

DIXONS KINGS DIGEST



TERM DATES

2021.22 Term 6

6 June 2022 Academy opens

22 July 2022 Academy closes

2022.23 Term 1

30 August 2022 Academy opens

21 October 2022 Academy closes

7 November 2022 Academy opens

24 November 2022 Planning & Data Day

25 November 2022 Planning & Data Day

16 December 2022 Academy closes

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear families,

What an interesting year! It has been nice to finally be able to reconnect with our parents and students after what can only be described as a difficult two years. Covid has created many gaps in the learning of our students and it is all the more important that now, more than ever, students are at school every day, on time and ready to learn. Our academic focus and drive for the very best ensures that students achieve outstanding outcomes. There is so much that goes on during our school day that it is important that we remember all the exciting and varied activities that make our Academy such a great place to be. Our very first production took place this term: 'Bugsy Malone'. It was absolutely amazing to see so many of our students opting to take part and be in the spotlight, this has truly been an amazing achievement. We will be preparing to say farewell to our Year 11 students shortly as their GCSE exams progress through the end of this term, and we also had the chance to meet our new Year 7 students for the first time.

The Cycle 3 assessments for all Year groups will begin after the holidays. Please ensure that you are supporting your child in their preparation for these.

I wish you a happy break and I will see you after the half term.

Kind Regards,

Mr Wilson



FOOD TECH @ DKA

By Ms Tariq

Following the addition of our state of the art Food Technology room, we have added Food Technology to our Year 7 curriculum. This term students have been focussing on making bread. They have had to learn the functions of the ingredients and apply this to a product. Students have studied the process of making bread, including sieving the flour, kneading and shaping their own dough.

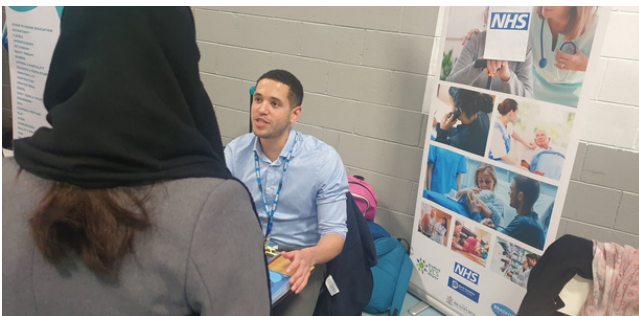


CAREERS SPOTLIGHT

By Mrs Willetts

In the fast paced and ever changing environment that we live in, it is more important than ever that our students receive high quality careers information education and guidance.

In February, Year 11 took part in mock interviews. Managers, Directors and even the CEO from Driver Hire Nationwide volunteered their time to provide this valuable experience to our students. The day ran smoothly and although some students were nervous at first, these nerves were soon eased as they got the opportunity to talk about their strengths, weaknesses and future career aspirations. Feedback from the company was incredibly positive, with one saying our students are 'inspiring with such ambition and charm.'



In March, students in Year 8-11 attended the Dixons Kings Careers Fair. They had the opportunity to speak to over 45 colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers, charities and employers. We received some fantastic feedback from the exhibitors, including: 'students were highly engaged... a credit to themselves and the school... refreshing to see such enthusiasm.'



Some of our Year 8 students also took part in the National Faraday Challenge, an annual competition introducing students to engineering, inspiring them to consider engineering as a career and helping to develop their practical and employability skills. All students demonstrated diligence and resilience when faced with a topic they had never studied before.

We have also had the pleasure of hosting a number of guest speakers throughout the year through our membership to 'Speakers for Schools'. A number of Year 7, 8 and 9 students were visited by the Director of the Bradford Literature Festival, Syima Aslam. They learned about her interesting career journey, her love of reading and just what 'literature' actually entails. They all asked lots of thought provoking questions and I hope to see them getting involved in this years' festival.



Year 10 had the pleasure of a visit from a member of the Dixons Kings Alumni, Rahim, who is now studying at the University of Durham. He shared his experiences of university life and his advice for helping them to stand out in their applications. I think it is vital for students to see someone who has been in their shoes, go on and be successful. It shows them that they too can be successful if they work hard and take every opportunity given to them.



A group of Year 10 students were also visited by the Director of Sedimentology - Professor Bill McCaffrey, from the University of Leeds. He spoke to them about the theory of mind and how to find their voice! Although initially quiet, they soon took part in a number of thought provoking conversations.

LITERACY CORNER

FIRST STORY

By Ms Ashraf

Faizan Ali, Huzaiifa Ali, Mustafa Ali, Yusuf Awas, Amilah Hussain, Imaad Hussain, Aleeza Nadeem and Wahab Saqib in Year 7 have been working exuberantly and diligently in the First Story program for young readers and writers.

Miss Ashraf would like to share Aleeza Nadeem's phenomenal and thoughtful poem on the theme of identity which she created during the First Story program. It is called "I am".

