

DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY

Athena
Sixth Form College



Newsletter

8th December 2025

It's nearly the end of term but we still have the Year 7 panto trip, the FODMA Christmas Fayre and Christmas Jumper Day to come this week. Don't forget to book your Beauty and the Beast tickets!
Best wishes for the coming week,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PSHE focus
		Panto – Yr 7		Christmas Jumper day	How do I control my online world?
		Christmas Fayre			

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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FODMA
FRIENDS OF DOWNHAM MARKET ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 5-8PM

DOWNHAM MARKET ACADEMY
CHRISTMAS TREATS, GIFTS, CRAFTS
AND MORE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO
BOOK A STALL PLEASE CONTACT
CHAIROFFODMA2025@GMAIL.COM OR
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FRIENDSOFDMA

Downham Market Academy
Proudly Presents...

Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Thursday 5th & Friday 6th February 2026
Hall 1, 7pm

Adults £8, Children/ Students & Staff £5

www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-downham-market-academy

Music by Alan Menkin, Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice,
Book by Linda Woolverton.

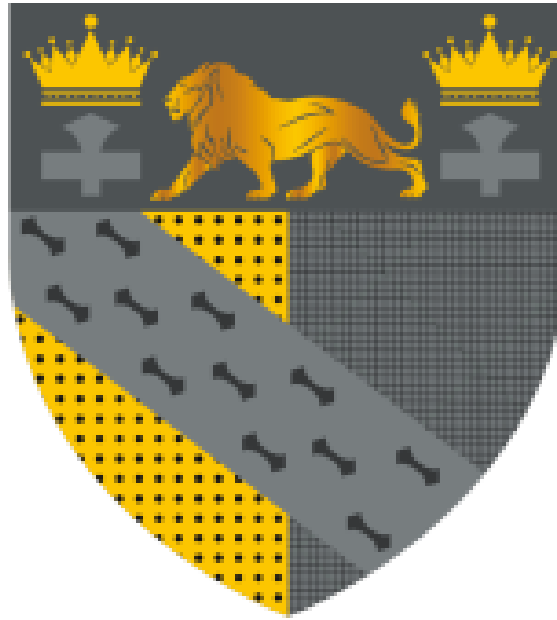
Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR. is presented through special arrangement
with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

12th
December

Christmas Jumper Day

Cost: £1

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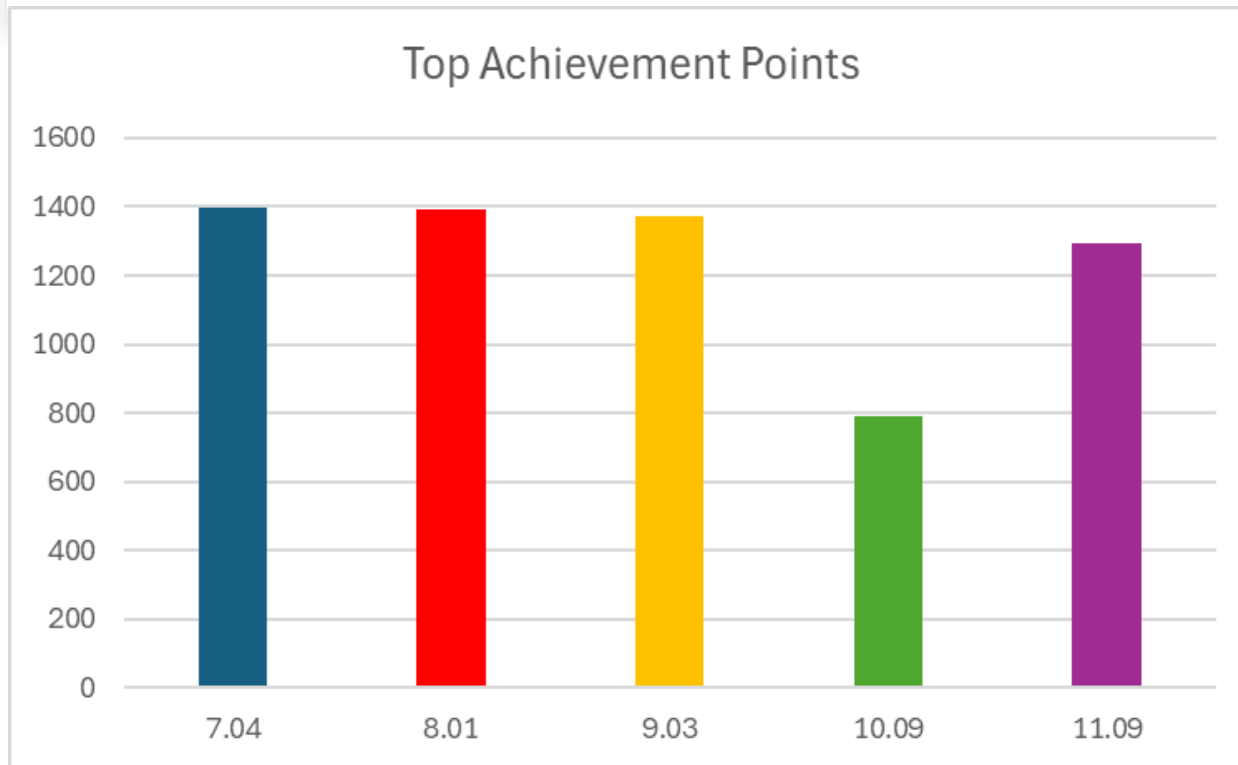


