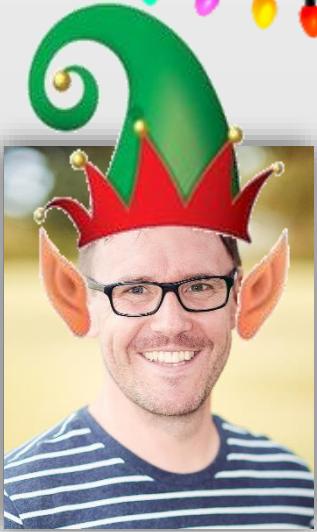


# Discover More About



DOWNHAM MARKET  
ACADEMY

Thursday 17 December 2020



What a term it has been! Despite all of the negative news around Covid-19 and the knock on effects on our society, I could not be more proud of how staff and students at DMA have risen to the challenges we have faced together.

As I visit lessons each day, I am hugely impressed at the dedication students show to their learning and the commitment staff have to supporting their students. In every lesson I see students eager to learn and engaging in all manner of activities. This week I have observed students on "memory walks" around the Academy, interactive quizzes on the iPads, lively discussions on contentious issues and hundreds of students grappling with complicated Maths equations!

Next term the canteen will be returning to a "pay as you go" dining experience so students will not need to pre-order their meals. Service will be cashless so please do ensure that your child's account is funded using the ParentMail app. To remain Covid-19 secure, students will not access their account via the thumb print scanners and instead will use their unique PIN or surname when talking to the canteen staff.

If your child does experience symptoms or test positive for coronavirus, particularly over the next few days until Christmas Eve or for the few days before we return to school, please do let us know ASAP by emailing [covid-19@downhammarketacademy.co.uk](mailto:covid-19@downhammarketacademy.co.uk) so that we can support the Track and Trace process to identify any close contacts who will need to self-isolate and prevent any further transmission.

If you are interested in re-training for a career in teaching, particularly those with backgrounds in Technology (eg. Engineering or Catering/Chef), please do get in touch with us at the Academy.

Next term promises to be another busy one as we re-launch our extra-curricular clubs and period 7 intervention sessions as well

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year

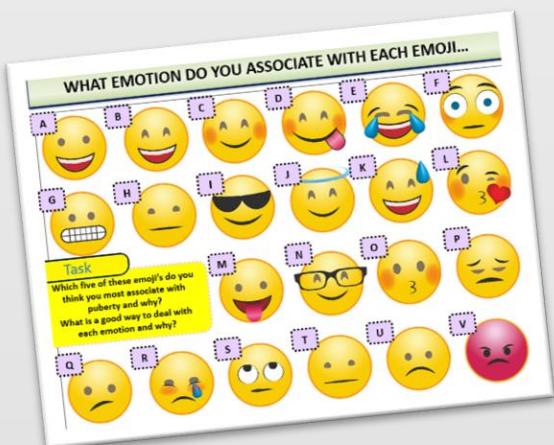
*Mark Eastwood*

Senior Deputy Headteacher



## Child Care examination success for Year 11

Massive congratulations to our Year 11 Child Care students who produced stunning results in the examined unit from earlier this term. We treated them to a special breakfast as a reward for all their hard work that saw over half the students earn A\* grades and all students achieve or exceed their potential grade. Miss Radbourne is very proud of the students and their success and is looking forward to teaching some (and hopefully many!) of them in the new Child Care A level next year at Athena Sixth Form College.



## PSHE & RSE: preparing students to join the “real world”!

Year 7s embarked on an extended Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) morning this week as they participated in assemblies and workshops learning about puberty, hygiene and self-esteem. Downham Market Academy has invested in a brand new PSHE curriculum to help our young people navigate their way in life and support their future successes.

All year groups will participate in PSHE workshops, assemblies and masterclasses in the New Year. Our Year 7s responded with maturity as they learned about how best to take care of themselves and those around them during their teenage years.



## Success for DMA students in the Cambridge School Classics Project

Tegan and Liam in Year 7 were commended for their entry to the competition, which means they came 3rd in the whole of the UK for their category. Miss Hopley, Head of Latin at DMA thought that the runner up and the winner were not as good as the model of Midas turning a woman to gold Tegan and Liam made!

Miss Hopley arranged for all competition entrants to virtually attend the awards ceremony where a montage of all the entries was shown.

The next competition is called 'Make Your Myth' run by "The Greeks, the Romans and Us" at Cambridge University. This will be for Year 8 students and we hope for more success and recognition for the amazing work that our students produce.



## Late buses

We are keen to provide as many students as we can the opportunity to attend after school clubs (see later in this newsletter for the timetable) or Period 7 interventions. For that reason, we have organised for two “late buses” to run Monday to Thursday each week. They will leave DMA at 4:15, one travelling as far as Watlington and the other towards Outwell and Upwell. The exact route and drop off points will be determined by the driver each day once we have a confirmed passenger list. To book a seat on a late bus for your child, please visit the following [link](#)



## A bright future beckons for students at Athena Sixth Form College

Year 13 students have been busy this term writing personal statements and submitting applications through UCAS to various universities across the length and breadth of the UK. This year saw record numbers apply to University with a very high proportion of these being to “Russell Group” institutions – these are the top 24 Universities in the country and includes both Oxford and Cambridge where we have a number of students eagerly waiting for the result of interviews held recently.

As a county, Norfolk reports one of the lowest rates of students going to University so we are very proud that our students have such high ambitions following personalised support and advice during their time at Athena.

We've got everything crossed that the “offer” emails start to arrive soon so our dedicated students have something tangible to make all of the hours of independent study worthwhile.

