



NEWSLETTER

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR A LEVELS IN BRADFORD

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | RESPECT

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WELCOME

D6A is quite simply a special place, and we are excited that the start of the 2024 academic year saw us reach our capacity, with nearly 1300 students currently studying with us which is our biggest community ever!

Having been recognised by Ofsted in May 2023 as a college that is outstanding in all areas, it is this, and our specialist A level provision, that are the reasons why we are increasingly becoming the A level provider of choice for Bradford. Quite simply, we believe in the talent of our city, and with over 60 students completing an early application for Medicine or Oxbridge it is clear that students in Bradford are not only as good as students anywhere else but are also now able to access the highest quality sixth form education within the city. Like premier league football, Sixth Form education is a result driven business and with A level A*-C rates comfortably above National performance and BTEC Distinction* - Distinction rates higher than any other sixth form in the country it is comforting to know that the students attending D6A consistently secure the results needed to enable them to attain their next step.

Results and A levels are of course incredibly important, however, at D6A we believe the wider curriculum and all the opportunities and enriching

experiences that our students get are just as important to developing our students, which is why we refer to our curriculum as a two-winged bird. We cannot begin to tell you about the breadth and volume of these activities, and this newsletter only reports on a small sample of the things our students are able to experience.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

CARLY TEALE

Head of College

C. Teale

CURRICULUM



SAM ART TRIP WAKEFIELD

The year 2 art students visited the arthouse in Wakefield last Friday. They did screen printing and darkroom workshops, creating lots of developed process work for their component 1 projects. Big thanks to Ellie and Emily for showing us lots of new experimental techniques and skills that we can bring back to college with us

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD THEATRE TRIP

We were delighted to take a group of YR1 and YR2 to see the production of To Kill a Mockingbird at Leeds Playhouse. This is part of our promotion of wider cultural engagement for our students. All the students had a wonderful experience and provided fantastic feedback.

Here's a quote from one of the students: Watching the play 'To Kill a Mockingbird' gave me a real insight into the struggle for equality and it has really changed my insight into what it means to be kind. It is a play worth watching. This play has heightened my understanding of the importance of not judging others and of not letting your anger take control. I absolutely loved watching To Kill a Mockingbird and I'd definitely watch it again. It was amazing watching such a great book being brought to life.



STUDENT ARTICLE



BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Our end of year Biology field trip to Scarborough was a perfect mix of science, seagulls, plenty of balancing on rocks and looking into rockpools! It was filled with unforgettable moments, from collecting data using transect and quadrats on the distribution of limpets and types of seaweed from the lower shore to the upper shore to enjoying Fish and Chips and hot donuts with friends by the seaside. After a productive morning, we spent the afternoon at the SeaLife Centre, where we spent some time learning about marine life and current conservation efforts and we were even lucky enough to witness some feeding sessions take place! We walked through the ocean tunnel where we could witness aquatic organisms swimming around us and appreciated the diversity of marine organisms. Attending this trip enhanced our understanding of what we learnt in class as we could put it in practice, enabled us to develop many useful fieldwork skills and also provided us with a great way to celebrate the end of Yr1.

Written by Amarah Aziz



EVENTS



LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY VISIT – PSYCHOLOGY

10th June 2025. Hareesa and Taylor took 20 YR1 Psychology students to Leeds Trinity University for a Taster Day. The students had a welcome talk that covered Uni life and students finance, a campus tour, 2x academic taster sessions with lecturers at the uni and an opportunity to meet other A-Level Psychology students over lunch. An enjoyable and informative day after which, 100% of students reported that they could see themselves studying at University.

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY VISIT – PSYCHOLOGY

2nd July. Taylor and Samina took 32 YR1 Psychology students to MMU. The students had a welcome talk that included information about psychology at Uni, writing a personal statement, and career options. Students had a taster lecture on forensic psychology and had the opportunity to see some state of the art technologies that the university has in the department; including an MRI machine, AI technology for interviewing suspects and a 'crime scene apartment'. The students enjoyed the experience and reported that they were more likely to consider applying for Psychology at university after their visit.

BBC BEYOND BELIEF AND DEBATE

A group of students from D6A were chosen to contribute to a Radio 5 Live broadcast debate about being a teenager in 2025. Soon another group will attend a Radio 4 recording of a 'Beyond Belief' programme which will explore the topic of 'Have religions forgotten about the working class'. We are proud that are students have been selected by the BBC to share their opinions about current events. Promoting student voices is part and parcel of life at D6A.

BIG TRIP 2025

YR1 Big Trip to Malham – A Fantastic Experience
Our YR 1 students recently enjoyed the Big Trip to Malham, a highlight of the academic calendar that brought learning and adventure together in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales.

