

Droylsden Academy is a good school

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Practice Expedition

Well done to the thirty-five Year 9 Students who completed their Bronze Award Practice Expedition on Holcombe Moor last week. Despite the weather forecast, it was a nice day and everyone enjoyed a little spring sunshine!

As this was the Practice Expedition, each group was accompanied by a member of staff who checked and monitored the students' orienteering and map reading skills to ensure that they stayed on the right track and didn't get lost. The staff were really impressed by how well each group did and are now confident that we won't lose anyone when the students complete the assessed expedition and overnight camp, in and around Rivington, next week!

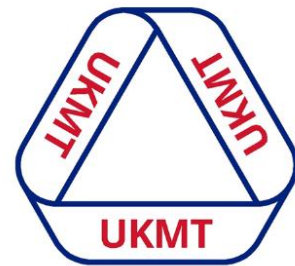


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The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenge (UKMTC)

Last week, students from the Excel Maths classes in Years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Challenge, a prestigious national competition aimed at testing the mathematical and problem-solving skills of the brightest mathematicians in schools across the country. The challenge is taken under exam conditions and although the answers are multiple choice, there is no guessing involved as you lose a point for every question you get wrong as well as gaining one for every question you get right!



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

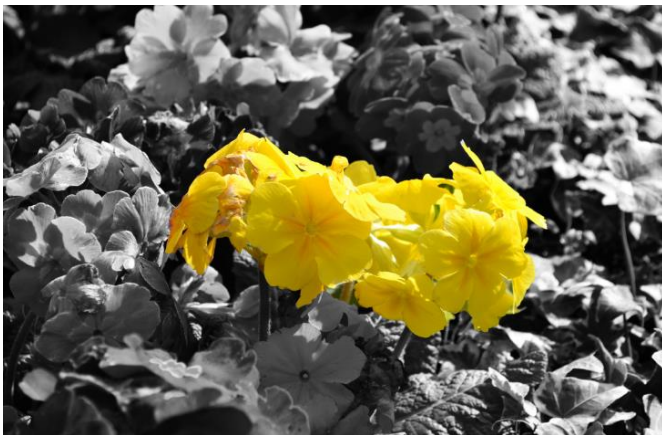
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Students who do well in the Challenge can achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award although competition is tough. To achieve a Bronze Award, your score must place you in the top 20% of students across the country; to achieve a Silver Award, your score must place you in the top 10% and to achieve a Gold Award, your score must place you in the top 5%! We look forward to seeing how our students have done when the results come out later this term.



Photography

Thank you to **Makeen Acheampong, Kiyo Oyekanmi, Samantha Crawley, Lacey-Mae Williams, Janne Raue-Lewis** and **Jia Yu He** for submitting photographs from their GCSE Coursework Portfolios for publication in this week's edition of Newsflash. All the photographs were taken on the GCSE group's recent visit to Manchester City Centre.



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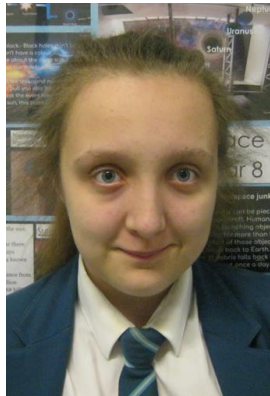


This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Sum Yin Wong, Hannah Pong Lacey Walker, Kwan Lor** and **Jai Rui Fang** 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	Sum Yin Wong	18,311 XP
Year 8	Hannah Pong	11,436 XP
Year 9	Lacey Walker	3,505 XP
Year 10	Kwan Lor	114,810 XP
Year 11	Jia Rui Fang	1,974 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.

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Not just a Co-Headteacher!

Not just a Co-Headteacher but an 'Ace' Table Tennis player too, as Year 11 found out when Mrs Arnold delivered a masterclass during their PE lesson! Please note that the views expressed in this article are yet to be validated and, whilst it is clear that Mrs Arnold has a bat in her hand, we can confirm no more than that; we suspect that there may be a degree of exaggeration in this article as reported.



Y9 Parent Teacher Evening

The Academy would like to thank those parents and carers who attended last week's Year 9 Parent Teacher Evening; we hope that meeting your child's teachers was useful and informative.



Thank you also to **Yan Yang Wu**, **Philian Emmanuel** and **Brogan Williams** who staffed Reception throughout the evening.



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

- 96% of them agreed that their child was happy at school;
- 92% felt that their child feels safe at school;
- 93% felt that the school ensures student behaviour is good;
- 100% agreed that the Academy had high expectations of their child;
- 100% felt that their child was doing well;
- 93% 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;
- 98% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities;
- 98% felt that the Academy supports their child's wider personal development; and
- 95% would recommend the Academy to another parent.

