



THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR  
A LEVELS IN BRADFORD

## NEWSLETTER

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | RESPECT

# CONTENTS



3

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Carly Teale

4

## CURRICULUM

London trip 2024

Classics London trip 2024

EPQ presentations

Language week

6

## ENRICHMENT AT D6A

The student perspective

Another Gold DofE completer

More Gold DofE good news

Winning netball team

Isa Arshad to the rescue

10

## EVENTS

Charity day 2

BME 2: The Constellation Formal



FOLLOW ON TIKTOK & INSTAGRAM

@DIXONSSIXTH



**CARLY  
TEALE**  
Head of College

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself**

I'm Carly Teale, Head of College here at D6A. I love my job and the fantastic community that we're all part of! I have two wonderful daughters who keep me very busy, and I always highly appreciate running or hiking up a big hill. Having grown up in the Northeast, I'm grateful to live in lovely Yorkshire.

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

I studied BA Sociology at Leeds Met before pursuing a PGCE at Leeds Trinity—a choice I've never regretted.

### **What is your favourite thing about working here?**

My favourite thing about our college is watching our community thrive in so many ways. I love the strong relationships that staff build with students and celebrating the success throughout the two years and on results day. Other highlights for me are our college Iftar, culture day and taking a group of students to Coniston before the summer holidays.

### **What is your favourite movie?**

Genuinely everything from Disney with my children, old school Forrest Gump, or whatever is new at the cinema. I'm not fussy!

### **What is your favourite pizza topping?**

Veggie- I'm not a vegetarian, but I do like a veggie topping!

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

#### **You don't know what you don't know**

- I like this saying because I see it as an encouragement to learn more about the world, people and things more generally!



# CURRICULUM

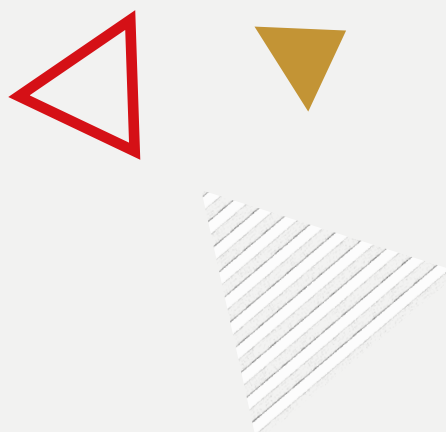
## EPQ PRESENTATIONS

Our Extended Project Qualification students presented their final presentations to staff and students in February, with topics ranging from prison reform to body dysmorphia. The EPQ qualification helps develop skills and experience in independent research, time management, problem-solving, academic writing and communication. It has rapidly become an important part of an academic sixth-form experience, supporting performance whilst preparing students for higher education and working life.



## CLASSICS LONDON TRIP 2024

Classics students went on an incredible 2-day trip to London just before half term. Students had a tour around the British Museum. As well as walks on the London Bridge, the British library, and a light show in a Roman Mithreum. They also got the chance to watch a performance of the play Bacchae, which is studied in the A Level course.



## LONDON TRIP 2024

Sociology, Law and Politics went on an amazing 3-day trip to London. Students had tours of the Houses of Parliament, the Supreme Court and Westminster. As well as walks around central London, the Natural History Museum and Greenwich Park. On Friday, they finished their evening with a meal at Pizza Express and a performance of The Lion King at The Lyceum. On Saturday, there was free time in Camden Market and Leicester Square. Students loved the opportunity to explore the capital, and we look forward to revisiting the capital soon!



## LANGUAGE WEEK

As part of Leeds Language Week, on Friday 17th November the Arts and Humanities Educational Engagement Officer from the University of Leeds (UoL) delivered a Spanish workshop about iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo here at D6A. Year 1 and year 2 Spanish students enthusiastically engaged with the activities, and some of them showed an interest in pursuing an undergraduate degree in Spanish at UoL, where a range of options are available. We look forward to liaising with the Outreach Team at UoL to inspire more and more Languages students at D6A.





# ENRICHMENT AT D6A

## STUDENT ARTICLE

### THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

College isn't just about hitting the books; it's also about finding moments of relaxation or rejuvenation and pursuing personal interests and passions outside of the classroom. Extracurricular activities not only brighten students' personal statements for university but also play a vital role in helping them avoid burnout by providing opportunities for reducing anxiety, socialisation, and personal growth outside of the academic realm, which students are so often fixated upon. Although striving for excellence in their studies is important, they may tend to overlook the importance of "downtime" to avoid unpleasant effects on mental health, such as burnout. Our enrichment programme is a key aspect of what we offer to our students as it provides them with opportunities to delve into their interests beyond academics, which plays a huge role in preparing them for their future endeavours post-college. When interviewed, the students at D6A gave a variety of reasons why they had chosen to pursue the enrichment of their choice as shown on this double page spread.

**ARTICLE WRITTEN BY  
STUDENT ZYMAL ALI**

K.S., who participated in an enrichment about the role of a surgeon, stated,

**I chose this enrichment as it provides me with an insight into the career of a surgeon, and it allows me to explore my attitudes towards this specific side of medicine so I can decide whether this is the career for me.**

Z.A, who did First Aid enrichment, said,

**I chose First Aid as my enrichment as it provides me with essential skills in everyday life.**

**It helps to save lives, and I can be the difference between someone's life or death.**



S.U, who does Film club, said,

**I chose Film club as it allows me to unwind from the stress of academics and socialise with my peers. It is a very calm environment.**

A.K, who does the henna club, stated that

**I chose the henna club as I love Mehndi, and I wanted to improve on my designs, and it's actually worked!**



**Interested in writing a student feature?  
Submit to your progress tutor**





## ANOTHER GOLD DOFE COMPLETER

I'm very proud to announce that Aidan Al-Kazaz recently completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. He did his qualifying expedition during a heatwave in the Lake District in July 2022. He volunteered as a homework mentor, undertook gym training as a physical activity and learned computer-aided design as a skill while at D6A. For his residential, he volunteered as an activity leader at a children's summer camp while studying during his first year at university. He's now thinking of leading his housemates on hill walking activities and has been asking about good places to go with them on some independent adventures.

