

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Choir of the Year 2023!

Better than the X Factor and bigger than the Eurovision Song Contest, it's back! Yes, it's the Droylsden Academy Year 7 Choir of the Year! But which Form Group will win the 'bragging rights' this year? Why not listen to excerpts of all eight entries through the link below and then have your say by casting your vote!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14uqkcwWhfMuOlAxBhRipXuEmDJpwjBEH8/view?usp=sharing>

We are not all natural performers and some of us are better singers than others so well done to everyone who got involved and took part. Miss Burgess knows how nervous some of the students were and is really proud of all of them for joining in! Well done Year 7!



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7O
"COUNTING STARS"

7Y
"I'M STILL STANDING"



7L
"PARTY IN THE USA"

7S
"WONDERWALL"



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Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Year 9 students took part in a 'Drop-Down Day' this week when they attended a series of workshops and presentations on Relationships, Health and Sex Education instead of their normal lessons. The sessions covered a range of really important topics including 'Healthy Relationships', 'Media Impact', 'Consent and Risks', 'Sexual Health' and 'Sexting and Safety' and were led by Academy staff and specialist external groups 'Tough Cookies', 'YouThink' and 'Odd Arts'. Thank you to all the presenters for a really informative, enjoyable and thought-provoking day.



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LIFESKILLS

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More Cup Success!

Hot on the heels of the U12 and U13 Girls Football teams, the Under 12 Boys team have now also made it through to the next round of the English Schools Cup with a hard fought win in a local derby against Audenshaw. With the score at 2-2 at full time, **Karson Neild**, **Owen Boardman**, **Bobby Robinson**, **Kai Bobby Morley** and **Logan Gilder** volunteered for the tense 'winner takes all' penalty shoot-out with a place in the next round up for grabs. After an important save by our Keeper, **Ollie Collins**, Logan stepped up to score the decisive penalty and ensure a 3-2 penalty shoot-out win for Droylsden. The team will now play Wilmslow High School in the next round, after the half term break.

Well done to all the team on another great performance with a special mention for **Tre'Sean Hamilton** and **Logan Gilder**, our two goal scorers during normal time, and to **Ollie Collins** for his penalty save!



Kelly Aghahowa, Josh Joel, Owen Boardman (Captain), Kyle Francis, Archie Wilson, Bobby Robinson, Ollie McGrath, Tre Hamilton, Kai Morley, Logan Gilder, Leo Roberts, Ollie Collins, Travis Arrand and Karson Neild

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Gardening Club

This week, members of the Gardening Club cleared up the garden, sweeping and raking away mud and leaves and making sure that any water can drain away in the event of heavy rainfall and potential flooding. Thank you to everyone who helped; the hard and dirty work now will all be worth it when you reap the harvest of fruit, vegetables and flowers in the spring and summer of next year!



Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended last week's Year 11 Parent Teacher Evening, we hope that meeting your child's teachers was useful and informative.

Thank you also to **Anna Nwanze, Blessed Agbonlahor, Michelle Manuwa James, Maria Oprea, Chau Hoang and Rachel King** who staffed Reception throughout the evening.

We were pleased that, of the parents who filled in an Academy questionnaire:

- 90% of them agreed that their child was happy at school;
- 98% felt that their child feels safe at school;
- 96% felt that the school ensures student behaviour is good;
- 84% agreed that the Academy made them aware of what their child would be learning throughout the year;
- 92% agreed that the Academy had high expectations of their child;

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- 87% felt that their child was doing well;
- 92% agreed that the Academy lets them know how their child is doing;
- 92% felt that there was a good range of subjects for their child to study;
- 86% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities;
- 81% felt that the Academy supports their child's wider personal development; and
- 99% would recommend the Academy to another parent.