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Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile, in Food and Nutrition, Year 10 students have been learning how to fillet fish. We are hoping that they also know how to make chips and mushy peas!



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Congratulations to **Freddie Jones** from Year 10 and **William Senou** from Year 11 who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.

Freddie has been nominated by the English Department in recognition of his diligent and studious nature. His enthusiasm within the classroom is infectious; he is always willing to participate in class debates, discussions and reading. His recent contributions during the 'Power and Conflict' unit have been mature and exceptionally insightful. For instance, his understanding of the psychological impact of war and application of this knowledge to the poems 'Remain' and 'War Photographer' proved to be particularly impressive. Freddie's English books also demonstrates this hard-work and success. He truly deserves this week's nomination!

William has been nominated by the Science Department for the effort and hard work he has put in during lessons since moving up from the Foundation to the Higher GCSE course. William also takes every opportunity to revise and prepare out of the classroom too, attending revision sessions and completing additional work at home. Well done William, your resilience, commitment and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed and you deserve to do well!

Congratulations also go to our Star Humanitarians of the Week, **Melissa Lane** from Year 10 and **Chloe Lees** and **Tiffany Scholes** from Year 11. Melissa has been nominated by the Geography Department as she is an incredibly hard working student who consistently demonstrates the Academy values and Chloe and Tiffany have been nominated by the Religious Studies and Geography Departments respectively, for their hard work and preparation for their GCSE examinations.

Freddie, William and Chloe are photographed below.



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GCSE COUNTDOWN

All the staff at the Academy would like to wish Year 11 all the very best in their GCSE examinations. We hope that, with continued hard work and thorough preparation and revision, you will have met and exceeded your target grades when you open your results envelope in August.



The GCSE timetable for your forthcoming examinations is shown below:


Date	Session	Exam
Tues 7 th May	am	Health and Social Care
Thur 9 th May	am	Religious Studies Paper 1
	pm	Drama
Fri 10 th May	am	Biology Paper 1 (Triple Science) Biology Paper 1 (Combined Science)
	pm	
Mon 13 th May	am	English Literature Paper 1
	pm	
Tue 14 th May	am	French (Listening and Reading)
	pm	Business Studies Paper 1 Chinese (Listening and Reading)
Wed 15 th May	am	History Paper 1
	pm	Computer Science Paper 1
Thur 16 th May	am	Maths Paper 1
	pm	Religious Studies Paper 2
Fri 17 th May	am	Chemistry Paper 1 (Triple Science) Chemistry Paper 1 (Combined Science)
	pm	Geography Paper 1
Mon 20 th May	am	English Literature Paper 2
	pm	
Tue 21 st May	am	
	pm	Computer Science Paper 2
Wed 22 nd May	am	Physics Paper 1 (Triple Science) Physics Paper 1 (Combined Science)
	pm	PE Paper 1 Chinese Writing
Thur 23 rd May	am	English Language Paper 1
	pm	

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Fri 24th May	am	French Writing
	pm	
Mon 3rd June	am	Maths Paper 2
	pm	PE Paper 2
Tue 4th June	am	Spanish Listening and Reading
	pm	History Paper 2
Wed 5th June	am	Geography Paper 2
	pm	Business Studies Paper 2 Statistics Paper 1
Thur 6th June	am	English Language Paper 2
	pm	
Fri 7th June	am	
	pm	Biology Paper 2 (Triple Science) Biology Paper 2 (Combined Science)
Mon 10th June	am	Maths Paper 3
	pm	Spanish Writing
Tue 11th June	am	Chemistry Paper 2 (Triple Science) Chemistry Paper 2 (Combined Science)
	pm	Further Maths Paper 1
Wed 12th June	am	
	pm	Polish Listening and Reading
Fri 14th June	am	Geography Paper 3
	pm	Physics Paper 2 (Triple Science) Physics Paper 2 (Combined Science)
Mon 17th June	am	
	pm	Statistics Paper 2 Music
Tue 18th June	am	Design and Technology
	pm	Polish Writing
Wed 19th June	am	Further Maths Paper 2 Food and Nutrition
	pm	

UPDATE FROM THE CATERING TEAM

A huge congratulations to Mrs Heslop and her team on retaining their Food Hygiene Rating of 5, the top mark you can score, following their recent unannounced inspection by Tameside Regulatory Services.

Compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures	5
Compliance with structural requirements	5
Confidence in management/control procedures	5
Food hygiene rating	

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Next week, the Catering Team will be serving...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Option	Chicken Curry & Rice	Beef Lasagne & Veg or Salad	Roast Dinner	Tex Mex Meat Balls & Rice	Fish, Chips & Peas
Vegetarian Option	Veggie Sausage and Potatoes	Chickpea Curry & Rice	Veggie Roast Dinner	Frittata with Potatoes & Corn	Cheese Whirl, 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	Pasta Bolognaise & Garlic Bread	Chicken Pasta Bake	Sausage, Chips & Beans

REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

The Academy Production 2024!

It was 'Matilda' in 2022, 'Footloose' in 2023, 'West Side Story' in 2024 and in 2025....



Auditions to be held on 16th and 17th May, watch this space!

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, children are almost certain to encounter exam stress, which can cast a shadow over their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimate that a staggering 87% of pupils suffer from exam stress – highlighting the urgent need to minimise its impact on children's health and happiness.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build up to exam season is such a busy and pressurised time in a child's education that it can be difficult for youngsters to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Encourage them to consider whether their current workload is realistic and allows them sufficient time to relax and recharge. Work with them in crafting a revision timetable that's manageable and includes breaks and occasional days off.

2 ADVISE CLEARING THE CLUTTER

A disorganised work environment is proven to negatively affect our ability to focus, as well as our emotional state. Encourage children to keep their desk, notes and revision materials tidy – creating a dedicated, well-kept study space to promote maximum focus. Foster their creativity by suggesting they incorporate vibrant colours, mind maps and even quirky drawings into their revision notes.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS TOGETHER

Revision seems far harder when a child is uncertain where to begin or what sources to consult. Support them in confirming revision materials with their various teachers – emphasising the importance of gathering a range of resources to get a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. Feeling more prepared should nurture the child's confidence and help to dispel some of their anxiety.

4 RECOMMEND CREATIVE NOTE-TAKING

Writing out notes in full – rather than simply bullet pointing – can be a strong start to a child's revision. Reinforce this idea, encouraging the use of flashcards (featuring shorter versions of previously taken notes) for effective repetition and memorisation. Discuss the power of regularly reviewing notes to help them stay in the child's memory.

5 USE VISUAL AIDS AND MNEMONICS

Encourage the use of visual aids like videos and sticky notes to enhance learning. Some children find these resources far more useful than simply reading their notes as written. Explore creating mnemonics for a fun and effective study approach – and it's also worth noting that the strategic use of colours is a proven means of triggering recall during exams.

SMILE

6 GATHER A 'TECH TOOLKIT'

Technology can be a huge advantage in exam prep. Educational YouTube channels and revision websites like BBC Bitesize can be immensely powerful resources for helping children to expand and retain their knowledge. You could also recommend the use of flashcard apps and educational podcasts for revision and reminders when young people are on the go.

7 KEEP IT FUN

Revision tends to go far more smoothly if children are having fun in the process. Injecting some humour into their notes, for instance, can make details more memorable – as can relating information to their real-life experiences. Try to encourage a variety of study methods, such as incorporating physical activity (even simply taking a walk) into their revision routine.

8 SUGGEST ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

Make sure children are aware of different study techniques. You could emphasise the effectiveness of spaced repetition by reviewing material regularly over time to reinforce learning and improve retention. Discuss the benefits of active recall methods – such as self-testing or explaining a concept aloud – in identifying where their strengths and weaknesses lie.

9 ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE MINDSET

It can be easy for children's thoughts to fall into a downward spiral when they're stressed about exams. Try to foster a growth mindset by emphasising the importance of giving it their all rather than aiming for complete perfection. Positive self-talk and the use of affirmations can build confidence and reduce anxiety, while visualising success and setting realistic goals can help them stay motivated and focused.

10 HELP THEM TO SEIZE THE DAY

There are lots of things children can do on the day of their exam to reduce stress and increase their focus. Talk them through some helpful exam-day strategies – such as arriving early, reading the instructions and the questions carefully, and pacing themselves during the test. Suggest some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualisation, to help them manage any nerves before and during the exam.

On the subject of Attendance...

Good attendance at school is absolutely crucial if you are to achieve your potential but, unfortunately, post-COVID, attendance rates across the country are down. As at all schools, we are working hard at re-establishing and embedding all those good habits, including regular attendance and good punctuality, to ensure all our students succeed.

Congratulations to the following Form Groups for having the highest attendance rates for their respective year groups over the last week.

Year 7	Form Group 7L with 98.0%
Year 8	Form Group 8Y with 96.2%
Year 9	Form Group 9N with 98.9%
Year 10	Form Group 10E with 92.7%
Year 11	Form Group 11D with 95.3%



Well done to Form Group 9N for having the best attendance rate across the Academy!

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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