



NEWSLETTER

10th December 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

Well, here we are at the end of the autumn term. Overall, it has been a real success, and to top all that we have achieved over the last few months, our pupils excelled themselves in the Christmas show last week.

Unfortunately due to the Covid situation once again, frustratingly, we could not invite parents to the show, but all the many pupils who participated performed to staff and received a standing ovation.

It was a shame we had to cancel the Coffee Morning, after we had had such a flying start in October, with 60 parents attending. Let's hope we are able to provide one next term, even if it is online.

Last week everyone enjoyed the festive Christmas dinner provided by Mellors, our caterers, and you can see how festive the occasion was from the photos inside the newsletter.

Thank you everyone for your full support in ensuring your child wears a face mask. Pupils have been very cooperative and their supportive approach certainly helps as we have needed to return to some of our safety measures in school due to the rise in infections again.

Please read the letter I am sending to all parents and carers this week regarding the plans for a staggered return to school in January due to testing pupils before they return to school. Thank you to all those parents and carers who gave their consent. I urge you to continue testing at home during the holiday and certainly before your child returns in the new term.

Should the national situation change regarding school arrangements, we shall contact you before the start of term.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a healthy, safe and happy Christmas break.

With best wishes, Ms S. Finlay



Ms S. Finlay
Headteacher

Safeguarding Tip: Christmas is a time to celebrate for many, but for others it can be stressful and difficult. Please contact school if you feel you need support over the Christmas Break

Diary Dates

End of Term	22 nd December
Staggered Return	4 th January 2022
Year 11 Mock Results Day	7 th January
Year 11 Online Progress Evening	13 th January



Head of Year Messages



Year 7 – Mrs Rashford *Congratulations 7T Pankhurst!*

This week, Year 7 had their second achievement assembly. Unfortunately it had to take place online due to government restrictions being put in place. However, that didn't stop our pupils and staff celebrating and recognising the successes of some of our Year 7 pupils. Well done to all pupils who received an award. Congratulations 7T Pankhurst who were the overall winners of Next Level November. They have won a tour of Manchester United football ground with Mr Griffiths.



Year 8 – Mr Smith *Well done to those pupils who achieved awards!*

The Year 8 pupils have had a great penultimate week before the holidays begin. The Winter Showcase starred some of our most talented budding actors/actresses and was enjoyed as a treat by Bridgewater and Piccadilly who had accumulated the most positive points this term. Further success was celebrated in our Achievement Assembly where we congratulated numerous prize winners including the top five pupils with the most achievement points, the 100% attenders and the Head Teacher's award for all-round excellence, amongst others. Well done to all those pupils who received recognition in the assembly and we wish everyone a happy holiday!



Year 9 – Mr Diaz *Year 9 celebrated their achievements!*

This week we have celebrated pupil successes at DTA at our Achievement Assembly. It is our most favoured time of the half term as Year 9 continue to thrive and excel. Please join me in congratulating our pupils for their efforts, hard work and determination to be the best they can be. An honourable mention goes to Riyana for her recent success in having a poem she wrote for National Poetry Day published in an anthology which will feature in our library. Congratulations to our Year 9 thespians who performed splendidly at our recent Winter Showcase and congratulations to the many winners of awards, certificates and prizes from teacher nominations.



Year 10 – Mr Chetwyn *Any donations for our charity hampers would be greatly appreciated!*

This week we have been researching the charities we are raising donations for in our community. At DTA, we place great emphasis on the importance of our community! We are asking our pupils and families to donate items to support our community. DTA pupils are fantastic at pulling together when it really counts, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone bringing in their donations! Please read on for details about the charities and items to donate.



Year 11 – Mr Hull *Thank you for your hard work Year 11!*

This is my final update of 2021, and an opportunity to look back over an eventful, challenging and exhilarating year so far. Particular highlights have included sporting successes, the return of performing arts, exciting trips and outstanding exam results. What has impressed me most is the consistency of the day-in-day-out excellence around school from our year group, and the resilience they have demonstrated has been the bedrock of our success so far. I am immensely excited about what next year holds and I look forward to working together to realise our potential and exceed all expectations. Thank you for your support in 2021. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and I hope all our pupils and their families have a safe, restful and peaceful break. Work hard and be kind.



