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FREEDOM
TO ACHIEVE

NEWSLETTER

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | LEADERSHIP

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FOLLOW ON TIKTOK & INSTAGRAM
@DIXONSSIXTH



WHAT A GREAT START TO THE YEAR

People sometimes say to me that things move fast at D6A and this last period has been no exception. Over the summer four new classrooms were added to the College campus to increase capacity for additional students – when our A level results came in and out of 910 A level entries, 87% of students received A* - C grades, we knew this extra capacity would be needed. Our first externally assessed A level results have cemented D6A's identity as the A level provider of choice for Bradford. A busy enrolment period led to the College expanding with over 1100 students now on roll primarily studying A level courses. Another milestone to celebrate was reaching 25 students who are now studying medicine at University since the College opened in 2019.

For me, For me, one of the highlights of the College year so far has got to include the take-off of student

music in the College with a number of student ensembles showcasing some outstanding talent at a range of events. The mantra for all student activities this academic year is that we want everything to be 'bigger and better' than ever before, and our Autumn charity and culture day did not disappoint! Our students rocked the latest fashions from South Asia, Africa and Europe and raised an impressive £888 for Child Bereavement UK. Staying with the theme of bigger and better, our YR2 students are in the process of submitting UCAS applications – with 62 early submissions already sent for Oxbridge, medicine and dentistry applications.

This newsletter is far too short to be able to share all the activities and events our students are involved in, but I do hope you enjoy reading and finding out more about the sample of student activities we present here.

MARK ROTHERY

ENRICHMENT: DISCOVER YOUR BEST

We have had a fantastic start to our first term of enrichment activities at D6A with YR1 students engaging in weekly sessions in their chosen enrichment. There was an exciting buzz at the College's first enrichment fair where staff had the opportunity to discuss their enrichments with students and the knowledge and skills they would develop throughout their weekly sessions.

Students had a wide variety of enrichment courses to choose from including those popular from previous years such as The Amnesty International Group, Recreational Sports, DofE Gold, Sign Language, Chemistry Olympiad and Prism to name a few of the 120+ courses on offer. As always the Competitive Sports option was extremely popular and trials for the men's and women's football and women's netball were a great success and the teams have now started competing against other colleges.

Enrichment is a great way to relieve stress, develop relationships with other students and staff and to learn new skills.

D6A STUDENT MISBAH ISLAM



Some of our new enrichments are highlighted below;

PROFESSIONAL BAKING

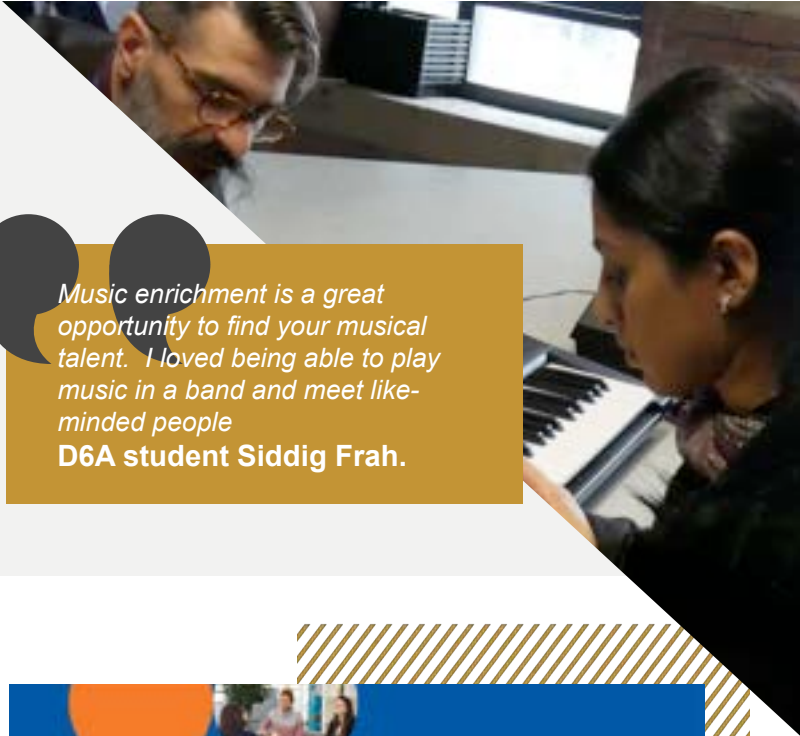
This exciting enrichment is in partnership with our D6A catering team, which involves students learning about working in a professional kitchen environment and the culinary skills needed from professional chefs.

