

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Christmas Poetry Competition

Thank you to all the students who took part in this year's Year 7 Christmas Poetry Competition, the English Department were delighted by the standard of your entries! There were so many excellent poems that it was incredibly hard to judge the top three but eventually, after discussion, debate and deliberation, there was a consensus and the winners were announced! Congratulations go to **Annie Banks**, **Yaseen Amer** and **Jayce Pennill-Coombs**, our Christmas Poets for 2023!

Frosty's Fate by Jayce Pennill-Coombs

Silently standing outside in the park.
Does he get lonely out there in the dark?

No one seems to visit him now his structure is complete,
Except the winter robins hopping by his feet.

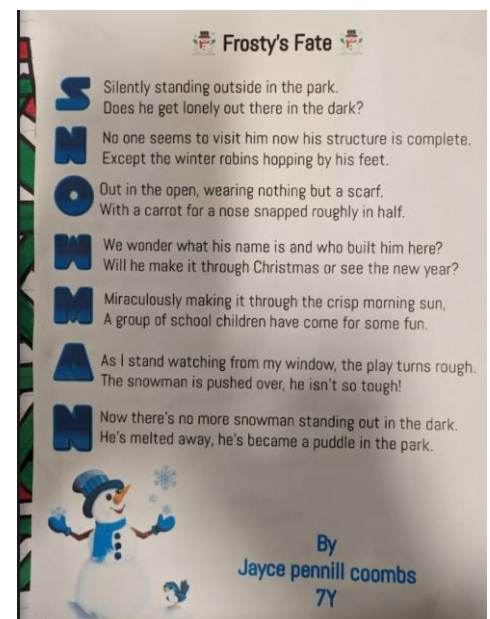
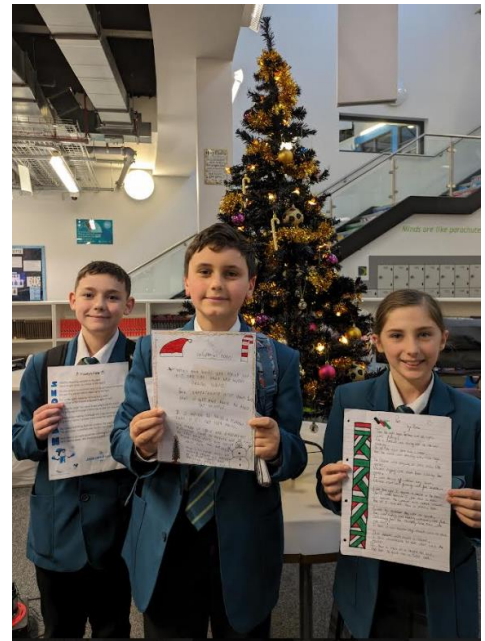
Out in the open, wearing nothing but a scarf,
With a carrot for a nose snapped roughly in half.

We wonder what his name is and who built him here?
Will he make it through Christmas or see the New Year?

Miraculously making it through the crisp morning sun,
A group of school children have come for some fun.

As I stand watching from my window, the play turns rough.
The snowman is pushed over, he isn't so tough!

Now there's no more snowman standing out in the dark,
He's melted away, he's become a puddle in the park!



Christmas Poem by Annie Banks

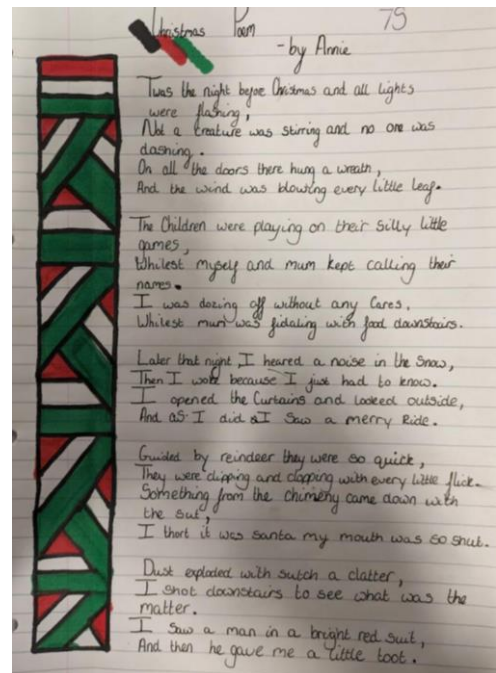
Twas the night before Christmas and all lights were flashing,
Not a creature was stirring and no-one was dashing.
On all the doors there hung a wreath,
And the wind was blowing every little leaf.

The children were playing their silly little games,
Whilst myself and mum kept calling their names.
I was dozing off without any cares,
Whilst mum was fiddling with the food downstairs.