I Am

by Aleeza Nadeem

*I am a cousin, a child, a human, a writer,
a student at DKA, eleven years old.*

I can speak, talk, listen, walk, write and run.

*I like drawing because it's relaxing and fun,
sweets because they are very sweet and nice,
gaming because it's great if you're bored,
chocolate because it's more tasty than other foods,
colouring because it's peaceful and calming.*

*I am proud of graduating from primary school,
of all my work, my sense of humour,
of being a human and being born.*

*I am proud of being alive
and of being guided to learn.*

STUDENT BOOK REVIEW

By Hibba Mahmood



The story follows the teenage years of Sam, who is torn between surviving as a homeless teen on the run and looking after his autistic older brother. Sam breaks into houses, however, rather than stealing, he uses it as a place to live and to calm his longing for a 'fixed' life. He meets a girl, who helps him feel normal, despite his situation.

The story is set in London, where Sam and his brother try and find a home. They meet the girl after breaking into her house previously and crashing her brother's party.

The characters in the book embody our Academy values; Sam shows integrity as he feels the need to protect his brother from the harsh world, despite his own wants. He also shows diligence by working hard to build a relationship with the girl after telling her his story. The girl shows civility by being kind to Sam, when she finds out about his life.



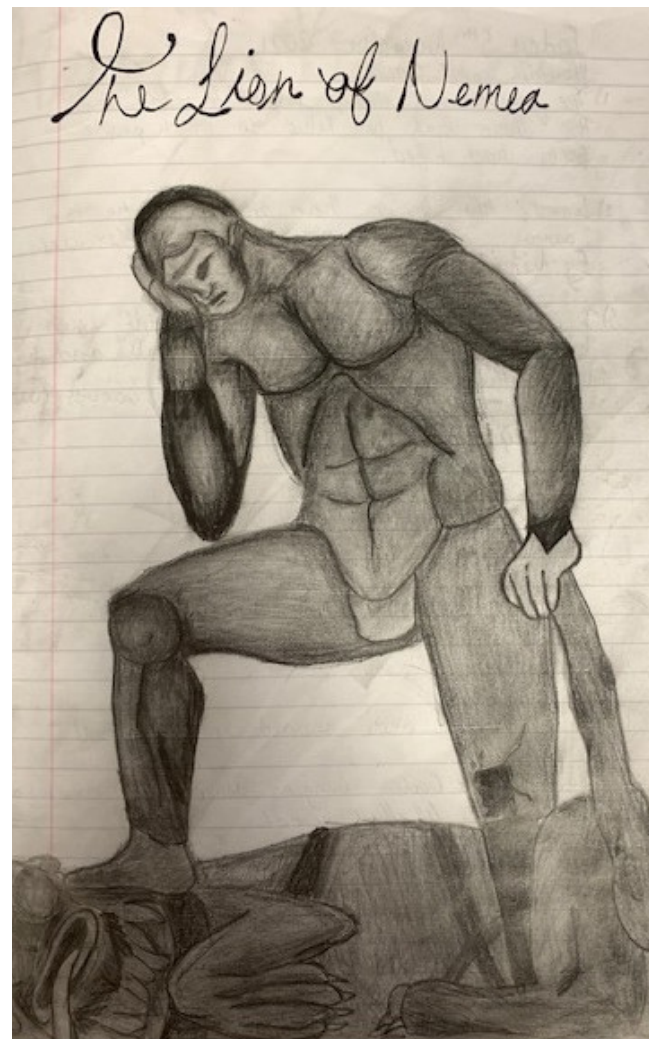
CLASSICS @DKA

By Ms Johnson

The History department is pleased to celebrate the success of the following pupils; Eesah Ahmed, Manaal Ahmed, Luqman Khan, Anabell Lapuha, Abdiasiiz Mahamed, Alishbah Mahmood, Keyur Mistry, Yousaf Muhammad, and Sahil Safeer.

These pupils have shown persistent diligence by attending weekly after school sessions preparing them for an extra GCSE in Classical Civilisation, which explores Ancient Greek and Roman Cultures. The class have achieved fantastic grades in the recent mock exam, with everyone achieving a Grade 5 upwards. A special congratulations goes to Luqman for scoring a Grade 8 and Eesah, Yousaf and Sahil for scoring a Grade 9.

The class also recently completed an extra award, 'The Olympus Challenge', issued by Classics For All, which reflects students' dedication to Classical study. The awarding team were particularly impressed with Abdiasiiz's drawing of Hercules and the Nemean Lion, noting that his artistic skill is way beyond his years.



MACBETH

By Ms Knowles



On 17th March this year, we welcomed The Quantum Theatre Company to the Academy to perform Shakespeare's Macbeth for year 11. Staged in the sports hall with minimal set changes and traditional costumes, the small band of actors brought to life the play that year 11 had been studying for a year in preparation for their upcoming exams. Staff and students alike agreed this was an enjoyable way to revise the play and everyone felt the actors did an excellent job.

