

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Christmas is coming!

Thank you to **Natalia Kowa, Daisy Benson, Daisy-Mae Gaunt** and **Sophia Guan**, and, of course, Mr Jones, our Site Manager, for decorating the Academy Christmas Tree this week! Amongst the many festive decorations on the tree, there are four special commemorative baubles in memory of **Chloe Rowland, Taylor Schofield, Declan McNally** and **Amanda Selby**, four of our students who have sadly passed away in recent years but who we will always remember.



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We also welcomed Year 5 students from Manchester Road this week as they visited the Academy for a delicious Christmas Dinner! Students from our other Partner Primary Schools will also be joining us before we break up for Christmas.



Tameside Table Tennis Championships

Earlier this week, the Academy Under 14 Table Tennis Teams took part in the Tameside Championships. The Academy entered two teams in the competition, our 'Red Team' and our 'Green Team' with both teams playing a mixture of singles and doubles matches throughout the evening. Well done to all the students who took part and congratulations, in particular, to the 'Greens' who won the event and were crowned Tameside Champions!

Al Hassan Barrie	Jake Gavan	Sam Wilson	Felix Oboh	Mahdi Kareme	Nathan Philip
Akinfemi Bayo-Vergara	Olivia Jarvis	Lacey Walker	Jack Morgan	Charlie Morgan	



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Tameside Cross Country Championships

Well done to everyone who took part in the Tameside Cross Country Championships last Tuesday. Although we didn't win either the Junior or Senior Event, everyone showed character and resilience on a very cold day, with notable performances from **Kyla Millington** who came 4th in the Under 12 Race and **Marshall Fleet** who came 2nd in the Under 16 Race.

**Kyla Millington Annie Banks Eva Walklett Logan Gilder Tre'Sean Hamilton Brodie Brownridge
Tyler Davies Alfie Boardman Ryan Asamoah Alfie Millington Al Hassan Barrie Adam Raies
Finley Cunningham Marvel Quaicoe Lola Jones Grace Connors Marshall Fleet Yunisa Barrie
Callum Gilder Josh Ihejirika Reece Hunston**



Year 7 'Settling-in' Evening

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended Year 7 'Settling-in' Evening; we hope that meeting your child's Form Tutor, and talking about his/her progress across the Core Subjects of English, Maths and Science, was useful and informative.

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

- 95% of them agreed that their child was happy at school;
- 99% felt that their child feels safe at school;
- 96% felt that the school ensures student behaviour is good;
- 90% agreed that the Academy made them aware of what their child is learning;
- 100% agreed that the Academy had high expectations of their child;
- 99% felt that their child was doing well;
- 94% agreed that the Academy lets them know how their child is doing;
- 100% felt that there was a good range of subjects for their child to study;
- 99% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities;
- 98% felt that the Academy supports their child's wider personal development; and
- 97% would recommend the Academy to another parent.

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Science

Students attending STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) have been researching the problem of 'single use plastics' and their impact on the environment. This week they researched and made edible water bottles and then displayed their findings in the Science Open Zone. Thank you to **Hao Yu** and **Eden Rutter** from Year 9 who attended the sessions and helped the younger students prepare and write up their scientific method and be good scientists.



Meanwhile, at Einstein Club, students have been using chromatography to separate out the constituent colours of felt tip pens to make decorative festive snowflakes!

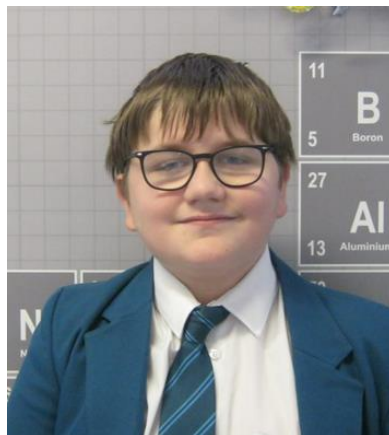


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Performers of the Month

Congratulations to **Olivia Dennerley** from Year 7, **Archie Nixon** from Year 8 and **Olivia Deakin** from Year 9 who have all been nominated by the Performing Arts Faculty as Performers of the Month.



Olivia (Dennerley) has been nominated by the Drama Department as she has worked really hard this month. Recently, Olivia displayed a real creativity in bringing a unique perspective to her role in her 'T1 Assessment'; she also contributed many original ideas in completing her performance and played the audience with confidence. Olivia has also shown excellent leadership skills and works very well in her group, demonstrating excellent teamwork and listening skills. Well done, Olivia!

Archie has been nominated by the Music Department as he has made an outstanding start to Year 8! He has produced some wonderful musical variations in lessons and is now working extremely hard on Ukulele as part of his band project. Miss Burgess is very proud of Archie's achievements so far, he has made excellent progress as a performer, he is a natural leader and has a real musical talent. Well done, Archie!

Olivia (Deakin) has been nominated by the Dance Department as she is doing exceptionally well and making a wonderful contribution both in lessons and at Dance Club. In lessons, Olivia always works hard, she always meets and exceeds expectations and always performs beautifully. Similarly, Olivia is a great team player and will always help other members of the group too. As a Dance Captain, Olivia is a great role model for others; she shares her love of dance with the younger students and is keen to support their development. Well done and thank you Olivia!

