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Message from the Principal



Nick Weller—Principal

As you will read in this newsletter we have had a very crowded two terms in respect of trips, with our Year 7 students visiting Boppard and Cantabria and our Year 9 students going to Paris.

I very much enjoyed visiting our Year 8s at camp this year. Students enjoyed great weather throughout both weeks and whole-heartedly participated in a wide variety of outdoor and team-building activities. I am sure the lessons they have learned will

be excellent preparation for the greater demands on them as they move into Year 9.

We have also enjoyed a wide range of productions. **Dynami-que** was a very enjoyable show which clearly demonstrated the progress made in the way that dance is becoming more established in the school.

Our **Gala Concert** was a wonderful opportunity to see some of our younger musicians performing. It is always reassuring to know that we have such young talent coming up through the school to replace those who are leaving. This year's Year 13s have excelled in the Performing Arts and will be greatly missed.

STARS was a highly enjoyable show from start to finish and probably the most technically slick production ever!

We have had a good year academically and look forward with confidence to some excellent results this summer.

This will be a very important time for us as we open our second school, which will be known as Dixons Allerton Academy, on the current Rhodesway school site.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer break. In the meantime I would like to wish our students, staff and all our families, a very enjoyable and well earned holiday.

Year 9 Paris Trip

The annual **Year 9** visit to Paris took place this year during the first weekend of June. 26 students accompanied by Mrs Jordan, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Toby, left the Academy on Thursday 4th June and travelled overnight to Paris. Friday was spent enjoying the sights of Paris, including the Eiffel Tower and a boat trip on the river Seine. On Saturday there was a full day at the Disneyland resort. The group travelled back overnight, arriving

at the Academy on Sunday morning. As always the experience was enjoyable and educational. Students impressed their teachers and members of the

public who commented on their maturity and good manners. They were a credit to themselves and to the Academy.



Carnegie Shadowing Scheme

The Carnegie Medal is awarded each year to the most outstanding novel for young people. Our students have the opportunity to shadow the judging process; reading the shortlisted books, writing reviews and sharing their views.

This has been our most successful year yet with:

- 38 students reading a total of 165 books.
- 12 students reading all 7 shortlisted books.
- 45 reviews were posted on the website.

Prizes were awarded as follows: **Best Review: Y7** Irram Amjid, **Y8** Natasha Pearson, **Y9** Bethany Gill, **Y10** Jasleen Kaur, **Y12** Hannah Strachan. **For most reviews submitted:** Francesca Pearson, Tai Lister. **For reading all 7 books:**

Y7 Tai Lister, Jacob Brewer. **Y8** Francesca Pearson, Connor Lofthouse. **Y9** Daniel Walker, Hannah Minshull, Violetta Kundu, Aamir Mir. **Y10** Jasleen Kaur, Faizal Patel. **Y12** Hannah Strachan

Library Spring Clean

To make space for our exciting collection of new books, students were offered the chance to buy surplus stock at only 20p per book. We raised a total of £80.80 which will be donated to Childline.



FRIENDS OF DIXONS / PTA

Make a note in your Diary. An exciting fundraising event is being planned by our new fundraising committee.

Family Fun Day & Sponsored Walk in Bowling Park
Saturday 12 September
12:00 to 5:00 pm

B B Q

Children's Games & Activities Prizes

Magic Show
Giant Tombola
Bouncy Castle

Café, Cakes & Sweets
Plants—Books—Bric a Brac

If you would like to take part in the sponsored walk come along and have a great time. You can walk, run, skip, jump, sing or whistle your way round, fancy dress optional but we hope you will join us! Collect your Sponsor Form from reception

Come along and show your support it will be a fun day All funds raised by the Friends of Dixons PTA will be allocated to providing additional resources for students attending Dixons City Academy

Performing Arts Update

Connor Philipson, 8A has landed himself a part in Cameron Mackintosh's production of 'Oliver' in the West End. Well done Connor!



Y8 Eco—Challenge Project

After taking part in the Eco-challenge residential in November at Preston Montford Field Centre, 30 Year 8 students set about completing their post course eco project. This involved spending a half day clearing litter from some of the greener areas around the Academy and planting some unusual English apple trees. The students were astonished by the amount of litter they collected. During one of two twilight sessions students made bird feeders and located them around the Academy grounds along with bird boxes for Robins, Great Tits and Blue Tits. They also constructed a log pile as a habitat for a range of invertebrates. For the second session students visited West Bowling Community Orchard which is run by Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES). Students assisted by weeding, pruning, clearing scrub and constructing insect homes. The project increased student awareness of the ecology of the Academy and its locality and sustainability issues. A great deal of effort went into the project and it would not have been possible without the support of BEES. There is a display of photos and activities related to the Eco-Challenge project on the Science corridor.



Free School Meals

The Academy has a concern that not all students who are entitled to free school meals are, in fact, claiming this benefit. To be eligible, the family must be receiving any of the following: Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), or Guarantee Pension Credit. If you are in this position please contact Mrs Coupe in the General Office.

Whilst writing I would also remind you that if your family circumstances change in any way, for example you start receiving any of the above, or you cease receiving these benefits, please inform the General Office.

The free meals system is organised in such a way that no student is embarrassed.