Later that night, I heard a noise in the snow,
Then I woke because I just had to know.
I opened the curtains and looked outside,
And as I did, I saw a merry ride.

Guided by reindeer, they were so quick,
They were clipping and clopping with every little flick.
Something from the chimney came down with the soot,
I thought it was Santa my mouth was tight shut!

Dust exploded with such a clatter,
I shot downstairs to see what was the matter.
I saw a man in a bright red suit,
And then he gave me a little toot!



Christmas Poem by Yaseen Amer

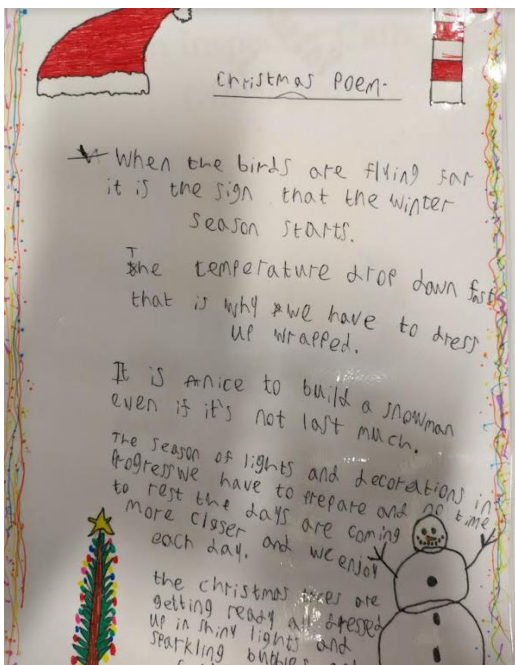
When the birds are flying far
It is the sign that the winter season starts.

The temperature drops down fast
That is why we have to dress up wrapped.

It's nice to build a snowman
Even if it doesn't last much.

The season of lights and decorations is in progress,
We have to prepare with no time to rest.

The day is getting closer and we enjoy every day
The Christmas trees are getting ready, all dressed
Up in shiny lights and baubles and candles.



Character Development in Action

Many of you will know about the Academy programme of Character Development and the importance we place on our four key Character Pillars of **Learning, Service, Leadership** and **Participation**. This week we heard about the **Service** given by one of our students, **Coby Haldane** from Year 8, in support of children who will unfortunately be spending this Christmas in hospital.



Over the last few weeks, Coby has been volunteering with a Charity Appeal called 'Santa's Sleigh', run through Manchester Breakdown Services, by collecting toys and selection boxes which will be delivered to Children's Wards in hospitals across Manchester in the run up to Christmas. This week Coby and his brother, Lewis, accompanied Santa on his first special delivery to the Starlight Children's Unit at Wythenshawe Hospital where, together, they spread a little bit of Christmas Cheer.

Well done Coby for your kindness and service to others, you are a credit to the Academy and, of course, to your family.



Droylsden Community Quiz!

Last week saw the second Droylsden Academy Community Quiz with students, their families and friends and staff from school taking part to raise funds in support of our House Charities.

The Quiz included rounds on Maths, Science, Music and English and also featured video questions on specialist topics put together by students who attend the various extra-curricular clubs that run at the Academy each week. This included questions on topics ranging from the Manchester Music Scene from the very knowledgeable Mr Jackson, on behalf the 'Sonic Screen Club', to a Live Sports Round introduced by **Zac Devlin** and **Leyla Francis**!

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The stars of the evening, however, were our Host, **Charlie Boardman**, and Technical Director, **Liam Tomkinson**, who held the whole show together brilliantly and served up an amazing evening.

A big thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, from Charlie and Liam to all the helpers who kept the refreshments flowing, looked after our contestants and sold raffle tickets throughout the evening. Thank you also to everyone who supported the event and helped to raise £200 which will be donated to our House Charities.

And the winners were.....

After a very close contest, it was a huge congratulations to our winners, 'Evie, Jessie and Bananas', otherwise known as **Evie Quinlan**, **Jesse Eastham** and Evie's Nan, who put in a magnificent performance, only dropping two points during the whole evening. We expect to see them on 'Mastermind' or 'University Challenge' in due course!



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The Combined Cadet Force Memorandum of Agreement

This week saw an important and significant milestone in the journey of the Droylsden Academy Combined Cadet Force with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement by Colonel Darren Doherty, Army Commander for the North West, Mr John Rogers, Chairman of the Academy Governing Body, and our Co-Headteachers, Mrs Arnold and Mr Mayell. The Memorandum of Agreement sets out the formal partnership between the Academy and the Ministry of Defence and details their responsibilities for safety and for training and resourcing the Academy Contingent.



