

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR
A LEVELS IN BRADFORD

NEWSLETTER

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | LEADERSHIP

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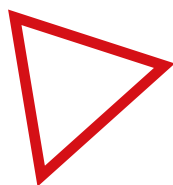
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Kapambwe Mulumba



FOLLOW ON TIKTOK & INSTAGRAM

@DIXONSSIXTH



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Hi, Welcome to Newsletter 11! In this instalment you'll find a selection of the events and activities our students take part in. Please read on and I hope for future students who are reading this that perhaps you will be inspired – what will you get involved in when you join D6A?

Reflecting on the time since our last newsletter, my highlight is a little unusual... in that it has been the everyday. We say to our students 'work hard and have fun.' In relation to working hard, lessons are the beating heart of our College and in our recent key assessment week our student attendance was 99% - not bad for the tail end of winter! I regularly walk through the College and am consistently delighted by the enthusiasm and energy our highly specialised teachers put into each and every lesson, and our students who buy into our culture of being 'not casual about learning.'

MARK ROTHERY

Then, in relation to having fun, there isn't a day goes by without an external speaker, a subject trip going out in the minibus, a sporting event or a cross college celebration of something or other.

With results to show our overall student achievement is the best in our city, record numbers of students applying for medicine and Russell group Universities it's no wonder D6A has become the natural choice for A level study in Bradford... Or should I say Bradford and central Leeds as our new Leeds express student bus service starts in September.

Read on.

CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES TO SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

EL PODER DEL LENGUAJE EN LOS NEGOCIOS

On November 15th, David Binns, Director of UK Operations, Sanako, came to D6A to spend some time with our A Level linguists and discussed the importance and relevance of learning another language. Formerly known as Tandberg, Sanako is a Finnish-company which is a world leader in providing language-learning software for a wide variety of institutions. With French and Spanish students joining together, it was the biggest gathering of linguists in the College in its history thus far.

David underscored the unique selling points of learning languages and language qualifications in the commercial and business sphere, both helping to widen a customer base and to support businesses when staying a step ahead of the competition in trade, whether in Yorkshire or beyond.



We're grateful to David for giving up his time and for his presentation. Next January, we're looking forward to inviting Dixons Sixth Form languages alumni to talk through the impact of their language learning on their undergraduate experiences

Mike Crolla (Spanish Teacher at D6A and Vice Assistant Principal, Dixons Centre for Growth)



ART AT THE ART HOUSE

In December, our YR2 Art Students took a trip to The Art House in Wakefield where they took part in workshops in dark room photography and screen printing. Students used the sessions to learn new skills, experiment with new techniques and create work that will feature in their Component 1 coursework. In the screen printing session, our students were able to expose screens with their design work and then experiment with printing with the screen, mixing ink colours and layering prints. In the dark room our students had their design work or photography printed onto acetate and were then able to experiment with how they exposed the imagery to light and the impact this would have on the final image. The Art House also gave our students an opportunity to explore the galleries they had on site to gather inspiration for their projects.

The trip was a wonderful opportunity to expand the skill sets of our students and introduce them to techniques that they're unable to access in College. We hope to make this a regular trip for our Art students!

MATHS AT LEEDS BECKETT

Students from our Maths Department had the opportunity to attend a team building day at Leeds Beckett University where they were challenged in and outside lectures to work together to problem solve and apply their mathematical skills in real life scenarios. In addition to this the students had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences to develop their wider understanding of courses on offer within this faculty area.

Bethan Wellbrook (Assistant Principal)



A LEVEL LAW VISIT TO SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Written by D6A student Sania Zulfiqar.

We were presented with a fantastic opportunity to attend one of the world's full-service global law firms, Squire Patton Boggs (SPB). The day started with SPB employees introducing the company and explaining to students the wide range of careers available. The aim of the day was for students to develop employability skills through a range of employer-led activities.