The trip offered a chance to explore stunning landscapes, build relationships, and strengthen teamwork outside the classroom. Students took part in guided walks, field activities, and reflective sessions that encouraged resilience, curiosity, and collaboration.

Beyond the fresh air and breathtaking views, the Malham experience helped students develop confidence, independence, and a stronger sense of community. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive — everyone had a great time, and the trip set the tone for an exciting year ahead at Dixons Sixth Form Academy.



CHAI AND CHAAT

We held our second Chai and Chaat event for our families. These evenings are a chance for parents and carers to come together, socialise, and meet some of our Progress Tutors in an informal setting. We share important messages that will help students thrive with us. We always offer free refreshments, including samosas, chaat, pink tea, and cakes. Themes discussed included:

Community Connections - introducing key community engagement initiatives and signposting families to relevant support services.

Revision and Study Skills – how students can get the most out of their learning outside of lessons and prepare themselves for exams

Look out for our next Chai and Chaat event – a great chance for our wider college community to get together.



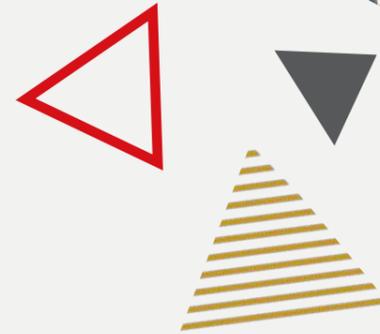
PROM

After all their exams were over, our YR2 students let their hair down at our D6A Prom. It was truly a night to remember! We celebrated at The Grand by Jalwa in Bradford. Over 200 students were treated to a seated 3-course meal, a DJ, photo booths and a 360 camera and a fun awards ceremony. Everyone wore their best outfit and looked wonderful. We are now planning our next end of YR2 celebration which will be even bigger and better!



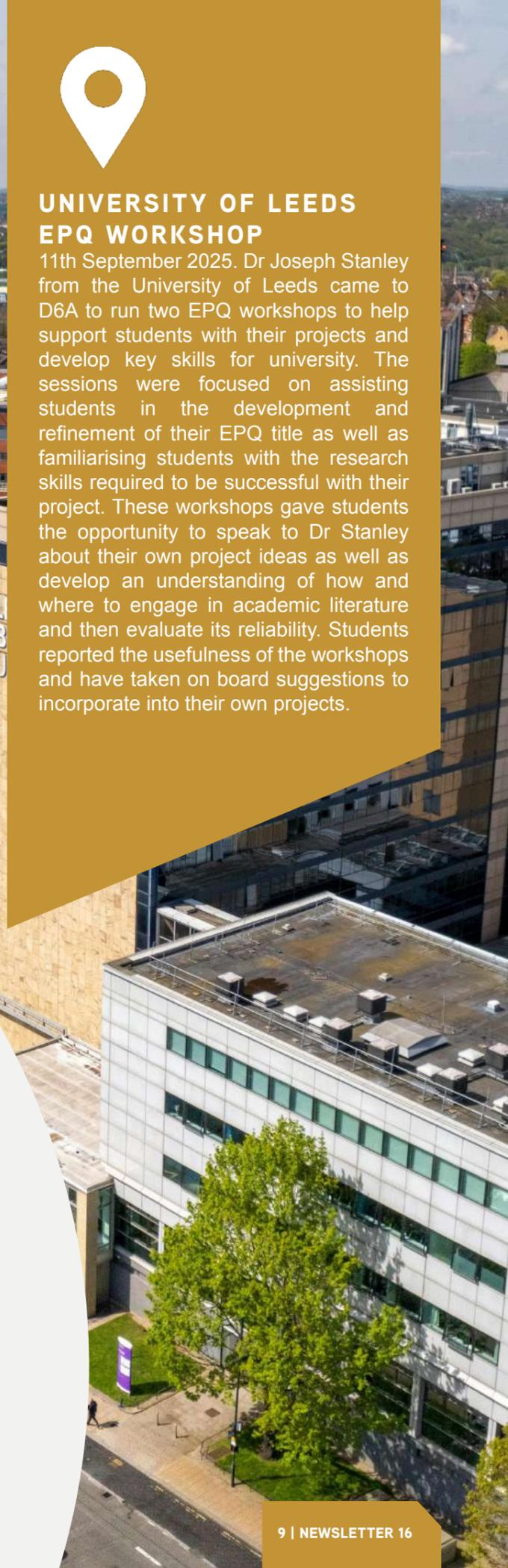
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS EPQ WORKSHOP

11th September 2025. Dr Joseph Stanley from the University of Leeds came to D6A to run two EPQ workshops to help support students with their projects and develop key skills for university. The sessions were focused on assisting students in the development and refinement of their EPQ title as well as familiarising students with the research skills required to be successful with their project. These workshops gave students the opportunity to speak to Dr Stanley about their own project ideas as well as develop an understanding of how and where to engage in academic literature and then evaluate its reliability. Students reported the usefulness of the workshops and have taken on board suggestions to incorporate into their own projects.



