

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Open Evening

We held our annual Open Evening last week when we invited Year 5 and 6 pupils from local primary schools, along with their families and other members of the community, to visit our school. Over 1,500 people attended the evening and it was lovely to hear so many positive comments from our visitors.

Around 200 students gave up their time to attend the Open Evening and help staff with displays, activities and performances. They were an absolute credit to their families, and to the Academy, and many of our visitors commented on how friendly, confident, polite and helpful our students were. Thank you, in particular to our Head Students, **Pippa Mansell** and **Neha Nasrullah** and Year 7 students **Ishaque Al Rayan** and **Millie Smith** who, along with our Co-Headteachers Mrs Arnold and Mr Mayell, gave a presentation about the Academy, which was then repeated later in the evening, to two packed audiences.

As you may be aware, the current Year 7 is full and oversubscribed and, for the fifth successive year, we have a waiting list of students who wish to join us. Early Indications from last week are that the Academy will be a popular choice again in 2024.



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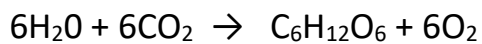
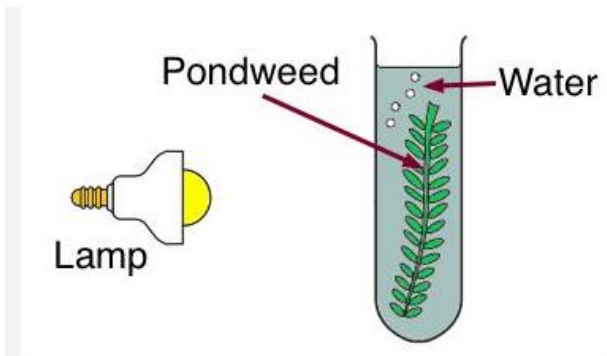
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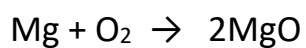
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Science

Year 10 have been investigating how light intensity affects the rate of photosynthesis by counting how many bubbles of oxygen are produced in a set period of time. In photosynthesis, plants use light energy to make glucose and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water. The quicker the bubbles of oxygen are being produced, then the faster the rate of photosynthesis!



Meanwhile, at Einstein Club, students have been heating magnesium ribbon in a Bunsen burner flame. When the magnesium heats up, it burns with a bright flash as it reacts with oxygen in the air to make magnesium oxide. Another interesting and enjoyable meeting for our budding scientists!



Food and Nutrition

In Food and Nutrition, Year 8 students have been learning about cooking different meats and how to avoid cross contamination. The group then applied their new knowledge and skills in preparing a beautiful Bacon and Cheese Risotto!

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Year 10 'Drop Down Day'

Year 10 took part in a 'Lifeskills Drop Down Day' this week where their normal timetable was suspended and they attended a series of alternative workshops and presentations instead. The theme for the day was 'The Future' and, amongst other things, the students considered 'Future Aspirations and the Route to Success', Apprenticeships, University Life and Study Skills. The students also attended mock interviews with representatives from the local business community, having applied for posts advertised at a fictional company earlier in the term. The year group were invited to attend the day in 'appropriate dress', in preparation for their interviews, and they all looked very smart too!

Thank you to all our visiting presenters and guests for supporting the event and for your feedback on the quality of engagement and the positive attitudes displayed by our students. Well done Year 10 on making the day an interesting, informative, enjoyable and successful one!



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This week's brightest **sparx**

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Edwin Ikechukwu**, **Bana Oubaid**, **Sophie Dean**, **Kiki Akingbogun** and **Jia Rui Fang** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

Year 7	Edwin Ikechukwu	3,382 XP
Year 8	Bana Oubaid	3,408 XP
Year 9	Sophie Dean	1,695 XP
Year 10	Kiki Akingbogun	1,624 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,553 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. Students are awarded 'XP Points' every time they attempt a question and evidence clearly shows that regular use of Sparx boosts a child's GCSE Grade. 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.

Year 7 Geography Fieldwork

Over the last week, students from Year 7 have been taking part in their first piece of Geography fieldwork, researching traffic and road safety in the vicinity of the Academy. The students have been looking at the immediate road links, junctions and services around the school and will now analyse their data and findings back in the classroom. We look forward to your analyses and conclusions!