Aidan is the second Gold DofE completer at D6A.

While each year, around 14 (2 expedition groups) of our students begin the award and complete components of it, completing the whole award is a big undertaking, requiring a minimum of 18 months of continuous, self-motivated effort across a broad front of activity.



## MORE GOLD DOFE GOOD NEWS

Azeem Ahmed of our current year 2 cohort completed his qualifying expedition in the Yorkshire Dales over the October half-term as part of an open expedition with participants from Bedfordshire and Northumberland. I was very impressed to support him as Expedition Supervisor.

### His Assessor had this to say:

Despite never having met or communicated before the event, all members were open and welcoming of each other from the start, resulting in the team quickly becoming a cohesive and supportive unit. Flaring ailments, challenging conditions such as walking and pitching camp in the dark, and even Storm Ciaran didn't dampen the cheerful atmosphere for long. They should all be justifiably proud of their achievements.

'Impressive' sums up your performance Azeem. You started quiet and a little reserved; the one teammate you knew before starting was sharing a tent with left at the end of day one. The weather proved somewhat challenging, and your experience, particularly in late-season conditions, was limited. Despite these challenges, we watched you develop and grow in confidence

and skills over the four days. You proved yourself to have a strong independent drive, to be self-sufficient and highly determined when you set your mind to a goal, and capable in the hills and around camp. You worked well within the team, took the lead with Navigating, which you were very capable of, and were seen to have a positive, determined smile on your face even when things got tough. Your teammates were particularly impressed with how you kept going after your tent partner left. They noticed how you rose to the various challenges you encountered and were impressed with your navigation. I really hope that you continue to get out into the hills. It would be great if you could go on to use the knowledge and experience you have gained to support others, as you have a lot to offer less experienced students. Huge congratulations on a really well-deserved pass".





## WINNING NETBALL TEAM

Our D6A Women's Netball team played in the West Yorkshire FE Colleges Tournament this afternoon. They came third overall and won their first netball match this season, 5-2, against New College Pontefract. We're so proud of the team and all of their hard work. Hopefully, they can keep this up into the next season.

## ISA ARSHAD TO THE RESCUE

Isa completed an Emergency First Aid at Work course before Christmas as part of his enrichment activity. I've just handed him his certificate. He told me that the very next day, after his course, he'd had to deal with a young person who'd slipped, fallen, and banged his face at his mosque. He told me how he'd handled the incident confidently and correctly. It is great to see him using the skills he has learned in real life.





# EVENTS



## CHARITY DAY 2

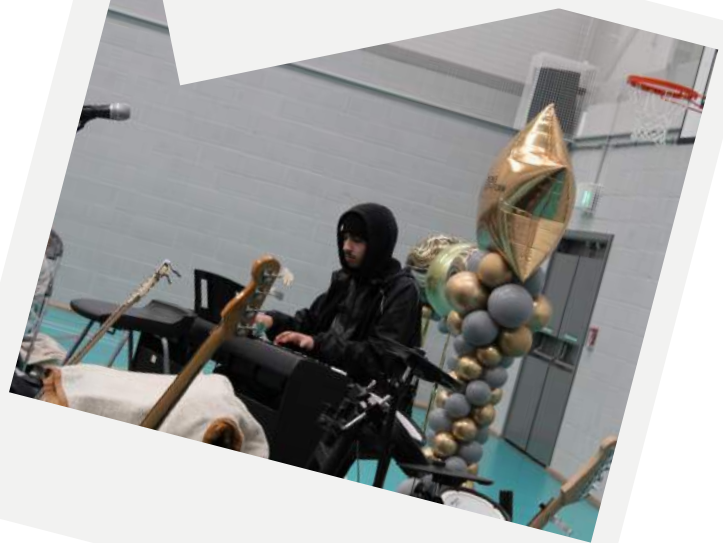
Our second Charity Day and Mental Health EDI Day took place on Wednesday, 7th February. During this event, we raised money for the fantastic national charity Mind.

Our Student Executive ran D6A's Got Talent to raise money for the event. We had a fantastic turnout, with students coming to support our amazing student and staff performers showcasing their talent while enjoying some tasty popcorn.

Meanwhile, in the main building, the progress team ran stalls outside of Student Support all about...

- Promoting positive sleep
- What does an effective workspace look like?
- Identifying mental health concerns in self and others
- Healthy breakfast options - samples and recipe cards
- Tutor top tips for positive mental health

It was a fantastic day during which students learned all the ways they can support their own mental health and more about services like MIND that are available when we begin to struggle.





## BME 2: THE CONSTELLATION FORMAL

To celebrate how hard our YR2 students have been working towards KA3 and their final exams, we held the Constellation Formal on the 28th of February. The theme of stars was a tribute to their incredible studentship. In the lead-up to the event, we asked students to give us examples of students and staff who have been stars for them, and the responses really shone a light on what makes D6A students the best!

We had stalls serving waffles, ice cream, nachos, and churros, as well as a DJ and photo booth during the event. Our students always love the opportunity to come together as a cohort during Big Meal Events to celebrate our D6A community.

A great afternoon was had by all!





**DIXONS SIXTH FORM ACADEMY**  
DOUGLAS MILL,  
BOWLING OLD LN,  
BRADFORD  
BD5 7JR

**WWW.DIXONS6A.COM**  
**@DIXONSSIXTH**  
**INFO@DIXONS6A.COM**