

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Droylsden Academy GCSE Performance Data for 2023

We are pleased to report that, following the release of this year’s GCSE Performance Data by the Department for Education, Droylsden Academy has been ranked as **above average** when compared to other High Schools and Academies against the key indicator of overall progress.

A school’s progress score measures the progress that students actually make against the progress they were expected to make when they started at that school in Year 7. A positive or ‘+’ score means that students have made more progress than expected and a negative or ‘-’ score means that students have made less progress than expected. A score of 0.0 means that students achieved in line with expectations, a score of +0.5 means that students have achieved, on average, half a grade higher in each subject than they were expected to and a score of -0.5 means that students have achieved, on average, half a grade lower in each subject

Banding	Percentage of state-funded mainstream schools
WELL ABOVE AVERAGE	16%
ABOVE AVERAGE	16%
AVERAGE	35%
BELOW AVERAGE	18%
WELL BELOW AVERAGE	15%

The Academy progress score of +0.37 means that our students achieved, on average, over a third of a grade higher in each subject than they were expected to. This is significantly higher than the national average, across the country, of -0.03 and the Tameside average of -0.21 and, as can be seen from the table here, places the Academy in the top 32% of schools nationally.

In reality, with a score of +0.37, which is towards the upper end of the ‘Above Average’ Band, the Academy’s performance will almost certainly be in the top 25% of schools nationally.

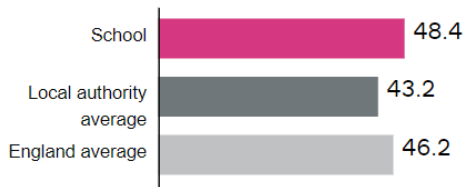
In addition to our Progress Score, the Academy performed really well against other measures too:

Grade 5 or above in English and Maths

This data tells you the percentage of students who achieved Grade 5 or above in both their English and Maths GCSE Examinations.



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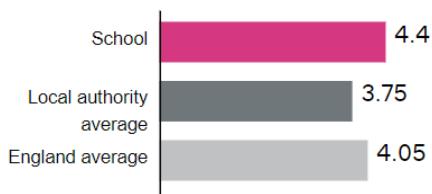
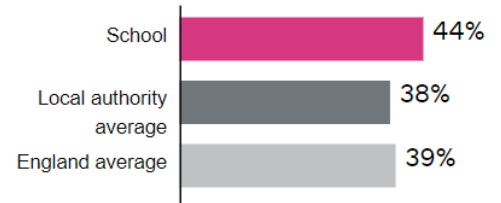


Attainment 8 Score

This is a score that a school gets based on how well the students have performed in up to 8 qualifications.

English Baccalaureate

This data shows you the % of students who were entered for the more 'academic' GCSE subjects including English, Maths, Sciences, a Language, History or Geography.



English Baccalaureate Point Score

This data shows you the average student points score across the more 'academic' GCSE subjects listed above.

Congratulations, again, to 'The Class of 2023' who worked so hard to meet and exceed their target grades last summer! We are absolutely delighted that your performance has identified Droylsden as one of the top schools in Tameside and placed our school in the top third of schools nationally.

West Side Story

With just five school weeks to go until 'Opening Night', preparation for this year's Academy Production of 'West Side Story' are well underway with rehearsals for members of the Cast and Ensemble running every evening. Good luck to everyone involved, we are all really looking forward to the live performances on 24th, 25th and 26th January. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year for what is certain to be another sold out Academy Blockbuster!

TEAM JET		TEAM SHARK	
TONY	Evie Quinlan	MARIA	Millie Haggerty/ Mia Pearce
RIFF	Isaac Short	BERNARDO	Ruben Mistry
DIESEL	Ben Lees	ANITA	Izzy Sinclair
A-RAB	Lucas Turnbull	CHINO	Jacob Dennerly
BABY JOHN	Cate Roberts	PEPE	Lacie Nevins
ACTION	Jesse Eastham	INDIO	Sam Bratt