I have always baked at home, but I really enjoy this enrichment because it has allowed me to develop my passion and learn new skills in a professional kitchen

D6A student Alyshba Hussain.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE AND BEGINNERS KEYBOARD

The growth of the music staff team has allowed us to increase our opportunities for students to try, learn and develop their musical skills, from rock to classical.



Music enrichment is a great opportunity to find your musical talent. I loved being able to play music in a band and meet like-minded people
D6A student Siddig Frah.


ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

During this enrichment, D6A students travelled to Lower Winskill in the Yorkshire Dales. They have been learning about conservation in rare and beautiful upland landscapes and have already participated in hay meadow wildflower planting and woodland management activities. This is part of an ongoing project between D6A and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to involve our students in valuable community activity and build familiarity with unfamiliar locations.



THE PROCTOR AND GAMBLE BUSINESS PROJECT

As part of this project, D6A students are being mentored with pitching business ideas to the largest fast-moving consumer goods companies and learning about the world of business and marketing. As always, D6A students are impressing the industry professions and have gained such positive feedback:



Clive Nutton (Enrichment Coordinator) commented that:
I was really proud of our students; today they have helped to restore a valuable part of the Yorkshire Dales landscape. They have excelled in an unfamiliar environment and learned about the challenges of environmental conservation.

Cameron Wallace Senior National Account Manager – Asda

I can't express how impressed I was with the students for their maturity and ideas for the project. Some of the thoughts, ideas and engagement were at the level we would expect the students to be at after having done the project for 1 or 2 months, not something we would expect on the first session.

D6A STUDENTS MAKING POSITIVE CHANGES

TACKLING INEQUALITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN

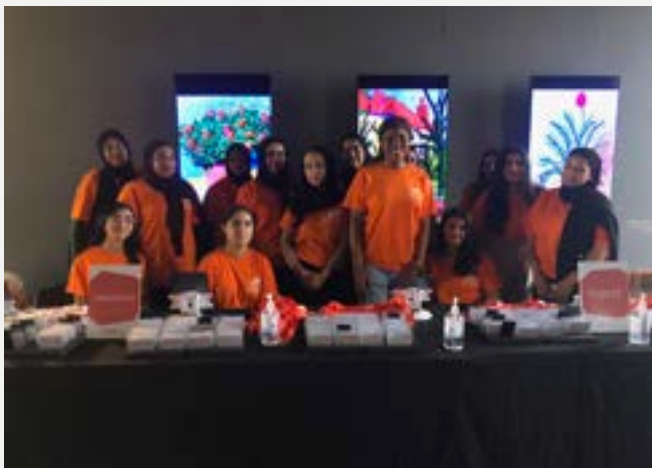
Written by D6A student Aaminah Mahmood

In July 2022, myself and other D6A students worked as ushers for the Tackling Inequalities for Our Children event hosted by the Alliance for Life Chances at Salts Mill in Saltaire.

We dedicated two days to the event and working together in a fast-paced environment really helped us to hone our teamwork and collaboration skills. On the first day we prepared the guest goody bags, name badges and lanyards, received training on how to register guests and ensured we knew our duty points and associated responsibilities. On the second day we went into action in our orange t-shirts, looking after many high-profile guests such as the Chief Executive of Airedale NHS Trust to Dixons Teaching Institute Director, Judith Kidd. At the event we ensured that everyone's needs were met whilst being professional and maintaining our trademark D6A positivity and integrity.

