

An abstract geometric graphic composed of several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. The shapes are primarily oriented towards the top right corner of the frame.

# Dixons City

Newsletter – Cycle Three

RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DETERMINATION

## **Contents -**

Events and accomplishments since Easter, across all the school, can be found in this Newsletter. From Sporting achievements to artistic progress, community events for you to enjoy.

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## **School Opening Hours**

School will open it's doors to students from 7.30am every morning. Before this there will be no access to the school buildings for students.

School closes to students at 4.40 Monday to Wednesday and at 3.40 on a Thursday and Friday.

Any students choosing to stay in school must be in the Library where supervising staff will be available. For safeguarding reasons students cannot be on site after these times unless they are with a member of staff for a pre-arranged school activity.

- Mr C Bell

# Principal's Message

Dear families,

As we bring the 2024–2025 academic year to a close, I want to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements and vibrant spirit that have defined our school community over the past twelve months. Our students have consistently embodied our core values of respect, integrity, and determination, and this newsletter highlights just some of the many moments that made this year so special.

This term has been particularly memorable. Our Year 11 students approached their GCSE exams with focus and resilience, and we marked the end of their journey with a heartfelt Leavers' Assembly and a joyful Prom. At the same time, we welcomed our future Year 7s during Transition Day, offering them a warm introduction to life at City and the routines that shape our culture. Our Year 10 geographers ventured out on a field trip to explore the coastline, applying their classroom learning in a real-world setting.

This year also saw our first Community Iftar, where over 200 students, families, and staff came together to celebrate unity during Ramadan. We were proud to be shortlisted for the T&A School of the Year Award in Bradford – an honour that reflects the dedication of our entire community. In addition, our designation as a Lead Music School by the West Yorkshire Music Hub has opened exciting new opportunities for our students to develop their musical talents.

We were delighted with our successful Ofsted inspection at the beginning of the academic year. The report praised our high standards and the positive culture that permeates the academy. You can read the full report here:  
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50262684>.

Students from Years 7 to 10 also represented the academy at the first-ever Trust Sports Day, held in Manchester, recently. It was a fantastic



opportunity to demonstrate teamwork and sportsmanship alongside peers from other Dixons academies.

As I write, final rehearsals are underway for our end-of-year production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Judging by the energy and creativity in rehearsals, it promises to be a spectacular show. Some of our students from Years 9 and 10 will also be taking on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, developing essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and independence. We're also looking forward to the Trust Collaboration Concert, our recognition events, Sports Day, and the Dream Team celebration in the final week.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026, we remain committed to maintaining high expectations, excellent attendance, and a culture where every student can thrive. The new academic calendar is available on our website, and we encourage all families to review it, along with the Family Handbook, to ensure a strong start to the new year.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are building a community where every student can flourish.

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer.

Raouf Mohammed  
Principal

# Celebrating Outstanding Attendance and Punctuality!

We are incredibly proud to recognise the outstanding commitment of our students to attendance and punctuality. Congratulations to:

- 139 students who achieved the equivalent of 100% attendance
- 604 students who achieved 97% attendance or higher
- 305 students who arrived on time every school day

Your dedication to being present and punctual each day sets a fantastic example for your peers and contributes positively to your learning journey.

## **Why Attendance Matters**

Consistent attendance — particularly at 95% or above — is strongly linked to better academic performance, increased confidence, and positive social interactions. Students who attend regularly are more likely to achieve better qualifications, which in turn opens doors to higher earning potential and greater career opportunities in the future.

## **Attendance and Punctuality Expectations**

### **Punctuality Matters**

Students are expected to arrive on time every day. A student who arrives after the register starts but before it closes is marked as late. Students arriving after 08:50, when the register closes, will receive an unauthorised absence for the session, unless a valid reason is provided.

### **Term-Time Leave Reminder**

#### **A reminder to all parents and carers:**

Leave of absence during term time is not permitted. Any extended absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may result in a fixed penalty notice issued by the local authority, in accordance with their code of conduct and the national framework.

