The Academy achieves a positive GCSE Progress 8 score again!

The GCSE results in 2017 proved once again how well students, teachers, support staff and families work together to achieve fantastic results. For the third year in succession the Academy achieved a positive Progress 8 score, representing more than expected progress. English made significant progress with 63% of students achieving a grade 4 (equivalent to an old grade C) or better.

We had no students who left Year 11 who did not go onto further education, employment or training.

Improvements were evident at A-Level with all students going to study at university.

Uzair Ahmed (Year 13) achieved amazing results (A* in geography and psychology an A grade in biology). He will now complete a medical degree and become a doctor.

We are truly honoured to have so many dedicated students and staff at the Academy.

Ms Darwood

Getting your child to school on time every day really matters. Did you know:

If in a school year your child is late everyday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>Lost days from school</th>
<th>Missed lessons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your child’s attendance during the school year is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Lost days</th>
<th>Missed lessons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>9 days</td>
<td>36 lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>19 days</td>
<td>76 lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>29 days</td>
<td>116 lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>38 days</td>
<td>152 lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>48 days</td>
<td>192 lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>57 days</td>
<td>228 lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>67 days</td>
<td>268 lessons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You should not take your child on holiday during term time. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance. Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

Ms Satchell

Remembering Srebrenica

On Tuesday 14th November, GDA welcomed Rešad Trbonja from the charity; Remembering Srebrenica. Rešad spoke to Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form students in assemblies about the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Srebrenica genocide. The children were inspired by Rešad’s story and were engaged in his speech. We hope that students continue to remind themselves of Rešad’s key message that; “We can all live with each other, not just next to each other.”

Remembering Srebrenica works to educate people about the Srebrenica genocide and the lessons that can be learnt about the consequences of hatred.

The charity aims to stand up to hatred and intolerance to create more cohesive communities. Mr Shaw and Ms Darwood visited Bosnia in April and have since promoted the lessons that can be learnt from the conflict through PSHE lessons and a Football Memorial Event in July 2017. The Academy will continue to develop opportunities to promote these key messages to our young people.

Ms Darwood

The Academy achieves a positive GCSE Progress 8 score again!

A grade in biology. He will now complete a medical degree and become a doctor.

We are truly honoured to have so many dedicated students and staff at the Academy.

Ms Darwood

Punctuality and Attendance at the Academy

The 1996 Education Act requires that every student should attend the academy and be on time. The Academy day begins at 8.40am, we expect every child to be in their form room by this time. Students who arrive after registration must sign in at student reception.

If families are aware that their child will be arriving late, they must contact the academy e.g. unplanned appointment at the doctors.

Lateness to the academy is monitored on a daily basis, a member of the Senior Leadership Team administers “Late Gate.”

Late gate is a system, whereby, students will receive a detention on the same day that they have been late, the length of the detention will mirror the amount of minutes they were late on that day. If they are late twice in a week, they will receive a detention after school, the following Friday.

Families receive a letter at the beginning of each term outlining the poor punctuality sanction of a no notice detention. If a student has 10 or more lates per half term, the families will be contacted and they will be under punctuality monitoring.

We thank you for all your support and we value the partnership between the academy and home.

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Ms Satchell
Sixth Form Trip to Dorset

Year 12 & 13 Geographers, with Mr Turner, Miss Jordan and Mr Hamilton explored the Jurassic coast of Dorset in October in preparation for their studies.

Activities ranged from beach profile measurements, geomorphology studies to sand dune succession. Harrow House Field study centre provided excellent accommodation and students had a great time, despite experiencing Storm Brian on the Saturday!

Highlights of the trip included Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Studland Bay. Despite lots of walking, it was a lot of fun counting waves and sketching coastal landforms. A big thank you goes to Mr Alyas for driving us in the minibus.

GDA Summer Fair

In July, enthusiastic year 12 students organised a summer fair to raise money for the charity Help Harry Help Others. The whole school enjoyed an exciting afternoon on the field taking part in activities such as tug of war, soaking the teachers and staff verses students rounders. The stalls and non-uniform day raised over £1300!

