I went to London on 29th July 2016 along with Ms Dewell, Ms Satchell, Ms Darwood and GDA Freedom Ambassadors, Jenecha and Elham. We were invited by Aneeta Prem (Freedom Charity) to the Cut Flowers book launch at the House of Commons, it was one of the best experiences of my life! Aneeta is the founder and lifetime President of The Freedom charity, which works to protect the lives of children and young people by raising awareness of forced marriage in the UK and dishonorable violence, including FGM.

When we arrived, we met the actress Miriam Margolyes OBE, who was very polite and kind. She asked us about our school, forced marriage and FGM and why we want to be Freedom Ambassadors. She said she was impressed with us. Then we meet Chloe Smith (MP for Norwich North) and Aneeta introduced us to other students from London.

We discussed how we spread awareness about FGM as Freedom ambassadors and how can we take ideas from Cut Flowers. After that, students were called to take photos with Aneeta and other VIPs. The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan arrived later and made a speech, including some facts about FGM. There was a woman sat in front of me and when Aneeta asked her to say something about the topic, I was confused. She walked towards the stage with a sad expression then she said something shocking, “I am a victim of FGM. FGM changed my life”. Every single one of us was shocked when she explained in detail how she felt when FGM happened to her, her husband and daughter were crying and after her speech ended everyone stood up and gave her a round of applause.

After the launch event ended we got a free copy of the book. Before I went to bed that night, I was thinking about the trip and how it taught me a lot about FGM. I’m more aware of other school’s plans and the day gave us ideas of what to do next.

Kanika Ratui, Year 8
Freedom Ambassador

On Monday 16th May our Duke of Edinburgh Leader, Miss Jordan, alongside GDA’s headmaster, Anthony Hamilton, were cordially invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the successes of the Duke of Edinburgh’s award. On its 60th anniversary the Duke of Edinburgh himself congratulated centres across the country for all of the hard work and dedication that goes into making this such a rewarding experience for young people. George Dixon Academy now runs the Silver Award in sixth form and is a fully licensed organisation with a sparkly plaque in the reception area!

'I love being a part of the Silver DoE, we are all very excited for the expedition next year and I will use this experience as part of my UCAS application!’ - Ravina Sabharwal, Year 12.

Ms Jordan
Outstanding Teaching

Mrs Deutsch explains why Triple Science Progress at GDA is exemplary at National Teacher’s Achievement Show

I was recently invited to speak at the 2016 ‘Achievement Show’ at the Emirates Stadium in London. This national show invites speakers from successful schools all over the country to share strategies and practical tips in achieving success. I ran a session about how we, at our Academy, achieve outstanding results in Triple Science. I talked about the strategies that myself, Mr Watson and Miss Ilyas use in order for our pupils to make outstanding progress. It was an honour to be selected on behalf of the Science department and an excellent experience to share our success at George Dixon with the rest of the country!

Mrs Deutsch

Year 8 Trip to the British Museum KS3 Maths Challenge Exhibition

On Friday 1st July, 25 students went to the British Museum in London to visit the Key Stage 3 Maths Challenge exhibition. This was a great opportunity for them to use the Mathematics they have learned in class to complete 8 separate challenges ranging from measuring the height of an ancient Greek building using applied trigonometry, to using a range of problem solving techniques to find a scale factor to compare an ancient Ming Dynasty banknote to a modern day five pound note. The students had a wonderful day and worked together beautifully to ensure that this was a very successful learning opportunity.

Ms Hall

Junior UK Maths Challenge

Over sixty year 7 and 8 students took part in the 2016 Junior UK Maths Challenge competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. 14 students achieved Gold certificates, with Best in Year and Best in School going to Shreekar Puranik in year 8, who qualified for the Kangaroo Round. Samair Hussain in year 7 achieved Best in Year and a Bronze certificate. In year 7, Andrea Dragomir and Shoalb Mirza both received Bronze certificates. In year 8, Nayera Elmahallawi received a Gold certificate. Silver Certificates went to Meron Mekecha, Mahima Begum and Khusi Patel. Bronze Certificates went to Sadia Ahmadzai, Maria Vegheja, Sundus Juma, Halima Farouk, Ifzal Khan and Tahrmirud Islam. Congratulations to all of these students who have worked extremely hard to achieve these awards!

