

Droylsden Academy is a good school

Change of Parent Communication and Payment App

Advanced notice - over the summer break we will be moving to a new communication and payments system.



In the next few weeks we will be changing our management information system from SIMS.net to Bromcom. As part of this move, we will also be migrating from Schoolcomms/School Gateway to MCAS (MyChildAtSchool). This will offer us more flexibility with the data we can share with you all under one interface rather than multiple different sites.

We will contact everyone in due course with further details once we are ready to go live with the new system.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Combined Cadet Force Annual Summer Camp

Last week, 25 Cadets from the Droylsden Academy Combined Cadet Force deployed to Altcar Training Camp, near Southport, for their Annual Camp. During the week, the Cadets carried out advanced training in 'The Attack' and 'The Shoot' and also competed against Contingents from other schools in a series of activities to see who would win the prestigious Altcar Challenge Cup! The following report looks at the Challenge, the Attack, the Shoot and then the Party!



The Challenge

'If we win, will you buy us all a McDonalds, Sir?' asked one Cadet. 'If you win' said Major Webb!

The challenges were great fun! They included teamwork activities, a run across the Assault Course, Archery, a Paintball Attack, Clay Pigeon Shoot (with Laser Shotguns) and a First Aid Simulation. Everything was set against the clock so the pressure was on!

And the result? The Droylsden Cadets performed amazingly and were only narrowly beaten into second place by a long and well established Contingent from one of the Private Schools represented at the Camp. This really was a momentous achievement from the Droylsden Cadets who never let

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their shields down and maintained the highest standards of Turnout, Teamwork, Shooting, Husbandry and Conservation throughout the week.

And yes, although we finished as runners-up, everyone did get a McDonalds!



The Attack

'I'm falling asleep over the sights of my rifle' said **Cdt Blessed Agbonlahor** as she lay on the ground with the initial stages of a fierce battle raging just 200 metres away across the sand dunes! The Droylsden Cadets were in all-round defence amongst the bushes, brambles, ants and bees and under a humid and cloudy sky with drifting smoke and the sounds of gunfire crackling in their ears. They were on high alert and waiting for the command to 'go in' and finish the battle off by sweeping through the remaining vestiges of the ruined village that the enemy had occupied.



At last, the Liaison Officer arrived, panting and pushing his way out of a gully in the dunes and the order went out: 'Stand by to move'. This was the cue for Section Commanders **Cdt Ayla Rabbani**, **L/Cpl Lennon James** and **L/Cpl Isaac Short** to ready their troops for the fight ahead. The Rossall School Contingent had fought through the target, ahead of us, and had withdrawn to re-group, but there were still some pockets of resistance in the village that needed to be dealt with. This was the task for the Droylsden Cadets as they were given the mission of 'fighting through the village,

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eradicating the enemy and setting the conditions for future operations. 'Game on' said **Cdt Luka Torskji** with a smile on his face, 'this is what I came here to do'. 'Has anybody got any Haribo left?' said **Cdt Noah Brown** anticipating the need for more energy given the magnitude of the task ahead!



The approach to the 'Start Line' was a crouching trot through a nettle and bramble filled gully in the sand dunes. A slight drizzle began to fall but nobody noticed it. 'Stand by, Stand by' came the shout as the Armoured Jackal providing support drove into the village to draw the enemy fire and suppress any remaining resistance. Then the second call, 'Wait for it, Wait for it, Go' as the first Assault Section charged over the brow of the sand dune and down the other side to face the enemy! 1 and 2 sections fought bravely, taking control of the village building by building until all that remained was the enemy 'Redoubt', a square, ugly, and fiercely defended concrete stronghold. Without hesitation, and screaming like banshees, **Cdt Ayla Rabanni** and her section launched the final assault and finished the job off, with what remained of the enemy resistance last seen running off across the dunes in the direction of Liverpool, never to be seen again!

The Shoot

The Contingent spent two days on the Ranges beginning with a 'Grouping and Zeroing Shoot' at 30m, followed by longer 'shoots' at 100m, 200m and, eventually, 300m. For some Cadets, this was the first time that they had fired the 5.56mm GP Rifle for real, although any nerves were soon dispelled by an increasing confidence as the day wore on and the Contingent recorded some impressive 'groupings'.