A Level Economics students at the Economics Conference at Solihull School

In July, the Academy staged an Employer Engagement Event for year 9. The first workshop was led by Barclays Life Skills and the second was a speed networking workshop. Students were communicative and curious, and impressed employers with their attitude, interest and engagement, with all employers offering to participate again next year.

In November, year 10 visited the Skills Show at the NEC. This is the nation’s largest skills and careers event, offering insights and activities in a huge range of careers. Students showed excellent engagement with employers and were great ambassadors for the Academy.

Twelve year 12 students have joined the second cohort working with Deloitte Corporate on a business challenge, following the success of last year. Students will gain a broad knowledge of employability skills and presentation skills and personal conduct in a professional environment. In October, professionals from Deloitte’s various offices visited GDA to run a workshop. Deloitte were so impressed, they invited students to insight days at their London and Birmingham offices.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Update

For the second year in succession, 100% of students leaving year 11 in 2017 were enrolled in further education. GDA had no NEETs (students Not in Employment, Education or Training), showing the quality of teaching and ambition of our students, supported by our Careers Education programme.

The Academy’s partnership with the University of Exeter goes from strength to strength with ten year 10 students at Easter, ten year 12 and fifty prospective year 12 students in July attending residentials. These students will receive extra support and mentoring from the university, helping students to plan and achieve high quality education at elite universities.

In July, Year 11 students at Exeter University

Year 9 Careers Fair

Year 10 students at Exeter University

Harry’s Mum collecting money raised at the Summer Fair with Rukhsar and Haashym in Year 13

Student Council Representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Council Representatives</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sofi Ondrasova &amp; Amit Bali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zayan Iqbal &amp; Imaan Obheeed</td>
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<td>Precious Gyasi &amp; Ehsanul Haque</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satveer Dhanjar &amp; Hajraa Asif</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed Fajaz Matin &amp; Aisha Ali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth Form</td>
<td>Gurjit Korotana &amp; Pradeep Neupane</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families are welcome to contact Mrs Buckingham (Careers Advisor) with any questions or concerns.

Mrs Buckingham
We are Medieval Builders!

You may have seen Miss Hussain’s room flooded with castles by Year 7. Based on real castles from the middle ages, they include features such as stone keep, curtain wall, curtain wall with round towers and castle palace.

The long list of very important rules:
1. The castles could be a maximum of 40cm wide and 35cm tall with the minimum at the size of a shoe box.
2. Teams could be a maximum of 4 people.
3. There will be 3 winners.
4. It must be a real castle that is not made up.
5. Have fun!

Zoe in 7.5 said “I think the project was creative because it got us to think about what a real castle looks like.” The next great builder we asked was Marya from 7.7 “…I worked very hard on this castle and I found it hard, I made a stone keep castle.”

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We hope to increase family participation at the Academy and would love to hear your thoughts by completing our questionnaire online at bit.ly/GDAFACE.

Soho Road and Birmingham City Centre Trip

In November, Year 11 Geographers took to the streets of Birmingham to carry out a land use survey comparing different areas of our city centre and Handsworth. A variety of buildings were found including the Bullring, Grand Central, ‘Desi Sweets’ and the German Marketers! Why not tell one of them about their experience?

Connecting Classrooms in Sri Lanka

During half term, Mr Lloyd and Mrs Thompson visited Matara Central College, a school in south Sri Lanka as part of ‘Connecting Classrooms’, a unique global education programme. Run in more than 30 countries by the British Council in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID), it equips teachers with knowledge and techniques to teach young people the skills they need to live and work in an increasingly globalised economy. The programme enables teachers to teach these 21st century core skills to children in their classroom and also to visit partner schools in other countries to exchange ideas on how to improve teaching and learning in their schools. GDA took part because of its commitment to preparing students to become well-rounded, truly global citizens. Students will work with their counterparts in Sri Lanka on an exciting project exploring the Sustainable Development Goal of tackling world hunger.

The warm welcome Mr Lloyd and Mrs Thompson received from the school, as well as being able share what we do at GDA with both staff and students, was an invaluable experience. The partnership will enable both schools to work together in the future, promoting collaborative learning with students and staff on the other side of the world.