School Messages

Headteacher's Commendation

Year 11 pupils received a commendation for gaining the highest number of positive points.
The Year 11 pupils who have achieved the most positive points this term have been given a Headteacher's Commendation. They are positive role models to our younger pupils. Well done!



School Messages

Christmas Dinner

Pupils enjoyed a Christmas dinner at lunchtime!

The catering staff have been cooking delicious Christmas dinners at lunchtime. Pupils celebrated together with party hats and crackers. Thank you to the catering team for their hard work!



Christmas Hampers

Thanks to all who have donated so far!

We are putting together Christmas hampers for local charities this year. The charities include Coffee for Craig, an organisation which provides food and care for the homeless, Manchester Central Foodbank, and Supporting People in Need (SPIN), a local homeless shelter which will house up to 25 men during the Christmas period. Pupils have until Tuesday to bring in any donations. Thank you to those who have donated so far. It is greatly appreciated and will go to really good use! Below is a reminder of items the charities would like. Clothes:

Please donate:

Clothing:

Small and medium
boxer shorts
Men's tracksuit bottoms
Boots and trainers (size
8 or above)
Scarfs
Hats

Food:

Sugar
Tea
Coffee
Hot chocolate
Long life milk
Instant custard powder
Tinned foods
Packaged foods
Crisps
Biscuits

Gifts:

Card games
Board games
Jigsaws
Colouring books
Men's and women's
toiletry sets
Books (new)
Pyjama sets
Slippers



School Messages

Baking Club

Pupils competed in a Christmas yule log decorating challenge!

The final session of Baking Club was held this week. Pupils participated in a Christmas yule log decorating competition. It was fantastic to see the pupils creativity going wild with their choices of sweet decorations and cake compositions. The joint winners of the competition are Iqra & Ayesha, sisters who teamed up to create a Christmas masterpiece. They made their own short bread biscuit Christmas trees and hand moulded snowmen out of icing. Two very deserving winners, well done!



Christian Union

Well done Samuel for your excellent work!

Members of the Christian Union were asked to think about what Christmas means to them. Miss Anyanwu would like to recognise Samuel's brilliant writing. Well done Samuel!



DEAN TRUST **Ardwick**

What is Christmas?

Christmas is a festive celebration that is celebrated across the world on the 25th day of the 12th month of the year. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Christmas follows the birth of Jesus Christ and the star of Bethlehem that is considered to be a miraculous event that marks the birth of Christ. It is also considered to be a sign which was sent by God to redirect Man to God through Jesus Christ.

Christmas isn't just an event that is celebrated once a year. It is an event that has a very important story behind it. It is the beginning of a new relationship between God and man.

Christmas to me and other Christians means the birth of Jesus Christ our lord and saviour. It also signifies the start of a new era for Christians around the world.

Created by: Samuel Uzomah Year 9



School Messages

Art

Well done to the pupils for their creativity!

Year 7 pupils designed and made the work pictured below using the British artist, Patrick Caulfield, as inspiration. Caulfield is famous for using bold bright colours. Pupils made the pieces by using collage and a black outliner pen.



School Messages

Performing Arts Winter Showcase

Pupils put on an incredible performance!

On Monday and Tuesday, over 80 pupils took part in our Winter Showcase. It was our first performance in over 2 years and it was a fantastic event. Unfortunately we were not able to invite visitors to be part of the audience, but it didn't dampen our spirits. The cast performed for an audience of pupils on Monday and for staff on Tuesday.

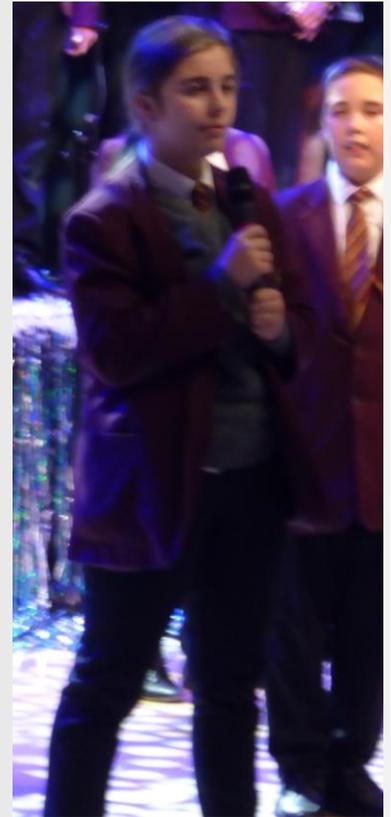
It really was a dazzling performance which showed just how talented pupils at DTA are.

