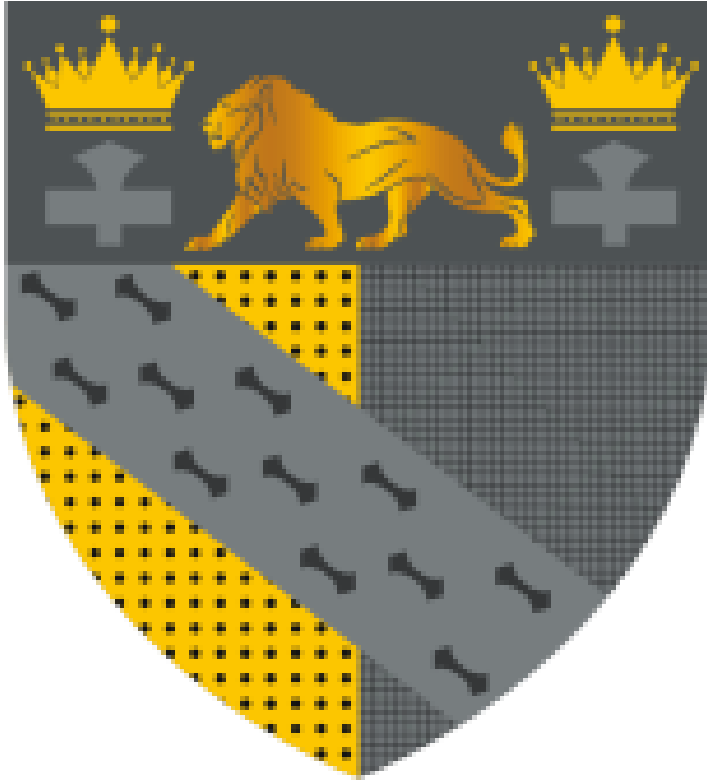




DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY



Newsletter

3rd November 2025

Welcome back, I hope you have had a relaxing half term break. The students have returned full of energy and we look forward to successful half term ahead.
Best wishes for the coming week,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PSHE focus
		Revision café - Geography	Year 10 Work experience evening		How does the media shape the way we think and feel?

Notices

Don't forget DMA is a **nut free school**; please ensure packed lunches don't contain any items containing nuts.

Uniform Consultation



With changes to government guidance around school uniform becoming mandatory from September 2026 we are reviewing the Academy uniform to ensure we are meeting these expectations. It will only be possible for the Academy to expect families to purchase a maximum of 3 items from the Academy supplier therefore we are proposing to move to having these items as jumper, polo shirt and PE t shirt. All students will be expected to wear dark grey pleated skirt, shorts or trousers. We will offer the PE quarter-zip long sleeve top as an optional item however students may wear a plain black fleece or sweatshirt as an alternative during PE lessons. Current branded uniform items will be acceptable for existing students to wear until September 2027 however all new students to the Academy will be expected to wear the new uniform items.

Please use the link below to share your thoughts regarding the proposal above

[Uniform consultation – Fill in form](#)

Rememberance Day

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On **Tuesday 11th November** students and staff at the Academy will be gathering for Remembrance Day. This will include a reading of Flanders Field by a group of students, the laying of wreaths and 2 minutes silence. Students who are members of uniformed organisations, such as cadets or scouts are welcome to wear their uniform to school should they wish.

Poppies will be available for students to buy in the week prior to 11th November.



Year 7 – What do I not know!

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Please look out for my edulink message regarding Year 7 - Frequently Asked Questions.

- As a parent, I always seemed to have questions, but did not necessarily know who to turn to for answers! I hope that our FAQ sheet will answer most of your questions.
- If not, please use the link to MS Forms found on my Edulink message, where you can ask any questions that the FAQ does not cover.
- This will only be monitored for 1 week, but please do remember that our PD Tutors, Mr Yare and myself are always happy to answer any questions you may have after Friday 7th November deadline.
- Equally, if we are doing something right, please let me know that too!

Mrs Locke Head of Year 7

Celebrating success

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Year 7

Welcome back everyone!

This is my favourite Term of the Year. I am a big Christmas fan. I know that there are many sporting fixtures and a few trips being organised for this term not least the Panto trip in December.

Keep an eye out for more information.

Mr Yare, Year 7 PD Tutors and myself look forward to seeing you all on Monday!

Year 8

Year 8 Form Tutors, Miss Walpole and myself are looking forward to this half term as we move towards the festive period of celebration.

Hopefully, you are all rested from a relaxing half term having enjoyed Halloween, and of course the extra hour in bed from the clocks going back!

With it being Bonfire Night on Wednesday please all stay safe during this week, whether you go to an arranged event or do something at home with family and friends.

Mr Arrowsmith (Assistant Head of Year)

Year 9

We hope you had a fantastic holiday and celebrated Halloween by eating lots of sweets!

We are now ready for the Christmas term where we will have lots of new learning and new opportunities to earn house points!