The event itself was extremely insightful and motivating as the event celebrated all the work different agencies have undertaken across Bradford during the last five years to tackle inequalities for children.

The event organiser, Lobna Hamada commented on how all students demonstrated confidence, responsibility, and initiative and that we will all grow into confident young women, with a successful career ahead of us.



CHARITY DAY: SUPPORTING PALESTINE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID (PIMA)

Written by Mohammed Riyadur Rahman

In July 2022, our nominated charity was PIMA. With the help of staff and the student executives, we organised a barbecue and had numerous outdoor activities to raise money. In addition, individuals were requested to complete personal challenges and activities and receive sponsorships. The aim was as a collective that D6A students would run, cycle or walk the miles from D6A to Palestine. We successfully raised £2488 and covered 3858 miles!

WORK PLACEMENT

#INVESTINYOURFUTURE

At D6A we encourage students to participate in work placements and university research opportunities to help them to make decisions about their future progression and develop skills to support their future success and applications. Two students tell us more about their placements:

KELVIN EDEWI



Where was your placement?

My placement was at the University of Bradford.

Describe your responsibilities on placement?

I completed research on the topic of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Tags; discovering existing applications of RFID tags in healthcare and suggest potential applications for the future. RFID Tags utilise (mainly) radio frequency to transmit data.

What skills did you develop whilst on placement?

I was able to develop the skill of undertaking research independently and preparing an appropriate report, presenting my findings, including titles, subtitles, references and a bibliography.

What advice would you give to any D6A students thinking of doing a placement?

It's going to require commitment, but at the end of the day there are no disadvantages and quite a lot of advantages.

Here is a snippet of the outstanding review Kelvin's placement wrote:

Your approach to this placement from beginning to end has been amazing. You have been professional, polite and most importantly of all fully engaged in all aspects. I was particularly impressed by the mature way you approached your placement and the initiative, determination and resilience you demonstrated. These are all skills that any future employer and university will be looking for from you

MALAIKA BAHADAR



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Where was your placement?

My placement was in the physics facility building at the University of Leeds.

Describe your responsibilities on placement?

At my placement, I was given a very large data set of about 200,000 data values from a previous PhD student, from which I was set to derive different correlations revolving around minorities.

What skills did you develop on placement?

I learnt a lot of new skills, such as using SPSS software and a lot of statistical techniques; however, I also greatly improved my teamwork.

What did you enjoy most about your time on placement?

I enjoyed virtually every part of my placement, but I especially enjoyed working under professors each day at the University. The university student I was working alongside was so helpful, not just relating to the placement but also giving great advice for what to do after college.

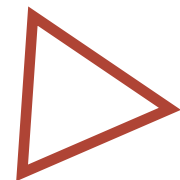
What advice would you give to any D6A students thinking of doing a placement?

I'd definitely encourage you to go for it, not only does the placement give you practical experience (you can also later apply for many awards such as the Gold Crest from your research paper) but it gives you great insight into university life as well.

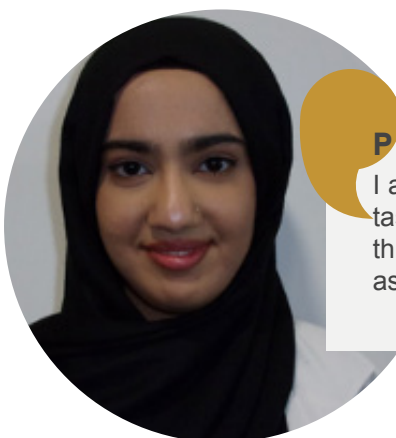
Here is a snippet of the outstanding review Malaika's placement wrote:

Your engagement with all aspects of the placement is clear and I know that everyone at the University of Leeds thoroughly enjoyed working with you and was very impressed with your professional, polite and mature attitude to the project. Your approach to this placement from beginning to end has been amazing. I have no doubt that whatever you go on to do, you will be hugely successful.