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A Visit to The Lowry!

This week, a group of students visited the Lowry Theatre to watch the Matthew Bourne Production of Edward Scissorhands. The performance was absolutely amazing and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.



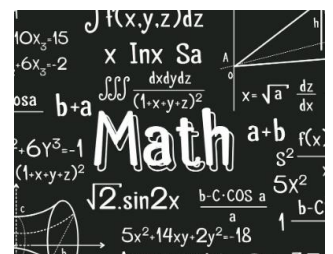
Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition, Year 8 students experimented with different flavours and spices to make a variety of delicious and festive gingerbread products!



Rewards Lunch

Well done to our budding mathematicians in Year 10 who were invited to a Rewards Lunch in recognition of their hard work and progress. The Maths Department also took the opportunity to ask the students what they enjoyed about the subject and what the team could do to make lessons even better!



Zac Delvin Mustapha Samad Aalia Nawaz Marliatou Bah
Tyler Elstone Melissa Lane Emma Samczyk

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Year 10 Computer Science 'Drop Down Day'

Year 10 students took part in a Computer Science 'Drop Down Day' this week where their normal timetable was suspended and they attended a number of workshops and activities on Computer Science and ICT instead. The aim of the day was to develop their computer science and problem-solving skills and hopefully have a good time too!

The year group took part in four sessions altogether. In the 'Sphero' session, they used their coding and problem solving skills to program robotic spheres to navigate various mazes; a challenging but really interesting and enjoyable task!



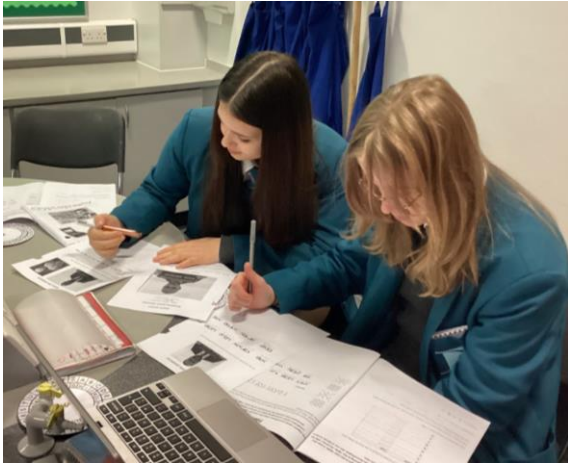
Students then delved into the fascinating history of the Enigma Machine, and how it had been developed to crack coded Nazi messages during the Second World War, before going on to develop their own cryptography skills by writing and breaking their own ciphers. In the 'Digital Media' session, students designed their own logos using digital applications and, finally, students explored the hugely important subject of digital footprints, the footprint and information you leave behind when you have used social media and the internet.



Whilst everyone really enjoyed and engaged well with all of the activities, it was this final workshop which probably had the most impact when students started to get a real understanding of the implications of their digital presence both now and in years to come. It also made students realise

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the importance of online safety and how they must protect their privacy and navigate the digital world responsibly. Student feedback would suggest that they had a very enjoyable, engaging and thought provoking day and had gained skills, knowledge and understanding that would be of real importance going forward. Well done Year 10!



Safeguarding Sweep

Our latest 'Safeguarding Sweep' took place last week, led by Ms Woodyer, Deputy Head Teacher, and assisted by our Student Safeguarding Representatives, **Dexter Adams** from Year 8, **Mia Pearce** from Year 9 and **Charlie Boardman** from Year 10. The team were also joined by John Rogers, our Chair of Governors, for part of the day so that he could check that our policies and procedures were robust, that staff knew their responsibilities and that students knew who they could talk to if they had a safeguarding concern.



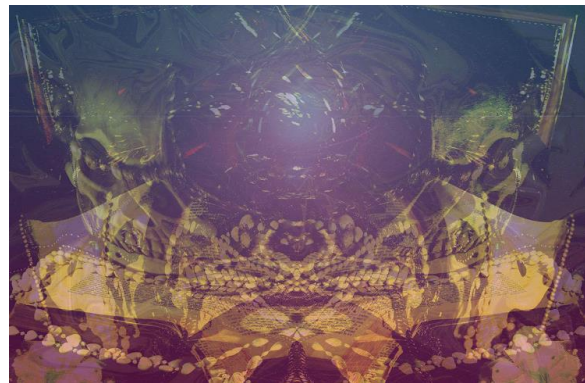
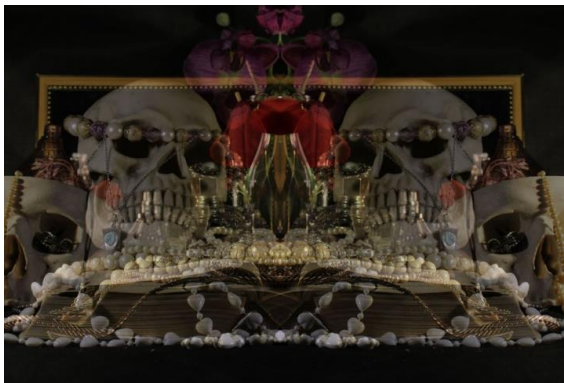
The aim of a Safeguarding Sweep is to get a balanced view on the effectiveness of a school's safeguarding provision and, during the day, the team looked at all the key Safeguarding Standards, completed a sweep of the premises, both internally and externally, interviewed students and staff, as well as the Chair of Governors, and looked at the views expressed through our 'Student Voice' questionnaires.