To ensure fairness and consistency, all requests for planned absence are referred to the local authority. Repeated or prolonged absences may lead to prosecution by the local authority.

Let's work together to ensure every student benefits from consistent, high-quality learning every school day.

## Year 7

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Year 7 have been amazing this year; they have showed determination in everything they have done. They have worked hard to get our routines right and embraced all the new changes thrown their way.

In terms of creativity, they have shown great passion and dedication in the performances they have taken part in and the creative projects they have taken part in too.

Year 7 have grown into lovely young people whose confidence seem to be growing day by day, I cannot wait to see what next year brings!

Thank you for all your hard work this year, year 7!  
Mrs Siddique  
Head of Year

## Year 7 - Science

This week, our bright-eyed Year 7 students took part in an eye-opening science lesson as they explored the anatomy of a cow's eye through dissection. There was a mixture of curiosity, excitement, and the occasional squeal, but all the students showed real focus and maturity as they got stuck in. Guided carefully by their teachers, they examined parts such as the cornea, lens, retina, and optic nerve-gaining a clearer vision of how our own eyes work. The session was a real pupil pleaser, sparking fantastic questions and insightful conversations. Students were able to see the links between their hands-on experience and the topics they've been learning in class, especially around light and how we perceive the world around us. Staff were impressed by the students' sharp observations and their respectful approach to the practical task. It was wonderful to witness such spectacular enthusiasm and teamwork. For many, it was their first dissection, and they took the challenge in stride-some may even have found their optic career path! These kinds of interactive lessons are a brilliant way to bring science to life, and it was clear that our Year 7s had a real eye for biology. Well done to everyone involved!



## Year 7 - Sport

The year 8 rounders team was involved in a Dixons Cup tournament yesterday at Dixons McMillan. It was their first set of fixtures of the year and it was their first game together as a team. Every single one of the girls were superb from start to finish and a credit to the academy, especially for how polite they were and encouraging of the opposition!

The girls managed to come away with 3 wins from 3 games and winning each fixtures by at least 3 rounders. We successfully beat Dixons Trinity, McMillan and Unity and as a result that takes DCA above Dixons Trinity Chapeltown back to the top of the standings in the Dixons Cup, with a cricket and rounders tournament remaining before finishing the year at the DAT Athletics Championships in Manchester.

If you teach any of the following today, please praise them for their performance at rounders:

Maira S  
Naomi S  
Maria A  
Aliza H  
Inayah I  
Emerald O  
Pooja G  
Austeja M  
Angel A



## Year 9

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What a fantastic year it has been for year 9. Students have all worked incredibly hard during the first year of their GCSE's. I'm looking forward to continuing to see all students thrive in their chosen subjects next year. Thank you to every student for demonstrating the DCA values in all they have done this year

Well done to all of the year 9 students who completed their bronze DofE award this year. At times it may have been challenging but I am so proud of your enthusiasm and teamwork to push through those challenges.

I am in awe of the incredible talent we have in year 9! This year's school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was certainly one to remember. Well done to all of the year 9 students who were involved in this, your hard work and dedication really shone through in your performances. We definitely have lots of future west end stars with us!

Wishing you all a safe and restful break over the summer and I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

# Year 10

As we come to the end of this academic year, it's a natural time to pause and reflect on the progress our Year 10 students have made. They have just completed their final cycle assessments of the year, and results should now be with families. These assessments are a key checkpoint and provide valuable insight into how students are progressing across their subjects. It is really important that families take time to discuss these results with their child, identifying strengths to be celebrated and areas where greater focus might be needed. As students now prepare to enter Year 11—their final and most important year of secondary education—the conversations around progress, effort, and next steps are more crucial than ever.