UNIVERSITY OF YORK STUDENT FOCUS GROUP

A group of Year 1 and Year 2 students took part in a focus group with a researcher from the University of York. The session involved discussing and providing feedback on research into tax benefits. Students were asked to engage with scientific data and current policies to consider the impact of removing the two-child limit. They explored whether this change might improve adolescent wellbeing and educational outcomes (such as GCSE grades), or whether alternative investments in early childhood — for example, funding early education or children's centres — could deliver greater wellbeing gains and educational benefits for the same cost.



ENRICHMENT

THE D6A GREEN-ROOFED SHELTER

During early 2025, our Enrichment Coordinator, became aware of D6A's eligibility for a £10,000 "grey-to-green" grant from the Department for Education to turn grey areas of our site green. The idea of excavating and planting areas of our car park seemed a bit simplistic, so they proposed building a shelter with greenery on top. We now have a sedum-roofed shelter which illustrates principles of sustainable building while providing space for teaching, exhibitions and performances and social activities. The planted roof provides habitat for pollinators while mitigating extremes of temperature and rainfall and sequestering carbon. Rainwater is captured for recycling on site while the building's timbers are sourced from sustainable forestry. Students themselves were involved in completing the structure before the summer break - measuring twice and cutting once and fixing timber in place on the walls, using hand and power tools. We're looking forward to putting the shelter to use, continuing to develop it in the coming months and finding a catchier name for it.



RAISED IN YORKSHIRE

Our 2025/26 RAISED in Yorkshire enrichment programme got off to a great start with record numbers of applicants meaning we now have to run two groups. This highly competitive initiative, which was founded by David Coper and Professor Sue Pavitt from the University of Leeds in 2016 has made a massive impact on oral health education across the West Yorkshire region, while also enabling students from a wide range of backgrounds to progress to Dentistry degrees. All of our students complete a Chartered Management sponsored leadership course before training as Oral Health Educators through the University of Leeds. We are excited to work with our new students as they enhance their skills and build bright futures for themselves.



SADEIA WOMEN'S ZONE ENRICHMENT

Our Students took part in an intergenerational project with the "Aunties" from WomenZone. The aunties taught the students Tai Chi, Mindfulness and Urdu and in return the young people taught the Aunties Arabic, and how to use Snap Chat and TIK TOK.