Our first task involved working with other post-16 students as a human resources team to provide solutions for businesses to maintain employee satisfaction during the cost-of-living crisis. Working as a team we presented our ideas to the group which helped us all to gain more confidence when speaking to others. Many of the skills involved during this group task mirrored those that employers look for such as being able to work as a team, demonstrating leadership, problem-solving and communication skills. After this exciting activity, we were then provided with further information on the choices for post-18 progression, including university and degree apprenticeship pathways.

A tour of the SPB offices allowed us to understand more about their business and departments within the firm such as finance, corporate, disputes, real estate, and litigation. To end the day, we took part in a networking and Q&A session with SPB employees, trainees and apprentices from the range of departments.

The overall experience at Squire Patton Boggs broadened our knowledge of the legal sector as well as gaining more information about the post-18 opportunities available and how the skills we acquire and develop at Dixons Sixth Form are transferable into the world of work



WORKING IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Health and Social Care students have had the opportunity to attend talks by a number of health care professionals. As a part of their Unit 2 Working in Health and Social Care, talks were run by Bradford University on exciting courses such as Nursing and Midwifery in addition to Occupational Therapist Tess Adams speaking about her career and experience. Students had the opportunity to develop their understanding of the range of healthcare jobs available and also gained valuable advice regarding studying and applications. Students and the department are looking forward to further talks by social workers and a university trip to Leeds Trinity!



A LEVEL PE - LEEDS BECKETT

Thursday 19th January, A Level PE students attend the newly built Carnegie School of Sport. Leeds Beckett University provided our students with a Carnegie Sport Experience Day that included an introduction to biomechanics, in a lab used by Leeds United and Leeds Rhinos, a session on physical education and a final session on the ability to achieve peak potential. The opportunity to attend such a prestigious and elegant sports campus is one that inspired and invigorated our students, with many students now exploring the possibility of studying a sports related course at the university.

D6A CELEBRATING SUCCESS

TOPFLIGHT+ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LIL BINGHAM

Our YR2 student Lil Bingham has been offered a place at Cambridge University and we are extremely proud of her! Lil was interviewed for Newsletter 11 where we asked her about the process of her application:

What course have you applied for at Cambridge?
Geography

Is Darren Heaton (Our D6A Geography teacher) excited?
Yes!

Why this course?

It's my favourite subject at A level and it's what I'm most interested in! The big thing that made me realise I wanted to study Geography at university was the wider reading I do outside of my A level study.

Which College do you have a place for?
Queen's College

Why Queens' College?

I went on a trip to Cambridge with D6A, I'm glad I had the opportunity to visit as it allowed me to see whether the atmosphere was right for me, I loved all of the buildings and the scenery was really nice which made me feel really confident in my decision.

What research did you do into Cambridge before you applied?

I went on an open day led by D6A History teacher John Titmas with other students wanting to apply to Oxbridge. We got the opportunity to stay overnight in Queens' College and experience a full day on campus. It was really good to be able to speak to students on the course and the current lecturers as up until this trip I had been undecided between studying Natural Sciences and Geography and speaking to the lecturers helped me make a choice. My Geography teacher Darren Heaton was able to set up loads of mock interviews so I could practice and prepare, and John Titmas gave me endless support with my personal statement.

What was the process after you submitted your application?

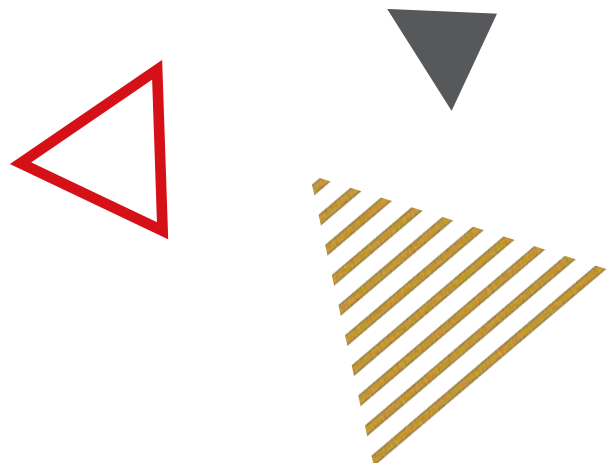
Alongside the standard UCAS application you do a separate Cambridge application, with a 500-word personal statement specific to Cambridge and the course you're applying to. I had to submit written work for my course, but for other courses there are entry exams. Interview invites are sent around early December. I had a 40-minute interview over Zoom and then a month later they come back to you about the offer!

