

DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY

Athena
Sixth Form College



Newsletter

26 January 2026

With only three weeks to go until half term our Year 11s are working hard to revise for their upcoming mocks. Please do join us for the revision cafes for MFL and PE this week for helpful tips and strategies to support. Best wishes for the coming week,
Natalie



Upcoming events & Notices

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	PSHE focus
		Revision Cafe - MFL - The Bridge	CWA Taster Sessions - Year 9		How do bank accounts, payslips and tax actually work?
			Revision Cafe - PE - The Bridge		

Notices

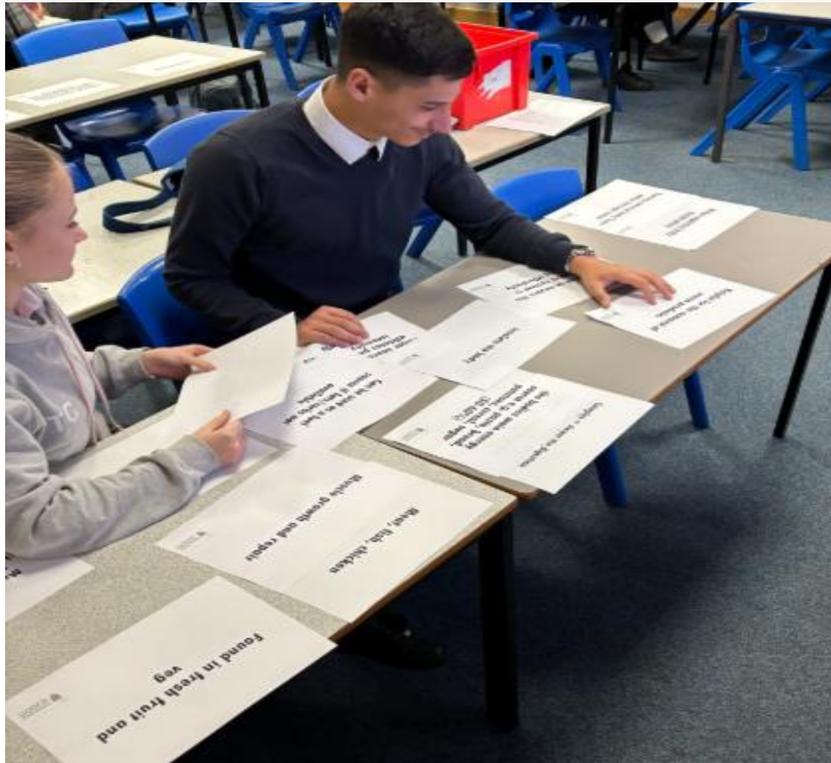
Don't forget DMA is a **nut free school**; please ensure packed lunches don't contain any items containing nuts.

Work of the Week

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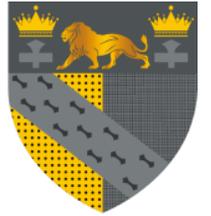


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Excellent use of
oracy to
activate
thinking in this
GCSE PE lesson





Upcoming events

SEND Café



Join Danii from SEN Socials and Early Help Community Worker Georgie, each month for a cuppa and an informal chat about all things SEND parenting. No diagnosis needed!



Children welcome, and there will be an activity each session provided by Voices Through Art!

Please contact sensocialsdownham@gmail.com for further information or to request a social story and venue walk through.

12th January
9th February
9th March
13th April
11th May
8th June
13th July
10:30AM-12:30PM

Family Hub, St Augustines
Healthy Living Centre
Columbia Way, King's Lynn PE30 2LB



map WEST NORFOLK YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD - DOWNHAM MARKET ACADEMY GROUP



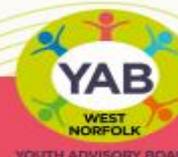
WHEN
Term Time - Tuesdays
from 3:00-4:00pm



WHERE TO FIND US
In the 6th Form



PLUS FREE FOOD!



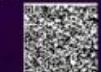
Downham Market Academy
Proudly Presents...

Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

JR

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

Sports News

Tariq Refereeing Achievement



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COUNTY CUP REFEREEING FOR DMA TEAMS

Yr 11 student Tariq enjoyed his lunch time Dominoes today, as a huge thank you from the PE department for his hours given to refereeing games at home.