GROWING FUTURE LEADERS STUDENT EXECUTIVE



Leadership is one of our values at D6A and we have recently elected our President, Vice President and Student Executives. They will be working hard throughout the year to be the voice of the student body and acting as representatives for D6A in local schools, at events and within our community.



PRESIDENT: ISRA PARVEEN

I am the head of the Student Executive so play a role in organising and ensuring all tasks are complete. I also run through meetings as well as helping organise events throughout the year. Other than this, I give speeches in lectures or assemblies as well as in other schools as a D6A representative.

VICE PRESIDENT: HAFSAH IQBAL

My role is to help bring about change by listening to what students want, making College an enjoyable place to be.



SECRETARY: LIL BINGHAM

As the secretary, I make sure that all of the Student Executive meetings are in order to ensure that all tasks we set are completed.



TREASURER: HUSNA SAJID

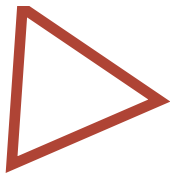
My role is to ensure all students feel accepted and respected. Also, I'm always there if any students have any concerns regarding issues such as discrimination or inequality. With this role, I want to achieve an inclusive environment for all students, no matter their background.





CHARITIES OFFICER: MOHAMMED RAHMAN

My role in College is to bring awareness to matters which concern the students and implement them in our charity days which cover regional, national and international charities so we can help tackle a variety of problems.



ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER: SARA KAPDI

In College, it's my role to make sure we have as good and ecofriendly an environment as possible. If anyone has any concerns with how the school environment is, they can come to me and I can implement something to help solve the issue.



STUDENT WELLBEING OFFICER: UMNA CHAUDHRY

My role is to make sure students are listened to in regard to anything that would help make them feel safe and supported at College and to use student suggestions to make this possible.



WOMEN'S OFFICER: FAITH UMOUDIT

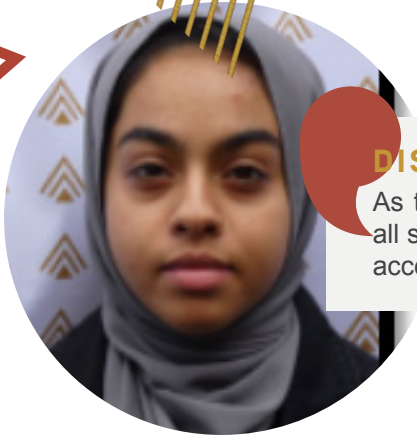
My role is to create a safe space for female students; listen to queries and communicate them to College to continue to promote equality for all.



BAME OFFICER: NADEEM ASGHAR

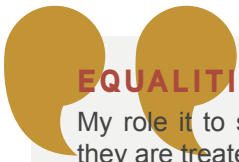
My role is to ensure all students feel accepted and respected. Also, I'm always there if any students have any concerns. With this role, I want to achieve an inclusive environment for all students, no matter their background.





DISABILITIES AMBASSADOR: ZAINAB REHMAN

As the Disability Ambassador my role is to help ensure the College is inclusive for all students who have visible and invisible disabilities and also that the College is an accessible and welcoming place for visitors with disabilities.



EQUALITIES OFFICER: ZAINAB NADEEM

My role is to support underrepresented minority groups within College and ensure they are treated with respect and that their diversity is celebrated.



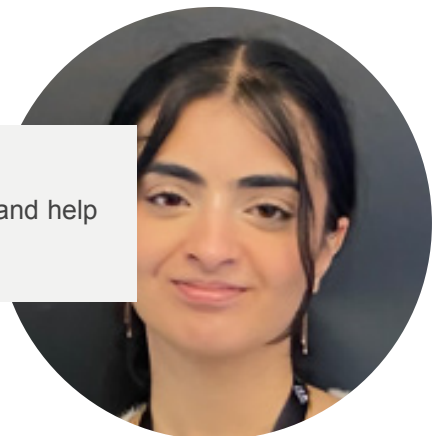
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS: MUHAMMAD AZEEM

My role is to create video content for Instagram and tutorials to promote communication and information sharing to students.