Year 11 marks the culmination of their GCSE journey, and the year ahead will bring both challenge and opportunity. There will be mock exams, revision, coursework deadlines, and of course, the final GCSE exams next summer. To give themselves the best chance of success, students need to be fully engaged from the very start of the new school year. One of the most important factors in achieving strong outcomes is attendance. There is a clear link between excellent attendance and academic success: students with attendance of 95% or higher are far more likely to reach or exceed their target grades. On the other hand, even small dips in attendance can have a big impact on learning and long-term progress. As always, we are here to support both students and families in ensuring attendance remains strong.

We are proud of how far our Year 10s have come this year, and with the right mindset, support, and consistency, they are well placed for a successful Year 11. It's a big year ahead—but we believe in every one of them.

As Head and Assistant Head of Year 10, we wanted to take a moment to personally thank and congratulate all of our students for their hard work, growth, and resilience throughout what has been a demanding but rewarding year. We are both incredibly proud of everything this year group has achieved—from academic progress and improved attitudes to learning, to the many moments of leadership, kindness, and maturity we've seen along the way. It's been a real privilege to walk alongside them on this journey, and we're genuinely excited for what's to come in Year 11.

But before that journey begins, it's important that students take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy their summer break. We hope everyone has the chance to spend quality time with friends and family, enjoy the things they love, and, above all, stay safe. A proper rest now will mean they return in September with clear minds, renewed energy, and the motivation to give their best in their final year of school.

Next year will bring big challenges—but also big rewards. If we work together with focus, consistency, and belief, there's no reason every single student can't achieve something they're proud of. And, of course, we'll have the ultimate reward to look forward to at the end: celebrating all of their hard work and success together at prom.

Enjoy your break, stay safe, and we'll see you in September—refreshed, ready, and raring to go.

Mr Mohammad & Braithwaite  
Head and Assistant Head of Year 10

# Year 11

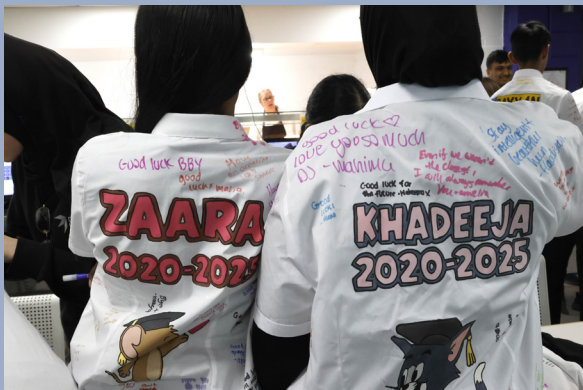
The time has finally come to say goodbye to all of our truly amazing Year 11 students. It is with a heavy heart, but also immense pride, that I can say the GCSE exams are now over and our students have finished the journey at DCA. Both students and families should be very proud of how the students conducted themselves throughout a challenging exam period, they were absolutely fantastic. The attitude of all students during the exams was perfect and students clearly demonstrated great determination and integrity, being true to the values that we instill at DCA.

The end of the final exam was a lovely affair, with Year 11 students gathering for our ceremonial shirt signing session. It was lovely to see the joy and emotion on their faces, as they celebrated with close friends and teachers. It is moments like this that will long stay in the memory, which they will be able to look back on and smile in years to come. We wish all of our Year 11 leavers the very best of luck in their future endeavours, as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey at various Post 16 providers. We always love to stay in touch with students and find out what exciting career paths they take.

The students will now have a well earned rest, before reconvening in our theatre for their Year 11 leavers assembly on the morning of Friday 4th July. Students will come together to share some farewell talks from teaching staff who have had an impact on their school journey. The occasion will also have various video montages from sports day, drama productions, their Ullswater trip from 2022 and a musical performance. Later on in the same evening, students will then be welcomed to the Year 11 Prom at the stunning White Abbey Ballrooms. This is a celebration of the hard work and effort all our students have put into their studies over the past five years. A Year 11 Prom is always an exciting and memorable occasion for students to celebrate with friends and staff who have worked so closely with them.

