

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Cup Success!

Congratulations to the Under 12 and Under 13 Girls and the Under 12 Boys Football teams who all enjoyed cup success this week!

The Under 12 and Under 13 Girls teams were both playing fixtures in the English Schools Cup and progressed to the next round with victories over Brooksbank School, from Elland in West Yorkshire, and Thomas Halford Catholic College, from Altrincham, respectively.

The Under 12 team showed real fight and resilience to come from two goals down to win 6-2 with goals from **Molly Chadwick (2)**, **Olivia Cunningham Clarke (2)**, **Annie Banks** and **Jess Pass**, whilst the Under 13 team played out a tight 2-2 draw, with goals from **Summer Atkinson** and **Mylee Dunbar**, before going on to win 4-2 on penalties with Mylee scoring the final and decisive 'pen'. Congratulations to both teams who are now looking forward to seeing who they draw in the next round!



Droylsden Under 12 Girls team: **Caitlin Connor Lowe**, **Lily Pollit**, **Tia Ferris**, **Jess Pass**, **Molly Chadwick**, **Hayley Tomkinson**, **Olivia Cunningham Clarke**, **Annie Banks**, **Scarlett Owens**, **Marley Wild** and **Summer Atkinson**

Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work



Droylsden Under 13 Girls team: **Amelia Benson, Jasmine Lockie, Mylee Dunbar, Caitlyn Shaw, Lola Jones, Jess Pass, Lily Pollitt, Tia Ferris, Molly Chadwick, Grace Connors, Marley Wild, Scarlett Owens, Annie Banks, Summer Atkinson and Hayley Tomkinson.**

A special mention should go to Jess, Lily, Tia, Molly, Marley, Scarlett, Annie, Summer and Hayley who, although only in Year 7, made the Under 13 English Schools Cup Squad too!

Meanwhile, the Under 12 Boys team followed up their 12-2 thrashing of Laurus Ryecroft in the League with a stunning 9-5 victory over Great Academy, Ashton in the Tameside Cup. The boys showed great resilience in coming from behind three times before going on to run away with the match. The Droylsden goals were scored by **Logan Gildr (4), Owen Boardman, Josh Joel (2), Travis Arrand and Karson Neild.** The Player of the Match was Logan who also scored the pick of the Droylsden goals with an audacious chip over the keeper from the half way line!



Droylsden Under 12 Boys team: **Kelly Aghahowa, Josh Joel, Owen Boardman (Captain), Kyle Francis, Archie Wilson, Bobby Robinson, Ollie McGrath, Tre Hamilton, Kai Morley, Logan Gildr, Leo Roberts, Ollie Collins, Travis Arrand and Karson Neild.**

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Civilized Dining!

Year 7 have learnt about the etiquette of civilized dining this week and are now ready to dine out or wait on at any of Manchester finest restaurants!

The group also took the opportunity to celebrate Black History Month by tasting fruits and foods traditionally from Afro-Caribbean countries including yam, figs, dates, okra, papaya, mango and plantain.



This week's brightest **sparx**

Year 7	Jayden Siu	6,670 XP
Year 8	Bana Oubaid	4,004 XP
Year 9	Hassan Alesmaail	1,674 XP
Year 10	Albatool Oubaid	1,698 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,553 XP

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Jayden Siu, Bana Oubaid, Hassan Alesmaail, Albatool Oubaid and Jia Rui Fang** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.



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.



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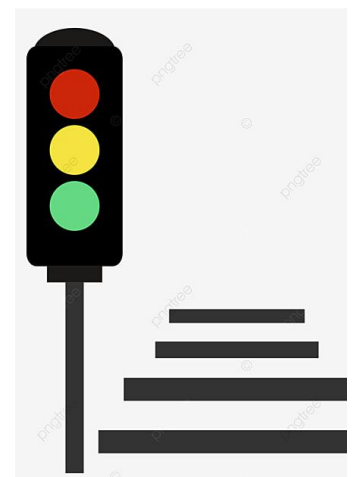
Photography

Thank you to **Bliss Doyle** from Year 11 for submitting these edits from her GCSE Photography Portfolio for inclusion in this week's edition of Newsflash!