He has been so impressive and calm when officiating and given hours of his time to allow our home fixtures to run so smoothly. We have a great future referee on our hand here!

Mr Walker

Sports News

Yr 8 County Cup Boys Football

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YR 8 EXIT COUNTY CUP 1/4 FINAL

In a game where the boys genuinely played very well, they were unlucky to exit the County Cup today. Cliff Park took two very good chances and stole the game late on. Good luck Cliff Park in the next round.

Mr Walker

Sports News

Norfolk County Cross Country Meeting



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COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS IMPRESS

We were delighted to take four students to the County Cross country meeting, taking place at Wymondham College. Our four runners qualified at the District event, and represented West-Norfolk tremendously well. Well done all!

Mr Southam

Insight Discover

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On Wednesday last week, Year 8 students taking part in the Insight Discover program spent the day at Cambridge University. Students learned about what life is like at university, what the differences are and how to apply for courses. Students got the chance to experience two of Cambridge's 31 colleges. They had lunch at Queen's College and spent the afternoon exploring Christ's College which was home to Charles Darwin. The students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the day and were truly a credit to DMA. Well done everyone!

SEND update

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all examination access arrangements remain fully compliant with the latest Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations, we are writing to update you on the way we will be supporting students who experience visual stress or benefit from colour differentiation during assessments. Please note that these changes will **not** affect students currently in Year 11.

JCQ guidance ([JCQ-AARA-2025_FINAL.pdf](#)) requires centres to ensure that any modifications to examination papers are *evidence-based, appropriate, and represent the least intrusive adjustment necessary* for the candidate. In line with this national guidance, we will be standardising our approach and will no longer routinely provide coloured paper as the primary method of support.

What this means in practice:

Use of overlays or tinted glasses (first-line support)

For students who experience visual stress or who find colour differentiation helpful, the JCQ recognises coloured overlays and tinted lenses as suitable aids. These will therefore form the first-line provision. Overlays can be provided by the school, and these supports are fully permitted in all examinations.

Cream paper for students who experience glare or difficulty with white paper

Where a student has a documented difficulty specifically related to white paper, cream paper and cream exercise books may be provided. This aligns with JCQ guidance on using minimal but effective visual adjustments.

Coloured paper (exceptional circumstances only)

The use of coloured exam papers will only be considered where there is clear, robust evidence demonstrating that overlays, tinted glasses, and neutral-coloured paper do not meet the student's needs. Such cases are expected to be rare and must comply fully with JCQ criteria.

Why the change is necessary

JCQ regulations require centres to use adjustments that are consistent, reliable, and clearly justified. Moving to this standardised model ensures that all students receive support that is both appropriate to their needs and fully compliant with JCQ expectations regarding paper modifications.

By prioritising overlays, tinted lenses, and neutral paper, we can ensure a stable and regulation-based approach that continues to support students effectively while maintaining the integrity of the examination process.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Jake Lawrence

Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo / Designated Teacher for Children in Care

Achievement outside of School

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Well done to Olivia following her awards evening for St John's Cadet's. She won a silver medal for her Diagnosing exam which saw her being met with a casualty unconscious on the floor and had to assess and treat the casualty. Olivia was awarded a silver out of the entire troop! She also won 5 topic certificates and badges, like badges at Scouts and won her Bronze medal on route to her Grand Prior's award. Which is a little like her Bronze DofE award which she's also working towards at school!. Well done Olivia for working so hard both in and out of school, to achieve your goals.



Year 9 Pathways

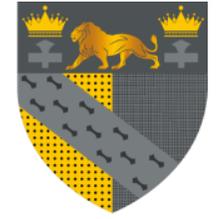
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- It was great to see so many of you at our pathways event last week
- We completed three talks and spoke to over 150 families
- Please check out the pathways page on our website for other information - [KS4 Pathways - Downham Market Academy](#)
- Contact Miss Lopez, Mrs Purkiss or Mrs Southam if you have any questions

STEM webinar – Yr 9 & 10

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THE FUTURE SKILLS PROGRAMME: CAREERS IN STEM

Explore STEM careers in four key pathways during February half term!

