

DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY

Athena
Sixth Form College



Newsletter

2nd February 2026

As part of the National Year of Reading we are launching Stop, Drop and Read this week. We are looking forward to celebrating reading across the school and hope the students enjoy reading some new literature. Best wishes for the coming week,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PSHE focus
	Tech Tournament	Revision Cafe - Science F and H - The Bridge		Non uniform	Applicant assist CWA plus Mortgaging and renting - which is best?

Notices

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

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

Work of the Week

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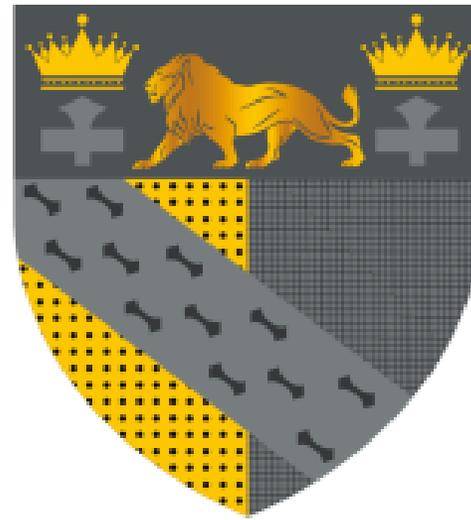


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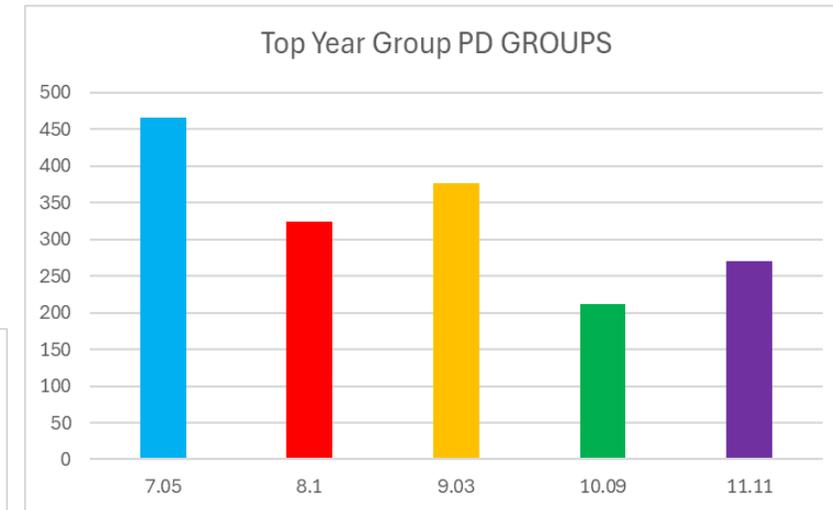
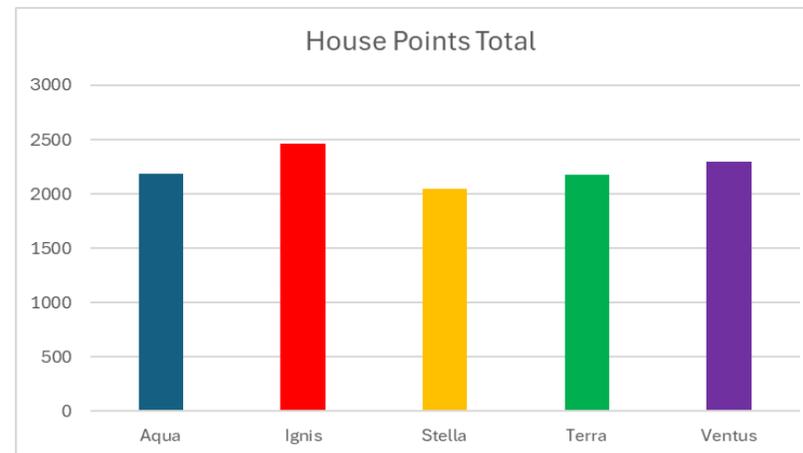
Achievement

- Well-done to all pupils this week who have demonstrated their DMA DNA.
- Well-done to the leading tutor groups in each form. Keep up the good work.



