



NEWSLETTER

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR A LEVELS IN BRADFORD

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | RESPECT

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Not casual about learning

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

EVENTS



PROCTER AND GAMBLE

Business minded year 1 students took part in a Procter and Gamble challenge to develop a new toothpaste for the UK market. Students were split into two teams both assigning their own project managers. Students had to research the toothpaste market, understand the key brands, the price points as well as the place toothpaste is sold. Once the market research was completed, the teams used this knowledge to spot a gap in the current market and develop their own toothpaste product to address this. The project culminated with both teams pitching their ideas to a panel of Procter & Gamble and D6A teachers. The students were incredibly confident and articulate. Procter and Gamble Sales Director commented:

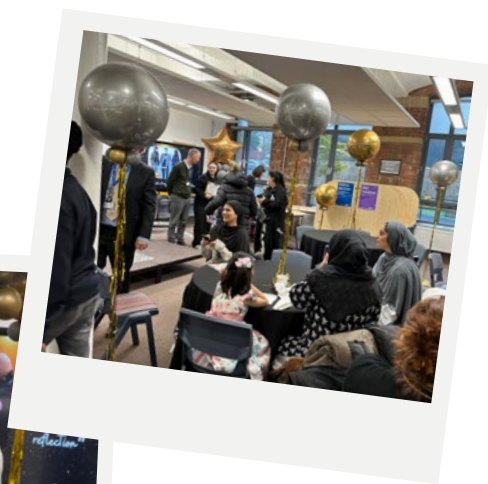
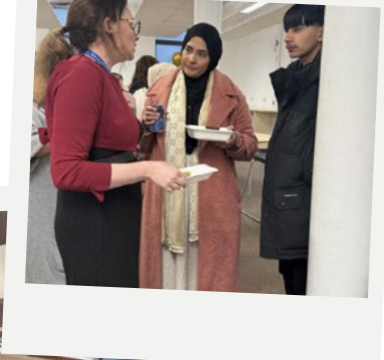
The research completed by students is exceptional combined with an impressive presentation that clearly shows you have answered the brief.

AWARDS EVENING 2024

Just before we closed for the Christmas break we held our annual awards evening, welcoming back the class of 2024. Keynote speaker Daliso Chaponda joined us to celebrate. It was lovely to catch up with our alumni students and find out how they are progressing after their time at D6A. The event proved to be a huge success and it was a lovely way the end the term.

CHAAT AND CHAI

Last month we held our first community event of the year, welcoming families for an evening of 'Chai and Chaat. The tutor team were available for discussions with parents, this was then followed by a workshop delivered by Step 2 on the harms of vaping.



HALF TERMLY AWARDS (DEC AND FEB)

Our half termly awards are held at the end of every half term before we close for the holidays. These events are an opportunity for staff to recognise and reward the students who have worked the hardest during each half term. February saw our busiest event to date and it was an amazing way to conclude the term celebrating the success and resilience and of our students along with their families and friends. I'm sure these students would be the first to say hard work really does pay off.



CERTIFICATE COLLECTION

To kick start 2025 we welcomed back our class of 2024 to certificate collection. Despite the snow, the students came to pick up their certificates reflecting their accomplishments and hard work during their time with us. It was also a great opportunity for students to catch up with friends and staff whilst updating each other on their progress and journey after life at D6A.



BME CHOWDOWN

D6A ended half term 1 by hosting The Big Chow Down, and what a truly unforgettable event it was! The final Big Meal Event for YR2 brought the entire year group together for an afternoon of delicious food, laughter, and cheer.

The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as students and staff dug into an incredible spread of mouth-watering dishes, and amazing drinks. It was a true celebration of food and fun, with everyone enjoying the chance to connect, share stories, and make memories.

The room was brilliantly decorated by Bombay Events and the entertainment was provided by local duo, Take2. We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate as a community in the future.

BME WINTER WONDERLAND

Dixons Sixth Form College recently hosted its highly anticipated Winter Wonderland Big Meal, bringing students and staff together for a festive celebration. The event featured a delicious feast, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere.

Beyond the meal, the occasion was filled with laughter, music, and festive decorations, making it a perfect way to end the term on a high note. Students and staff embraced the holiday spirit, sharing moments of gratitude and togetherness.

The Winter Wonderland Big Meal not only celebrated the festive season but also highlighted the strong sense of community at Dixons Sixth Form College. A huge thank you to everyone involved who made this event a memorable success!