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Brooklyn Bolton**, **Bana Oubaid**, **Taylor Wood**, **Laura-Elena Herscovici** and **Georgia Morris** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

This week's brightest sparx

Year 7	Brooklyn Bolton	6,188 XP
Year 8	Bana Oubaid	5,649 XP
Year 9	Taylor Wood	3,083 XP
Year 10	Laura-Elena Herscovici	5,526 XP
Year 11	Georgia Morris	4,084 XP



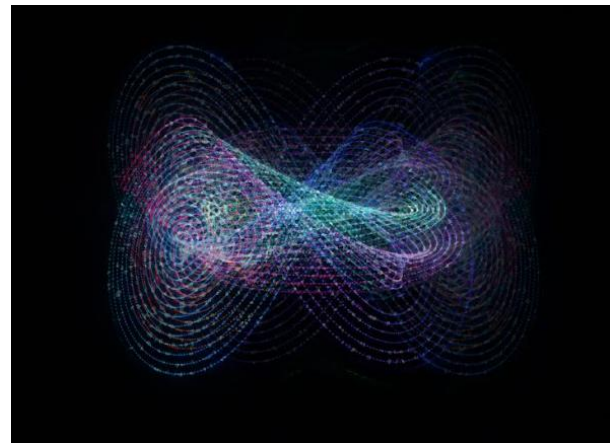
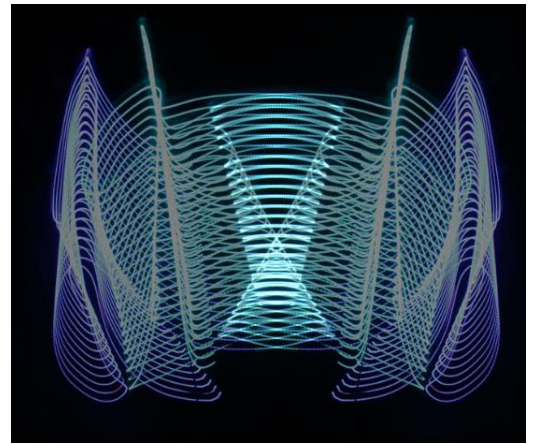
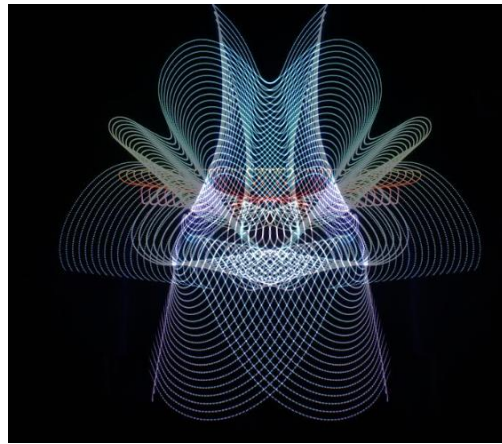
As Parents and Carers will be aware, Sparx is an online Maths resource which students can log onto at any time to practise and reinforce or develop their understanding of a topic, revise and complete homework tasks. Students are awarded 'XP Points' every time they attempt a question and evidence clearly 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.

Photography



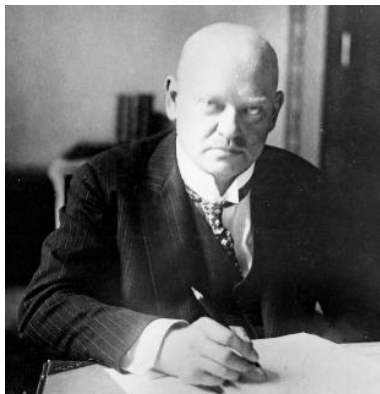
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Thank you to **Thomas Cronshaw, Harley Holbrook-Thane, Demi-Leigh Bellis, Alfie Weir** and **Lacey Lawson** for submitting these edits from their GCSE Photography Portfolios for publication in this week's Newsflash.