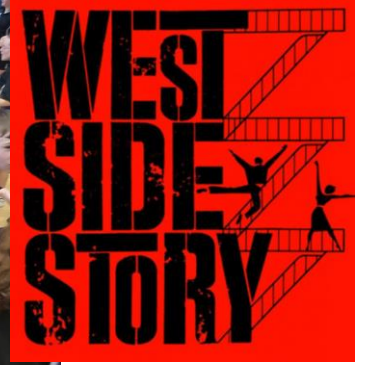
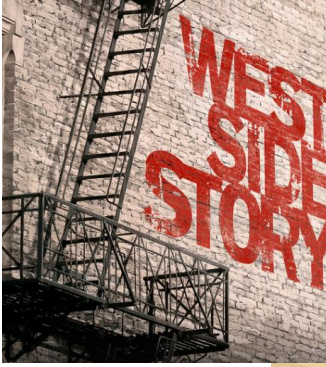


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BIG DEAL	Daisy Phethean	CONSUELA	Olivia Deakin
SNOWBOY	Anna Nwanze	ROSALITA	Leyla Francis
ANYBODY'S	Neveah Smith	FRANSISCA	Hannah Phillips
MOUTHPIECE	Holly Taylor	FRANCISCO	Rayah Norris
TIGER	Olivia Dennerley	ANXIOUS	Isabella Edwards
VELMA	Alyssa Evans	NIBBLES	Stephanie Sarcargo
GRAZIELLA	Ollie Mansell		
MINNIE	Taali Allikmaa		
PAULINE	Lexie Norris	DANCE CAPTAIN	Lily-Mae Nicholls
SHRANK Thomas Hankinson DOC Amy Lea GLADHAND Zac Devlin OFFICER KRUKPE Charlie Ricketts			
ENSEMBLE Amber Carney, Jamie Ellis, Olivia Cunningham Clarke, Charlotte Travers, Megan Evans, Neesee Ama Jamera, Thomas Harrington, Sophia Faherty and Macey Ellison		ENSEMBLE Jessica Clarke, Sophie Dean, Chloe Glover, Emilia Raynes, Kara Lea, Caitlyn Shaw, Geraldine Morton, Leyla Ellison, Evie Wilson, Faridat Salami, Leyla Sharkey, Rubie Lillie Clarke and Riley Brown	



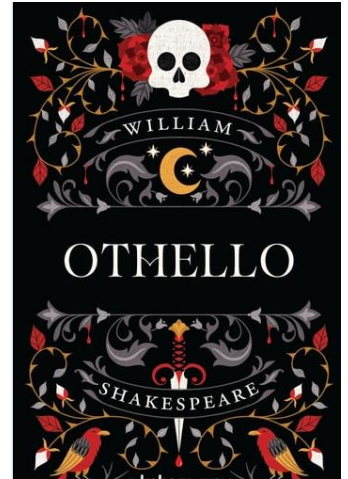
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Great learning through politeness, honesty and hard work

An amazing piece of work!

Year 9 have been studying the play 'Othello', by William Shakespeare and were set a homework task to write a diary entry or monologue in role as one of the play's characters. **Akinfemi Bayo-Vergara** wrote a superb diary entry for Othello, the lead character, who finds himself a victim of racial prejudice and who's suspicions about his wife having an affair have been falsely aroused.



Akinfemi, Shakespeare would have been proud of you!

Dear Diary,

Today has been a tumultuous day filled with a mix of emotions that have left my mind in disarray. The events have left an indelible mark on my soul.

I find myself reflecting on the encounter with the esteemed Senator, Brabantio, Desdemona's father. How could he not see the purity of our love, dismissing it as machinations of spells and witchcraft? My heart weighs heavy with the burden of societal expectations and prejudices.

The words of Iago, my trusted ensign, have sown the seeds of doubt within me. He speaks of deception and warns against the fragility of love. Yet, Desdemona's love for me feels sincere, untainted by the suspicions that Iago has instilled in me.

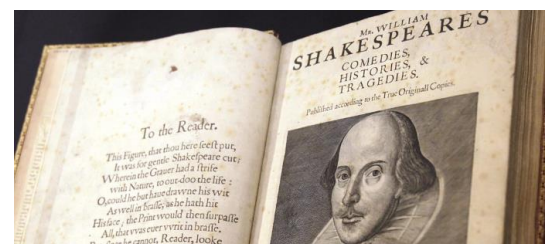
Oh sweet, Desdemona! Her loyalty and love are my solace in this storm of uncertainty. I must believe in the purity of our connection, despite the challenges that lie ahead. The love that binds us is stronger than the scepticism of others.

I cannot help but feel the weight of my responsibilities as a military leader and now as a husband. The juxtaposition of my roles complicates the delicate balance I must maintain. How will my marriage fare in the crucible of war and political intrigue?