The shoots on the Ranges were interspersed by Archery Tag where the 'Battle of Agincourt' was gamely re-enacted at the back of the main gallery which was great fun!



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The Party

To celebrate the awards, wins, cups, presentations and promotions, Major Webb made good on the 'McDonalds Promise' and headed off to collect a large and very diverse order! A Disco in the Red Rose Club followed, where there was yet more to eat and drink and then, in the time-honoured manner of hard-working competitors, Cadets from all the schools danced the night away, well until 9.00pm anyway! Lights out at 10.00pm and, within minutes, all that could be heard was snoring!

What an amazing week and what an amazing performance by the Droylsden Academy Contingent, Major Webb is so proud of you! Roll on July 2025!



Religious Studies and World Views Drop Down Day

Thank you so much to our visiting guests who came into the Academy this week to give presentations on their differing religions or beliefs. Representatives from seven different religions and groups attended the Drop Down Day, Buddhism, Christianity, Humanism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism, and it really was fascinating to learn and understand a little more about their traditions, their views and beliefs and their day to day lives. Year 10 students really engaged with the event and we hope that it also reinforced the important messages around tolerance and respect for the views of others.



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Hey Ho Hey Ho, it's off to work we go!

Well done to all of the Year 10 students who took part in the College 'Taster Days' at Tameside College and Clarendon Sixth Form College last week, sampling courses from Flowering Arranging to 'A Level' English, Physics, Computing, Psychology and Chemistry, Bricklaying to Beauty and Decorating to Design. Your enthusiasm, attitude and approach throughout the day really was fantastic and we hope that you now have a clearer idea of the courses and qualifications you would like to take (or not take!) when you leave Droylsden and the career pathways you would like to follow.



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We are the Champions!

Congratulations to the Girls Under 13 Football Team made up of **Amelia Benson, Caitlyn Shaw, Lilly Pollitt, Annie Banks, Mylee Dunbar, Jasmine Lockie, Grace Connors, Lola Jones, Olivia Cunningham-Clarke, Hayley Tomkinson and Marley Wild** who crowned a fantastic season by winning the Tameside Cup, beating Great Academy Ashton in the final. The girls were 4-0 up in the first 10 minutes and went on to win the game 9-0, with goals from Annie (3), Olivia (2), Grace (2), Mylee and Caitlyn.



And congratulations also go to Miss Isherwood and her friends who successfully completed a really tough 5km 'Tough Mudder' course, with plenty of wet and muddy obstacles to navigate, finishing the course in under 40 minutes. The team raised £300 for Cancer Research and Miss Isherwood would like to thank everyone who supported her. Nice one Miss!

Student Character in Action

We were delighted and proud to hear of four of our students, **Archie Wilson, Ollie McGrath, Kyle Francis and Callum Buckley** who came to the rescue of a local family last week.

A Mum was out with her two young children when they ran on ahead and took the wrong short cut home. The children had been lost for around 20 minutes when the boys heard what had happened and went out searching for them on their bikes. The mother, as you can imagine, was frantic with worry but the story had a happy ending when Archie, Ollie, Kyle and Callum found and returned the children to her. Boys you are a real credit to your families and to the Academy and we are really proud of you!



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Geography: Remembering the Windrush Generation

Last week, Year 7 Geography students shared the reading of first person accounts of people who travelled to Britain from the Caribbean and the Commonwealth on the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948 and of those who followed them. The students were really interested in the accounts which highlighted the reasons why they left their country of origin and their varied experiences when they arrived in Britain.



The accounts sparked debate with many students feeling that the immigrants had been discriminated against on their arrival in Britain which was really shocking as they had been encouraged to migrate here in order to help rebuild the country after the Second World War. The students were also able to make links between the reading material they had studied and our pastoral programme covered during Life Skills and Character sessions.