History

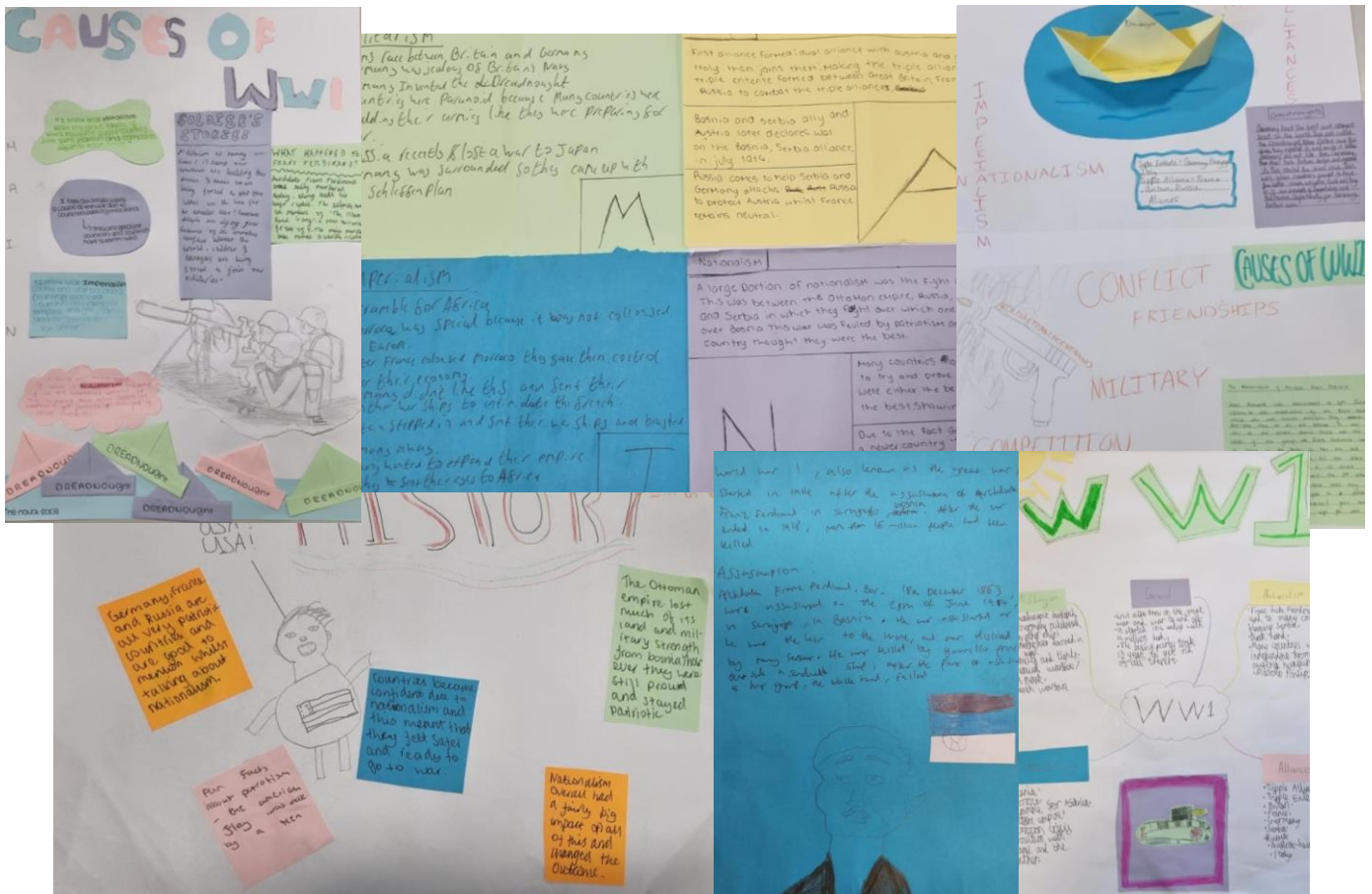
This week, in History, a group of Year 10 students have completed a scavenger hunt to find artefacts and props that help to tell the story of how Gustav Stresemann, Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic, helped resolve Germany's crippling hyperinflation after World War 1 and restore the country's international status. The artefacts include Kellogg's Cereals, Eggs, Carrots, Broccoli, a Wheelbarrow, a Piggy Bank, an American Flag, a Travel Guide, Dollars, a Door, a Book, Dancing Shoes and a Party Hat!



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Are there any historians out there who can explain how each of the props links to an event, strategy, belief or policy that helped to save Germany? Answers on a postcard to.....