As I pen down these thoughts. I am reminded of the complexity of the human heart and the fragility of trust. Tomorrow is a new day and with it comes the promise of new challenges and revelations. May Desdemona and I navigate this tumultuous journey with unwavering love and resilience.

In turmoil.

Othello



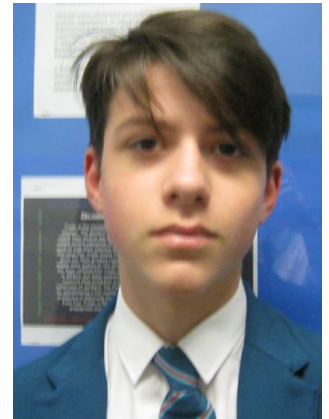
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This week's brightest **sparx**

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Hallie Simpson**, **Bana Oubaid**, **Kelsey Wong**, **Jensen Mares** and **Pippa Mansell** who were the brightest Sparx for last week having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

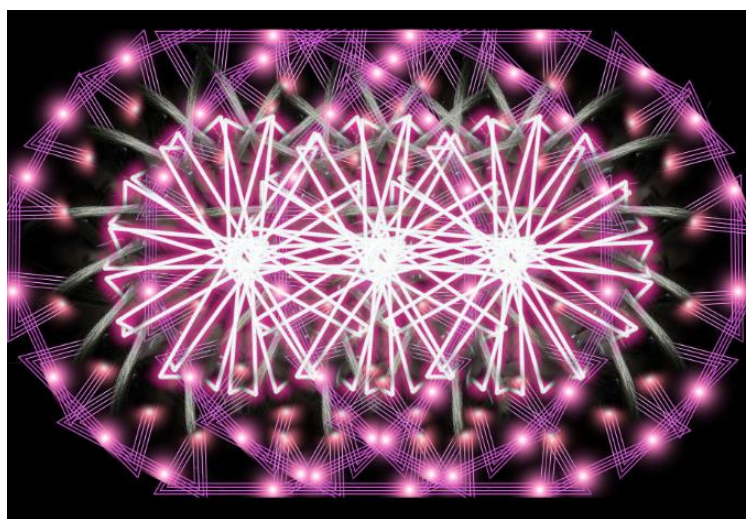
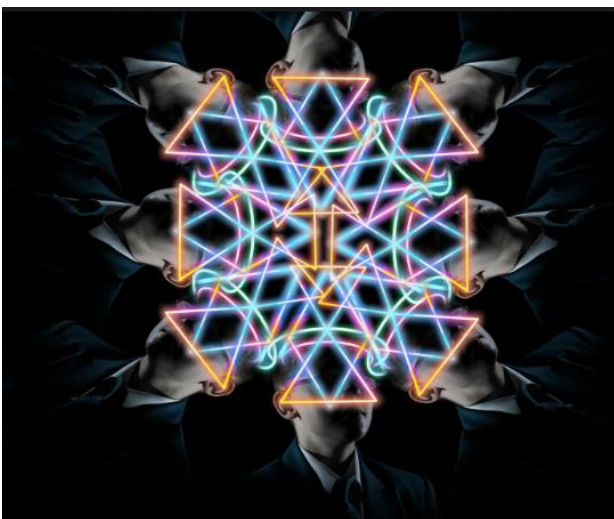
Year 7	Hallie Simpson	4,338 XP
Year 8	Bana Oubaid	2,836 XP
Year 9	Kelsey Wong	2,210 XP
Year 10	Jensen Mares	2,660 XP
Year 11	Phillippa Mansell	4,300 XP