GDA Prime Day

Following Mr Hamilton’s generous funding of student revision guides for Mathematics, teachers were upset to notice an error concerning the description of Prime Numbers. A Prime Number has exactly two factors, the number itself and the number one (1) only.

In order to address the error, we created a whole school event to re-inaugurate the true definition and increase engagement with Maths. We chose the 19th of July as the six figure date as 19.7.17 has three different Prime Numbers! Over a hundred staff were issued with a unique number, some were Prime and some were not. Each student had a booklet with all the numbers listed in order and they were asked to find the staff wearing Prime Numbers, staff signed the booklet without confirming if they were, in fact, a Prime number.

Booklets were checked to see who collected the most correct signatures, which took far longer than expected with so many entries! There was one absolute winner, with all Primes found. Masa Mahmoud (11.6) was awarded a certificate and scientific calculator as her prize!

Thanks to all staff, especially those with Prime Numbers, as they had to sign a lot of autographs that day.

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Freedom Ambassador Update

We have been busy this term, recruiting new ambassadors to help continue our work as we start preparing for our GCSEs. Following our successful Year 7 workshops last academic year, highlighting issues surrounding Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, we were keen to get students who attended these workshops, now in Year 8, involved as we plan this year’s workshops. We held an assembly with Year 8 and were really pleased with the responses and enthusiasm from so many students keen to take part. They created posters, wrote poems and gave speeches to show their knowledge and passion about making a difference, and we were really impressed with the effort and research undertaken.

Year 8 and 10 ambassadors are finalising this year’s Year 7 workshops, which we hope to take to primary schools in the near future. Freedom Ambassadors held a stall at the Year 7 FACE Tutor Evening in November and spoke to many families, informing them of our plans. We were really pleased with the responses and are looking forward to the workshops. We will be present at future parent’s evenings to interact with even more families.

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Freedom Ambassadors
Girls:
– 2 Perry Beeches 2.
Year 8 Girls:
Nishkam 0 – 0 GDA, St Pauls 2 – 0 GDA.
Year 7/8 Girls:
3 – 0 GDA (Aston Cup).
Year 9 Boys:
– 3 GDA (League), Bishop Challoner 5 – 0 GDA (ESFA).
Boys Football, Year 7 Boys:
regional finals. There are various events next term including Britain's Got Talent @ Broadway and opening ceremonies for Schools Games events.

Adama Jallow in Year 9 won best January. The judge opened it up to tips for their first competition in close debate, giving students lots of opposers the motion won after a floor speech, she is looking forward to taking her friends for food with her prize, a Nandos voucher! The first competition is at Shireland on 29th January, so look out for good news in the next newsletter!

Students' spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weakness, and their willingness to achieve.

Students' moral development involves acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right.

Students' social development involves acquiring an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being members of families and communities (local, national and global) and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good.

Students' cultural development involves acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences.

Death-Trap Theatre Visit
On 8th November, 30 year 10 and 11 Drama students went to the Alexandra Theatre to see the play “Death-trap”. This famous thriller has the record as the longest running show on Broadway. Starring Jessie Wallace and Paul Bradley (both of EastEnders fame), there were twists and turns that kept our eyes glued to the stage. Many of the students had never been to the theatre and didn’t know what to expect. They behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the academy. During the interval, many commented about the twist in the plot which no-one saw coming (if you have not seen the film, we highly recommend it). Students loved the show and have written evaluations and comparisons for their BTEC coursework. Our next theatre visits are in March and we are really looking forward to them!

Spirited Art Competition
Last term, during RE, Year 7, 8 and 9 took part in the NATRE Spirited Art Competition by creating a piece of art based on one chosen theme of their choice (Big, Big Questions/ Standing up for good/ The word of God/ Where is God/ Belief in action). Only 10 pieces could be entered, these were by Aleena Smile (8.2), Yao He (9.1), Faayiza Halliour (9.6), Halima Farouk (10.1) and Shri Kalimuthu 10.2 with Sadia Ahmadzai (10.2) in third place, Hansa Khan (9.4) in 2nd place and our winner was Satveer Dhanjal in 10.2. Thanks and well done to everyone who entered!

Thought for the Term:
"The time is always right to do what is right"
Martin Luther King Jr