CURRICULUM

MEET THE PRACTITIONER

Students in health and social care have had the opportunity to meet with practitioners from various fields on a fortnightly basis. During these sessions, practitioners from public health, radiography, paramedic science, midwifery, and physiotherapy have discussed their roles, career paths, and the routes they took to get there. Students have also had the chance to ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations with these professionals.



| Emergency Procedures - Reception Suite | | |
|---|---|--|
| In the event that the fire alarm sounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Remain calm2. Do not panic3. Follow the instructions of the staff4. Do not use the lift5. Do not use the stairs6. Do not use the elevator7. Do not use the fire escape8. Do not use the fire escape | If the GOMAH alarm sounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Remain calm2. Do not panic3. Follow the instructions of the staff4. Do not use the lift5. Do not use the stairs6. Do not use the elevator7. Do not use the fire escape8. Do not use the fire escape | General Rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not use the lift2. Do not use the stairs3. Do not use the elevator4. Do not use the fire escape5. Do not use the fire escape |

MOCK TRIAL

D6A Law students took part in the Bar Mock Trial Competition in a regional heat in Leeds in November. They played different roles such as barristers, witnesses, a court clerk, an usher and jury members. The D6A team went head-to-head with other colleges and schools to prosecute and defend the cases in front of practicing judges and barristers. Our impressive D6A team achieved third place out of 17 colleges and schools.



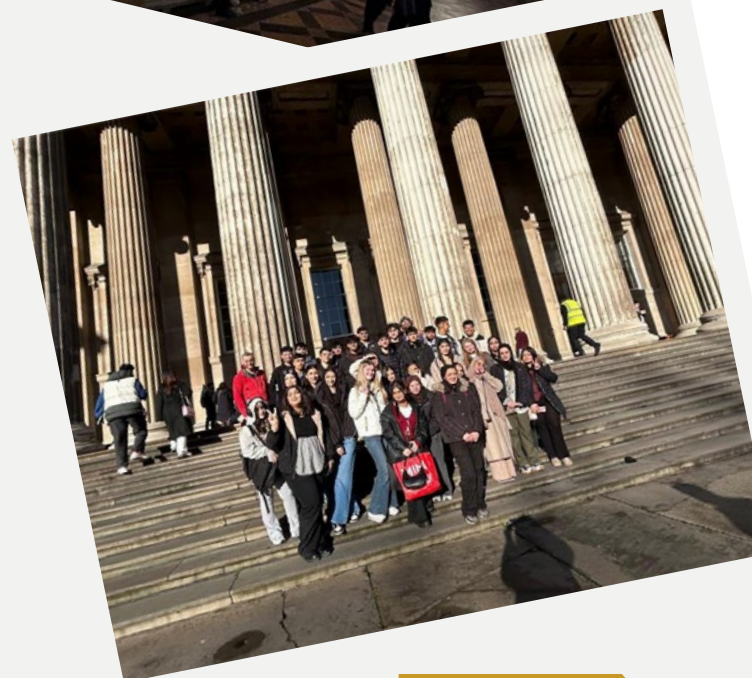
LONDON TRIP

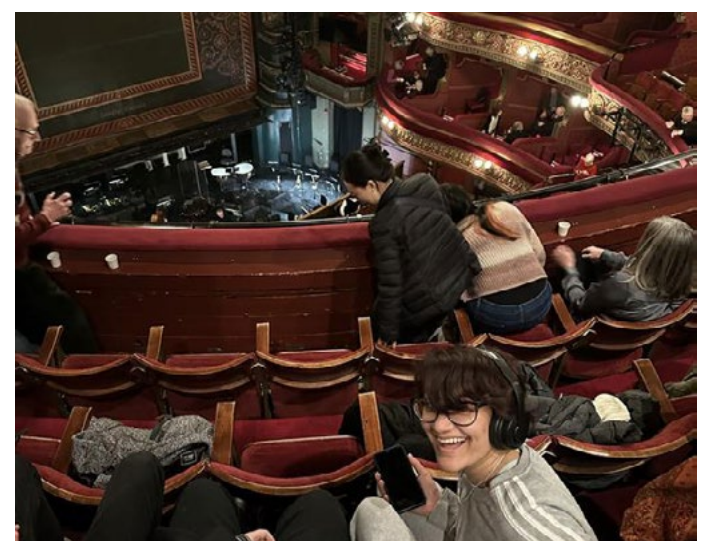
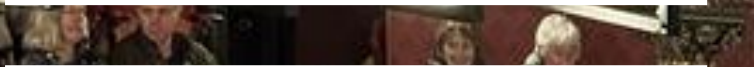
In January the College took 35 law, politics and sociology students to London for a trip to both Parliament and the British Museum.

The tour of Westminster was fantastic, with the students able to see the living history of the palace. The students were lucky enough to spend time in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, standing on the government benches makes you realise that it is much smaller than it looks on TV! The students were excellent, well behaved and fully engaged.

The next day we went to the British Museum to look at the amazing artifacts from around the world, including the Parthenon friezes. Students were interested in sculpture found in the Assyrian room and the Rosetta stone.

We returned home on the Saturday night, tired but looking back on a really successful visit to the capital.





