

DIXONS
SIXTH FORM
BRADFORD



NEWSLETTER

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR A LEVELS IN BRADFORD

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | RESPECT

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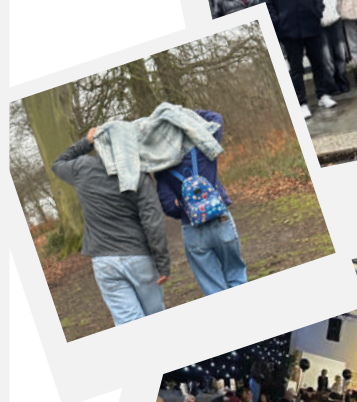
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WELCOME

D6A is quite simply a special place and we are excited that at the start of this academic year we reached our full capacity. This is our biggest community ever with over 1300 students currently studying with us.

In our most recent Ofsted we were recognised 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.

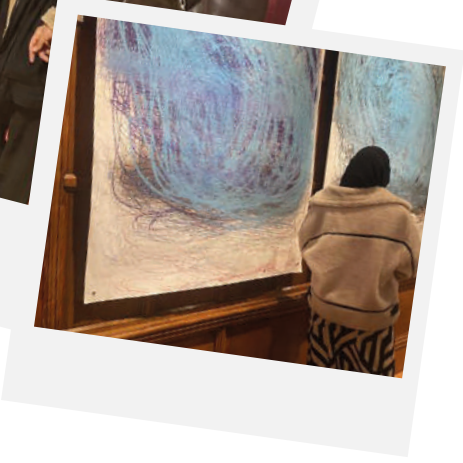
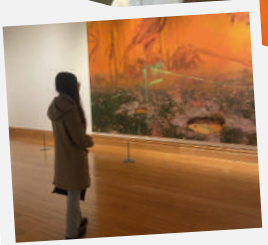
I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

CARLY TEALE

Principal

C. Teale

CURRICULUM



TURNER PRIZE EXHIBITION TRIP TO CARTWRIGHT HALL

All of the A Level Art and Design students visited the prestigious Turner Prize in Bradford, where it was held this year. The winner was being announced that evening and we hadn't realised that the judges were actually onsite while we were viewing the work! All of the students predicted their winner and watched the Prize Show in the evening to see who came out on top.

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD

Twenty eight D6A students had a fantastic Arts and Humanities insight day at the University of Huddersfield. Students attended a wide range of hands-on workshops including Journalism, Architecture, Art and Design, English and History. Feedback was exceptional, with one student commenting "this has really opened my eyes to different possibilities and it's great to have so many high-quality universities on our doorstep".



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS STEM OUTREACH VISIT

Dr Helen L. Thompson delivered an engaging talk at D6A to our students studying sciences, exploring how artificial intelligence and data science are transforming modern healthcare. Her talk 'Decode the Future: AI, Data Science, and the New Age of Healthcare' highlighted real-world applications of AI in medicine, from disease prediction to personalised treatment. As Deputy Executive Dean in the Biosciences Department at Durham University, Helen brought extensive academic leadership and research experience at the intersection of biology, data, and innovation.



BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WORK EXPERIENCE IN DUBAI

Towards the end of January, twenty D6A BTEC Health and Social Care students went on an exciting trip to Dubai for two weeks. They were assigned to two nurseries in Dubai where they had to take on the feeding, caring and wellbeing of babies and children. They performed exceptionally well, receiving a lot of praise and upholding the D6A values of integrity, curiosity and respect even in such a new environment!

Amidst the workdays, the long commute and the very warm weather, they had a chance to explore Dubai with some fantastic planned days out. Learners enjoyed an action-packed desert safari, a trip to the beautiful historic districts of Dubai and the soaring heights of the Burj Khalifa with its exceptional fountain show. It was an unmissable chance to soak in the ambience of a different culture (and what could possibly be the cleanest metro in the world!). Our young women represented D6A with pride and made lots of wonderful memories. It was a lovely trip for staff and students.