FACULTIES REP: SABIHA BUKHARI

I am the first point of contact between faculties and The Student Executive and help to support faculty-based events on a whole College level.



SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER: KASIBAH KHAN

I create content and ideas for Instagram and other D6A social media channels and provide ideas of how College can communicate to current and future students.

CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES TO SHAPE YOUR FUTURE



OUR BIG MOVE WITH STUDENTSHIP

The most important thing for Dixons Sixth Form right now is studentship.

By studentship we mean how D6A students study, how they learn and how they remember better. Naturally, it involves a close look at how staff help them to do these three things too. It permeates every area of college - how we act in classrooms, how we use the library, how we can access resources outside of College and how students engage with enrichment opportunities and trips.

Middle leaders in College are working on defining what great studentship means in their individual subjects and what can be done to help students to reach their potential. For example, the Maths team have been working to define what a great mathematician looks like and how they work and have started resourcing the study area during specific periods for students who need it.

Work has now started to ensure D6A students understand this language and know what studentship looks like in the subjects they study.

D6A students have the potential to achieve excellent post-16 qualifications, a stepping stone to studying at the top universities in the country.

Working hard and working well from the start of their journey at D6A is key to maximising this potential.

D6A TRIPS AND VISITS

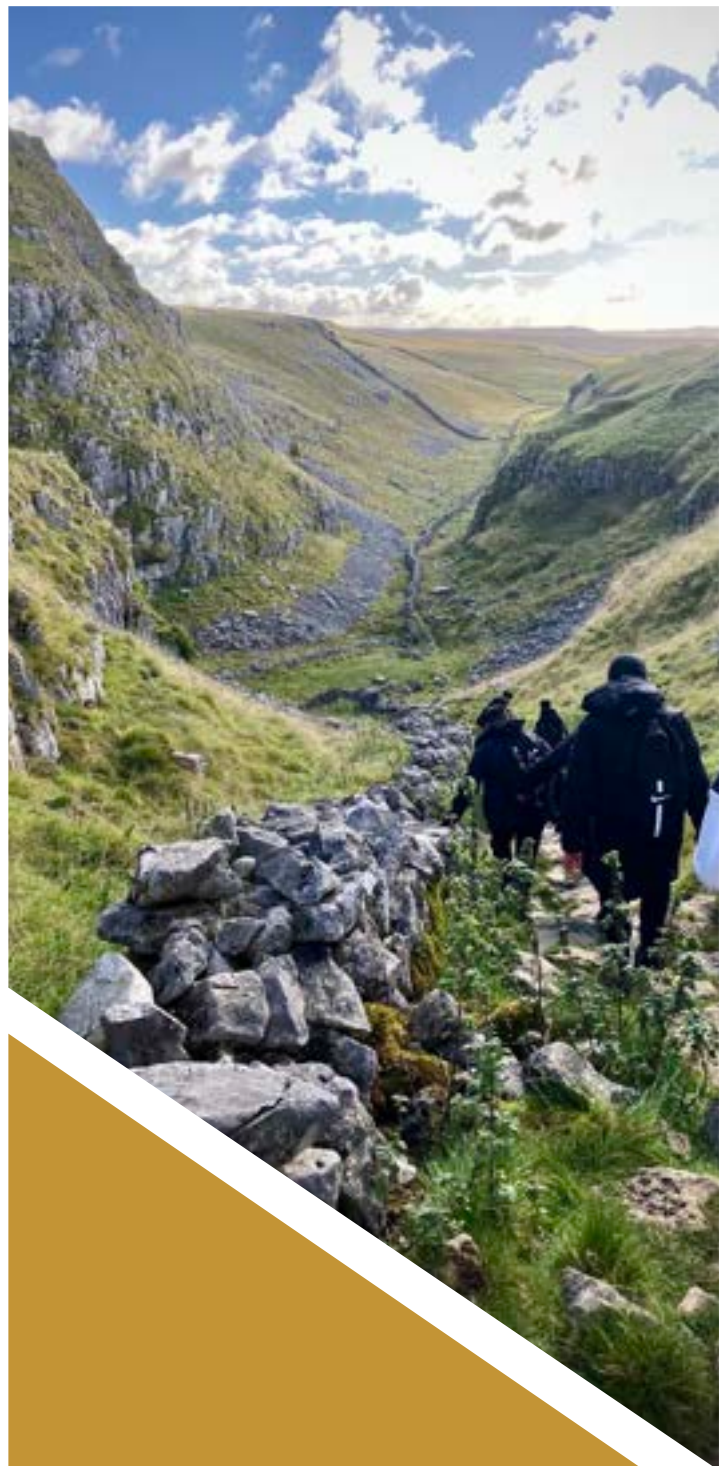
TRIP WEEK 10TH OCTOBER 2022

THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK AND YORK CENTRE

On Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th October all YR1 students visited York for the day. Students spent half the day at The University of York, a highly respected Russell Group institution within reasonable commutable distance of Bradford. Attending talks and workshops from the University of York staff and Student Ambassadors on choosing university courses and undergraduate life, D6A students were also taken on campus tours.

The other half of the day was spent in the city centre where students were guided around sites such as the Shambles, York Minster, Clifford's Tower and Museum Gardens. D6A students were also seen cruising down the River Ouse seeing the city from a different perspective. Both parts of the day helped students begin to consider what they want from a university, both in terms of the campus and city centre, which will certainly be beneficial when UCAS decisions need to be made in the summer term of YR1.





MALHAM

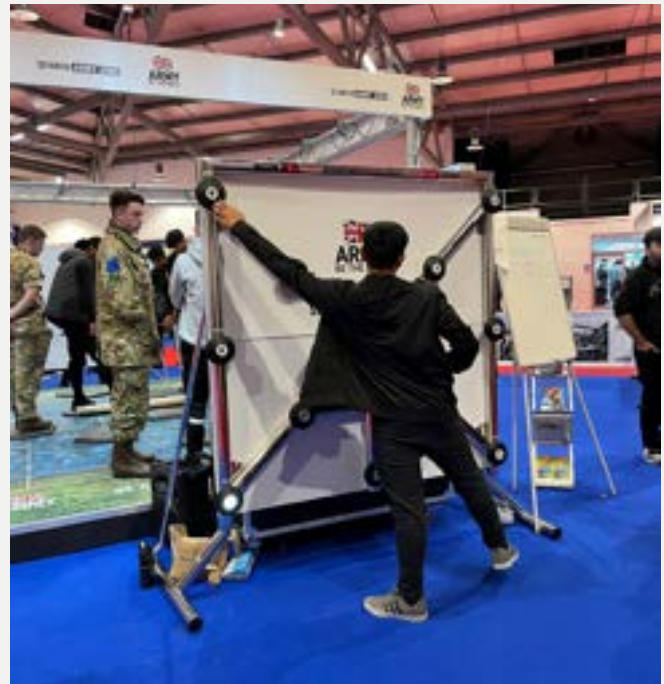
All of our YR1 students took part in our Malham trip, walking the 7-mile route taking in the world famous Malham Cove, Gordale Scar and Janet's Foss. Carnegie Great Outdoors provided expert instructors who led the groups, keeping all the students safe and providing informative and interesting facts along the way, along with quite a few bad jokes!

Over the two days students had a great time making new friends and getting to know D6A staff whilst pushing themselves out of their comfort zone.



