

DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY

Athena
Sixth Form College



Newsletter

1 December 2025

A jam-packed newsletter this week with articles about trips to British Sugar and visits from Nestle and Professor Steven Lee. Don't forget to save the date for our upcoming Christmas Fayre. Best wishes for the coming week,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PSHE focus
		Year 7 movie night 4-6pm Music department recital in A5	Year 11 and 13 parents evening – please check you've booked your appointments!		Why is your digital footprint important?

Notices

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

As you park near the school, please take a moment to ensure you're not blocking driveways or local roads. By parking considerately, we help keep our neighbourhood safe and welcoming for everyone. Thank you for your support.

Important Event Info

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We have been advised by Costa that if you wait outside to be picked up after school, please do drop in for a free “babycinno” or you can upgrade to a “babycinno” hot chocolate for 65p.

For anyone interested in becoming a teacher, please use the link below for a free event:
[Teach in the East: explore your route into teaching Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



Mr Southam

I'm hoping to raise some awareness of men's mental health this month by growing a fantastic moustache! If you want to find out more (or donate!) please have a look at the link below.
<https://movember.com/m/Southam?mc=1>

10 days of Christmas – in the school canteen!

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DMA Christmas Specials

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week Commencing 1.12.25	Winter Parsnip Soup	Mince Pies with Cream	Roast Turkey Dinner served with Pigs in Blankets	Mini Cinnamon Sugar Ring Doughnuts	Turkey and Cranberry Panini
Week Commencing 8.12.25	Pigs in Blanket Baguette	Chocolate Yule Log	Roast Turkey Dinner served with Pigs in Blankets	Christmas Pudding with Cream	Brie & Cranberry Panini

Hot Chocolate Station

Hot chocolate served with various toppings

Festive Cakes and Biscuits

Homemade Cakes and Biscuits with festive theme

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas from all the catering team.

Friends of DMA

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FODMA bingo raised £650 for the Drama dept for their upcoming show Beauty & The Beast.
Thank you for all your support at this event!

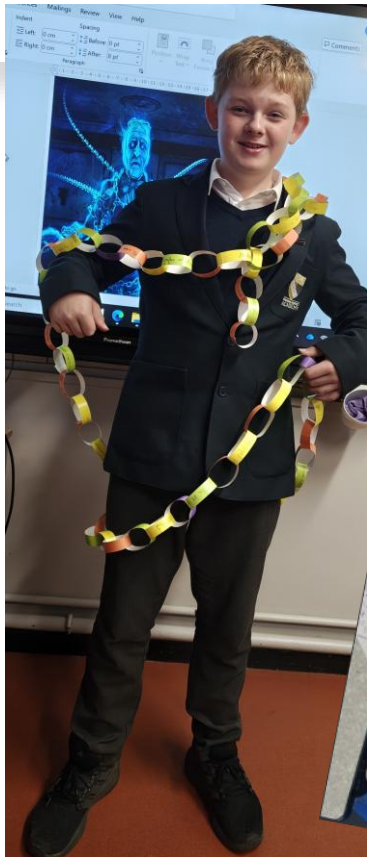
We are looking for some new members to join, please email chair@fodma2025@gmail.com

Please also keep a look out in the newsletter for upcoming events!



Work of the Week

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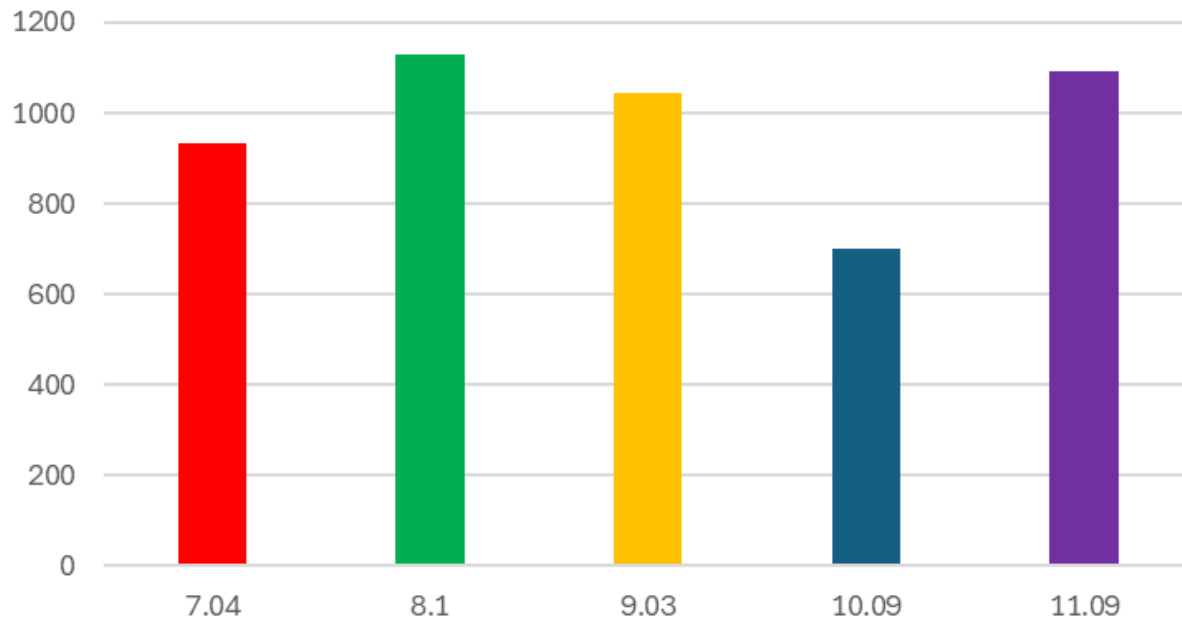


Achievement

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Highest Achievement Points



Well done! Your dedication, hard work, and commitment have earned you well-deserved achievement points, and we're incredibly proud of your progress. Each point represents not only your accomplishments, but also the positive impact you continue to make within our community.