The Memorandum was signed here at the Academy and witnessed by **Cadet/LCpl Mo Waziri, Cadet Muneeba Muneeba, Cadet Haya Noor, Cadet Kenzie Gallagher and Cadet Laura-Elena Hercovici** as well as our Contingent Commander, Major Webb. Also in attendance were Major Alex Saunders who commands the Cadet Training Team and Captain Norman Mustard and Sgt Daz Sarginson from the HQ NW Cadet Training Team.



Thank you to Major Webb for all the support he gives to both the Cadet Force and our school and to the Cadets who attended the signing they were a credit to the Academy.

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Year 7 Electives

This week, Year 7 students following the Outdoor Education Pathway of the Electives Programme put their map reading skills to the test by taking an Orienteering Challenge around the Academy grounds. The students worked together in groups of three, with each group setting off on a staggered start, to see if they could identify and locate all 10 Checkpoints on their Route Card. Each group had just 10 minutes to complete the challenge so speed was of the essence! Well done to the group aptly named 'The Winners', a.k.a. **James Lee, Rylan Buckley** and **Yaseen Amer**, who received festive Selection Boxes in recognition of their endeavours!



Science

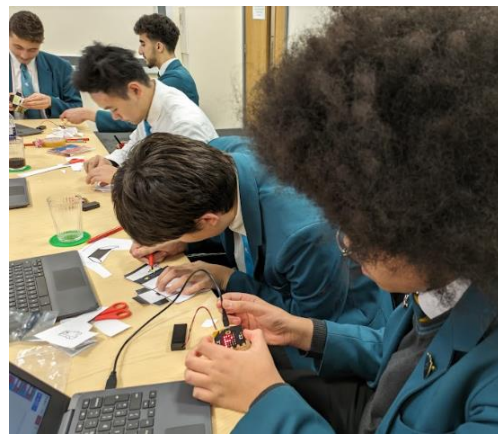
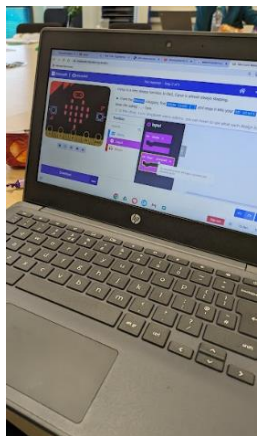
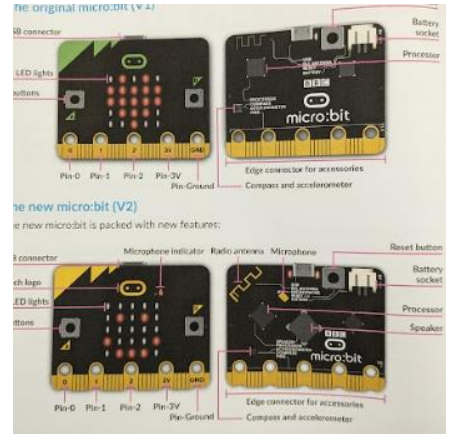
Thank you and well done to the Year 11 students who attended the Revision Studies session on Tuesday evening this week. Thank you also to those parents who came along to see how they could best support their child in the lead up to this summer's GCSE examinations. The Science Department hope that everyone found it a useful and informative evening.



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In addition to developing their revision and study skills, students also had the opportunity to enrol on and start a Computer Science Course all about the history and development of microprocessors. The link for the course, run through 'ArmEducationX' can be found below:

<https://www.edx.org/learn/computer-architecture/arm-education-computer-architecture-essentials-on-arm>



Meanwhile, at STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), students have been making 'light-up Christmas Cards' using copper tape which, of course, will conduct an electric current!



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This week's brightest **sparx**

Year 7	Ka Chun Rick Wong	6,535 XP
Year 8	Jamie Walker	2,679 XP
Year 9	Lottie Hayes	6,901 XP
Year 10	Seher Mohammad	4,075 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	2,446 XP

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Rick Wong, Jamie Walker, Lottie Hayes, Seher Mohammad** and **Jai 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.

Rewards Lunch

Congratulations to **Morgan Buckley, Saffron Hall, Joshua Quinn, Blake Carter, Oliver Murphy, Noah Edwards, Olivia Taylor, Mihai Voicu** and **Lewis Skade**, all from Year 11, who were invited to the Co-Headteachers' Rewards Lunch in recognition of their hard work and progress over the Autumn Term.