Year 10

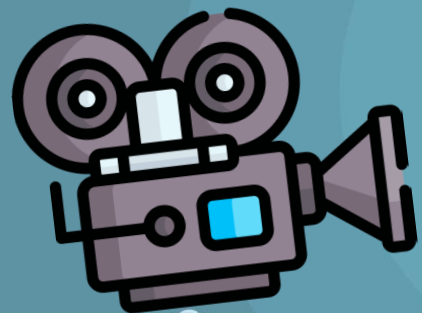
Welcome back, hope you all had a great half term! It was great to hear about the sports captains helping at a primary school event and the football team winning 10-1. Well done DMA!

Year 11

Welcome back! We hope you have had a good break and completed lots of Revision ready for the exams.

Hoodie orders have been collated and were printed over half term. They should be ready for distribution the first week in December!

“My Desert Island Film is... A Few Good Men (Reiner, 1993)”



Teacher Spotlight: Mr Smith

This week, we're excited to share the *Desert Island Film* choice from one of our teachers, **Mr Smith**, who teaches **English and Film Studies** at DMA.

The Film Choice?

 **Title:** *A Few Good Men*
 **Year:** 1993, Rob Reiner
 **Genre:** Thriller/ Crime

Why This Film?

“I chose this film because of its gripping plot line and incredible on-screen chemistry between Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise.

Also, the courtroom scene where Colonel Jessop says, “*You can’t handle the truth!*” I think is one of the most iconic lines of dialogue all time.”

Fun Facts About the Film?

- **Fact 1:** *A Few Good Men* is based on a real-life “Code Red” incident that actually happened at Guantanamo Bay.
- **Fact 2:** The line, “*You can’t handle the truth*” was improvised.
- **Fact 3:** The film is originally based on a play and was written by Andy Sorkin on cocktail napkin.

Film Studies at DMA...

Film Studies at KS4:

Rebel Without a Cause, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, Whiplash, Babadook, Tsotsi, Submarine

KS4 Curriculum: <https://dma.tela.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/KS4-Film-Studies-Curriculum-Overview.pdf>

Film Studies at KS5:

Casablanca, Alien, Get Out, La La Land, Trainspotting, This is England, Pan’s Labyrinth, City of God, Amy, Buster Keaton’s Shorts, Memento

KS5 Curriculum: <https://dma.tela.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/KS5-Film-Studies-Curriculum-Overview.pdf>



Parentkind survey

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- You may have seen the letter regarding Parentkind last week.
- We are taking part in a study around parent and school communication and engagement.
- Whether you decided to opt-in or not, we'd love you to complete the attached parenting language survey.
- **No personal data will be shared with Parentkind unless you have completed the opt-in form.**
- **Link to 10-minute survey - [Downham Market](#)**

Mr Lawrence

Local employer shout out!

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- We are building a bank of businesses and individuals to support our Careers Programme across KS3, KS4, and KS5 at Downham Market Academy and Athena Sixth Form College.

We're looking for volunteers who can:

- Take part in mock interviews
- Support with career talks, workshops, or mentoring
- Share your industry expertise with our students

If you are interested in joining our employer database and helping to inspire the next generation, please get in touch!

For more information, contact:

- - Brogan Webber – KS3/4 Lead BWebber@dma.org.tela.uk
 - Nicola Morrison – KS5 Lead Nmorrison@dma.org.tela.uk

Halloween Cake Competition



The Athena Sixth Form Student Executive organised a Halloween themed baking competition for all DMA and Athena Students.

There were some fantastic entries from all year groups. The entries were judged and Certificates and Prizes were awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries.

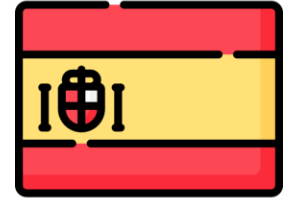
All entries received a Highly Commended Certificate.

Well done to all our amazing, talented bakers!





French and Spanish Homework Club



- Do you struggle with your language lessons?
- Do you often forget your homework?
- Do you feel silly or unconfident speaking in Spanish or French?



Come to **N7 on a Tuesday after school from 3:15pm** and we will help!!

Whether you just want to get the homework done, or you want to get your grades up, we are here to help and we would love to see you then!

Science Club Returns



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We're excited to announce that Science Club is back after school from Tuesday 4th November for all **Year 8 and Year 9 students!**

This year, students will have the chance to work towards the Bronze **CREST Award** – a nationally recognised award from the British Science Association that celebrates creativity, teamwork and real-world problem solving.

Through around 10 hours of hands-on investigation, students will:

- Think and work like real scientists and engineers
- Explore real research challenges working alongside local businesses Nestlé and Palm Paper
- Build confidence, curiosity and STEM skills



Palm

Places are limited – students can sign up on Edulink to secure their spot. Don't miss this chance to be part of something exciting!