The Performing Arts faculty wishes to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved. Also, thanks needs to go to the many staff who contributed in some way.

Keep your eyes peeled after the Christmas break for news of our next production, and how to be involved.



School Messages



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Manchester United Foundation Christmas Event

Pupils enjoyed food and games at Old Trafford football stadium!

Last week, a number of pupils had the opportunity to go to Old Trafford football stadium for a Christmas event hosted by the Manchester United Foundation. The Old Trafford catering team cooked some delicious food for the guests and everyone had a great time. There were lots of different games for pupils to try, including the coconut shy, Mario Kart and Scalextric! Lots of schools across Manchester attended the event and pupils were lucky enough to be able to go outside and sit in the stadium! Thank you to Mr Griffiths, our Manchester United Foundation Coordinator, for an unforgettable trip!





School Messages

Taekwondo Workshops

Well done to Yusuf and Awa for their prizes!

Pupils in Year 7-11 were selected to take part in a 6-week Taekwondo workshop with Team GB's Mahama Cho. The sessions were focused on confidence building, communication and problem-solving skills. All pupils involved were focused and engaged throughout each session and it was a tough decision for Cho to select the two winners. Yusuf (10D Lowry) and Awa (9D Lowry) were the winners of the signed Taekwondo shirts.

Below is some feedback from pupils who participated in the Taekwondo workshops:

Taekwondo has been a big eye opener and a really good experience. I have learnt a lot about strength and balance. Cho has taught me to be myself always and I feel more confident. -Awa (9D Lowry)

Taekwondo has been a fun experience and it was great to meet Cho. I enjoyed working together as a team and getting the chance to do something brand new. - Xanté (7T Piccadilly)



School Messages

Inclusion and EAL Christmas Party

Thanks to everyone who cooked delicious food!

Last week, our Inclusion and EAL departments hosted a Christmas celebration. Pupils brought in lots of delicious food from all around the world. Staff and pupils had the opportunity to try the different cuisines. Thank you to all of the pupils and their families who cooked food for the celebration. Thank you, as well, to the staff who organised the celebration, it was a great way to end the week!



School Messages





**THE THINGS I
WISH MY
PARENTS
HAD KNOWN**



**YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVICE
ON TALKING TO YOUR
CHILD ABOUT ONLINE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Summary of top tips

1 Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age-appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive.

Don't wait for the crisis.

2 Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them.

Don't mention it once and think that's enough.

3 Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere.

Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.

4 Focus on your child's emotions first and work out what they may have seen online. By listening to your child and understanding if they accessed harmful content, you can help to support them.

Don't punish them before listening and understanding.

5 Keep curious about the technology your child is using and stay up to date with platforms, apps and trends.

Don't pretend these issues don't exist

6 Set boundaries. Use filtering tools to limit your child's exposure to harmful content. Decide on rules and boundaries with your child, allowing them to input. Explain which monitoring and filtering tools you are using, and why.

Don't leave your child unsupervised online without using monitoring and filter tools. You wouldn't leave them alone in the park or the street, apply the same level of protection online.



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**Our full guide shares information
on each of these topics:**



Pornography

"I feel like the best time for parents to have a conversation about porn is a bit earlier for boys than girls. From my experience of male friends, they definitely see porn earlier than my female friends. I mean like early: year 4, year 5, year 6."



Sharing nudes

"A lot of parents might just blame the child instantly instead of trying to support them."



Sexualised bullying

"A lot of my male friends feel like they can't do certain things as they feel like they will get bullied, or even worse than bullied... they feel like they're in danger if they don't do a certain thing."



Editing photos and body image

"It is still as damaging ... you know it's edited, you still wanna look that way. It is hard to get over the fact you don't look that way. It's hard to navigate through that."



Peer pressure

"You see people like those comments and get lots of likes. It makes you think to post more comments like that, you see people like them so you start posting more hateful comments."

All quotes from young people aged 16-21