We will then welcome Year 11 students back to DCA for one final time, when they collect their GCSE results on Thursday 21st July 2025. We will be on hand to celebrate the success of students and offer support and guidance to those who may need it. It leaves me to say thank you to all the families for their continued support. It has been an absolute privilege to play a small part in the lives of such an amazing group of students. Take care 'Class of 2025.'

Mr Lafferty.



# Sport - Rounders

Starting off with the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls' rounders tournaments that have been taking place. The year 8 fixture, where the students did amazingly, coming first place earning 100 points towards our final Dixons Cup total. But we have also taken a Year 7 team out before this who managed to earn a joint second place but just missed out due to the number of runs scored overall as you cannot have a joint place finish. So ultimately, they came third, but still that was another 50 points towards our total, and in particular with our Year 7 students for some of them this would have been their first ever sports fixture and their first time representing our school so I'm sure there will be more to come from them in the future. We finished off the rounders fixtures with a fantastic display from our Year 9/10 team, who just like the Year 8's, managed another first-place finish. The girls played so well and really represented our school in the best way, demonstrating all the values we expect of them. We beat McMillan 9.5 - 2.5, and then Trinity 11.5 - 5, so as you can see it wasn't even close! Rounders overall for us has been very successful and the girls involved deserve a lot of credit for just how well they have all played.



## Sport - Cricket

As well as rounders, for the past two Monday's we have also taken Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 boys' and girls' teams to cricket tournaments at Dixons Allerton for the full day. The Year 7 and 8 boys team gave it their absolute best effort the whole time but just happened to come up against some amazing teams from the other Dixons schools. They ended up coming fourth, which is still very impressive for the number of schools that came, and they kept improving as the day went on so if they could have started like they ended they might have just crept into the point scoring positions.

However, our Year 7 and 8 girls' team did manage to score some points coming third in their tournaments, earning another 50 points! A bit of deja vu though as we actually came second but missed out due to run rate again. Finally, our Year 9 and 10 boys team put out some great performances under much worse conditions in the rain and wind on Monday, as they managed to secure a third-place finish. I am told with a bit more of a team cohesiveness, they could have possibly placed even higher. The girls Year 9 and 10 team, almost similar to the boys from Year 7 and 8, gave it their all but ultimately came just short of coming away with some points finishing fourth themselves. A lot of the games were really close though with only 5 runs in it so on another day it could have been a different result. Unlike rounders, cricket has not always been one of our strongest sports for attendance at after school club or definitely when taking teams to cricket tournaments is a massive achievement. Then on top of this we have also had consistent numbers of around 20 students turning up to extra-curricular cricket club after school on Thursdays, so it is definitely an area where we have improved and can keep improving over the coming years to see if we can push for second and first places finishes.



# Samba Band at Sports Day

As part of the Dixons collaborative sports day at the Manchester Regional Arena, one of the most inspiring and memorable moments came not from the track or field—but from the powerful performance of our collaborative samba band.

Students from across our schools came together to form a massive, high-energy samba ensemble, uniting over a shared passion for rhythm, music, and performance. This was a truly unique opportunity for pupils of all ages and backgrounds to collaborate creatively, and they rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and flair.

With vibrant beats, synchronized drumming, and infectious energy, the samba band filled the arena with a celebratory spirit that brought the entire event to life. The students demonstrated not only musical talent, but also remarkable teamwork, discipline, and joy—captivating the audience and creating a moment of pure unity and pride.

This collaborative samba project was a shining example of what can be achieved when students come together across schools to create something extraordinary. We are incredibly proud of every student who took part in this unforgettable performance.

## Providing Free Period Products in Schools: Supporting girls and families

### Supporting Families

Access to period products is a basic necessity, yet for many girls and families the cost can be a monthly burden. For school-aged girls the lack of access can lead to embarrassment, health issues and even missed learning opportunities – deepening educational and social inequalities. Providing free period products in schools is a simple yet powerful way to support students and families.