Mrs Talwar

Clean Your Teeth Day at GDA!

On Monday 21st March, healthy changes took place around the Academy! The programme was arranged by the Academy Nurse, Ms Nicklin, Year 8 School Ambassadors and LRC Volunteers, thank you for your help! There were plenty of exciting activities going on in the LRC, including a TOMBOLA! Twenty lucky students won prizes, we also did the ‘Tooth in Cola’ experiment and students were shown how to brush their teeth the right way. Everyone who took part received a certificate. There was also a Healthy Teeth programme on the Smart Board notice board.

Thank you to all who took part! Well done to Varun Sharma in Year 8 and Faduma Ramadan in Year 7 for guessing the time the tooth was in Cola and getting full marks in the Form Time quiz, they each won an electric toothbrush!

Nayera Wail Year 8

SMSC Update

What is SMSC?

SMSC at GDA aims to help students’ understanding of themselves, their behaviour, their health and development. It develops the necessary skills and values for students to take on their future responsibilities as adults in our society.

Students’ spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, 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.

Miss Harris

Thought for the Term:

“W hat is SM SC?”

SMSC at GDA aims to help students to become confident, reflective, knowledgeable, effective learners and to develop values which support them as a citizen of the world.

New Work Related Learning and Careers Advisor

The academy has recently appointed a full time Work Related Learning and Careers Advisor, Mrs Buckingham. She is here to support students’ journey through the Academy to Sixth Form, College, Apprenticeship, University or Work.

All year 11 students will have their own impartial Information, Advice and Guidance Careers Interview. Students are also welcome to drop in to discuss their work experience placements to support their study programme. If you are in year twelve and thirteen, call in for a chat and she will share contacts or direct you to a suitable website.

Please look at the website below as guidance for courses and qualifications.

https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses

Year 10 Work Experience 12th to 16th December – can you help?

In December all our year 10 students will participate in work experience as part of their study programme. Many are engaged in finding places but we welcome support from our community of parents too. If you are able to offer a placement or know of an employer who will between 12th and 16th December please contact Mrs Buckingham at the Academy on 0121 556 6565 or by email at t.buckingham@georgedixonacademy. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Follow us @GeorgeDixonAcad
Performing Arts Update

Year 9 History students visit Birmingham Back to Backs

The visit was part of a cross-curricular History and Drama project that is being run by Midland Actors Theatre and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Year 9 History students have taken part in 6 sessions run by David Allen from MAT with a focus on emigration of Russian Jews to Birmingham in the late nineteenth century. Students have been taught the skills of oral history and have then filmed interviews with a local Rabbi and a descendant of Russian Jewish immigrants. The project included a visit to the National Trust’s Back to Backs. This helped students understand what it was like to live in Birmingham in the nineteenth century. Year 10 GCSE Drama students used these interviews to create a devised piece of drama that was performed at the Birmingham and Midland Institute on 5th July and was filmed for Midlands Today!

National Theatre Connections Festival 2016

Year 7 students, took part in the “Connections 500” festival (run by the National Theatre), at the Birmingham REP theatre. Students rehearsed the piece for months and already had feedback from professional theatre director Nik Partridge, who saw the students perform at the academy. Our students performed “Children of Killers” by award winning playwright Katori Hall. Many schools from the Birmingham area performed over the festival and GDA had the honour of closing the festival as the final act to perform on Saturday. We followed performances by the young REP Theatre Company and BOA Performing Arts Academy, which was a daunting task, but students rose to the occasion and did themselves proud. The students involved were: Krister Kapins, Satvir Heer, Fekilemarna Bormane, Haashym Khan, Pitar Goranov, Louise Mcdonald, Saira Din, Janine Sayers and Emily Ebanks.

West Midlands Debate Mate Cup

On Friday 22nd April, GDA students took part in the West Midlands region Debate Mate cup at Birmingham University and involved over 20 schools from the area. Both debate teams did very well, winning debates on topics such as “should all students be searched as they enter school”. One judge told us that the marks she awarded our team on the topic of “should military adverts be banned”, were the highest she had ever awarded! Team Captain, Naomi Reynolds, represented us well and had plenty of notes and research ready and waiting to lead her team to victory. This year was the first time most students had taken part in Debate mate and it was also a first for our mentor, Mitchell Groves. We hope to go back to the competition next year stronger and wiser, ready to beat the competition! If anyone is interested in joining, please speak to Miss Blakeman in W17.

