

# DIXONS KINGS DIGEST



## TERM DATES

### **2022.23 Term 1**

30 August 2022 Academy opens

21 October 2022 Academy closes

### **2022.23 Term 2**

7 November 2022 Academy opens

1 December 2022 Planning & Data Day (Academy closed)

2 December 2022 Planning & Data Day (Academy closed)

16 December 2022 Academy closes

### **2022.23 Term 3**

3 January 2023 Academy opens

2 February Dixons Academies Trust Conference Day (Academy closed)

10 February 2023 Academy closes

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Families,

It has been a busy term, but I am very pleased that school life has returned to normal. Our Year 11s this year secured outstanding results demonstrating that, even under such difficult conditions, the teaching and learning at DKA was exceptional. This is what we are here to do; every minute of every day is aimed at ensuring that your child achieves the very best outcomes.

It has been great to welcome our new cohort of Year 7 students. After only a few weeks with us, they are already demonstrating our three core values and acclimatising to life at DKA.

There are some key areas of focus for the next term. As you know we have very high expectations and two of these are being fully equipped and completing all homework.

There have been a lot of detentions over this term for equipment and homework and I am keen to make sure that we reduce these as far as possible. Being equipped is easy; make sure you have all the necessary things every night and if you have any missing items, make sure you get to school early to buy these from the stationery shop. With homework make sure you are recording all homework correctly in your planner and if you are finding homework challenging, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to seek help from your teacher.

Attendance must be a key focus over the next term. If our students are not in school, they are not learning. Every day missed is a lost opportunity. Please make every effort to minimise the days off you are allowing your child.

The next term is a busy one with lots of cycle assessments, please make sure the revision you are doing is productive.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

## FAREWELL & WELCOME

*By Ms Hickey*

It has come to the time of the year when we have to say goodbye to some of our staff. Mr Harrap and Ms Wheatley are leaving us at October half term and we would like to wish them all the best in their exciting new roles.

After the half term break we will welcome Ms Fergus, who will be joining the geography department and we will also have a member of staff rejoining the Academy. Mrs Milner will return to the catering team and we are all looking forward to having her back.

# POSITIVE CHOICES

*By Mr Gayle*



During this term, Year 9 and 10 students have had the opportunity to experience a drop down day run by a group called Positive Choices. As the name suggests, the main aim of this day is to encourage young people to make positive choices in their life and avoid negative ones.

Students were thoroughly engaged by the guest speakers which included (amongst others) a mother who had lost her son to knife crime, a reformed gang member and prisoner who now speaks to young people about avoiding grooming and similar mistakes to his own, a reformed drug dealer who now runs a business which focuses on personal training for young people with behavioural problems and the West Yorkshire police who took the students step-by-step through a murder investigation.

The sessions were thought provoking and students asked insightful questions of all the guests. We hope that the students take away

the main message of the day which was to think carefully about the choices that they are making on a daily basis and ensure that they are as positive as possible.

Whilst we hope that our students are not exposed to dangerous things outside school, we recognise that the society that we live in can be dangerous for anyone, no matter how well looked after they are. Exposure to the lived experience of people who have made some poor choices in their life and an understanding of the consequences of these choices should make our students better equipped to make the right choices if they are faced with similar ones.

# LITERACY CORNER

*By Ms Ashraf*

Miss Ashraf's short story enrichment wanted the school to get in the Halloween spirit by writing some horror stories! Here are some extracts from their short stories.

## **The Spooky House of Shady Lane**

by Yahya Bin Hamza

In the late 90s, there lived John and a family of 6, who were evicted from their own house and John also lost his job. His wife, Tracey, decided that they needed to find a cheaper place to live. One day John came across an old, abandoned mansion on a country road. Without any hesitation John bought the property. On moving day, the family pulled up to the house and John's son, Jack, saw a mysterious shadow pass by the attic window. He knew something wasn't right. As they unpacked and removed all of the cobwebs, an unexpected visitor knocked at the door.



## **Outbreak of the Killer Clown**

by Maryam Ekbal

Jenny was running as fast as she could. She was running towards a door. As soon as she reached the door, she flung it open. Inside was another hallway. She heard footsteps coming closer and closer towards her from behind. She quickly shut the door behind her and carried on running.

## **The Whistling**

by Maleeya Najeeb

I was walking through the park under my umbrella. I was drenched but it felt amazing. The park was dark and no one was around. I sat on a bench and I looked up at the dark sky. It was so beautiful. Suddenly, a whistling sound spoiled my moment of peace. I told myself that it was just a bird, but the whistling got louder. I felt myself shiver and I felt terror.