**PERIODS ARE NATURAL. PRODUCTS SHOULD BE FREE.**

Menstruation is a normal biological process, but stigma around it often prevents open discussion and inadequate support – school is a place where girls are able to openly express how they feel about their period and get support. By enabling female students to have access to period products ensures that no girl misses opportunities to learn or suffer in silence because of her period and instead, promotes dignity and self-confidence – which is at the core of our values here at Dixons City Academy.

**WHY NOT GIVE THE MODIBODI PERIOD PANTS A GO?...**

The scheme includes modibodi period pants, which are a period underwear which works by absorbing your period with a 3mm super absorbent lining. This clever technology is made from 3 layer, each with a different job. The layers include features such as drawing away moisture, naturally controlling odour, absorbing liquid and providing additional leak-proof protection for extra peace of mind.

**THE MOVIBODI PERIOD PANTS ARE USUALLY AROUND £15 RRP PER PAIR, BUT OUR STUDENTS CAN TRY THESE FOR FREE!...WHY NOT GIVE THESE A GO?**

The movibodi underwear is available in different absorbencies and can hold up to a maximum of 10 tampons and is easy to wash, providing a sustainable period product.

**AND – HOW DO I ACCESS THIS?..**

Many councils across the country and the government here in the UK recognise supporting menstruation as an essential part of public health within education policy. As a result of this, they supply a budget to schools which enables girls and families to have access to free period products. It's a small investment with a large return: healthier, more confident students with well-connected and supported families.

Providing free period products in schools isn't just about hygiene but supporting girls during their periods helps them to stay in school, supports families and contributes to our community. It's time to normalise periods so that no student is held back.

**TO ACCESS FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS – PLEASE JUST ASK YOUR ACADEMY NURSE, IF YOU NEED PERIOD PRODUCTS AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL!**

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## Why not give period pants a go?

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The pants are usually around £15 per pair RRP but are available for our students for free! Why not give these a go?

## Access

In order to access free period products, please encourage students to visit the Academy nurse and simply just ask – may this be to keep products in their lockers at school or if they need support at home with products.

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

How to get involved...

1. **Speak to the teacher**
2. **Collect and return a permission letter**
3. **Sign up**
4. **Attend each week!**

<b>Monday</b>				
Choir	String Group			
Music Dept	Music Dept			
8.15 - 8.45am	3.45 - 4.14pm			
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Guitar Group	Boys Football (Y7/8)	Fitness club	Concert Band	
Music Dept	Astroturf	Fitness suite	Music Dept	
8.15 - 8.45am	3.40 - 4.40pm	3.40 - 4.40pm	3.45 - 5.00pm	
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Wind Group	Boys Football (9/10/11)	Climbing	Soul Band	Music Theory Class
Music Dept	Astroturf	Sports hall	Music Dept	Music Dept
1.20 - 1.45pm	3.40 - 4.40pm	3.40 - 4.40pm	3.45 - 4.45pm	3.45 - 5.15pm
<b>Thursday</b>				
Samba Band	Girls Football (All Years)	Badminton	Dungeon & Dragons	
Music Dept	Astroturf	Sports hall	Drama Studio	
8.15 - 8.45am	2.45 - 3.45pm	2.45 - 3.45pm	2.45 - 3.45pm	
<b>Friday</b>				
R&B Singing Group	Running club	Musical Theatre Group	Creative Writing Club	
Music Dept	Yard	Drama Studio	Library	
Y8/10 12.50 - 1.15pm Y7/9/11 1.20 - 1.45pm	2.45 - 3.45pm	3.00 - 4.00pm	2.45 - 3.45pm	