The Year 8 and 9 students had a different focus; the Year 8 students focused on the impact that the Windrush Generation had on Britain and debated the positive and negative experiences of this migration on the UK. Having already been well versed in the Windrush story in previous years, Year 9 students read about the 'Forgotten Generation'. This included the stories of 66 Polish migrants who travelled on the Windrush as well and whose stories are often overlooked.

Learning about the 'Windrush' Generation also gave the Geography students a real opportunity to understand and empathise with why people from different backgrounds live in the UK and how this has resulted in the diverse and varied communities we have, not least in Manchester. A number of the students were keen to share stories that their own families had told them about their experiences.



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This week's brightest **sparx**

This week's brightest Sparx!

Congratulations to **Iris Ho**, **Hannah Pong**, **Lottie Hayes** and **Chun Wong** who were the brightest Sparx for last week, having attempted the most questions on the interactive Maths website.

Year 7	Iris Ho	3,016 XP
Year 8	Hannah Pong	4,410 XP
Year 9	Lottie Hayes	6,240 XP
Year 10	Chun Wong	25,200 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.

Food and Nutrition

Meanwhile in Food and Nutrition, Year 9 students have been preparing fresh Pasta Ravioli



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"Full of wonder, hope and the importance of getting to be who you are meant to be"
DAVID LEVITHAN, author of EVERY DAY
and editor of GEORGE

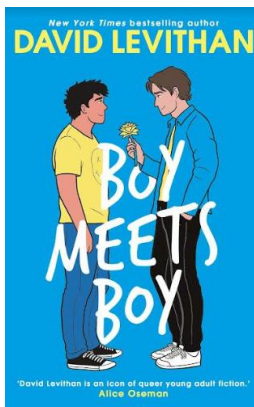
PRIDE

GEORGE

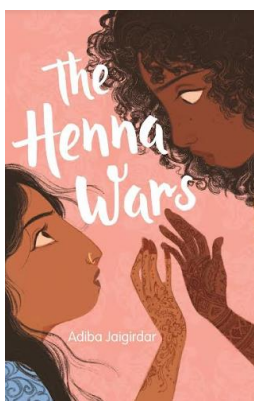
As part of our annual Pride reading event, students in English have been reading extracts from fictional short stories which aim to raise awareness of and celebrate the everyday experiences of young LGBTQ identifying people.

ALEX GINO

In Year 7, students read an extract from 'George' by Alex Gino. It is the story of a trans girl who has not yet come out to her family and school peers. George is a moving story of a young person's struggle with their identity and the joy they begin to feel as they begin to accept themselves - just as they are. The students were so intuitive, empathetic and knowledgeable of the issues surrounding George and her life which made for some very interesting debates.



In Year 8, students read an extract from 'Boy Meets Boy' by David Levithan. This is the story of Paul who is comfortably gay. He knows who he is and he is confident in himself. That is until his heart is broken. This story really engaged the students in discussions around love and heartbreak; students said that it was really interesting and reassuring to see the story's message, 'Love is Love' being explored in an LGBTQ narrative.



Finally, in Year 9, students read an extract from 'The Henna Wars' by Adiba Jaigirdar; the story of a young Bangladeshi Irish girl, Nishat who comes out to her parents. At first, her parents react negatively and tell her that she can be anyone she wants as long as she isn't herself as "Muslim girls aren't gay". Nishat doesn't want to lose her family but she doesn't want to pretend to be someone she is not either. Eventually, Nishat's parents grow to accept and celebrate Nishat's identity. Our students were really interested in the way that the word 'queer' has evolved over time and to read a story from the perspective of an Irish Asian girl.

And in the Library...

Meanwhile, the Academy Library extended its June Pride celebrations, to support the readings in English, with workshops presented by Mrs Ormrod and Miss Fitzpatrick focused on personal pronouns and misgendering.

Both are hot topics right now and, in this ever changing world, having non-judgemental and reasonable conversations to educate ourselves is very important. Mrs Ormrod would like to thank the staff and students who participated in the event for their maturity, kindness and openness.



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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to **Amy Lea** and **Esmit Uriakhel**, from Year 10, who have both been nominated as Student of the Week.