THE CAMBRIDGE GREEK PLAY

Bright and early on Wednesday 20th October, fifteen keen (if still half a sleep) Classicists set off on a day trip to Cambridge to watch a combined performance of the world's oldest surviving play (Aeschylus' 'Persians') and the world's only surviving satyr play (Euripides' 'Cyclops'). Upon arrival, they took the opportunity to explore university options by having a guided tour of Queens' College, where Cambridge students live, work and socialise. The autumnal grounds and 17th century architecture were of course gorgeous, the scale and silence of the library made everyone want to grab a book, and students had fun deciphering some Latin inscriptions in the chapel. Next stop was the Classics Faculty and a guided tour of the Cast Gallery, a museum of replicas of all the best Greek statuary arranged chronologically. The thoughtful and enthusiastic questions posed to our tour guide were a delight to see. A pre-show lecture by Professor Cartledge was followed by the main event itself. Performed entirely in the original language, students found themselves transported back in time 2500 years to 472BC to see an imagining of the Persian court receiving news of the destruction of its forces at the battle of Salamis. The icing on the cake for Robert Mclean (Teacher of Classics) was that the leading actor was one of his ex-students. D6A were supported by charity 'Classics for All', which provided a grant of £250 to substantially reduce the cost for our students.



APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

Chosen D6A YR2 students had a great day out in Harrogate at the Yorkshire Show Ground where they were able to engage with apprenticeship firms and find out more about what opportunities are available to them after College.

The apprenticeship companies seemed very impressed with our students and their enthusiasm towards finding out about options, communicating with professionals and asking pertinent questions.

OUR COMMUNITY EVERYONE IS SOMEONE

NATIONAL FITNESS DAY

D6A hosted their own event for National Fitness Day to and educate our students about the importance and benefits of physical activity and sport to their physical and mental wellbeing. Students took part in a range of activities including a Rowing Challenge (supported by London Youth Rowing), a step challenge and a cycling challenge (bike provided by 606 Strength and Conditioning).

Winners were:

Cycling

Staff Winners

Doug Hart

42 seconds

Danni Tiffany

41.8 seconds

Student Winners

Asim Naheed

45.8 seconds

Nimrah Hussain

53.4 seconds

Rowing

Staff Winners

Nikio Bob-Manuel

316m

Lizi Rushton

281m

Student Winners

Asim Naheed

324m

Mildred Essandoh

256m



Our first fitness day was a huge success, with students and staff all getting involved with the activities. I hope we have inspired everybody to try new activities and lead a more active and healthier lifestyle.

KYM WALKER

ENRICHMENT MANAGER AND EVENT ORGANISER

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month in college is a time for us to celebrate black culture and the impact individuals from the black community have in the world today. Our D6A African Caribbean society made resources that featured black icons from around the world, each poster introduced a figure and explained the impact they have had in their field, be it STEM, literature, sport or music.

During Black History Month, on the 18th of October, a group of our students took a trip to The University of Sheffield to engage in a day interacting with students and academics through a range of activities developed to stimulate discussion and explore themes related to race and slavery in modern Britain. This was a great opportunity for our students to see the research being carried out by academics within this field.



NIGERIA

Francisca Nneke Dieke is a Professor of Physics, and her areas of research interest include solid earth geophysics, atmospheric physics, and climate variability. She made history for being the first indigenous woman professor in physics in Eastern Nigeria and has been providing opportunities for girls and young women to become interested in STEM. She is dedicated to understanding climate change and has won multiple awards for her contributions and dedication to research that is paving the way for solutions for climate change.



SENEGAL

Youssou Ndiour is a renowned singer in the Francophone countries. One of the creators of mbalax that revolutionised Senegalese music. The Senegalese singer known internationally for "7 seconds" in 1994 which he won a Grammy for; and singing at the 1998 FIFA World Cup. The 2017 Nobel prize winner still continues to communicate his message and his identity through his songs. He is part of Senegal's pride and resides in the Senegalese people's heart; his success will remain unforgettable even after his death.