What advice would you give to students applying for Oxbridge next year?

Definitely visit the campus, talk to the students there about your course as well as the lecturers. I would also say it's good to figure out what your weaknesses are, I was aware that interviews were a weak area for me, so I was able to get support for that and practice loads before the real thing.



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



D6A MATHS STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY

In December, we celebrated our best UKMT results yet and entered three Maths competitions in the Autumn term! The results were excellent and we were excited to see our first entries and winners in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.

The results were:

Senior Mathematical Challenge

4 Gold, 16 Silver, 45 Bronze

Mathematical Olympiad for Girls

2 Merits

Senior Kangaroo

1 Merit

Congratulations to our Maths students on their achievements!



WORK PLACEMENT #INVESTINYOURFUTURE

Mustafa Mughal completed a week's work experience with Direct Line. This was advertised through College as we continue to support students in developing their curiosity and leadership skills.

My first assumption of working for Direct Line, when I applied to the work experience, was that it would be nerve-racking and scary, thinking that I'd be left to figure out things for myself whilst being surrounded by hurried working people.

However, the actual experience was quite the opposite. At the beginning of the day, we were greeted with kind smiles and a warm, reassuring atmosphere!

Over the next hour, the Direct Line team explained what it was that they did, how insurance worked, and what type of careers they offer. We then were given the opportunity to speak to many workers and professionals about what they did at Direct Line and their roles in the company.

This was an amazing experience for me, and I never knew how much help and opportunities were out there for motivated young individuals to come and become part of such a rewarding career.



Direct Line[®]

ROWING COMPETITION



On Friday 3rd March, 2023 4 students broke through the glass ceiling and became the first ever D6A students to represent the college in a national indoor rowing championship. The NJIRC (National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships) were held for the very first time outside of London, at The John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. YR1 & YR2 students were challenged to row 2000m in their fastest possible time. The event is an extremely competitive one, athletes from across the country competed under the watchful eye of Olympians and GB Coaches. All four students worked especially hard and represented the college with pride and passion. We can't wait to see where the indoor rowing programme takes us next.

GROWING FUTURE LEADERS

D6A students chaired the Bradford Citizens meeting which involved working with over 15 schools across Bradford via video conference. The objective of the meeting was to agree 2-3 key initiatives that would change our city for the better. The D6A team all had specific roles such as timekeeper, facilitator and lead speaker. It was a fantastic online event which has helped the students develop their communication skills.

Watch this space for more from Bradford Citizens!



TOPFLIGHT+ NURTURING TALENT

Written by John Titmas (Curriculum Director and TopFlight+ Lead)

On Thursday 23rd February we took 29 members of TopFlight+ down to visit Worcester College, Oxford. TopFlight+ is an Enrichment group which aims to encourage and support as many students as possible make strong applications to prestigious universities. This was a great opportunity for our students to gain a clearer idea of Oxford as a city and what the university has to offer.

At Worcester we had an excellent session with Zoe, who heads up outreach for the College. Zoe answered all the questions students had, ranging from the application and interview process, the teaching model at Oxford, finance and accommodation. Students then had a tour of the impressive grounds at Worcester, highlights being the College library and the sports facilities. We were delighted to be joined by our D6A alumni, Lucy Heywood (second year reading History at Worcester) who led one of the tours and was able to share her experience of university life.

Lunch gave our students an experience of university catering, and the reviews were mainly very positive! We were able to join Worcester students and tutors in their Hall where meals are served 3 times a day.