Thank you for consistently striving for excellence. Keep up the amazing work!

Celebrating success

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Year 7

Year 9 have stolen my line...only 1 more Monday until Christmas holidays!

I have asked Year 7 for a big push on House Points. These are given for our 5 P's – Progress, Passion, Perseverance, Pride and Positivity.

Certificates for House Point achievements will be given out during our Celebration Assembly in the last week of this Term.

Year 8

Well done to 8.05 Mr Blomfields tutor group for being awarded Form of the week.

Hopefully, you have had reflection time since last week's assembly. Its theme; community and how we all play a part within it. We talked about people's opinions and observations, how we need to take ownership of our actions.

This week sees assembly talks from Norfolk Police on Hate Crime and discrimination.

Year 9

Only one more Mondays until Christmas break!

This week, we received our report cards, giving us a clear picture of the progress we've made and the subjects where we can put in a bit more effort. Don't feel discouraged—use this feedback as a guide to grow, improve, and get ready for the next assessment point!

Year 10

Another great week gone, another week closer to Christmas. Please all continue to work on securing your placements for work experience later this year and make sure you have given your suggestions for the end of year trip to your form tutors.

Year 11

As we approach Christmas we have a few busy weeks. In form we are looking at Post 16 Options and completing applications. Hoodies have been given out this week and there is going to be a Winter Formal on 10th December.

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

Professor Lee visits DMA

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Athena science students were given the opportunity to hear from **Professor Steven Lee** on Friday. They enjoyed learning about cutting edge scientific research being completed at the **University of Cambridge** focussing on how microscopy can give insights into the causes of Parkinson's disease and help identify potential treatments.

Professor Lee was a fantastic speaker and the students asked him questions about his research and career journey. If you're interested in finding out more, please click the link [Professor Steven Lee | Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry](#)



Palm Paper and Nestlé visit Science Discovery Club

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Students in Science Discovery Club were thrilled to welcome visitors from **Palm Paper** and **Nestlé** over the last couple of sessions. They discovered how science plays a vital role in manufacturing both paper and food products, hearing directly from Palm Paper's **Head of Automation**, and the **Factory Manager** and a **Method Engineer** from Nestlé Wisbech. Their insights inspired students to think about real-world careers in STEM. The students had a go at making a sheet of paper and developing a solution to move a pouch from a tray onto a conveyor using robotics. Over the next few weeks, students will be working alongside these businesses on genuine science research projects to achieve a **bronze CREST Award**. Science Discovery Club are also excited to welcome the **Royal Navy** in the coming weeks who are offering an additional project working with **The University of Plymouth**.

Both Palm Paper and Nestlé were impressed by the students and their insightful questions and enthusiasm. **Well done and thank you to everyone involved.**



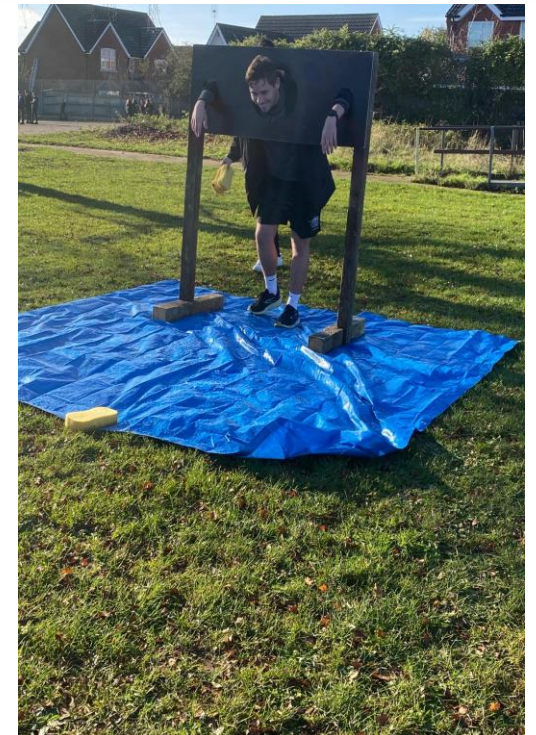
Students support Children in Need

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Students came together to support Children in Need, where they supported this fantastic charity. At DMA we are proud to support this charity and give pupils the opportunity to raise money for children less fortunate. Pupils took part in a bake sale where donations were accepted, and staff were put in the stocks for a wet sponge throw extravaganza.

Pupils showed great care and that helping others isn't always about doing something big but doing something together and remembering that every child matters.



Athena visit British Sugar

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Year 12 students with an interest in science or maths were welcomed by British Sugar to visit one of their factories. The visit showcased the science and engineering behind the manufacturing process and explored themes such as sustainability. We hope to return the favour by welcoming British Sugar to Athena later in the year, so students gain learn further about the variety of STEM related careers in the industry.






My Desert Island Film is... *Withnail & I*

Teacher Spotlight: Mr Yare

This week, we're excited to share the *Desert Island Film* choice from one of our amazing teachers, **Mr Yare**, who teaches... **Geography**.

The Film Choice:

-  **Title:** *Withnail & I*
-  **Year:** 1987
-  **Genre:** Comedy

Why This Film?

One of the quintessential British films of the 1980s, a mix of comedy, post-industrial deprivation as well the crushing end of the optimistic 1960s, Bruce Robinson shows the comedic struggles of two actors trying to relax on a holiday they go on by mistake.

Fun Facts About the Film: [Optional]

- Fact 1: The main character (and I) never has his name revealed.
- Fact 2: Richard E Grant and Paul McGann both went on to play the Doctor

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>