Well done to all students who debated this year, everyone spoke eloquently and impressed older students with their maturity and ability.

Birmingham City University Art Department Trip

On 29th June, 10 students from GCSE art and textiles were chosen to attend a lino print workshop lead by University Art lectures last week with some amazing results. All pupils were able to design and create a print on paper and on t shirts whilst being coached through the process. The students then went on to see an exhibition of other schools and college’s artwork to get ideas for next year’s projects.

GDA Artwork in ‘Inspire 16’ Competition

Five students have been chosen to be part of a large exhibition for 11-16 year olds held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Students submitted their best piece of work this year and these have been photographed and enlarged and will be on display throughout the summer.

Please follow us on twitter @GeorgeDixonAcad
Academy Council Update

Food Review

The Academy council have participated in a review of school food in the summer term. This included a visit to City Kitchen Live at the City Serve headquarters. Council members worked with a chef to prepare food and discuss the types of food they would like served in the academy.

From September there will be an expansion of the free breakfast service available to all students. Fare Share will be supporting the academy in providing a range of free food from 8.15 each morning in the canteen.

Euros 2016 Year 8 Competition

With Euro 2016 coming soon, GDA organised a 5 a side competition to determine who will be crowned champions of Europe 2016. Each Year 8 form selected 5 players with each form representing a country taking part in Euro 2016.

Can 8.1 (Spain) play as a team? Does 8.2 (England) have a strong team in need of some serious footwork, teamwork and cohesion? Throughout the tournament teams demonstrated fancy footwork, teamwork and cohesion throughout. Players should be proud of their contribution and their performances. Many thanks to 6th form students Tinashé Kopakopa, Ahmed Mohammed and Bheki Shishifu Ncube, who officiated the tournament.

Winner: England
Runner up: France
3rd place: Germany
4th place: Spain
5th place: Italy
6th place: Poland
7th place: Greece
8th place: Croatia

Sports Results

Year 11 Girls Rounders
1st place in the Aston Schools Tournament.

Year 10 Boys Cricket (Docker Shield):
GDA 119 – 62 Hodge Hill.
GDA won by 57 runs.
GDA 86 – 87/6 KE Five Ways
King Edwards won by 4 wickets.

Year 10 Girls Rounders
4th place out of 9 at Holte Academy (beating Heartlands and Holyhead, drawing with Nishkam and losing against King Edwards).

Non-Contact Boxing Club

GDA’s non-contact boxing club is based on training concepts boxers use to keep fit, such as shadow-boxing, skipping, hitting pads, press-ups, shuttle-runs, squats and sit-ups. The club is open to all students, including those with no experiences of boxing, behavioural issues, an attitude to learning or those who are disengaged. There is no physical hitting of an opponent, it is a fun, challenging and safe workout and helps students by:

- Releasing aggression: students feel calm because any aggression is channelled and controlled. Even without physical contact, students are in control of their body and more confident about protecting themselves.
- Increasing discipline: and is also a great way to increase other areas of your life, mentally and emotionally.
- Concentrating: which stimulates the mind and boosts self-belief.

It’s a great sport for children and builds self-esteem and respect in young people who lack physical confidence.

Students honour the founder of George Dixon School

GDA students visited the grave alongside Ms Darwood, Mrs Bakewell, Mr Hamilton and members of the Dixon family. Relatives gave permission for students to remove some of the lichen that has built up over the years and lay a wreath of appreciation.

Academy Students Sports Day

Friday 22 July, from 9am
All are welcome to support!

Yr 8 Sudip Bhunia (1st place javelin), Nikodem Szweczyk (1st place shot put and 10th place 800m), Ion Ciuciu (2nd place javelin and 2nd place 100m), Safar Sharif (2nd place 100m), Igor Nazarovs (7th place 800m), Zamin Hussain (3rd place 200m) and Nicolas Tomescu (2nd place 200m).

Students at GDA Boxing Club

Students at GDA Rounders

The GDA Team trying all the delicious food they made!

The winners, 8.2 (representing England), with their certificates!

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