Meanwhile, Year 9 have been creating revision resources which help to explain the causes of World War 1. The enquiry question posed to the students was 'Was World War 1 an inevitable conflict?' and the resources they produced clearly explain how Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism and Nationalism created a boiling pot of tensions in the early 1900s which led to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the onset of war. Well done Year 9 on your research and creativity!



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, you are now 7 weeks into your final year and there are only 22 school weeks left, just 110 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

Your Pre-Public Examinations start on Monday 13th November and it is essential that you start to revise for them over the half term break. If you are really committed to achieving GCSE exam success then you will put time aside each day to read through your notes and prepare thoroughly. Every time you read through your notes, a little more 'sticks' with you, you consolidate on your learning and you reinforce your understanding; the time is never wasted.

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- 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.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Miracle Agho** and **Elliott Langford-Cooper**, both from Year 7, and **Benjamin Howell** from Year 9 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Miracle has been nominated by the English Department as she has made a real effort and an amazing impression since the start of Year 7. Her group are studying Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Miracle's descriptions of her 'Alter Egos' are frightening, wonderfully structured, detailed and really impressive. Miracle also delivered a monologue to the class, about Mr Hyde's emerging transformation, with clarity and menace. Keep up this great work Miracle!

Elliott has been nominated by the Science Department as he shows a real interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject. He is happy to answer questions in class and always contributes to group discussions. Similarly, Elliott works hard in lessons and always completes homework to a high standard. Well done Elliott!

Ben has been nominated by the Mathematics Department as he has made a terrific start to the year. Ben is eager to learn and keen to succeed; he always finishes his work to a high standard and completes extension tasks too. Well done Ben and keep it up!

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UPDATE FROM THE CATERING TEAM

As you may be aware, the Catering Team are serving African and Caribbean food throughout October as a celebration of Black History Month.

Last week the team served up Jerk Chicken and Chakalaka. Jerk is a style of cooking native to Jamaica, in which the meat is either dry rubbed or wet marinated with a hot spice mixture called Jamaican Jerk Spice. Spices such as Scotch Bonnet Pepper give Jerk Spice, and Jerk Chicken, its spicy 'kick'! Other spices that are used in Jerk Spice include ginger, garlic and thyme.

Chakalaka is a traditional South African dish that was popular with the families of the miners who worked in the gold mines and lived in the townships around Johannesburg. The dish is based on canned beans, such as baked beans, tomatoes onions and chillies and is hot, vibrant and really tasty!

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



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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Chilli Con Carne & Rice	Sausage & Mash	Roast Dinner	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Fish Finger Butty & Chips
Vegetarian Option	Quorn Spaghetti Bolognaise	Mac 'N' Cheese	Veggie Roast Dinner	Cheese & Onion Pie and Mash	Veggie Burger, Chips & Beans
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
Mixed Pepper Pasta Bake	Chicken Wrap & Wedges	Cheese Whirl & Wedges	Chicken Madras & Rice	Sausage, Chips & Beans

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
Jumbo Hotdog	Burger on a Bun	Cheese & Pepperoni Panini	A Large Slice of Pizza	Chicken Strips in Khobez Bread

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Online Safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engaging. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.



Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy breaks up for the half term holiday on Friday 20th October. The Academy will re-open next half term on Monday 30th October.

HPV Vaccinations will be given to those Year 8 students with consent in week beginning Monday 30th October.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Academy on Friday 10th November.

There will be a visit to the Palace Theatre on Thursday 16th November to watch an evening performance of 'Hamilton'.

Year 7 'Settling-in Evening' will be held for the parents/carers of students in Year 7 on Thursday 16th November.

There will be a visit to the Lowry Theatre on Thursday 30th November to watch an evening performance of 'Edward Scissorhands'.

Recognition Evening for the 'Class of 2023' will be held on Thursday 30th November.

There will be a visit to the Lowry Theatre on Tuesday 12th December to watch an evening performance of 'The Life of Pi'.

The Academy Christmas Lunch will be served on Wednesday 13th December.

The Academy Christmas Carol Concert will be held on Wednesday 13th December

The Academy will close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 15th December.

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.**

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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>

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