# Art

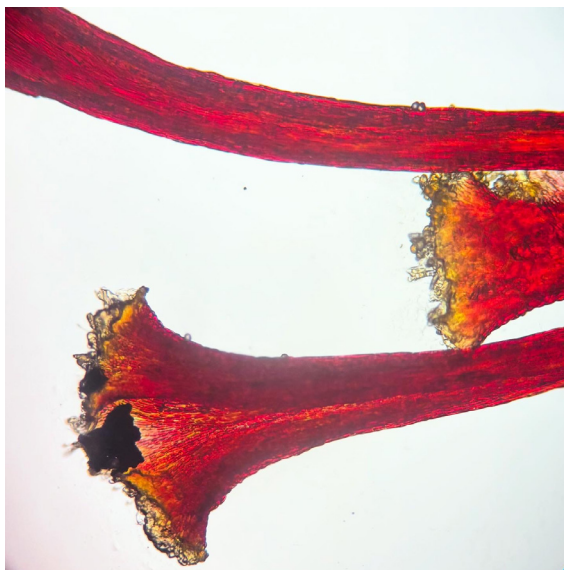
The Art department has been buzzing with creativity as we near the end of term 6.

Year 10 had a very successful mock exam with a range of brilliant outcomes at the end of the long day.

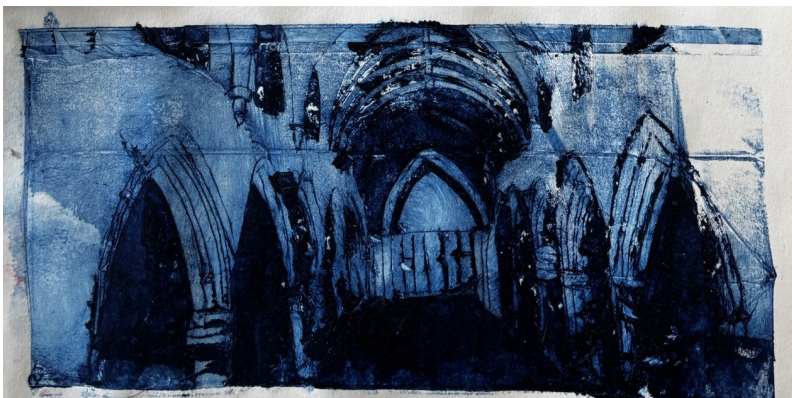
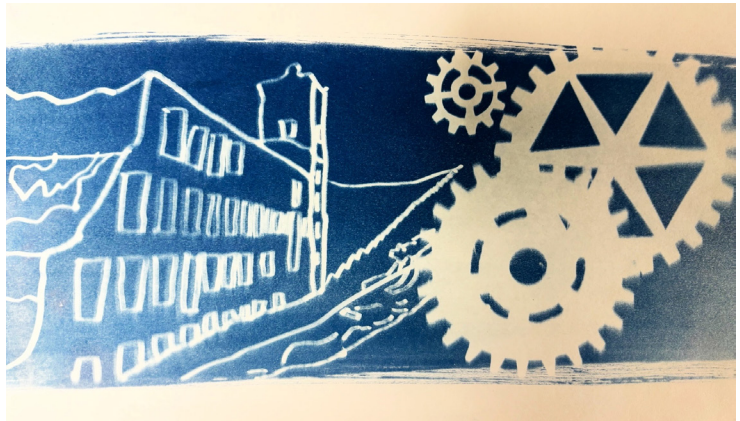


Sketchbook club have been busy developing their doodles and helping with the set for the upcoming Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

This term, our Year 9 Art students have been blending science and creativity. They've explored the fascinating world of cyanotype printing—a photographic technique that uses light-sensitive chemicals and UV light to create beautiful, blue-toned images. Making good use of the recent sunny weather we took our learning outdoors to create unique prints on the theme of Bradford. Students have also been using microscopes to study intricate natural patterns up close, using their findings as inspiration for their artwork. It's been a brilliant fusion of art and science, sparking curiosity and imagination in every lesson!



In the department we are all for lo-fi methods of making art. Using recycled milk and juice cartons and a pasta press we created a mini etching press. These are some of the outcomes students have been working on.