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TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

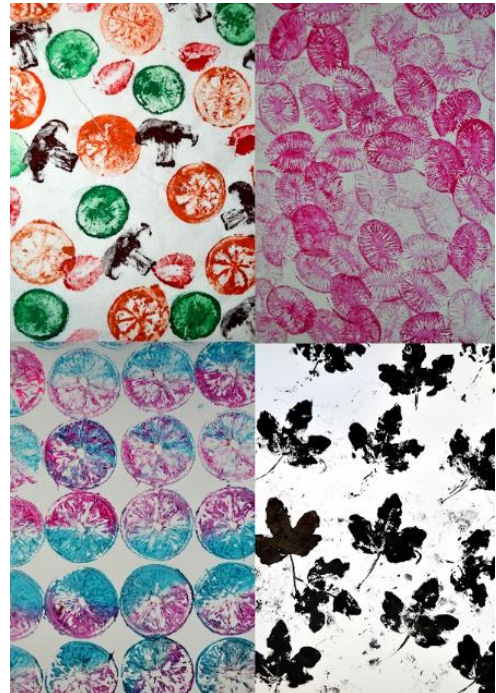
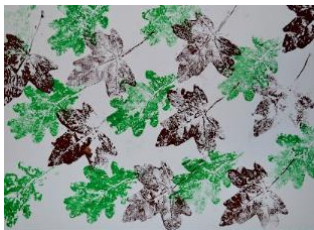
'Times Tables Rockstars'

Year 7 students took part in 'Times Tables Rockstars' last week to see just how well they did know their times tables! The competition ran all week with a tense final battle taking place on Friday night. Well done to everybody who took part in the competition and congratulations, in particular, to **David Uchechi**, our new Year 7 Droylsden Academy Rockstar Champion, **Alex Kendal**, the runner-up, and **Theo Owen** who came in third place.



Art

Year 10 Fine Art students continued to explore the theme of natural form this week, taking inspiration from the work of Margaret Molinari, a surface pattern designer and printmaker. The group used fruit, vegetables and leaves to create repeat patterns on different fabrics, as well as paper, and we think you will agree that the results were quite impressive! The group really enjoyed the lesson and the work will be a great addition to their GCSE coursework portfolios.



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Mamadou Samb Gueye** from Year 8 and **Marshall Fleet** from Year 10 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.



Mamadou has been nominated by the Maths Department as he is such a positive role model within the classroom. Mamadou always contributes ideas in class and is also keen to support his fellow students if they need help. He also works hard both in and out of lessons and this was reflected in his recent T1 Assessment scores! Well done Mamadou, you are a pleasure to teach!

Marshall has been nominated by the English Department as he just quietly gets on in every lesson, completes every task asked of him and is unfailingly polite and helpful. He is making good progress and it is pleasing to see his hard work reflected in his grades. Well done Marshall and thank you, you are an asset to the group.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

It's been a busy final week of term in the Academy Library! On Monday, we celebrated Human Rights Day with students focussing on the first 5 Articles of the Human Rights Act and completing crosswords based on their newly acquired knowledge and understanding.

Our Retro Reads for December has focused on Charles Dickens, the most famous English author of the 1800s! Some critics believe that his most well-known book, 'A Christmas Carol', isn't actually his

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best; why not check out some of his other titles such as 'The Cricket on the Hearth', 'The Chimes', 'The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain' or 'The Battle of Life' and see if you agree?

And finally, we've been celebrating the gift of giving and launched the 'Big Gift Giveaway' where visitors to the Library have been able to choose from Santa's Lucky Dip or self-select a book of their choice from the gift trolley. Mrs Ormrod is pleased to report that, as can be seen below, students have been very happy with their choices!

Merry Christmas from Mrs Ormrod and the Student Librarian Team.....

and remember, **Reading Makes You Bright!**



GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 11, when you return after the Christmas Holiday there will only be 16 school weeks left, just 80 days in school, until your first GCSE exam.

All the teaching staff would like to wish our Year 11 cohort a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year. We hope that you have a relaxing break and return in January ready for the final push leading up to the examinations in May and June. We hope that with commitment, hard work and thorough preparation, you will meet and exceed your target grades and that 2024 will be a year to remember.



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THANK YOU TO TINA, AMANDA AND THE TEAM!

Thank you to the Catering Team for feeding us throughout the year and for all their hard work in the lead up to Christmas, it is really appreciated. Not only did Tina and the catering staff serve up an amazing Christmas Dinner for the Academy this Wednesday, ably assisted by our Co-Headteachers, Mr Mayell and Mrs Arnold, but, over the last week, they also served a Christmas lunch for Year 5 students from four of our Partner Primary Schools too.

Tina, Amanda and team, we hope that you have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Online Safety

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season – Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

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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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Academy will close for the Christmas Holiday on Friday 15th December at 12.00 noon.

The Academy will re-open for students, for the Spring Term, on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at the usual time of 8.30am.

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.