ART TRIP TO YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

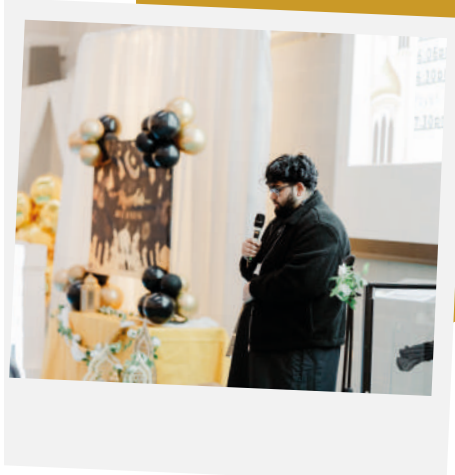
Our A Level Art and Design students visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to gather some inspiration for their exam project, where they have been given 8 very different themes to respond to. Despite staff being adamant that we were going to get blue skies and sun (like we have every other time we have visited) the weather wasn't overly kind to us. This did not however, dampen the students' spirits, or the artwork on show! Students particularly enjoyed the underground gallery and the video installation work by William Kentbridge, an artist who we have looked at in several lessons already. We managed a whopping 14,000 steps in the morning session, trudging through mud and over stepping stones. We took lots of photographs, discussed art and talked about food! Knowing that the majority of the students were fasting, they coped brilliantly with the walking and the rain, and a great day was had by all. The photography will be used in upcoming lessons to inspire the various types of process work.



EVENTS

D6A BIG IFTARS

This year we held two special Iftar evenings. Our first evening was a sellout event with over 200 students breaking fast together at their college. Students recited and prayed together. For our second Iftar we invited our families to the event. It was lovely to see so many parents and siblings celebrating with their D6A family member. Delicious food from local restaurants was served at each event. We can't wait to host these special events again next year.



MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINE CHARITY COLLECTION

The Student Exec collected over £1000 for the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians. We held a stall selling bakes donated from My Lahore and Regal Foods Plc. Students crafted earrings, friendship bracelets and phone charms to sell. It was a popular event and we sold out of almost everything.

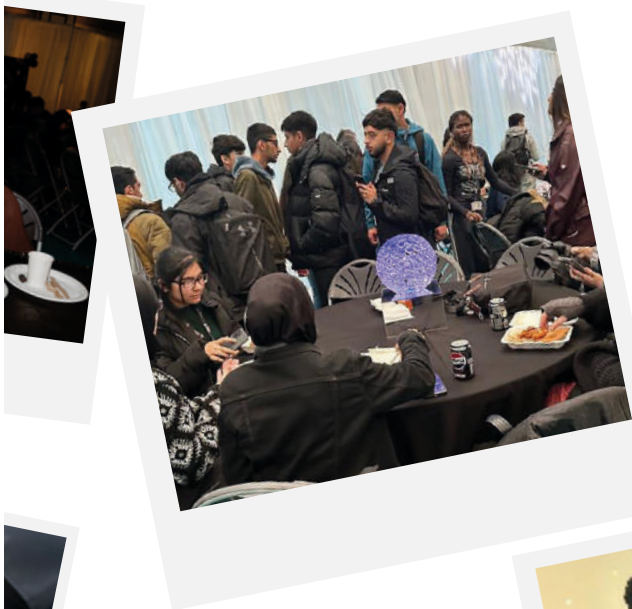


BIG MEAL EVENT 2 - SPRING FORMAL

This year's Spring Formal Big Meal Event brought the D6A community together for an afternoon that felt genuinely celebratory. YR2 students were all invited to dress for the occasion, filling the Sports Hall with colour, energy, and a real sense of togetherness. The spring themed setting created a bright, welcoming atmosphere, and the catered meal gave everyone the chance to sit down, relax, and enjoy time with friends during a busy term.

CHRISTMAS AT D6A

Christmas is a special time at D6A. We had performances in reception from our college Wind Ensemble. We celebrated our whole college Big Meal Event 1 – Winter Wonderland. During this event there were performances from the D6A Band, lovely food to eat and a charity collection. In fact, during the whole week there were many ways to celebrate Christmas including a performance from staff singing Christmas hits for the students at break time. It was a very festive end to the year.