For Yr 9 & Yr 10/S3 and S4

EDT Industrial Cadets

Parents/guardians: Discover EDT Webinar taking place this month.

This webinar will demonstrate how they can support their son/daughter with their exciting journey into the world of STEM by going through all of the upcoming course opportunities and experiences that we offer.

Book your place here:-
Topic: Discover EDT (STEM opportunities for your son/daughter) – Parent/Guardian Webinar
When: Thursday 29th January at 4-5pm
Registration Link : [Click here](#)

What is involved?

- A comprehensive experience **delivered virtually in February.**
- **Live Q&A sessions with STEM professionals** in Net Zero futures, Digital AI futures, Health and Life Sciences, Engineering & Infrastructure and Manufacturing futures.
- **CV, applications and interview support.**
- Interactive panel **Q&A sessions with universities & apprentices.**
- Learn how to succeed in the workplace, including **how to ask questions, network and write professional emails.**
- Achieve the **Bronze Industrial Cadet Award.**

Dates

- 20 hours of study to complete flexibly over 5 days in February.
- Monday 16th – Friday 21st February.

Cost/Funding

- £50 (bursaries available, click [here](#) for bursary criteria and availability).

How to register or find out more

To register, please visit our website [here](#) or **scan the QR code!**





DMA BOOK CLUB



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What is Book Club?

Come along to:

Read **your favourite books**

Discover **new stories & genres**

Share recommendations with friends

Enjoy **independent reading** or **small group discussions**

Build confidence and strengthen one of life's **most crucial skills: reading**

Relax, unwind, and celebrate the joy of books 📖

 **When? Thursday's:** 15:15 – 16:00 pm

 **Where?** The School Library

 **Why join?** Because reading isn't just about school - it's about imagination, creativity, and finding stories that matter to *you*.

 No pressure. No homework. Just books.

 Drop in anytime - bring a friend.

 No need to sign up beforehand.

See you there! 😊

**Love books?
Curious about
reading? Or just
want a chill place
to relax?**

Book Club is for
everyone - from
passionate readers
to those just getting
started!

Music News

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- Local resident Jim Pontin visited us recently with a very generous donation for the Music Department: a range of PA equipment as well as some very useful stands and cables. Jim has a history of performing in the area but has reached the point where the equipment has been gathering dust and not likely to see any future use. We are overwhelmed by the kindness of his donation and will see that the equipment is put to good use for the benefit of our students.
- **If you have any musical instruments or equipment that you would like to re-home, please do get in touch with Mr Saul, psaul@dma.tela.org.uk At the moment we are on the lookout for electric guitars and amplifiers.**
- We are also looking for someone locally who is able to make repairs to guitars and amplifiers.



Thank you....



- The Fashion and Textiles club would like to say a huge thank you to High Haven, Downham Market, who made a massive donation of textiles and craft materials this week. We are really excited to get up and running with some fantastic new projects - watch this space for the rising stars of the future!



Celebrating success

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Year 7

Our PD Tutors see our Year 7 students every day and know them very well.

If you need to contact them about any issues or to pass on any information: their email address is:

firstname@dma.tela.org.uk

E.g.:

alocke@dma.tela.org.uk

Year 8

It's great to be back at DMA, having completed my duties at Chesterton (one of our sister schools) over the past three weeks. More importantly, it is lovely to see you all and hear about the great things that have happened while I have been away.

Year 9

Thank you to everyone who has completed their options form. Don't worry, we still have plenty of time as the deadline is the 23rd February. If you are unsure, please do come speak to Miss Lopez or Mrs Purkiss. This is an exciting time and we will try and support as best we can. All the info for the pathways can be found on our website at [KS4 Pathways - Downham Market Academy](#)

Year 10

On Wednesday 28 January, some of our Year 10 students will be visiting RAF Marham as part of the Jet Blue Skies project. An exciting opportunity to explore aviation and future career pathways!!

Year 11

As we approach our second set of mock exams, we are offering more revision opportunities.

We have 2 Revision Cafe's this week: MFL on Wednesday and GCSE PE on Thursday. Also, there is the opportunity for students to study independently in The Bridge Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4pm

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].
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