BUGSY MALONE

By Mr Rossell



'We could have been anything that we wanted to be, with all the talent we had' – and for a few days, we were, as Dixons Kings Academy experienced its first live musical theatre production with a 3-night run of the classic children's comedy 'Bugsy Malone'. It was all good clean fun – well, not so clean, maybe – with splurge guns firing foam across the stage, and custard pies galore, there had to be a lot of mopping and wiping, both after the show and during it! But behind all the slapstick was a lot of serious work from a cast and crew of more than 40 students and a large number of staff who revealed previously hidden talents in make-up, hairstyling, costume creation, props and set design, choreography and lighting.



BUGSY MALONE

By Mr Rossell



With our augmented stage, improved sound system and brand new state-of-the-art LED lighting rig, the school hall was transformed into an atmospheric theatre of dreams. The production drew the best from our talented performers, many of whom were acting / singing / dancing on stage for the first time. Whilst the show itself was memorable, with so much for the audience to enjoy, appreciate and laugh at, my enduring memory will be of a disparate group of young people, with differing ages, personalities and skills, working together as a team. They pulled off something which seemed all but impossible just a few weeks previously. The groundswell of goodwill from colleagues within the academy and from other Dixons academies, volunteering their time and talents to support the children despite their busy teaching schedules, is much appreciated. As the final song says, 'You give a little love and it all comes back to you!'

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD

By Ms Stamford



Our Year 9 students have been participating in training sessions for their Duke of Edinburgh Award during their enrichment sessions. The Award is designed to develop young people's confidence, commitment, independence and endurance. The development of such skills means that it is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers alike. The exciting news is that we are close to the fourth section of the award: the Expedition. This will provide a fantastic experience for students to develop their independence and explore the wonderful countryside we have in Yorkshire.

A reminder that Year 9 parents are invited to an information evening about the expedition on Thursday 26 May 17:00 or 18:00.



PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

By Ms Rehman

On Wednesday afternoons a group of students from year 7 to year 10 enjoy their time baking and cooking. They make different foods each week including cakes, sandwiches, pasta salad and cookies. The students thoroughly enjoy this as they learn new skills to prepare them for adulthood.

SOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANET

By Ms Salhi and Ms Ahmed

Some of our Y7 students have participated in the Solutions for the Planet project which aims to develop students' ideas and explore issues around climate crisis and sustainability. The students worked very hard and created innovative ideas that were successful. Students competed in the North regional finals. The finals took place at Bradford University on Friday 13 May, where students presented their projects and business ideas to a panel of 6 judges and other competitors from other schools. They calculated the finances, researched and developed marketing to produce a professional business plan.



Aminah Noor-Elahi, Sumayyah Kabir and Aisha Hassan were proudly selected to present their idea, they spoke confidently and demonstrated excellent understanding of purifying dirty water. Their project was called IWFC- International Water Funding Charity, which aims to tackle purifying polluted water for those less fortunate living in poorer countries.



Haleema Sadia, Amina Akram, Izza Nawaz and Mysha Hussain formed our second group of finalists- Operation Ocean. Their big sustainable idea was removing pollution from our oceans and recycling the materials. They presented confidently and backed their ideas with scientific evidence.



Dixons Kings Academy and the Solutions for the Planet team are very proud of the diligence of each team, unfortunately, we didn't make it to the national finals, however, there are 5 wildcards available so we are hoping we are given the chance to compete again at the national finals. A huge well done to the teams and good luck!

SPORTS REPORT

By Mrs Oliver



Since the start of the new academic year, sport at Dixons Kings has really taken off. Extra-curricular activities, enrichment, competitions and the Dixons Cup are all back up and running. The academic year started in a positive way with the Year 7 boys' football team coming runners up in the Dixons Cup 7-a-side tournament. The stand out player in this tournament was Musa Majahid, scoring an unbelievable goal to secure our second place. The team were unlucky not to have clinched the title.

The Year 7 mixed dodgeball team also claimed second place in their Dixons Cup competition. Students showed excellent diligence and resilience, competing to the last minute, again losing by the narrowest of margins.

Then came the turn of the Year 8/9 basketball team, competing against teams known for their skill and prowess on the court. Our students were not deterred by this, it only fuelled their desire to win...and win they did! Mustafa Mohammed was the man of the tournament, scoring two three pointers, the only ones in the competition.

Students have also participated in badminton and netball, benefiting from the experience of playing these games competitively, against students from other schools.

This season saw the emergence of a very successful U15 football team. They were entered into the Bradford Schools Football Cup for the first time and had an incredible journey through to the semi-finals. On the way to playing St Bedes in the semis, the team beat Grange, Dixons Cottingley, Dixons City and Dixons Trinity. The boys were unlucky in the semis, playing tremendously. It was a proud moment for Mr Dar and Mr Khalid and the players themselves.

We hope to build on these successes as we continue into the summer with rounders and cricket matches on the way.