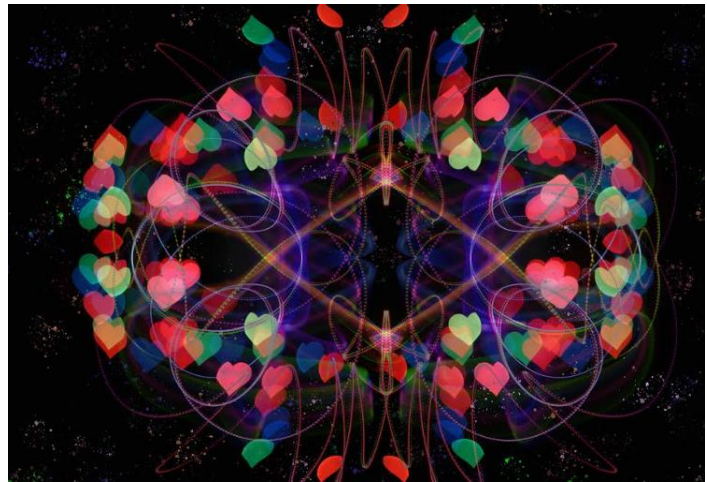
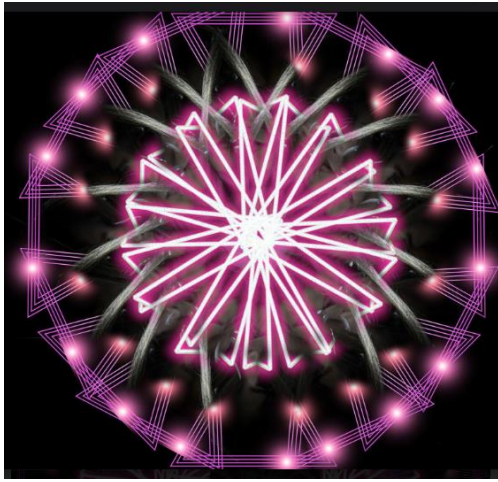
As Parents and Carers will be aware, Sparx is an online Maths resource which students can log onto at any time to practise and reinforce or develop their understanding of a topic, revise and complete homework tasks. Students are awarded 'XP Points' every time they attempt a question and evidence clearly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

Thank you to **Alfie Weir** and **Lacey Lawson** from Year 11 for submitting some more amazing edits from their GCSE Photography Portfolios for inclusion in this week's edition of Newsflash.

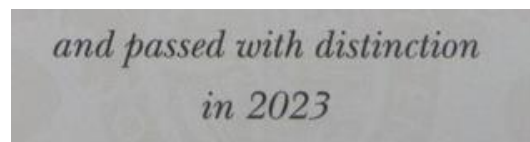


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A Huge Congratulations!

A huge congratulations goes to Isabella Voong from Year 7 on achieving a Distinction, the highest grade you can be awarded, in her Grade 1 Violin Practical Examination assessed by the Royal Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music!



GCSE COUNTDOWN

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

Key Dates

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.

You will be receiving the results of your first set of Pre-Public Examinations over the next two weeks. Whilst we hope and expect that many of you will be very pleased with your results, there will, inevitably, be some who are disappointed. The main purpose of the Pre-Public Exams is to prepare you for your final GCSE examinations next summer, to find out what you know and understand and to identify areas that you still need to work at.

The Pre-Public Exams will also have shown some of you that there are no short cuts and that the only way to guarantee success is through hard work and thorough preparation. The important thing

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for all of you is that you learn from the experience and any mistakes you may have made and give yourself the best possible opportunity to succeed next summer.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Brodie Brownridge**, **Miller Shaw**, **Farouq Olabiyi** and **Joshua Joel** from Year 7, **Lacey Hopkins** from Year 8 and **Emma Samczyk** and **Alina Lozan** from Year 10 who have all been nominated as Student of the Week.



Lacey has been nominated by the English Department as she has made a fantastic start to Year 8. She always works hard and her recent 'spy story' was beautifully written. Well done Lacey.

Following on from last week's nomination by the Science Department, Emma has now been nominated by the Maths Department! Emma has been nominated as she has had a really good first term on her GCSE Maths course and shown herself to be an able mathematician who really enjoys the challenge of more difficult and complex work. Emma often goes above and beyond what is expected of her and is keen to start the Further Maths GCSE Course too. Well done Emma you are an amazing role model for our budding mathematicians lower down the school!

Alina has been nominated by the Science Department as she works so hard in all of her lessons and is making good progress. Alina prepares thoroughly for her bi-weekly assessments and it is pleasing to see her results reflect her positive attitude and commitment. Alina also embodies our core values of politeness, hard work and honesty and is a pleasure to teach. Well done Alina and keep it up!

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Brodie, Miller, Farouq and Joshua have all been nominated as Philosophers of the Week by the Religious Studies Department as, together, they prepared and presented an amazing 'Do Now' task to start the lesson off for their class. The activity was based on the work they have covered so far this year and included aspects of their prior knowledge as well as research from their homework. The group prepared a Power Point which really challenged their peers' knowledge and understanding of the topics and even devised an extension task and a slide with all the answers on too! Well done Brodie, Miller, Farouq and Josh, a career in teaching awaits!



NEWS FROM THE CATERING TEAM

Top Tips from Tina and her Team!

