

# Discover More About



DOWNHAM MARKET  
ACADEMY

Friday 5 February 2021

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey circulated a couple of weeks ago asking for feedback on the remote provision that we are offering. Similar versions were sent to parents/carers, students and staff and we had a fantastic response of many hundreds. It has taken a while to analyse the results and it was very pleasing to see that the overwhelming majority of students, parents and staff are very satisfied with the provision and are confident to teach and learn in this way now. Below are some of the headlines:

100% of students were confident in staying safe online

85% of teachers said that students were completing at least "most of the work"

92% of students said it was "very easy" to get help from their teachers

99% of parents were satisfied with the remote provision

90% of students said they strongly felt a part of the DMA community

99% of parents said communication from DMA has been clear

98% of teachers were confident students are making progress

95% of parents said their child was doing school work for at least 4 hours a day

Some parents said in the survey that they were worried they were not able to fully support their child(ren) with remote learning. However, when asked what the best support their parents were giving at home, the majority of students said that this was when they gave encouragement, talked about their learning and asked them how they were feeling.

As we have said previously, if parents can provide a quiet space to work with lots of encouragement and a ready supply of snacks, we will do the teaching!

There are some interesting things happening next week in PSHE that are outlined on the next page and we hope that students will find these activities stimulating and inspiring. Many are great discussion points for families who are more than welcome to get involved.

Mark Eastwood (Senior Deputy Headteacher)

*We firmly believe that education is about so much more than academic success. Helping young people develop personally and emotionally is something that we value highly...*

## **National Children's Mental Health Week**

This week we focussed on National Children's Mental Health Week and prepared a series of online activities and daily competitions to promote positive mental health and wellbeing within the school community. Students took part in online surveys about inspiring heroes and what kindness means to them, as well as sending in poetry, lyrics, posters and photographs about mental health and wellbeing. Our focus for the week has been: **in a world where you can be anything - be kind**; and the thought and care put into students' work on this topic demonstrates what a supportive and caring community we have in Downham Market Academy. Work will be showcased in DMA Dispatch this week with prizes announced next Friday.

## **ABC Award**

To stretch and challenge our amazing students we are proud to introduce a new initiative. The ABC Award is unique to our school and stands for: Action, Behaviour and Creativity.

The award comes in four stages of progression starting with the ABC Bronze Award, followed by Silver, Gold and Diamond Awards.

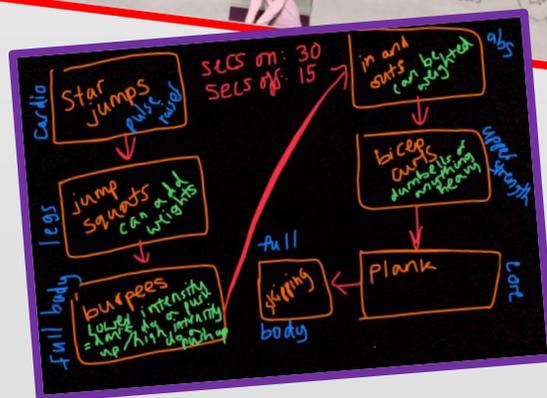
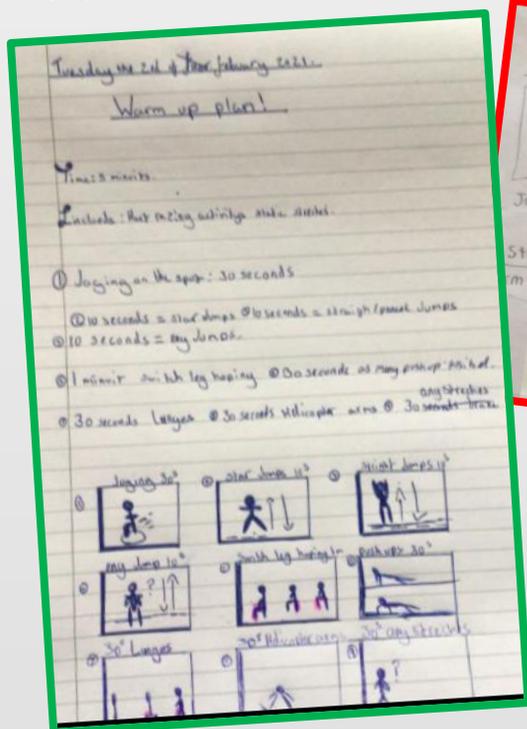
For the ABC Bronze Award, students complete three challenges in each category and produce evidence to demonstrate how they have mastered a skill and conquered a task. Students will receive recognition for their hard work and perseverance in the form of student celebration, certificates and rewards.

## **PSHE Drop Down Day**

On Thursday 11th February we have a drop-down day entitled 'Life on Line' to further support your child with internet safety and mental health and wellbeing. The school day will follow the usual timetable and students will be registered for each lesson; attendance is compulsory. This ties in with Internet Safety Day which features during the week and our regular promotion of online safety during lockdown. Topics are essential to being safe and healthy online: Fake News; Cyber Bullying; Online Scams; Body Image; Amazing Internet; Getting a Balance and also KS4 topics including Gambling and Professional Online Profiles.

# SPORT &

In key stage 3 this fortnight, pupils have been producing their own warm-ups as well as their own circuit training sessions. Many have responded with some fantastic written work as can be seen. Some have even pictured or videoed themselves leading their warm-up! Again, there has been so many pieces of work submitted it's hard to show them all. Keep it up folks!



PE Star of the Week - Two pupils that have worked hard in their areas of study this week have been Caitlin and Vesko. Vesko continues to impress in GCSE PE, achieving good marks and applying himself throughout. Caitlin has been organised and on top of her PE studies since the start, sending in some great pieces of work. Great effort you pair! Keep it up!