GOLD DOFE 2025 QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

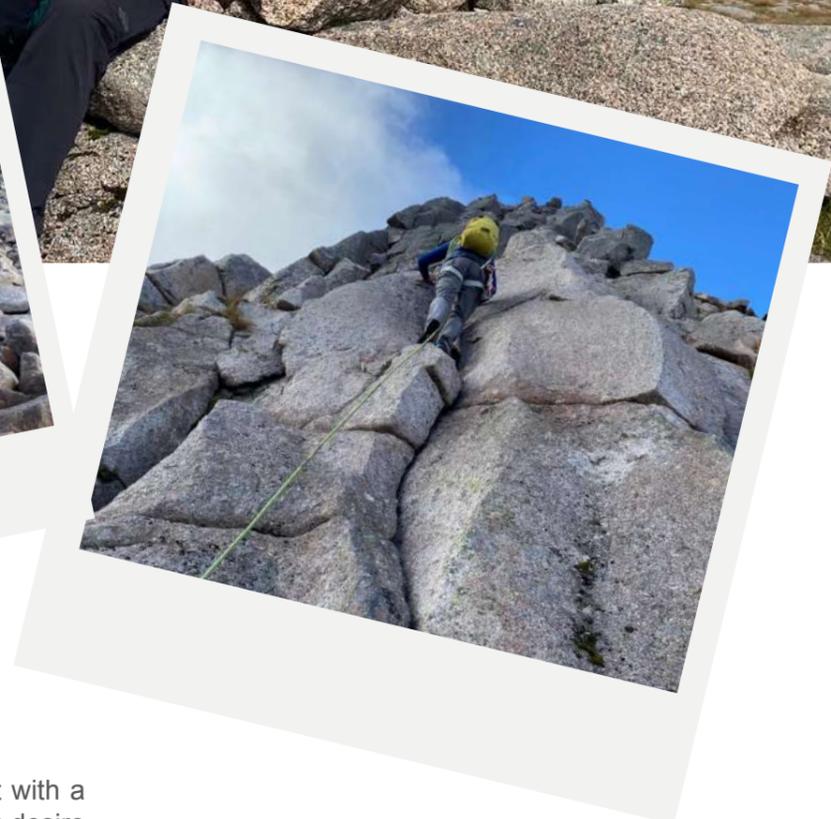
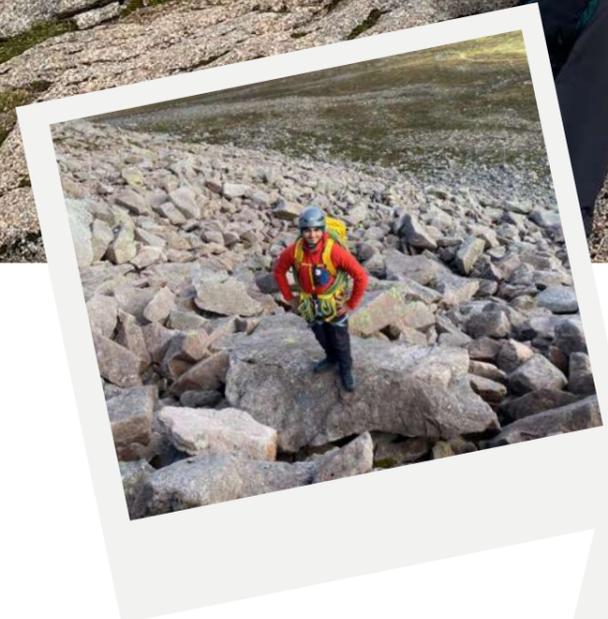
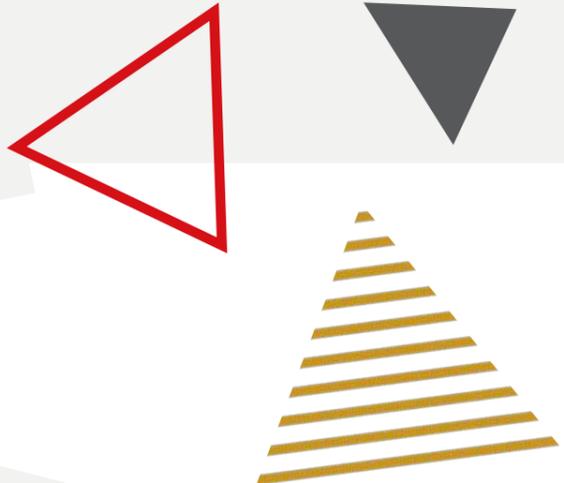
During the heatwave of mid-July 2025, twelve year one and two students completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors and Coast areas. Journeying for upwards of eight hours each day, the two groups explored the nature, culture and landscape of the area, camping each night at a different location. The five days proved to be a challenging, memorable, satisfying, and sociable experience. On arrival at the finish, by the sea in Ravenscar, three students finished the complete award, and one group were lucky to have seen adders.





IRIS (INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS) CONFERENCE

Eleven Dixons Sixth Form students presented the outcomes of their independent research projects to the IRIS conference in Manchester this summer. They got to experience the buzz of a research conference, including a panel discussion that featured a former D6A student talking about her experiences as a researcher in industry. Five students were selected to deliver a plenary presentation to a packed hall of more than 250 delegates. Their research (into the potential for ionic liquids to improve the sustainability of the textile industry by facilitating the extraction of dyes and dissolving keratin fibres) was so well-received that the IRIS promotional team came back to visit Bradford to make a short film about their work.



YUSUF BASHIR – OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

Every few years we come across a student with a genuine passion for outdoor adventure and a desire to take their activity further though, perhaps, without the means or opportunity. Yusuf Bashir impressed with his commitment to Duke of Edinburgh's Award, climbing activities, environmental projects and the Tall Ships Youth Trust voyage. He was nominated, by our Enrichment Coordinator, and supported to apply for a very limited number of places on a five-day residential course with the Martin Moran Foundation in the Scottish Cairngorm Mountains and he earned a place. During the residential Yusuf learned skills in mountain activities, with expert tuition, and gained access to a mentorship programme should he wish to develop further, perhaps becoming a mountain activities instructor himself. He was also the recipient of lots of specialist equipment to apply in his continuing outdoor adventures.

UK LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

Twelve daring Dixons Sixth Form students chose to take part in this national competition, which takes the format of a two-and-a-half-hour exam paper containing puzzles about languages that you have almost certainly never seen before. Luckily, all the data you need in order to work out the solutions are given on the same page. All you have to do is puzzle them out but this is easier said than done. Our brave linguists were not in least bit perturbed by the statistic that in previous years only one third of the very highly able self-selecting entrants get over one third of the marks available.

BETHAN CROCHET ENRICHMENT

Students have been learning new stitches in Crochet Enrichment this half term with some starting projects. Baby blankets, scarves and a bouquet of flowers are our works in progress! new students as they enhance their skills and build bright futures for themselves.



RESULTS DAY





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