Any discussions or correspondence in this respect are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Bradford Robotic Telescope



The telescope in Tenerife and Jupiter with four moons

Two **Year 9** Badminton teams represented Bradford in the **West Yorkshire Youth Games** and were runners-up. The teams consisted of Jack Hannam Pearson, Ed Gribbin, Alex Ainsworth, Andy Buckingham, Emma Brotherton, Raissa Charles, Rachel Harrison, Esther Bavington and Emma Strachan—Well done to all those who took part.



The Bradford Robotic Telescope is not actually in Bradford, nor is it a robot. Unfortunately, the night sky in Bradford suffers from light pollution from street lamps, which obscure all but the brightest stars and planets. The Bradford Robotic Telescope installation is part of the Observatorio del Teide site of the Instituto De Astrofísica De Canarias, in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. The Teide Observatory is the best in Europe and is situated at an altitude of 2,400 metres (7,874 feet) on the northern

part of the volcano caldera.

Through the University of Bradford, the **Academy** has taken out a subscription to the BRT. This means that students can put in requests for the telescope to take photographs for them. Recently, a **Year 8** group researched the work of Galileo and his observations of Jupiter's Moons. His work was very controversial at the time, and he was very nearly executed by the Church as a heretic! He suggested that everything does not orbit the

Earth, and his proof was that the moons of Jupiter orbit Jupiter. His work confirmed a radical theory at the time, that in fact the planets in the Solar System orbit the Sun, not the Earth. **Year 8** students were able to request photographs of Jupiter's moons and observe their regular orbits around Jupiter. If you are interested, take a look at schools.telescope.org. If you would like a user name and password, please see

Mr Bendall.

Media, Films & Photographs

From time to time the Academy receives requests from the media to take photographs and/or films of Academy events and activities.

In the majority of cases most parents are happy for their children to be photographed providing that appropriate safe-

guards are implemented which, of course, are always observed by us. Photos and images of our students remain anonymous and students are referred to as "Academy students".

If you do not wish your child to be photographed or filmed, for public relations purposes, please

contact the Academy's General Office. In the event that we do not hear from you we will assume that we have your permission.

If you have any queries in respect of this issue please call the Academy on 01274 220729.

Year 7 Residential

The Year 7 Residential to Santillana del Mar, Cantabria, Spain is taking place as this newsletter goes to press and it is anticipated to be as successful as every one which has taken place to date. In addition to practising their Spanish learnt so far, the 42 students and 5 staff will be savouring

the delights of the region, including a cable car ride up the mountain at Fuente Dé, Potes, Comillas, the Gaudí building 'El Capricho', and the Altamira prehistoric Cave Painting Museum, where students will be involved in a 'hunting' workshop. Students will also visit Santander and get to know the

town by competing in a town trail, visiting the Maritime Museum and practising games on the famous beach. We're keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather!

Miss Viner's Year 9 Business classes have donated lots of money from their profit at Enterprise Day to their chosen charities:

9A donated £20 to Diabetes UK. 9C donated £35 to British Heart Foundation - particular congratulations go to **Jake and Calvin** for donating £18!

9Y donated an amazing £60 to Muscular Dystrophy - particular congratulations go to **Neha, Taiyibah,**

Suostsett and Emma who donated all their money £37.60!

The UK Junior Maths Challenge took place in April, with certificates awarded to the top 40% in the country. The first 8% receive Gold, the next 12% Silver and the next 20%, Bronze. This is a national competition aimed at Year 7 & 8 students.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded Certificates:

Silver: Malak Shahein 8W

Bronze: Anish Patel 8Y, Victoria Kitching 7X, Hassan Iqbal 7B, Kiran Deol 7Y, Bethany Hey 7X, Anis Naeem 7Y, Aron Worley 7C

Thank you to everyone who took part.

2010 INTAKE

If your child is currently in Year 5 (date of birth range 01/09/1998 to 31/08/1999), and you wish to register an interest in applying for entry in September 2010, please submit the following information to us *in writing*:

- Full name, date of birth, present school and home address of the child.
- Name of parent(s)/guardian(s) Address of parent(s)/guardian(s), if different to the child's address. Details can be sent

either: By e-mail to: info@dixonsca.com or

By post to: Admissions Secretary, Dixons City Academy, Ripley Street, Bradford, BD5 7RR.

Please mark the envelope **FAO Admissions**

On receipt of this information, an acknowledgement will be sent to you. Application packs will then follow by post at the end of July. If you do not receive an acknowledgement or pack, please contact us immediately.



Water for the World Project

Britain's first education programme raising awareness of global water sustainability issues is being introduced across the country by Engineers Without Borders UK and the engineering firm Arup. On Friday 27th

March engineers from the multinational company Arup came into a **Year 8** and a **Year 10** Science lesson to teach the groups about their work in providing water supplies to developing countries. Students were entertained with presentations, quizzes and an exciting practical where they had to build a working water filter. Students worked in small teams, and were allocated a country name. Some developing countries, such as Zambia, only had a small amount of credits to purchase materials for their water filter, while countries such as USA and UK could purchase all the

materials necessary. However, when dirty water was poured through, the best filter wasn't necessarily the most expensive. The photo shows a **Year 8** team celebrating the success of their water filter.