Amy has been nominated by the English Department as she performed exceptionally well in her Pre-Public Examinations through sheer hard work and determination. Miss Fernandez, her English teacher, was really impressed by her efforts in class, particularly with her proactive interrogation of poetry and her superb revision, and by the way that Amy supported her friends with their preparation too. Well done and thank you Amy!

Esmit has been nominated by the Maths Department as he has made a terrific impression since he joined the Academy a few months ago. He has embraced the 'Droylsden Way' and consistently upholds the values of hard work, politeness and honesty. Esmit is going above and beyond to improve his knowledge of maths and really deserves to succeed.

GCSE COUNTDOWN

Year 10, you only have 32 weeks left in school, just 160 days, until your GCSE examinations in May 2025!

We hope that your Pre-Public Examinations went well and that you are pleased with your results



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UPDATE FROM THE CATERING TEAM

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 Bolognese & Garlic Bread	Chicken Pasta Bake	Sausage, Chips & Beans



REMINDERS AND MESSAGES

The Academy 'Pop-Up' Uniform Shop

The Academy Pop-up Uniform Shop will be running again during the forthcoming summer holiday.

Remember if you are a Year 6 or Year 9 student who has an Academy Uniform Voucher, then it can only be used at the Pop-Up Shop and cannot be used either online or at a High Street Retailer.

The Pop-Up Shop will be open on the following dates:

Wednesday 31 st July	Monkhouse
Wednesday 7 th August	Top Marks
Wednesday 14 th August	Top Marks
Wednesday 21 st August	Top Marks



ENJOY 10% OFF
YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM!

It's time to get back to school ready
with **10% OFF** at our sell event on

WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY!

We're offering parents **10% OFF**
across all your school uniform needs
and additional accessories!

THIS IS FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.
SO MAKE SURE YOU ATTEND!

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The switch over to MCAS (MyChildAtSchool)

As you will be aware from Newsflash, we are changing our system of communicating with parents from Schoolcomms/School Gateway to MCAS (MyChildAtSchool). The IT Team will be carrying out work on the change-over next week and, as such, attendance and behaviour data will NOT be available to parents/carers via the Schoolcomms/School Gateway App from Monday 8th July onwards.

You can still use the Schoolcomms\School Gateway App to communicate with school and to make any payments for lunch or educational visits up until the end of term but we would ask that no further payments are made this way from 23rd July onwards when we break up for the summer holiday.

We will be sending out details about our new system nearer the launch date.

Thank you

The IT Team



Please get involved and support Reuben's Retreat

Reuben's Retreat needs you!

Do you want to improve your Service and support a school charity? Get involved with Droylsden Academy's biggest independent fundraiser yet! (Open to staff and students)

You will have the opportunity to set up your own fundraising activity and Just Giving page to support Reuben's Retreat.

Reuben's Retreat have an affinity with the number 23...with this in mind, you will have the chance to fundraise between 23rd June - 23rd July (the last day of this academic year).

For more information please go to Miss Worsley at lunchtime on one of the following days:

Tuesday 11th June - Humanities	Monday 17th June - Humanities
Thursday 13th June - Humanities	Wednesday 19th June - Humanities
Friday 15th June - Technology	Thursday 20th June - Technology
	Thursday 21st June - Humanities



DROYLSDEN
Academy

Reuben's Retreat
2014-2015
www.reubenretreat.co.uk

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHARING INTIMATE IMAGES

An intimate image depicts sensitive – often sexual – content, and sharing these photos or videos is commonly known as 'sexting'. As of January 2024, it is a criminal offence to distribute any intimate images shared by a third party without consent, with offenders facing prison time. Naturally, misuse of intimate images can lead to emotional distress and reputational damage.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

Victims of the misuse of intimate images and so-called 'sexortion' (blackmail involving sexual material) often experience significant emotional distress. The threat of having these photos or videos shared publicly can lead to anxiety, depression and a sense of helplessness. This emotional turmoil can affect daily life, academic performance and personal relationships.

