24th May.



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REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

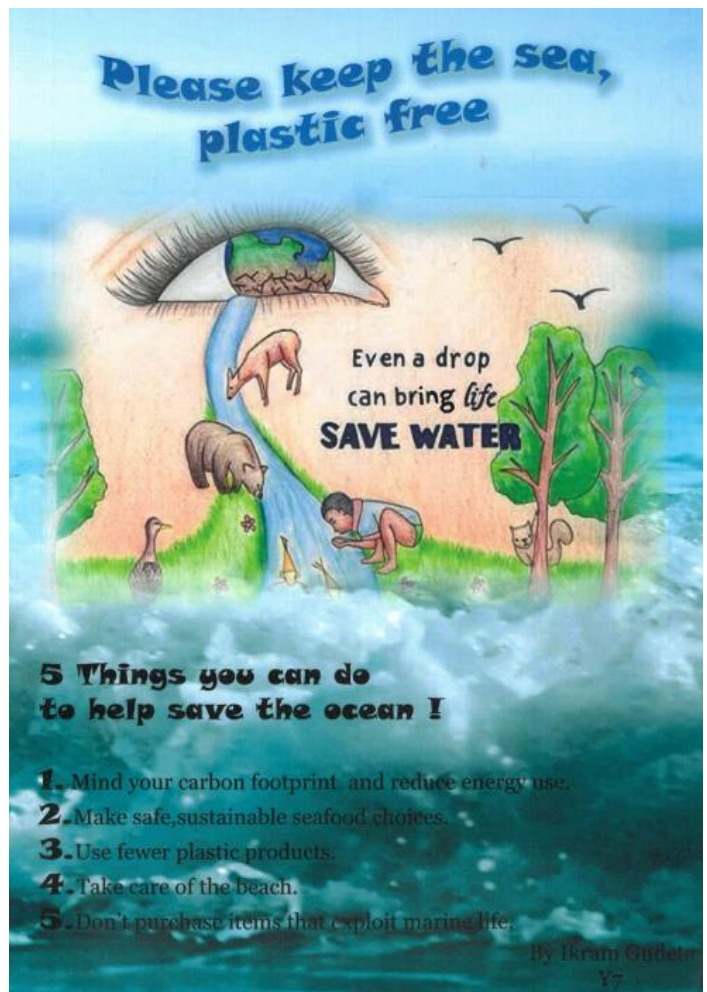
Extra-Curricular PE

The following extra-curricular activities will run over the remainder of the Summer Term. Sessions will start at 2.35pm after Lesson 5 has finished. Why not get involved and get active!

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | The Fitness Suite is open for students from Years 10 and 11. Girls Football (All years) Boys Football (Year 7) |
| Tuesday | Netball (All years) Boys Football (Year 9) |
| Wednesday | Athletics skills and techniques |
| Thursday | Athletics: Jump, Throw and Run! Boys Football (Year 8) |
| Friday | The Fitness Suite is open for students from Years 7, 8 and 9. |

An important reminder from Ikram Gudeta in Year 7

The poster below was designed by Ikram Gudeta from Year 7 and reminds us all of our responsibility to protect the oceans and value and conserve that most precious of resources, water.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May.

Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held on Thursday 9th May. Parents/carers of Year 8 students should have received a letter with further information about the consultation evening over the last week.

Injections against HPV2 will take place for Year 8 girls on Tuesday 21st May. Consent forms have already been completed and returned by parents/carers.

The Academy will break up for the half term holiday on Friday 24th May. The Academy re-opens after the holiday on Monday 3rd June.