Work of the Week



Achievement

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The results are in, well done to each PD group lead! Pupils have worked extremely hard this half term to achieve their points!! All PD groups will be recognised in assemblies this week. As always, points mean prizes!!

Celebrating success

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Year 7

How is it possible that Year 7 have been here for a whole term?

I am proud to see how much they have grown and matured so much in the last couple of months!

This week we have Panto or The Great Elf Trap on Wednesday and Christmas jumper day on Friday

.A fitting finish for a fabulous term.

Merry Christmas Year 7!

Year 8

It's here!... The end of term and the start of our festive period!

Last week saw our celebration assembly, where, as a year group we celebrated so many amazing students. I was very proud to be leading this and being a part of so many positive achievements.

Have a fabulous break from school, wishing you and your families a happy and healthy New Year

Mr Arrowsmith

Year 9

This is the last week before Christmas and we have our first reward assembly of this academic year, how exciting!

Well done everyone for an amazing term. Looking forward to seeing you all in January. P.s: Can we ask Father Christmas for any uniform items that you are missing? 😊

Year 10

One week left, hurrar! Keep up the good work for 5 more days. Looking forward to seeing you all back in January when things start to get brighter and a new chance to make good decisions! Enjoy your break!

Year 11

The mock interviews were a resounding success and the employers were very impressed with all students. One week to go! The Snowball is next week, tickets £10, all proceeds to The Prom 2026 – what a way to end such a successful half term.

School lunch update

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From January 5th, all students will return to three 100 minute lessons per day with lunch time running from 12:50 until 1:25. We have made this change to the timings of the day in order to provide better opportunities for students at lunchtime. We will be able to offer a greater range of extra-curricular clubs as well as homework support, and also promote socialisation between year groups.

In order to ensure that we have a safe queueing system for the canteen, we will allocate times per year group. On a Week A, Year 7, 10 and 11 pupils will be able to buy hot food from the canteen at 12:50, then year 8 and 9 will follow at 1:05. This will then swap for Week B. Every day students will be able to purchase packaged snacks and drinks from the snack shack outside of Hall 2, at any time between 12:50-1:25.

We are confident that this change to timings of the day will provide pupils with a better experience.

Music Recital



On Thursday 3rd December we held a Music Recital for some of our very talented students to showcase pieces they have been working on in lessons throughout the term. It was a lovely evening, the students performed brilliantly and there was wide variety of pieces and styles to hear.