The Student Executive Team at Athena organised a charity “pub quiz” this week where teams of students answered different rounds of questions. The event was very good-humoured and raised money for charity at the same time

Current Year 11 students at DMA and beyond can apply to study at Athena Sixth Form College by visiting the [website](#)



# A SPOTLIGHT ON DRAMA

Across all key stages, students are engaging in lots of practical activities and enjoying being back in the Drama studio working with their peers. In Year 7 we have travelled back to the origins of ancient Greek Theatre and our students have created some fantastically gruesome performances; Year 8 students have been tackling the strange and bizarre work of Stephen Berkoff in Metamorphosis; whereas our Year 9s have explored Blackout, a physical piece which examines the way in which nurture can affect our behaviour, the criminal justice system and the reformation of young offenders in society today. Whilst this may all sound pretty heavy in terms of content, the students have been enthusiastic and passionate in their creation of Drama and have approached all subject matter thoughtfully.

GCSE drama students have also been extremely busy. Year 11 have begun their scripted pieces which include pieces such as Us/Them, BU21, Swallow, Grimm Tales and Education, Education, Education. This year we have a number of design candidates who will be creating either set or costume for their final examination, inspired of course from our excellent art department. Year 10, having just engaged in an exhilarating workshop with famous theatre company The Paperbirds, have been introduced to their devising stimuli and are now starting to create their own performances. Creating drama is a finely tuned skill and we are so excited to see what fantastic ideas the groups come up with, we will be sure to share this with you!



Our A Level cohort have got off to a flying start this year. They have been studying the work of Henrik Ibsen (a naturalistic playwright), watching live theatre such as The National Theatre production of “The Death of England; Delroy” and “Into a Thousand Pieces” by the Paperbirds, and engaging in practical workshops exploring a variety of styles and genres. It’s not all been work, there’s been a lot of “play” as the Year 12 students have been heavily involved in the direction, creation and editing of our *Nafftivity*.



The *Nafftivity* will be streamed live to all students on Thursday the 17th of December to spread some Christmas cheer during this difficult year. You can also find the video on our facebook page as well as school website. Staff have donned sheep costumes, created trees (yes, big ones made of card and beautiful tinsel) and even worn wigs and wings to bring this spectacular improvisation to your screens. Now, creating Drama in a socially distanced world is tricky so please do bear with us and use your imagination as we jump from scene to scene. Whatever your view on this year, please do take some time out to sit back and enjoy our staff (and sixth form students) make your day a little brighter!

# Window Wanderland

Last Friday students from Year 7 got creative as part of the Academy's Window Wanderland competition. By cutting out black paper silhouettes and tissue paper, students created colourful botanical scenes which are being displayed in windows around the Academy. The pictures look stunning, especially when they are lit up from inside.

As part of the day, Year 7 also wrote acrostic poems on a Christmas theme, and so many of these were touching, thoughtful and funny. Staff have had the difficult task of choosing five poems, and five outstanding silhouette pictures to be made into beautiful Christmas cards. These will soon be sent to residents of a local care home. We are sure the students' amazing images and words will raise a smile this Christmas.



## 2<sup>nd</sup>: Megan

C heery time of the year,  
H atred starts to disappear,  
R ambling on at Christmas dinner,  
I t's not going to get you any thinner,  
S now starts to fall,  
T he reindeer start to call,  
M erry time for giving,  
A nd to start living,  
S o let's have a very lovely Christmas this year!

## 1<sup>st</sup>: Harry

C alling all reindeer  
H elp is what I need,  
R udolph and his friends  
I need you to do a deed.  
S now is blocking our way  
T o under the Christmas tree  
M ay you help me clear it all  
A nd Christmas will be saved,  
S inging ho, ho, ho! Up, up and away

## 3<sup>rd</sup>: Noah

C hristmas is around the corner.  
"H o ho ho" he cheers,  
R eindeer flying Santa's sleigh  
I love it so much!  
S anta delivers presents,  
T rees with presents underneath.  
M any decorations up,  
A nd oh so many mince pies,  
S now falling outside everywhere!

# Extracurricular Clubs

	Mon A	Tues A	Weds A	Thurs A	Fri A
Lunch			A City Through Time Y7		Historical Drama
After School	Homework 7-11 Keyboard Y8	Y10 Sports Homework 7-11 Drama/Dance Y7-10	Y9 Sports		
			Homework 7-11		
			Wargames		
			KS3 Coding/Game maker	Y8 Sports	Y7 Sports
			Film Club Y8-10	Homework 7-11	Homework 7-11
			Y7 Dance		
			Y7 Ukelele		

	Mon B	Tues B	Weds B	Thurs B	Fri B
Lunch			A City Through Time Y7		Historical Drama
After School	Homework 7-11 Science Y7-11 Y8 Rock and Pop	Y10 Sports Homework 7-11 Drama/Dance Y7-10	Y9 Sports		
			Homework 7-11		
			Wargames		
			KS3 Coding/Game maker	Y8 Sports	Y7 Sports
			Film Club Y8-10	Homework 7-11	Homework 7-11
			Y8 Dance		
			Y9 Rock and Pop		



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Above & Beyond points

# Upcoming events & dates for the diary



## Upcoming dates

Monday 4 January	First day of spring term
Friday 8 January	BTEC Travel & Tourism exam (the real thing!)
Monday 11 January	Creative iMedia & Sports Science exams (the real thing!)
Wednesday 13 January	Health & Social Care exam (the real thing!)
Thursday 21 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 4 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday 12 February	Last day before half term
Monday 22 February	Return from half term

## 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