Good to see the staff at DMA racking up the hours of exercise. Healthy body, healthy mind. Miss Buchanan holds on to top spot with the amount of hours dedicated to exercise. Good effort Miss! Mr Sayer has been knocked off the distance crown by the two youngsters from PE. Well done Mr Moss and Mr Smith! Will we see some new names appear next time? Keep it up everybody!

Total Time		Total Distance		Longest Activity	
🏆1	Nicola Buchanan 7:14:28	Ben Smith 141.7 km	martin moss 80.3 km	martin moss 1:29:48	
🏆2	Ben Smith 4:51:46	John Sayer 43.8 km	Nicola Buchanan 1:13:25		
🏆3	martin moss 4:16:35		John Sayer 1:11:42		

# EXERCISE

# Music Maestros

Starting next week, Miss Harris is opening a **music club** for those students who are interesting in studying for GCSE but are complete beginners. Students will need their own keyboard or guitar at home, please encourage them to join for some tuition. This offer is also open to students who are not necessarily planning to take GCSE music but are interested in learning an instrument.

Meetings will be Wednesday 3.15pm. Week A will be for keyboardists/pianists and Week B will be for guitarists. Students will need either instrument to participate.

Please contact me directly ([r.harris0@downhammarketacademy.co.uk](mailto:r.harris0@downhammarketacademy.co.uk)) for details of how to join in.

Miss Harris (Music teacher)

# Dramatic Designs

We are really missing teaching practical drama, however over the last two weeks students in Key Stage 3 have been working on other aspects of drama and theatre and we have had hundreds of entries to our **design competition**; Year 7 students were tasked with creating a “lockdown” inspired set design, Year 8 created an innovative costume for a fictional character based on the musical “Tangled” and Year 9 students created a set design from the stimulus “conflict”. The standard of work was phenomenal (as always!) so choosing a winner was extremely difficult but some entries really did stand out – see the next page for the winners.

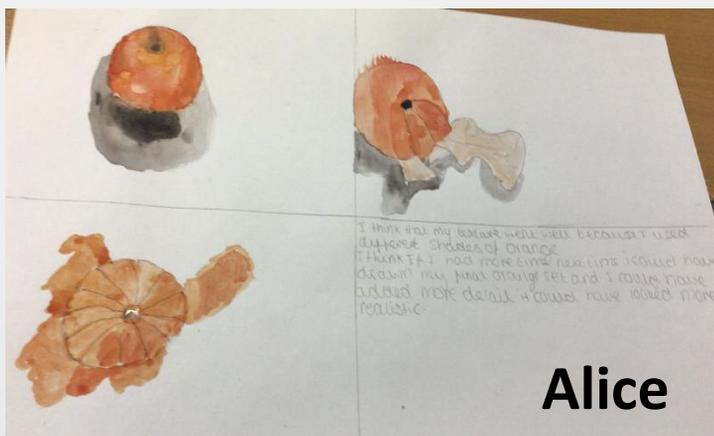
On behalf of all of us in the Drama department, I’d like to say how proud I am of each and every winner; it’s great to see that we not only have fantastic actors at DMA but we also have some really talented designers. Theatre design is studied further at GCSE and A Level and therefore students should consider these courses if they would like the opportunity to learn more about set, costume, lighting, sound and puppetry.

Miss Chapman (Head of Drama)



# ADOT

Year 7 students created colourful outcomes in a range of media including coloured pencil, watercolour paint and digital techniques. The pictures were inspired by Cezanne's paintings of fruit, and focus on stages of food being eaten.



Alice

## Year 10



Emilija

Working over and changing the meaning of a magazine image using digital drawing techniques.



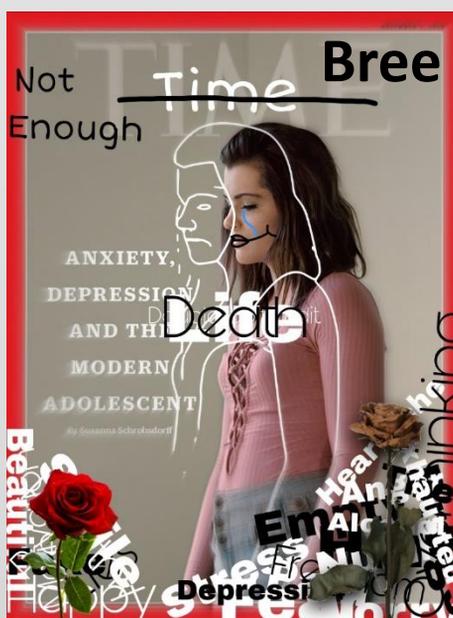
Phillippa

Exceptional paintings using coffee and ink.

Building tone through mark-making.



Erin



Bree

## Year 11



Keira

Enhancing student's own photo with mark-making in black and white pen.

Graphite pencil drawing based on student's own photographs.



Leah

# Upcoming events & dates for the diary

Upcoming dates	
Friday 12 February	Last day before half term
Monday 22 February	Return from half term
Thursday 25 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings	
Year 7	Thursday 6 May 2021
Year 8	Thursday 25 March 2021
Year 9	Thursday 26 November 2020
Year 10	Thursday 4 February 2021
Year 11	Thursday 21 January 2021

Term dates		
Term	Starts	Ends
Autumn 1	7/8 September 2020	23 October 2020
Autumn 2	2 November 2020	18 December 2020
Spring 1	4 January 2021	12 February 2021
Spring 2	22 February 2021	26 March 2021
Summer 1	12 April 2021	28 May 2021
Summer 2	7 June 2021	21 July 2021