To help build their confidence, this event was mainly for friends and family. In the summer we plan to arrange a larger event for more student performers, and for more people to be able to attend.

If your child is interested in taking up an instrument, please email music@dma.tela.org.uk



High Haven Care Home Trip

13 students from Downham Market Academy brought festive joy to the residents of High Haven Care Home this week as they delivered Christmas cards designed for the school's annual MFL Christmas Card Competition.

The visit was filled with smiling faces and warm conversations. Students spent time chatting with residents, sharing stories behind their card designs, and learning about residents' own Christmas memories. Their thoughtful gesture and friendly interactions helped brighten the day for many, with residents expressing how delighted they were to receive the handmade cards.

Miss Walpole, who accompanied the group, expressed how proud she was of the students, noting their exceptional behaviour and conduct throughout the visit. She praised their compassion, maturity and the positive impact they made on the residents.

The visit was a heart-warming example of community spirit, leaving both students and residents with memories to treasure during the festive season.



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!

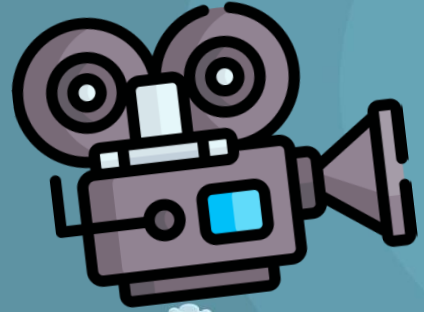
For more information, contact:

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



My Desert Island Film is...Nosferatu

Teacher Spotlight: Mr Blomfield

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



The Film Choice:

 Title: *Nosferatu* 
Year: 1922  Genre:
German Expressionist

Why This Film?

Quotes: "Blood is life ! Blood is life !"

This film is a perfect example of the exquisite imagery produced in the cinema of weimar Germany. F.W Murnau used long shadows to create the gothic atmosphere in his expressionist classic. Max Schreck's chilling performance as Count Orlock (Dracula) is timeless.



Fun Facts About the Film: [Optional]

- Bram Stoker's widow sued Murnau for copyright and won the case. All the copies of *Nosferatu* were destroyed. If it hadn't have been for the one copy found in an attic, the movie would have been lost forever.

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>



Sporting Achievement

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Massive Congratulations to our U15 Boys! What a performance in their cup match vs Hethersett — **a brilliant 3-1 victory!**

- From start to finish it was an absolute end-to-end thriller, with every player leaving it all on the pitch.
- **Man of the Match: Charlie D** — outstanding work rate, composure, and leadership throughout. Top-class performance!



Year 13 Students Shine at Hillcrest Primary Football Tournament

- On Wednesday, our Year 13 students took part in supporting a primary football tournament hosted by CSF Norwich FC at Hillcrest Primary School. Throughout the afternoon, they demonstrated exceptional confidence and professionalism as they helped to referee matches and assist with the running of the event.
- Staff and organisers were full of praise for their attitude and conduct, commenting on how confidently they officiated and how positively they engaged with the younger pupils. Well done to all involved.

Sporting Achievement

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Over the past week, all classes have been taking part in our Interhouse competitions. We are now at the halfway point, and we are excited to see the students' continued progress in next week's events as well.

Current overall standings (including all Interhouse results since September):

1st place – Ignis

2nd place – Stella

3rd place – Terra

4th place – Aqua

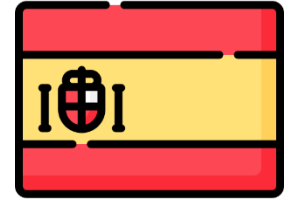
5th place – Ventus

With only four points separating the top three houses, it has been an incredibly close competition so far, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats.

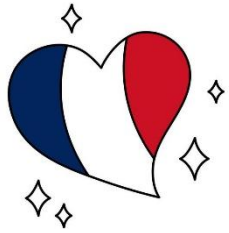
All Interhouse points earned will also contribute towards the final standings on Sports Day.

We wish all houses the best of luck as the competition continues

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!