D6A CULTURE DAY

On the 19th of October we held our first charity day of the year celebrating D6A Culture Day - raising money for a national charity chosen by our students; Child Bereavement UK. Students and staff arrived at College in their best cultural dress and our Student Executive organised a Culture Catwalk. Alongside fabulous models we had beat boxing, dancers and plenty of talent on show. Not only did everyone have an incredible day in College, we also raised £888.06 for Child Bereavement UK, the donations will help a Bradford family for over 12 months by providing them with a face-to-face support package.

Well done to the Student Executive for all their hard work in organising the event!

MEETING OUR 2023 COHORT



Throughout this term we have been welcoming our next cohort of students into our building at our Open Evening events. Future D6A students and their families had the opportunities to meet with our fantastic Student Ambassadors and staff and learn more about our courses and extracurricular opportunity available at D6A.



Fantastic Night

OPEN EVENING ATTENDEE



Students and staff were very helpful and informative.”

OPEN EVENING ATTENDEE

There was a real sense of excitement for all involved and visiting students were able to receive advice and guidance about their applications and course choices.

We have also been lucky to be speaking to Year 11 students during their assemblies in school and at school careers events, something we are excited to continue in the new academic year!

PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE



Kirsty Hall, one of our catering assistants, has recently supported a charitable event run by Bosom Friends Bradford. After joining Bosom friends in 2019 when she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Kirsty has continued to champion the work they do. Kirsty explains below:

Bosom friends is a small charity that has been going 30 years, it provides help and support for women and their families going through breast cancer.

We meet up once a month by the Bradford Royal Infirmary. They are social events where we can have a natter over a brew and biscuit where much of the emphasis is about getting on with life with or beyond Cancer. We have guest speakers, craft workshops and even pamper nights!

The fashion show is Bosom Friends' annual fundraiser where ladies who attend the group can volunteer to participate. Breast Cancer is a long journey, it's hard and emotional and you often think why me? But to get on the catwalk and do our thing is an amazing feeling. Never in my life did I think I would do anything like this!

I have met a lot of fantastic women there and have made some lovely friends. I know when I talk about any concerns I have with life after Cancer, I am not alone and there is always a friendly ear to offer support and say we understand.

I want to thank D6A for their generous contribution to the event and charity.



**HEATHER
BRONS**

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in Wales but have lived in Scotland and obviously now live in Bradford. I have 2 siblings, an older brother and a younger sister, so it was never quiet at home. My parents' house was always full of interesting people - coming to chat with my parents, coming for meals or for some time out from their busy lives. It was great to see who would be waiting in the front room for us when we got home from school.

I have been married to Dave for over 23 years, and we have 2 children, both boys. I love spending time with family, travelling, reading and getting to know new people. I am more likely to be found curled up with a good book in a good armchair or drinking coffee and chatting to anyone who will listen and engage with me.

What route did you take to your current position?

My current role is a Data and Admissions Administrator. I have worked for quite varied employers, ranging from builders' merchants to solicitors, from a drug rehab centre to an alternative education provision, from primary to secondary schools, eventually settling at D6A in January 2021. Although it's not a typical route, I have loved all the different companies I have worked for, as they have made me, me.

What is your favourite thing about working at D6A?

I love being the initial contact with many potential

students and meeting them at open evenings and enrolment events. I also love working with a great team at D6A – everyone pulling together to ensure students have a positive education experience to enable them to achieve their potential.

What is your favourite movie?

Ooooh that's a hard one – my family would say that I never remember any film I have seen, and I will rewatch a film and realise about 10 minutes from the end that I have already watched it. The only films I can remember from start to finish because I have seen them so many times is TLOTR – The Lord of The Rings Trilogy. The typical story of good overcoming evil when working as a team, and that the smallest of us can have a big impact on the world around us, locally, nationally and internationally.

What is your favourite pizza topping?

Although I'm not a vegetarian, I love veggie pizzas, and make them from scratch at home. Okay, I'll admit, I do use my bread machine to make the dough.

What one piece of advice would you give to your younger self?

To work hard, but always make time for friends and family. To be kind, even when it's hard.



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