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STOP, DROP AND READ!

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- **2026 is the National Year of Reading in the UK**, celebrating one of life's most important skills
- Reading is essential for learning, confidence, vocabulary, and wellbeing
- We are committed to fostering a love of reading in all students
- **Next week (2nd-6th February) we will be running "Stop, Drop and Read"**
- A bell will ring at random times during the week
- This signals 10 minutes of reading in their classrooms
- All texts and stories will be provided
- Thank you for your continued support in encouraging reading at home



We have also launched Book Clubs in the Library each Tuesday (8:15-8:45) and Thursday (15:15-16:00) - sign up on edulink, please do encourage your child to attend!

Young Carers Update

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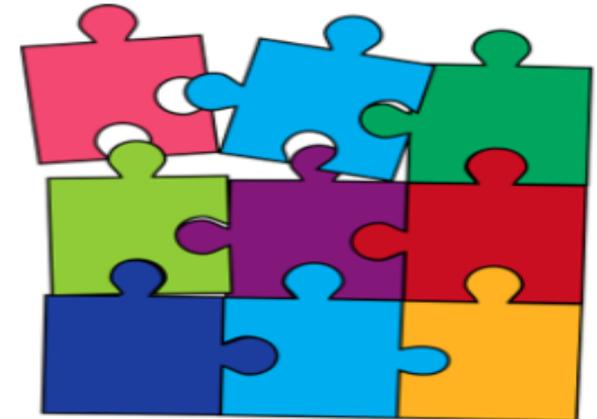
Break time Club Monday in J7

Our Young Carers Breaktime Club is a quiet, welcoming place where you can take a break, relax, and spend time with others who understand what it's like to help look after someone at home.

Any pupil who helps look after a parent, sibling, relative and/or has responsibilities at home this club is for you.

Take time for yourself – a calm space to unwind. • Meet other young carers who understand. • Supportive staff who will listen and support.

No need to book, just turn up .



Celebrating success

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Year 7

There is much research to show that attendance is directly linked to attainment. This is not solely in Year 10 & 11 for CSE's. It is equally important for all years as all learning underpins Year 11.

Year 7 attendance is on the way up!

Thank you for your support.

Year 8

We have seen an overall improvement in attendance for our year group since returning from the Christmas break. This is so important as it correlates to outcomes at GCSE and beyond. Keep up the good work.

Year 9

This week we had an exciting week with the visit of CWA and the taster lessons on Thursday. Thank you Miss Webber for organising and we hope that you all have enjoyed these sessions and they have been helpful to make decisions about your options for KS4.

Year 10

Year 10 is an important year for building good study routines. Students are encouraged to stay organised, complete classwork and homework carefully, and ask for support when needed. Developing these habits now will make the transition into Year 11 much smoother.

Year 11

With 2 weeks left before half term all students should be in full revision mode. Remember examinations start on the first Monday after half term 23rd February. All students have a copy of the timetable. This weeks Revision Café is Science

Sixth form News

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Athena is looking forward to welcoming applicants for their Post 16 guidance interviews in the week beginning February 9th.

Details about when and where the interviews will take place will be sent out to students next week.

Any students from Downham Market Academy who have not yet applied and would like to make an application to our college, please do so as soon as possible to be included in the guidance interviews.

If you would like any more information about Athena Sixth form, please contact Mrs Daw [hdaw@dma.tela.org.uk] or Mrs Middleton [mmiddleton@tela.org.uk].

Further Sixth form News

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On Friday, A Level science students had a visiting speaker from AstraZeneca. Dr. Barton-Twomey spoke to the students about her career within science and Pharmacology. She talked through her educational background and her career pathway, from leaving university to work in a laboratory, all of the way to her current role as Senior Director of Programme Management at AstraZeneca. As a part of this Dr. Barton-Twomey shared how science can open up many opportunities and that these can change to suit someone as they grow and find new interests within the field.

Students learned about drug development and the involvement of multiple teams and specialists throughout the process; including how medicine development is trialled and tested rigorously before being available. There were lots of questions for Dr. Barton-Twomey after her talk and she was able to give an amazing insight into next steps and options after A Levels.