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History

In History this week, students from 7D took part in a 'mock' archaeological dig to find Anglo-Saxon artefacts. Amongst their findings were ancient belt buckles, crockery, tomb engravings and purses which the group used to assess what life was like for people living in Anglo-Saxon England! Over the next few weeks, Year 7 will continue to look at what life was like for live for people living in England pre 1066 before William the Conqueror arrived from Normandy!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Mayvel Quicoe**, **Nawaab Faial** and **Nathan Philip**, all from Year 8, and **Oscar Doe Ncha** from Year 11 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Mayvel has been nominated by the Maths Department as he has a really positive attitude to learning and is developing a genuine resilience when approaching some of the more difficult topics that the group are covering. Mayvel is willing to put in the hard work to ensure that he makes great progress

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and actively contributes in lessons too, by volunteering answers and joining in with class discussions. Well done Mayvel and keep it up!

Nawaab has been nominated by the English Department for his outstanding work and effort in lessons. He always applies the skills he has learned with diligence and his contributions to class discussions are superb. Similarly, his ideas are insightful and creative and his response to teacher feedback is detailed and developed. Well done Nawaab, you have an amazing work ethic and will make great progress!

Oscar has been nominated by the Science Department as he has a great attitude to learning and is a really positive presence in the classroom. He works hard both in and out of lessons, as demonstrated by his exceptional performance in his recent bi-weekly assessment, in which he tackled the challenging Higher course content for the first time. Well done Oscar, you really deserve to do well!

Nathan has been nominated by the RE Department as 'Philosopher of the Week' as he shows a real commitment and positivity to his learning in every lesson. Recently, in a 'Do Now' activity, Nathan was able to list all 66 books from the Bible and categorise them as from either the Old or New Testament, showing a really in depth knowledge and understanding which he was happy to share with his peers. Well done Nathan and thank you for your contribution to our lessons!

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 24 school weeks left, just 120 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

By now, you should all have an idea what you may want to do when you leave Droylsden at the end of this academic year. It is important, however, that you get as much information as you can about the different colleges you can apply to and the courses and qualifications on offer. There will be lots of Open Days or Events over the coming term and it is important that you visit as many as you can so

that you can start to make informed decisions about your future. Details of the Open Days at Clarendon Sixth Form College and Tameside College can be found below:



CLARENDON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
OPEN EVENT 2023

Date	Time
Wednesday 27th September	5pm to 8pm
Saturday 14th October	10am to 2pm
Monday 13th November	5pm to 8pm

Clarendon Sixth Form College logo and Ofsted Good Provider logo are also present.



Date	Time
Monday 2nd October	5pm to 8pm
Saturday 14th October	10am to 2pm
Monday 13th November	5pm to 8pm

Tameside College logo, social media icons (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), website www.tameside.ac.uk, phone number 0161 908 6789, and Ofsted Good Provider logo are also present.

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Key Dates

Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening will be held on Thursday 12th October.

Your first set of Pre Public Examinations will take place from 13th to 23rd November.

Your second set of Pre Public Examinations will take place from 5th to 25th February.

A second Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening will take place on Thursday 7th March.



UPDATE FROM THE CATERING TEAM

And next week we will be serving...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Chicken Curry & Rice	Beef Burger in a Bun & Wedges	Roast Dinner	Spicy Beef Kebab on Khobez Bread	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Spicy Bean Burger	Cheese Whirl, Beans & Mash	Veggie Roast Dinner	Veggie Chilli & Rice	Veggie Sausage &, Chips
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
Fish Fingers on a Bun	Giant Hotdog	A large slice of Pizza	Spicy Beef in a Wrap	Pepperoni & Cheese Quesadilla

Finally, we also have a Menu for the meals we serve from the Pod. The Menu for next week is:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken, Rice & Curry Sauce	BBQ Pasta Bake	Chilli Beef Pin Wheel & Salad	Mac & Cheese	Fried Chicken, Chips & Corn

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The Tameside Local Offer for families and carers of children with special educational needs.

Have your say on the new Local Offer website for families and carers and of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Please click the link below to access the website and tell us what you think!

Tameside have created an online question form which can be completed here

<https://forms.office.com/e/NTSFC8Wi8k>

The deadline for completion is 10.00am on Monday 9th October.

Thank you

Aldwinians R.U.F.C.



ALDWINIANS R.U.F.C.

YEAR 7 – OPEN MORNING



YEAR 7 – OPEN MORNING SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER – 10AM

AUDENSHAW PARK, DROYLSDEN RD, AUDENSHAW, MANCHESTER M34 5SN

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
FREE TASTER SESSION FOR ALL YEAR 7 STUDENTS. PARENTS WELCOME TO WATCH

 www.aldwinians.co.uk

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION

7

PEGI

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 80 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.



GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord, a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These understandably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grater elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening will be held on Thursday 12th October.

The Academy will break up for the Half term Holiday on Friday 20th October.

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 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

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