Why not try a Roasted Root Veg Medley or a delicious and nutritious Vegetable Soup or Stew? They're tasty, warming, filling, cheap and easy to prepare and very, very tasty!



Lots of root veg are in season including parsnips, potatoes, celeriac, beetroot, swede, winter squash and turnips. Try roasting a winter veg medley with a drizzle of oil and your favourite herbs for the perfect portion of starchy carbohydrates.

Brussels sprouts might have a bad reputation, but prepared correctly can be beautifully fresh and tasty.



When it's cold outside it's an ideal time for some hearty soups and stews. Try peppery parsnips or sweet winter squash for a lovely warming soup base.

Next week, the Catering Team will 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

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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

The Academy Christmas Concert

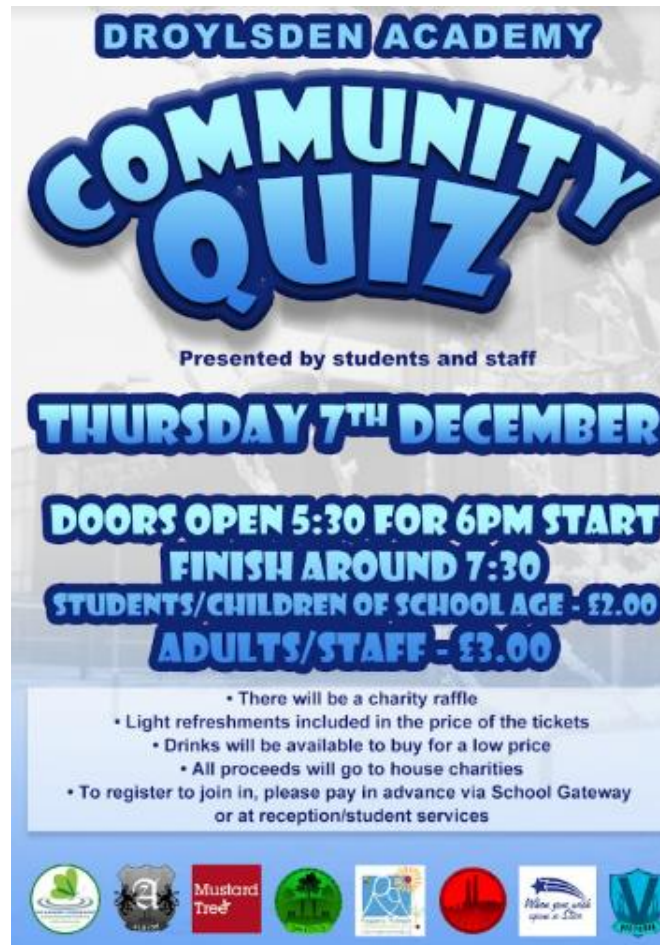
This year's Christmas Concert will be held on Wednesday 13th December. It would be lovely if you could join us!



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Community Quiz

After the success of our first Community Quiz, which we held last year, we are organising another one! Why not join in?



DROYLSDEN ACADEMY

COMMUNITY QUIZ

Presented by students and staff

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER

**DOORS OPEN 5:30 FOR 6PM START
FINISH AROUND 7:30**

**STUDENTS/CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE - £2.00
ADULTS/STAFF - £3.00**

- There will be a charity raffle
- Light refreshments included in the price of the tickets
- Drinks will be available to buy for a low price
- All proceeds will go to house charities
- To register to join in, please pay in advance via School Gateway or at reception/student services

Logos for various charities and organizations are displayed at the bottom of the poster.

Supporting a really worthy cause



Mustard Tree - Winter Wishlist

Mustard Tree are Saxon House's chosen charity partner. The organisation combat and prevent poverty, inequality and homelessness across Greater Manchester.

We are going to support Mustard Tree with their 'Winter Wishlist' in our annual House event.

Between now and Wednesday 13th December you are encouraged to bring donations from the 'Winter Wishlist' into school (hand them into a form room or to one of the House Leaders). These will be collected by House Captains at regular points between now and the 13th. IWO will then deliver these on the 15th December.

To learn more about Mustard Tree go to <https://mustardtree.org.uk/>

Mustard Tree

WINTER WISHLIST

- Tinned/Christmas Food
- Children's Toys/Games
- Christmas Decorations
- Stocking Fillers/Gift Sets
- Warm/Waterproof Clothing

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What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...



WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 at 12.00 noon.

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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