DAMAGE TO REPUTATION

Intimate images being made public can severely damage a person's reputation. This can lead to bullying, social ostracisation and long-term impacts on personal and professional relationships. If a blackmailer gets their hands on any intimate images, the fear of reputational damage can also make a victim for more vulnerable to ongoing extortion.

PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

Once intimate images are shared online, it can be difficult to quickly control where they wind up and who else sees them. This loss of privacy can have lifelong repercussions, including identity theft and persistent online harassment.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Perpetrators of sextortion may demand money from victims under the threat of releasing their intimate images publicly. This can lead to severe financial problems for victims and their families, compounding their emotional and psychological distress.

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

If a child or young person creates and/or sends intimate images to others – especially adults – this is considered a form of child abuse under UK law. Having to disclose this type of abuse, although necessary, can be harrowing, leading to further trauma. It's crucial for parents, carers and educators to understand the legal processes and be able to provide proper guidance and support.

TRUST ISSUES

Sharing of intimate images without consent can lead to long-term trust issues. Victims may find it difficult to trust others, impacting future relationships and their ability to form healthy, supportive connections. This erosion of trust can have profound effects on mental health and social wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOSTER A CULTURE OF OPEN COMMUNICATION

It's vital to encourage open communication with children and young people about the dangers of sharing intimate images. Create a safe space where they feel comfortable discussing their online activities and any concerns they may have without fear of judgement. Be sure to respond to any worrying information with an attitude of support and learning.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital literacy is incredibly important for children and young people to understand how to protect their privacy online. Teach them about secure online practices, such as using strong passwords, enabling privacy settings and recognising suspicious behaviour. This empowers them to be proactive in terms of their own safety.


EDUCATE CHILDREN ON THE RISKS

Children and young people often want to understand why certain rules are in place. Educate them about the risks of sharing intimate images online, explaining the reasons for monitoring and other security measures. Highlight the potential for misuse, including sextortion, and the long-term consequences that can arise from these actions.

PROVIDE SUPPORT RESOURCES

Ensure that children and young people know where to seek help if they become victims of sextortion or any other online abuse. Help them identify in advance which adults they can turn to and provide them with information about trusted resources like helplines (e.g. Childline) that they can access if they need help.

'Branching Out'







Change
Grow
Live

Branching
Out
Tameside

YOUNG PERSON'S DROP INS

**DROP IN FOR A CONFIDENTIAL CHAT ABOUT
DRUGS & ALCOHOL**

<p>LOCALA (UNDER 18YRS)</p> <p>The Orange Rooms 193 Old Street Ashton Under Lyne OL6 7SR The fourth Tuesday of every month 4.00 - 6.00 pm</p>	<p>LOCALA (UNDER 18YRS)</p> <p>Healthy Hyde Clarendon Square Shopping Centre Hyde SK14 2QT Second Tuesday of every month 4.00 - 6.00pm</p>
<p>PEOPLE PLACE (16-25YRS)</p> <p>Entry through the library Tameside One Market Place Ashton OL6 6BH First Wednesday of Every month 1.00 - 4.00pm</p>	<p>RECOVERY CAFE (ALL AGES)</p> <p>Carmel Christian Centre Seymour Street Denton M34 3PF First and Third Friday of every month</p>
<p>TOG MIND (UNDER 18YRS)</p> <p>216-218 Katherine Street Ashton Under Lyne OL6 7AS The third Wednesday of every month 5.00 - 7.00 pm</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SUE OR THE TEAM AT :</p> <p> Branchingout@cgl.org.uk</p> <p> Change Grow Live My Recovery Tameside</p> <p> @branchingouttameside</p> <p> 0161 672 9420</p>

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING?

If so, why not 'Train to Teach' with us here at **The Tame River Teaching & Curriculum Institute** through the School Led Route in partnership with the everyonelearning@ Hawthorns Kingfisher, Tame River Teaching and Curriculum Institute.



**TAME RIVER
EDUCATIONAL TRUST**
TEACHING & CURRICULUM
INSTITUTE

We are currently recruiting for **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Geography, History, Maths, PE with Ebacc, Art, RE, Computer Science and MFL.**

School Led training 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.

The 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 K.Oag@mossleyhollins.com
<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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