

To all D6A Students and Families

It's been great to see our College grow to 1250 students this term – with students coming from all over Bradford and the wider region. Equally, it's been exciting to see that despite having more students, we don't actually have more students arriving by car – we have more arriving by bus. This makes sense as our College is only a 10-minute walk from the interchange (many students tell me it's 13 minutes, but I think they just need to walk faster). As we all continue to think about the environment this small shift away from cars and towards public transport is something I welcome – however in terms of a sixth form college I welcome it for another reason which is that travelling by bus is one element in the maturation journey that our students are on. I know for some families it's a big step for 16-17 year olds to be travelling independently – but let me show my support here by saying this small step is a really positive developmental step for so many of our students.

Students join us having left school physically – but sometimes do not fully understand that they have entered the adult world. While at D6A, we expect our young adult students to mature so they can leave us full of confidence in themselves and ready to thrive at University. This is why it was lovely to see at our recent open event over 150 student ambassadors – not just helping guide visitors around our Campus, but also talking with confidence about their subjects and their experiences at our College. The open evening broke all previous records with 1290 visitors on site.

One of the other ways in which we encourage maturation is through our enrichment programme and this last half term saw 620 YR1 students experience trips to Sheffield University and Malham cove. Additionally, our second year students also experienced a loudspeaker workshop in self-communication. We know of all sorts of brilliant things going on in Colleges around the country – but we don't know of any College that does these things with literally all their students.

There is something special about the D6A community and the feeling of being part of something – whether that's our competitive sports teams (after 2 initial draws it was great to see the men's football team win their 3rd game of the season) or our culture day where we all celebrate cultural heritage – our connection and roots – through our dress. On the theme of community, I'm looking forward to our winter wonderland big meal event to kick off the 23-24 big meal events after half term.

Of course, while living in a way that sustains the environment, growing and maturing and feeling part of a community are important in the life of our College no letter from me can ever be complete without also talking about the other wing to our curriculum – the academic.

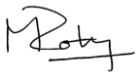


With the Ofsted judgement that we are outstanding in all areas it'll be no surprise that our 2023 leavers results were also outstanding with student progression, A level A*-C and BTEC Distinction* - Distinction especially strong. Right now, over 60 current YR2 students have submitted their UCAS applications to medicine, dentistry and Oxbridge – another College record number. We wish them well.

Applications for 2024 starters are now open and everyone applying before the 14th December who achieves their GCSE grades is guaranteed a place – so if you know people that would love to join the D6A success story please let them know to get online and apply now.

I hope you enjoy a great half term and we look forwards to seeing everybody back on the 6th November.

Thanks,



Mark Rothery
Principal