# STUDENT BOOK REVIEW

*By Noor-Fatima Akram*

## **Spook's Apprentice by Joseph Delaney**

If you love a good thrill and like a good spook then this is the book for you. From never-ending mysteries to never-ending chills down your spine. Welcoming you in to a world where the impossible is possible.



# LONDON APPRENTICE

*By Mr Rafiq*

During the last week of term in July a group of 30 students took part in our annual London Apprentice residential challenge.

To prepare, students worked diligently in groups throughout the year to design Apps and prepare a group pitch to present their App idea to App developers in London.

This year the developer had to postpone the pitches as our visit coincided with the hottest day of the year and the App developers had closed their London offices due to the extreme weather. Nevertheless, we were extremely proud of the work done by each team, led superbly by their project managers.

During their stay in London, students had the opportunity to explore London and experience some of the famous landmarks such as the London Eye, to take a river cruise on River Thames and visit Madam Tussauds as well as Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square & Westminster. Students also had the opportunity for some retail therapy at Camden Market and Oxford Street. All students had a wonderful experience and enjoyed the lovely weather in London.



## BRADFORD SEND PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

To access the most up to date information on Bradford SEND & Local Offer, please see the most recent newsletter from the [Bradford SEND Partnership](#).

## SPORTS REPORT

*By Mr Darr*

Following a successful cup run last year, which only ended with defeat on penalties against St. Bede's, the year 11 boys' football team got off to a shaky start this season. However, the two opening defeats against Dixons Cottingley and South Craven were followed up with two victories in two days. The first, a close 2-1 win against local rivals Dixons Allerton and the second, a convincing 4-1 victory against Carlton Keighley. Hopefully, this gives the boys some momentum going into the remaining fixtures.



## PSHE Association

### Coming up next term:

Year 7: County Lines, First Aid & Managing Emotions

Year 8: Homophobia, transphobia and biphobia and Stereotypes

Year 9: Body Image and Healthy Living

Year 10: Mental Health and Challenging Stigma around Mental Health

Year 11: KS5 Transition and Mock Interview Preparation

## PSHE UPDATE

*By Mrs Labella*

In PSHE this term Year 7 students have covered the topics of Secondary School Transition, Bullying and Cyberbullying and Forming Positive Relationships.

Year 8 students have been focusing on Peer Influence, Substance Abuse, Exam stress and using the accepted language to discuss the LGBTQ+ community.

Year 9 students have been studying Healthy and Unhealthy Social Groups, Gang Culture, Peer Pressure, Knife Crime and Health.

Year 10 have been focusing on Study Expectations, Growth Mindset and Managing Changes During Adolescence.

Year 11 have been exploring their KS5 options and have had visits from different KS5 providers from across the city.

## WHAT'S ON IN BRADFORD

Bradford Cathedral Family Activities return for October Half Term. There are lots of things to see, do and discover for children of all ages, at the free Bradford Cathedral Family Activities on Tuesday 25th October.

Free family activities are back again at Bradford Cathedral for the Autumn half term. There are two free sessions on Tuesday 25th October, between 10am and 12noon and 1pm and 3pm.

Maggie Myers, Bradford Cathedral's Director of Education and Visitors, says: "We're looking forward to welcoming children and their carers to our October half-term holiday activity sessions on Tuesday 25th October. You can either come from 10-12 or from 1-3. As it's Autumn, there will be lots of Autumn-related activities and colouring for the whole family to enjoy, as well as family-friendly guided tours at 11am and 2pm for those who would like a tour of the Cathedral."



"The Cathedral will also be open on that day for families to look around in their own time and there are always Cathedral quizzes and trails to keep the children busy! Refreshments are also available."



Bradford West Family Hub are holding a Keeping Warm Community Event and everyone is welcome. The event takes place in October half term at West Family Hub Farcliffe Children's Centre, 56 Toller Lane, Bradford, BD8 8QH.

There will be free activities and autumn arts and crafts for children and free support and advice for parents on:

- Benefits
- Housing
- Domestic Abuse
- Parenting
- Mental health
- Education issues
- 2-year offer

## KEEPING WARM COMMUNITY EVENT

During the event there will be free hot soup, bread rolls, hot drinks and juice. There will be free winter hats, scarves, coats, gloves and onesies available to take.

There will also be free children's books and a free toy raffle.

The event is taking place on 26 October from 10am until 2pm.