MOZART MUSIC TRIP

On 19th March, 14 students attended the Opera North production of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'. For most of the students it was their first time at the opera. We made sure to learn what the story was before the trip so that we could understand what was happening on stage. Unusually for a theatre performance, there were two deaf signers in the cast who provided interpretations of the orchestral parts as well translations into sign language of the text. There were also screens to each side of the stage with the libretto in English. The opera was composed in German but was performed in English, so there were many ways to access the story. It was a great trip enjoyed by all.

GWILYM SIMCOCK

We were lucky to spend the day with Gwilym Simcock recently. Gwilym is a multi-award winning jazz pianist who is on the A Level Music syllabus that we study here at D6A. Gwilym spent the day analysing two of his pieces that we are studying. We invited students from DCA to come across and visit us. Gwilym performed for around 30 students and discussed his career, why he switched from being a classical pianist to a jazz pianist and how he approaches improvisation. We are very grateful for this unique opportunity.



SKIING/ROCK CLIMBING

Our BTEC Sport students have been developing their knowledge and understanding of outdoor and adventurous activities by taking part in indoor climbing and ski lessons. Participation in outdoor activities is a required element of the BTEC Sport diploma and extended diploma course, and our students showed exceptional resilience when they completed the two days of activities at the Climbing Hub, Bradford and Snozone, Yorkshire.

Sport teacher Kym said:

I am so proud of our students; they have really applied themselves and stepped up to the challenge. It's great for our students to get the opportunity to try new activities and visit new places. Everyone made huge amounts of progress and had a lot of fun!"

BRADFORD BUSINESS UNLOCKED

In February, 14 YR2 students travelled to visit two local businesses. We started the day at Solenis, a chemical engineering company who process water to make it drinkable. Students had a tour of the site, worked in groups to meet apprentices and employees and listened to a presentation about the company's ethos. As a huge international employer, it was great for students to find out more about working for this company. Later in the day we went to GXO Logistics. They run the logistics for the M&S distribution centre. We looked at how most of this process has now been streamlined using state of the art technology and even robotics. Then students met with one of the degree apprentices and got the opportunity to ask questions about their next steps. It was a great day and students really shone.

ENRICHMENT

GOLD DOFE (FIRST AID)

Gold DofE students attended an outdoor-specific first aid course before February half term in preparation for their Big Hill Day training and expeditions after Easter. While caring for casualties indoors or in urban settings presents first aid challenges, doing so in the remote outdoors adds a further dimension. Along with life-saving techniques, students learned how to improvise protecting casualties from the elements and removing them from hazards. Students gained a Level 2 Certificate in Basic Life Support, valid for 3 years.



SLOJD FOR SURGEONS

Three small groups of students have begun Slojd for Surgeons, this term, as a weekly enrichment activity. Admissions experts for medical and dentistry courses suggest that applicants often lack the dexterity required of surgical procedures and making and fitting appliances. Slojd (pronounced "sloid") is the Swedish tradition of making useful and decorative objects from wood, using hand-tools – knives, axes and saws. It develops strength and precision in the hands and confidence in using sharp tools. Last year's students have already remarked on the activity's usefulness in applying to dentistry courses.

FIRST AID (EFAW)

24 year one students concluded their weekly first aid enrichment activities by completing an accredited Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work qualification. Their certificate is valid for 3 years and is a valuable addition to personal statements, especially for those aspiring to healthcare, sport and medical careers. Their dedication also says great things about our students' pro-social attitudes, placing themselves in an excellent position to help where people are having bad days. Thanks to Jonathan Dean and Cynthia Ercolini for preparing them so well.

DJ

As part of the D6A enrichment programme students have been learning turntable skills with expert tuition from Mark and Carl at Turn-Styles Academy.



CLIMBING CLUB (COMPETITION)

Members of our climbing club competed in the first Dixons climbing competition at The Climbing Hub, before Christmas, against Dixons Allerton Academy. There was friendly and fierce competition. While DAA took the first place, Yusuf Bashir and Muhammed Shanawaz, of D6A, got second and third. D6A had great strength in depth and, had there been a team prize, I think we'd have won it.

OUTDOOR DISCOVERY (WASSAIL AND VISITS)

Outdoor Discovery enrichment groups have been taking part in activities, on and off-site, to celebrate the natural world, contribute to conservation and to feel at home in wild landscapes.

Students celebrated a traditional wassail to wish good health to our D6A fruit trees. They enjoyed making chai over an open fire and visited woodlands and waterfalls in the Yorkshire Dales. Students explored Ingleborough Cave as part of Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust's Big Day Out.

Later this year we'll plant a native hedge in our D6A meadow, build a drystone wall and plant trees in the Yorkshire Dales.





GRAFFITI ARTIST

Leigh from Tranquil Productions has been teaching our students graffiti art. Over their 8 week enrichment programme our students are producing a piece or work with their own personal tag, whilst learning spray paint and drawing skills.





INTERESTED IN WRITING A STUDENT FEATURE?

SUBMIT TO YOUR PROGRESS TUTOR



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