In the afternoon Zoe led us on a walking tour around Oxford, where we saw numerous Oxford landmarks, such as the 'Rad Cam' library, markets and lots of different colleges. Finally, we had a tour of Brasenose College to provide a contrast. It was a pleasure to see D6A alumni Rose Patel (second year reading Law at Magdalen College) for this part of the day. Some of our students remembered Rose from Dixons Kings and were able to get some insight into studying Law at Oxford from her.

We hope to be able to organise further visits to Oxford and Cambridge later in the year.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI) DAY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Over two days in March, D6A students and staff celebrated International Women's Day where we took the opportunity inside and outside of curriculum lessons to celebrate the successes of women and acknowledge the challenges that women have and continue to face.

Students had lesson starters that focused on significant women in career fields linked to courses, such as Katherine Johnson who was spoken about by Doug Hart (Teacher of Maths) and the orbital mechanic calculations she completed as a NASA employee that were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S crewed spaceflights.

Students also had the opportunity to attend a Taekwondo session by Harleen Kaur Ambassador for Sporting Equals and Asian Sports Foundation and the first British Asian female to represent England at Kickboxing World Championships. D6A students really enjoyed this opportunity and Harleen was supported by D6A students Danya Serry and Arij Haider.

On the day students also listened to live music of inspirational female artists, contributed to an art installation piece and had the opportunity to discuss issues faced by women and the need for change with:

- Bradford University Assistant Lecturer, Brian Mitchell
- Gemma Wilkins, West Yorkshire Police women and Girls Engagement supported by D6A student Zainab Nadeem.
- Local women's Charities: Together Women and Roshni Ghar.

The lecture series this week, contributed to by Faith Umoudit (Student Executive Women's Officer) and delivered by Assistant Principal Bethan Wellbrook focused on equity for woman and discussed how women have been "shushed!" in all aspects of society including business, education and sports.

At D6A we have a strong drive to support local charities and we used this EDI event to raise money for Bradford Rape Crisis (a charity voted for by students). Students gave generously to the charity (£755.35) buying badges of support, selling food and also through our 'D6A's Got Talent' event.

It was great to see so many of our students contributing to our celebrations for International Women's Day. I was particularly inspired by Zainab Nadeem who spoke bravely of her voluntary work to safeguard women in our city. Staff researched really inspirational role models to share with our students and it was also amazing to see the engagement with our art installation. I can't wait for IWD 2024!

Rose Woollard Assistant Principal



ENRICHMENT: DISCOVER YOUR BEST



ORCHARD PROJECT

Working with Fruitworks CIC, a group of students are aiming to create our very own D6A orchard. The project is still in the early stages but students have begun by surveying the landscape and logging their plant findings for identification.

Students have been out assisting Fruitworks CIC, Shine West Bowling and Trees for Cities with other projects, and have made several visits to St. Stephens church, planting trees and shrubbery alongside students from a local primary school. Our students have received praise from everyone involved in the project for their maturity, enthusiasm and the way they interacted with the younger students.

We're looking forward to seeing this project develop and eventually having our very own orchard!



PROCTOR AND GAMBLE PROJECT

D6A students have been working with Proctor and Gamble to design and promote a toothpaste as a part of our entrepreneurial business enrichment. During this process the students have identified a supermarket where they would potentially sell their product and worked with a Proctor and Gamble representative to decide on the best product (charcoal, whitening etc) for their target audience as well as how to merchandise. This culminated in a pitch delivered by students where they applied their business skills. D6A students are looking forward to visiting Proctor and Gamble at the end of the project.