Year 7 Geography Fieldwork

Year 7 have been continuing with their Geography fieldwork this week and on Monday Form Group 70 went out with Mr Jackson to research traffic and road safety in the vicinity of the Academy. The students looked 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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Futures Evening

Last week, we held our annual 'Futures Evening' to give students, parents and carers the opportunity to speak with representatives from a number of local colleges, universities, employers and training providers and gain an insight into the world of work and education.

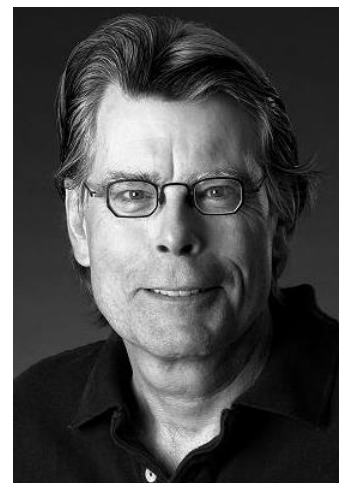


As our students progress through school, it is crucial that they begin to think about life after Droydsden Academy. Clearly, the employment market is changing rapidly and there is an ever-increasing demand for highly skilled and educated young people to enter the workforce. As such, we hope that those students who attended Futures Evening found it useful and interesting and that they now feel better informed about the opportunities, pathways and qualifications open to them when they leave at the end of Year 11. Whilst money is not everything, research does show that earning potential increases significantly for those people who achieve good degrees or high-level vocational training.



'Retro Reads'

This week, Mrs Ormrod, the Academy Librarian, continued the popular showcase of 'Retro Reads' by looking at the books written by the 'Master of Horror' himself, Stephen King! Although still a prolific writer today, King wrote 'The Shining', one of his best-known stories, back in 1977! Altogether Stephen King has written 71 stories and sold over 400 million books worldwide!



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout October, we are celebrating Black History Month with a special focus, this year, on the important work, successes and achievements of black women.

In Maths, students will be learning about Catherine Johnson, an American Mathematician whose calculations on orbital mechanics were critical to the success of the first and subsequent United States space flights. Her work included calculating trajectories, launch windows, rendezvous and return paths and was also essential in the development of the Space Shuttle program. Such was her contribution to space exploration that NASA noted the historical role she had played as one of the first African-American women to work as one of their scientists.



In Science, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be learning about and celebrating the work of Wangari Maathai. Although she was an academic and a Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at the University of Nairobi, Maathai is best known as an environmentalist and a campaigner for civil rights, democracy and education and against poverty. In Science, students will focus on her work as an environmentalist and her contribution to sustainable development. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 and planted trees across Kenya.

In English, students will be looking at the work of poet and playwright Jackie Kay who was inspired to write her first collection of poetry, 'The Adoption Papers', based on her experience of being adopted by and growing up with a white family. The poems deal with a child's search for her cultural identity and are told through three people, the child, the adoptive mother and the birth mother.



In Dance, students will be looking at the influence of African Dance, whilst in Drama, students will be focussing on black actors and playwrights and the play 'Small Island', based on the experiences of the Windrush Generation.

In Music, we will begin each lesson with a 'Do Now' activity based on Black Female Vocalists; where would you start?



Elsewhere, students will be looking at the work of black designers in Technology and tasting African and Caribbean Cuisine in Food and Nutrition. The Library will be 'Saluting our Sisters' by paying homage to black women who have never been given the recognition or acknowledgement they deserve for their contributions or ideas and creativity. There will also be African and Caribbean food sold in the canteen throughout the month and 'Sonic Screen', our Music Forum, will be focussing on Music of Black Origin. Finally, the Droylsden Debating Union will be discussing and debating issues around racism and civil rights. A very busy month!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Mia Pearce** and **Aiden Howard** from Year 9 and **McKenzie Worsley** from Year 11 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Mia has been nominated by the English Department as she has made an exceptional start since joining the Academy. Mia's English class are currently studying 'Utopias and Dystopias' and, for her group presentation, she chose to talk about young girls who are forced into marriage. Although oracy can be quite daunting and challenging, Mia spoke to the group with a real confidence, clarity and eloquence and had clearly gone above and beyond in preparing her presentation. Although Mia had chosen to present her talk as something dystopian, or in an imagined and unjust place, forced marriage is, of course, still a reality for young girls in many parts of the world today. Well done Mia, you are a real asset to the class!