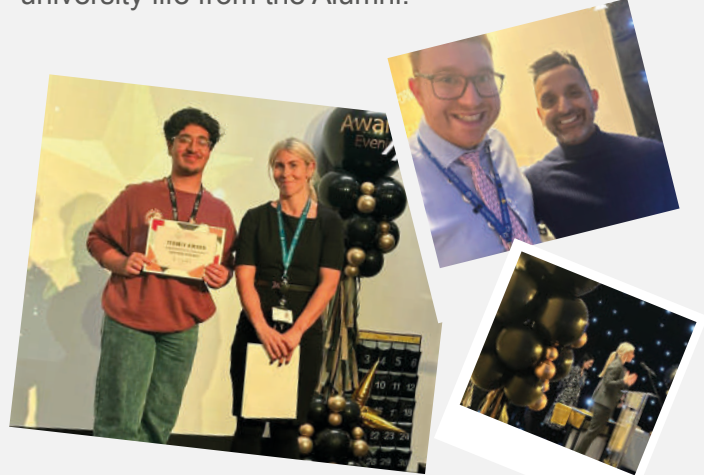


ALUMNI AWARDS

We were thrilled to see so many of our ex students back in college for our Alumni Awards. Our special guest was Dr Amir Khan who spoke to us about his experiences of growing up and working in Bradford. It was a pleasure to have a local celebrity in college and students had their awards presented to them by Dr Khan. We love celebrating our students' achievements and enjoyed hearing tales about university life from the Alumni.

TERMLY AWARDS

At the end of each term we celebrate student achievement across the college with a special event. We have live music and refreshments for our students and someone in every class wins a prize. Recently we have also celebrated students that attended the Raised in Yorkshire Enrichment and also our Work Experience students going to Dubai at the event.



ENRICHMENT



ADVANCED LEADERS GRADUATION EVENT

Our YR2 Advanced Leaders students successfully completed their leadership programme with a final event at the University of Leeds, where they delivered their presentations and were challenged by high level questioning from academics and degree level students. All the students involved had completed a rigorous academic programme including public speaking, critical thinking and synoptic understanding and were delighted to have completed the course. Feedback from our academic partners at Leeds was outstanding. Dr Mette Wiggen said,

how the students spoke, answered questions and made reflections on how difficult the issues they had researched are was truly impressive,

while Professor Simon Lightfoot commented, "I was very impressed by the research and presentation skills of the D6A students. The variety of topics was really wide ranging". Well done to all the D6A Advanced Leaders on their success!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH FELL RESCUE TRIP

This February, 13 participants from this years' Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award cohort travelled to the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association Headquarters in Grassington. We had a warm welcome from mountain rescue volunteers, who presented information about incident prevention, how to be 'Adventure Smart', the work of mountain rescue teams and what to do in an emergency in the hills. We had a tour of the building and an introduction to the specialist equipment used to support rescues, above and below ground and on water. The visit provided valuable insight for the award participants, supporting their safety on their own expeditions in the hills.





ETON COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

Dixons Sixth Form Academy recently had the privilege of participating in an exciting AI-focused project in collaboration with Eton College as part of the Eton Star Partnership. This partnership is dedicated to promoting social mobility by supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access high-quality educational opportunities. As part of the project, our students completed a survey and took part in focus groups, exploring their use of artificial intelligence as a learning tool, providing valuable insight into how AI is shaping their academic experience. Following this, six of our students were selected to visit Eton College, where they had the opportunity to tour the prestigious, historic campus, observe lessons, and speak to students. Our students also partook in a panel discussion which was attended by senior leaders from a range of schools and colleges. Our students spoke confidently and thoughtfully about their use of AI in education, responding to questions with maturity, insight, and authenticity. They represented Dixons Sixth Form Academy with exceptional professionalism and were a true credit to our college. The Head of Research and Impact at Eton College said the student panel was a “roaring success”. This collaboration marks an important step in exploring the role of AI in education while strengthening partnerships that broaden horizons and create meaningful opportunities for our students.