DOFE GOLD BIG HILL DAYS

Clive Nutton (Enrichment Coordinator) took our DofE gold students on a weekend expedition as he explains below:

On Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th February, seven students from our Gold DofE expedition training group enjoyed Big Hill Days in the Yorkshire Dales. The aim of these events is to train students in navigation, upland journeying and to appreciate the beauty and challenge of expeditioning among big hills. The group encountered cold temperatures, gusty winds, low cloud and sleety drizzle. They were also rewarded with sunshine, glorious views and standing on the summit of Pen-y-Ghent, the "Hill of the Winds". Thanks go to Carly Teale and Taylor Richardson, who joined the event, providing assistance and good company



OUR COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE IS SOMEONE



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION:

This year our Health and Social Care department educated us all on the positive impact receiving a handwritten card has to those in residential care. Many elderly people are lonely and isolated after moving into care and the idea is that opening the card kickstarts conversations between residents and brings back happy memories for them. Research shows that these conversations can have many benefits, reducing loneliness for example, particularly for people living with dementia.

The Health and Social Care department asked that students write a meaningful and caring holiday card to a resident in a local care home, which would be delivered to residents in the local Bradford area. As a College we were able to write 211 Christmas cards in total which will hopefully have brought joy to many in the area.



A COLLEGE THAT CARES

Staff v Students Dodgeball Match:
Our Amnesty International enrichment group work hard throughout the college year to take action and raise money for various causes.

In December, one of the many things they arranged to raise money was a Staff v Students Dodgeball match with students that take part in our Dodgeball enrichment. The game was an opportunity for our students to show their skills and take on their teachers! Other staff and students gathered around to watch, and Amnesty were able to sell sweets and collect donations throughout.

No need to know who won and the score!



FOOD BANK COLLECTION

This winter, as temperatures dropped and the cost-of-living crisis began to kick in, our Student Executive with the help of our Sociology Teacher Ella Stanway decided to support the Bradford Central Foodbank and create a collection in College. Staff and students were quick to bring in a range of donations, leading to a large number of items being donated to families in need during the holiday period.



WINTER WONDERLAND

Our first Big Meal Event this college year was D6A Winter Wonderland. Our sports hall was filled with lights, trees, fake snow and glitter!

Our students were treated to live performances from staff and students, a choir, A level music students doing what they do best, dancers and even a Frozen sing along.

A sweet tray with treats was provided for each student to enjoy as they watched. It was wonderful to see our students gathered together and celebrating as a community.

Our Big Meal Events are an important part of our D6A culture, and it was a pleasure to introduce our YR1 students to their first!





**KAPAMBWE
MULUMBA**

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

Hi, my name is Kapambwe and I teach Sociology. I was born in Zambia and came to the UK when I was 6 years old. When I was younger, I really enjoyed taking part in sports and performing arts. I used to take part in 100m races and trampoline competitions. I used to dance for Yorkshire Dance when I was in secondary school. I love socialising with friends and trying out new activities every now and then.

What University did you go to and what subject did you study?

I went to the University of Northampton and I studied Childhood and Youth Studies. I always knew that I wanted to work with children and young people, but I wasn't sure which path to take. After many open days and experience days, I really liked that this degree offered placement opportunities and only 50 people were accepted on the course which meant that I could get more 1:2:1 support. Additionally, I really wanted to move away of Leeds and make new friends and feel a sense of independence in a new environment.

What is your favourite thing about working here?

My favourite thing about working here is the close relationships that I have built with other staff members. I always feel supported within my department and never feel alone. I also enjoy the interactions I have with my students. Every day is a different day and there's never a dull moment which is what I enjoy about teaching.

What is your favourite movie?

I have too many! But if I had to choose, it would be the Bourne Series. I can watch them over and over again.

What is your favourite pizza topping?

Mmm... I'd have to say either chicken and sweetcorn or donner kebab. I don't need to know how donner kebab is made; I just know it tastes amazing!

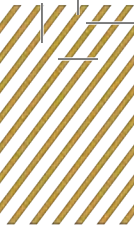
What one piece of advice would you give to your younger self?

Don't focus on what other people are doing and pay attention to your own path. Everyone has a different path to success and it's never a good idea to compare. Follow your gut and trust your instincts.



INTERESTED IN WRITING A STUDENT FEATURE?

SUBMIT TO YOUR PROGRESS TUTOR



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