Aiden has been nominated by the Science Department for demonstrating real skills at dissection this week when his group looked at the anatomy of fish. Well done Aiden, you have the touch and precision of a surgeon!

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McKenzie has been nominated by the Maths Department as he is such a hard-working student who has a great attitude towards his learning. McKenzie models the academy value of resilience in every lesson and is making fantastic progress. Well done McKenzie, you deserve to do really well.

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 23 school weeks left, just 115 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Key Dates

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

As you may have read in the earlier article, the Catering Team will be serving African and Caribbean food throughout October as a celebration of Black History Month.

Last week the team served up Babotie and West African Chickpea and Kale Curry. Babotie is a traditional African dish made of curry flavoured mincemeat topped off with an egg and milk-based layer. The dish demonstrates the fusion of cultures across Africa and is fragrant and colourful as well as being very tasty! West African Chickpea and Kale Curry is a light, vibrant and aromatic dish which uses a tasty blend of spices.

Thank you to Ms Heslop, Miss Parkinson and the team, what are we having next week?



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As well as preparing our 'guest dishes' next week, the Catering Team will also be serving...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Tandoori Chicken & Rice	Beef Lasagne, Veg or Salad	Roast Dinner	Mince Beef & Onion & Mash	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Cheese Omlette & D'phinoise Pots	Veggie Sausage & Pasta Bake	Veggie Roast Dinner	Chick Pea Curry & Rice	Veggie Mince Pie Chips & Peas
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
BBQ Pasta Bake	Chicken Curry & Rice	Spicy Chilli Beef with Wedges	Pasta Arrabiata	Fried Chicken, Chips & Corn

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chickenburger on a Bun	Giant Hotdog	A Hot Panini	A Large Slice of Pizza	Cheese & Onion Pasta

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

Academy Term Dates

The Academy term dates have now been set for the Academic Year 2024 to 2025. The dates for the current Academic Year, 2023 to 2024, and the Academic Year 2024 to 2025 can be found below:

Academic Year 2023 to 2024 (Current Academic Year)

Autumn Term

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 20th October and re-open on Monday 30th October.

We will be closed for a training day on Friday 24th November.

We close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 15th December.

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Spring Term

The Academy opens for students on Wednesday 3rd January.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 9th February and re-open on Monday 19th February.

We close for the Easter Holiday on Thursday 29th March.

Summer Term

The Academy opens for students on Monday 15th April.

We will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 6th May.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 24th May and re-open on Monday 3rd June.

We close for the Summer Holiday on Tuesday 23rd July.

Academic Year 2024 to 2025

Autumn Term

The Academy opens for students on Wednesday 4th September.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 25th October and re-open on Monday 4th November.

We close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 20th December.

Spring Term

The Academy opens for students on Tuesday 7th January.

We close for the Half Term Holiday on Friday 14th February and re-open on Monday 24th February.

We close for the Easter Holiday on Friday 4th April.

Summer Term

The Academy opens for students on Tuesday 22nd April.

We will be closed for May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May.

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

We close for the Summer Holiday on Friday 18th July.

A Message from Monkhouse, one of our uniform suppliers

Our school uniform supplier, Monkhouse is offering a huge 20% off everything in store and online between 16th October 2023 - 22nd October 2023. If you need to top up on any uniform or P.E kit items or need a refresh on your everyday essentials and stationery, now's the time to shop. Use code **DEAL20** at checkout or in store. www.monkhouse.co.uk.



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SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.



2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.



3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.



4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.



5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.



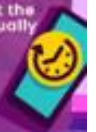
6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.



7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.



8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.



9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.



10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.



11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.



12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.





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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 Outstanding, 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