STUDENT CREATES A WIND TUNNEL AS PART OF EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

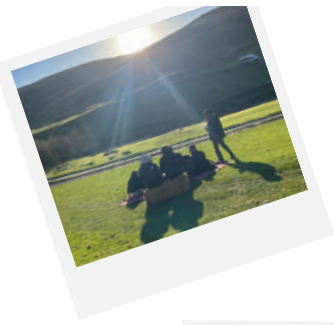
Inspired by a visit to an aerodynamics engineering department at University of Cambridge, YR2 student Nameer Siddiqui was determined to produce a wind tunnel for his EPQ project. Although most students choose to write an extended essay as their EPQ product, Nameer challenged himself to build a working model and write a 1,000 word essay to explain his design and how he made adaptations to achieve his overall aim. At last, the great day arrived and Suleman drove the college minibus to collect the model which, by now, was too large to transport in a car. Once the sections of the model were reassembled in the Lecture Theatre, Nameer successfully demonstrated to staff and students the effect of fog lines flowing around a toy car inside the wind tunnel. Speaking to YR1 students who are planning their own EPQ projects, Nameer advised them to choose an interesting topic area to research as it was his passionate interest in engineering which motivated him to complete the many hours of reading and building needed to see his plan take shape; a triumph of perseverance and creativity - this remarkable D6A EPQ project will not be forgotten.



CULTURAL TRIP TO LONDON

Thirty D6A students had a wonderful cultural enrichment experience on a two-day residential visit. Our partnerships with the Royal Opera and Ballet and Central Government go from strength to strength and formed the backbone of our visit. Students had a full tour of 10 Downing Street and saw a performance of Turandot at the Royal Opera, while also seeing the West End production of Les Miserables. Student feedback was excellent and ranged from “Watching Turandot, I found my heart quietly standing beside Liu. Her love asked for nothing but endured everything. I saw pieces of myself in her silence, her loyalty, her strength. Thank you for letting me meet a character who felt less like fiction and more like a mirror” to “Thank you again for this amazing trip. I found visiting 10 Downing St extremely useful. Learning about the history of British politics through the tour really interested me and gave me with a new perspective on how key decisions are actually made in real time” and “I had high expectations from this trip, but they weren’t just met - they were exceeded. From going inside Number 10 (which I can brag about now!) to watching Le Misérables and Turandot, they were new experiences for me. I had little idea of what they would be like and as a woman in STEM, I have been so accustomed to being logical and problem-solving driven that going on this trip has opened my mind as it was such an insightful and refreshing opportunity. It allowed me to establish a sociological lens whilst simultaneously being appreciative of how far we’ve come in history”.



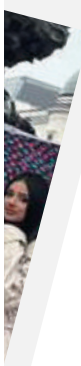
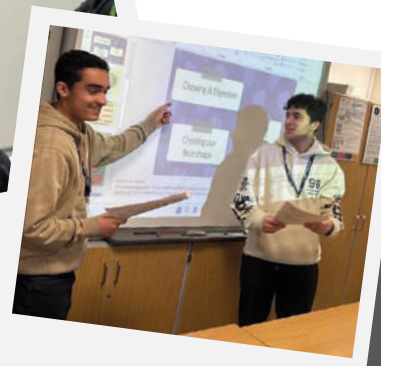


D6A ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

Fourteen YR1 and YR2 students from the D6A Environment Champions group visited Yockenthwaite Farm in Upper Wharfedale. They were warmly welcomed by Jo from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the Hird family who've farmed there for five generations. They learnt lots of cultural capital about the life of a Yorkshire Dales hill farming family, their heritage, the landscape they work in and were inspired to visit again in future. They helped to gather and feed the flocks of Swaledale and Dalesbred sheep and raddled the tups (for it was that time in the sheep farming year).

RAISED IN YORKSHIRE ENRICHMENT

D6A Raised in Yorkshire scholars have successfully qualified as Oral Health Educators following a rigorous programme at the University of Leeds. All of the students involved have passed all technical and knowledge-based elements of the programme and demonstrated a high level of skill with regards to classroom delivery, teamwork, communication and empathy through their delivery to all Year 7 students at Co-Op Academy Leeds. Areebah said of the experience: "Not only did the programme provide me with great opportunities and valuable qualifications for my personal statement, but it was also a real eye-opener to see the impact and power of knowledge. Watching the children's understanding of oral health improve before and after the workshop was such a rewarding moment. The programme also greatly developed my leadership skills and increased my overall confidence so that I now feel able to compete at the highest level."





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

**WWW.DIXONS6A.COM
@DIXONSSIXTH
INFO@DIXONS6A.COM
01274 089770**



**TIKTOK & INSTAGRAM
@DIXONSSIXTH**