#### Dixons Academies Trust Art Exhibition 2025: JOY

We're thrilled to announce the launch of the Academy Trust's annual art exhibition, JOY—a vibrant celebration of creativity and expression. This year, we're especially proud that twelve outstanding pieces from our own students have been selected to feature in the show. Their work captures the essence of joy in art, showcasing both technical skill and emotional insight. It's a fantastic achievement and a wonderful opportunity for our young artists to shine on a wider stage. A link to the exhibition will be shared via the MCAS app.

# Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Congratulations to the student who took part in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, a **SOLD OUT** show!



This week's performances by the students of Dixons City Academy in *Charlie and the chocolate factory* the musical, were nothing short of spectacular. From the moment the curtain rose, the audience was treated to a dazzling display of talent, creativity, and sheer joy that left everyone smiling, laughing, and utterly captivated.

The students delivered a performance that rivaled professional theatre. Their acting, singing, and dancing were executed with such precision and confidence that it was easy to forget we were watching a school production. Every voice was clear and strong, every movement purposeful, and every moment on stage filled with energy and heart.

The comedic timing and seamless flow of dialogue kept the audience thoroughly entertained. Laughter echoed through the venue as each scene unfolded with charm and wit. The musical numbers were equally impressive—rhythmic, vibrant, and infectious. Many in the audience found themselves tapping along, swept up in the rhythm and spirit of the show.

The set design was a feast for the eyes. So vivid and imaginative were the displays that one could almost taste the sweets showcased on stage. The use of lighting, especially the choreography involving dancing lights, added a magical touch that elevated the entire experience.

This production was a testament to the dedication and creativity of the staff and students. Every detail—from the sets to the costumes to the choreography—reflected a deep commitment to excellence and a love for the craft. It was

clear that each student had an important role to play, and together they created something truly extraordinary.

Dixons City Academy has once again proven that its students are not only talented but also capable of greatness.

Bravo to all involved!



# MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)

## What is MyChildAtSchool?

MyChildAtSchool is an online portal that enables parents to view their child's performance at school in real time via any modern web browser (e.g. Edge, Firefox, Chrome, Safari etc.) and for today's busy parents, an app (for android or ios) which offers the same features.

Anytime access to Attendance, Behaviour, Assessment and student reports, letters or important documents. Student timetables alongside the school calendar and fully customisable Exam Timetables and results pages mean schools can keep parents fully informed electronically.

Communication through Push Notification (for the App), Announcements and important documents as well as enabling parent messaging to the school are all included features.

All communications to parents is now through the MCAS app rather than by text. If you haven't signed up yet, download the app from App store for apple mobile phones or Play Store for Android phones. Once you have downloaded the app, request a password reset and then you will have access to attendance, timetable, appreciation / behaviour data as well as cycle reports and exam timetables for GCSE and cycle 3 assessments. If you need any support with the app then please email [info@dixonsca.com](mailto:info@dixonsca.com) and put MCAS as the subject of the email and we will get back to you with some support.

## What's on in Bradford:

Recommended for year 11 -Black in Colour by Alex Anaughe 1Aug – 27 Oct @ South Square  
<https://southsquarecentre.co.uk/events/alex-anughe-joan-day-bursary-winnner-exhibition>

Recommended for year 10 - The 62 Group of Textiles Artists 8 Sept – 3 Nov @ Salts Mill  
<https://www.62group.org.uk/exhibitions/making-as-learning/>

Recommended for year 9 - The Portal, BD Walls, City of Culture 2025 @ Church Bank, Bradford Cathedral  
<https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/the-portal/>

Roots, BD Walls, City of Culture 2025 @ Bradford's MAPA Cultural Arts Centre  
<https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/roots/>



# RESPECT INTEGRITY DETERMINATION

Key links to the website;

Holidays - <https://www.dixonsca.com/calendar/term-dates-2022-23>

Uniform - <https://www.dixonsca.com/about/uniform>

Curriculum - <https://www.dixonsca.com/about/curriculum>

Homework Timetable - <https://www.dixonsca.com/about/homework-timetables>