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Our Safeguarding Sweeps are really important in ensuring that students, staff and visitors feel safe in our school and we would like to thank Dexter, Mia and Charlie for doing such an excellent job. We are also pleased to report that the results of this latest sweep would, again, suggest that we enjoy the highest standards of safeguarding and that Droylsden Academy provides a safe, secure and welcoming environment in which everyone is respected and valued.

Photography

You may remember from an earlier edition of Newsflash that the Year 10 GCSE Photography group have been researching 'Vanitas', a genre of art which uses symbolism to show the transience of life, the futility of pleasure and the eventuality of death! The group produced some wonderful photographs that really captured the essence and spirit of the genre and are now starting to manipulate and edit their photos using a range of techniques that they have covered in class. Thank you to **Jia Yu He**, **Tyler Elstone**, **Harriet Jones** and **Geraldine Morton** for submitting examples of their edits for inclusion in this week's Newsflash.



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Santa's Lucky Dip!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and the Droylsden Academy Library is celebrating the joy of giving by organising Santa's Lucky Dip!

The Lucky Dip will be running every day in the Library from 11th to 15th December so why not drop in and try your luck!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Mayvel Quicoe** from Year 8 and **Lara Nanji** from Year 10 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week!



Mayvel has been nominated by the English Department as he is showing an excellent understanding of 'Animal Farm', by George Orwell, the text that Year 8 are currently studying in class. Similarly, Mayvel is always keen to read to his peers and share his views and opinions. Thank you Mayvel, you are an asset to the class!

Lara has been nominated by the Science Department as she recently achieved the highest mark on her class's bi-weekly assessment covering the topics of photosynthesis and respiration. This was well deserved and just reward for Lara's hard work and thorough revision and preparation. Similarly, Lara always makes a positive contribution to the class and is a great role model for her peers. Well done Lara and keep it up!

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, there are only 16 school weeks left, just 80 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

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Year 11 should now be applying for college if they wish to continue their formal education.

Why should I study A Levels?

A levels give you an opportunity to gain valuable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, research, and writing that you can use for the rest of your life.

Why should I enrol on a vocational course?

Vocational qualifications help students develop real-world knowledge, experience and skills. In these competitive times, having practical experience behind you can give you the edge in your job search.

Students who would prefer to earn while they learn should consider applying for apprenticeships.

A large number of apprenticeships that begin in September 2024 have just been published on the Gov.uk website

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

Our CEIAG Team at Droylsden have visited the website, 'cherry picked' the best apprenticeships and put them live in the Careers Education section on the Droylsden Academy Website at:

<https://www.droylsdenacademy.com/students/after-droylsden/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

An apprenticeship gives you hands-on experience, a salary and the opportunity to gain qualifications while you work, all the way up to degree level.

Whatever your future holds, the Droylsden Academy Careers Team are here to support you. If you have any questions or queries regarding your next steps, please visit Mrs Ormrod in the Academy Library for assistance.



CEIAG

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance



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The Cost of School Meals

Unfortunately the cost of school meals will be increasing in January. Further information can be found below in the letter from Mr Lyon, Business and Finance Director for the Trust.

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: The cost of school meals



We are writing to inform you that in January 2024 the price of a student meal will increase to £2.95. As you will know food prices have increased by almost 20% this year. So far, we have been able to absorb this price difference. However, as food prices are continuing to increase, if we continue to absorb the price difference, we would no longer have sufficient funds to purchase essential books and equipment.

We have reluctantly decided to increase the price of a standard meal from £2.68 to £2.95 with effect from 1st January 2024. Other food items will increase by a similar amount. This increase is still well below the overall increase in food prices.

We hope you will understand the reason for the increase and continue to support your child and the Academy by purchasing our healthy nutritious meals. Weekly menus are published in the Newsflash and on our website. I am sure you will also be interested to know we recently retained our Healthy School Food Gold Award.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Yours faithfully

Mr W J Lyon

Director of Business and Finance

Email: admin@droylsdenacademy.com

SEND Family Christmas Party

With Christmas just around the corner, Active Tameside are arranging a SEND Christmas Party to spread the Christmas cheer!



If a member of your family has additional needs why not take the chance to rock around the Christmas tree and enjoy a festive treat with your friends! It will be a great occasion to create lasting memories and spread the reindeer dust. It's going to be an unforgettable event so why not find out a little more about the SEND Christmas Party, and book a place, follow the link below!

<https://eequ.org/experience/5468>

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.



PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.



ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 8+, 12+ or 14+.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

Survey Link - www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

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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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

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.

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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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