Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands visits GDA!

Mr. Paul Sabapathy CBE was appointed Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands in October 2007. CBE means the Knight Commander or Dame Commander of the Most Excellent. Born in Chennai in India, Mr Sabapathy moved to the UK in 1964. He completed a Masters Degree from Aston University and qualified as a Chartered Management Accountant, becoming a British citizen in 1984. After a 28-year career in business, he became the Chief Executive of North Birmingham Community NHS Trust until 2000. He is the first Asian to represent the Queen and the first to be the ambassador of Birmingham University.

Mr. Paul Sabapathy eats with the Queen in London. He is responsible for all royal visits to the West Midlands such as when Kate Middleton and Prince William visited Birmingham or when the Pope came to England, Mr Sabapathy greeted him first with a hand shake! He is even more senior than David Cameron, the Prime Minister! He has been a member of various organisations such as Standards Board for England, National Blood Authority and was Chair of the West Midlands Industrial Development Advisory Board. He was also an Ambassador of Advantage West Midlands and a former Trustee of the Refugee Council. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to Urban Regeneration in 1995.

Mr Sabapathy visited the school on 29th June 2015 and had this to say to GDA students:

**Uniform:** It is the uniform of the Major General Union. Placed on his shirt were medals of being a CBE and a CSG.

**Retirement:** Being a Lord Lieutenant you retire at an age of 75. They receive a letter saying they will be referred and recommended.

**Recruitment:** The Queen appoints you. The Queen is the most influential person he has ever met and that she is simply the most amazing lady. What strikes him the most is the her ‘sense of duty’.

**Being the first Asian to represent the Queen:** ‘It feels good and that I have never in my life been criticised, I have worked with all people and they’ve never responded in an unmeaningful way’. He finished the assembly by saying ‘in life you have to succeed but before that work hard. You have to...have confidence to interact with your goals. We all have missions; we need to use our ability, to do our best’. He said that educating the girls is a top priority because through that they can teach others and achieve their own goals. Finally, and most importantly, ‘Education is key’, as it opens all the doors in life.

Zakariya Hogsade
Student Journalist, Year 9

You can now apply for FREE School Meals Online

What to do next?
- Apply online at www.link2ict.org/FSM
- Alternatively, the Academy can apply on your behalf.

Please ask at Reception for further details

If your application for Free School Meals is successful, George Dixon Academy will also receive extra funding (Pupil Premium), from the Government, to use in support of teaching and learning.
BCA 3D Printing and Engineering Workshop

14 students from years 7, 8 and 9 were selected based on their outstanding performance in Product Design to attend an engineering workshop at a local 3D printing company in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. ‘Black Country Atelier’ specialises in 3D printing and laser cutting, and delivers workshops to talented students in the West Midlands area.

Students learnt how to use complex 3D design software and to manufacture their designs on state of the art 3D printers. The students impressed the lecturer so much that he had to come up with a harder project for them to do!

Since the workshop, GDA has invested in two brand new 3D printers for use in Product Design Lessons! Students who attended the BCA workshop will be ambassadors for their year groups and deliver training sessions to fellow students in STEM club.

Year 10 and the Civil Service Programme

students to foster a positive attitude towards the benefits of working.

See what Year 10 thought below:

What did you learn from the Programme?
Khanitha: I learnt more about my future and what I want to do
Trevaughn: How to act in an interview and what my body language should be like
What did you enjoy the most?
Baasil: The activities – build a tower AND a bridge!
What would you like to be in the future?
Balquisa: Childcare, Chef, netballer or the BEST basketballer!
How do you plan to get where you want to be?
Orighomisan: By studying hard and making sure I pass my GCSEs
What skills have you developed?
Amanda: I learnt how to communicate with other people
Marcus: Confidence and good communication with others
Devron: How to communicate so I dont give a bad impression
Would you recommend the Civil Service Programme?
Khanitha: Yes, they were like a family to me

Team DofE Expedition Success

A Trip to the University of Birmingham

As part of our history coursework we are expected to independently research our chosen topic. So on Monday 29th June we went to the library at the University of Birmingham. Firstly, we had a tour of the library and learnt some interesting information about the university and its library. For example, the library has approximately 2.5 million books! We then had the opportunity to search for books related to our questions and found lots of information to take away. We are planning to return and continue our research!

Akash Sabharwal, Year 12

Share your voice, views and opinions at bit.ly/GDAFACE
Food for thought...

Year 10 students complete their practical GCSE controlled assessment

Students put a finger print onto a substance called nutrient agar to help the bacteria grow. They then washed and dried their hands and put another (clean) finger print on the other side of the agar. The agar plates were left for a week. Year 9 were fascinated by the results and together chose the winner (the person with the dirtiest hands in the group)!

Food Club Muffins Recipe

Ingredients
- 1 eggs (medium)
- 100g caster sugar
- 125ml milk (semi-skimmed or whole)
- 60ml vegetable oil
- 200g self raising flour
- 60gm fruit

Method
1. Preheat oven to Gas Mark 6/170 degrees. Collect a muffin tray
2. Beat one egg in a mixing bowl and then mix in 60ml of vegetable oil and 125ml milk. Add 100g caster sugar and whisk until dissolved.
3. Sift in the 200g self raising flour and mix until smooth then add HALF (30gm) of the fruit now
4. Fill muffin cases TWO THIRDS full (this is important for the perfect size muffins) and then add the remaining fruit to the top.
5. Bake in the middle of the oven for 25 minutes (check after 15mins)
6. Leave to cool

What does it mean?
Sift – to use a sieve to pass all the dry ingredients through into the mixing bowl

International Ambassadors at GDA!

International Ambassadors represent the Academy at a variety of GDA events, such as Parents’ Evenings. Between them, these students are able to translate and communicate in a variety of languages, including:

- Bulgarian
- Dari
- Farsi
- French
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Kurdish
- Latvian
- Malayalam
- Norwegian
- Pakistani
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Shona
- Slovakian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Tigrinya
- Urdu

Why be an International Ambassador?
1. help people to direct them to Parent’s Evening and to translate to people in my language (Latvian), and it means I get to stay in school longer!

Mareks, Year 7 - International Ambassador

1. like being an International Ambassador because I love to help people in any way I can.

Ramkumar, Year 9 - International Ambassador

Interested in being an International Ambassador? Speak to Miss Chapman in S3 for further information or see bit.ly/GDAIntAmbassadors.

Knives and Guns - Choose the Right Path

On Monday 22 June, PC Rob Pedley came to GDA and talked to Year 7 and 8 about the consequences of using knives and guns.

He showed us some videos about knife and gun crime, some of which ended in death. One of the videos was about a boy called Joshua, an 18 year old from Birmingham who was stabbed to death in September 2013; Joshua’s mother was also at the assembly and talked to us.

I learnt that you risk someone’s life if you bring a weapon into school or anywhere else. If you know someone that has a weapon, the best thing to do is to tell a teacher.

Sheyma Heybe, Student Journalist - Year 7

Wash Your Hands!

Ms Marwaha and her Year 9 Science group tried to find out whether washing your hands actually killed bacteria! Students put a finger print onto a substance called nutrient agar to help the bacteria grow. They then washed and dried their hands and put another (clean) finger print on the other side of the agar. The agar was inside a petri dish and together are called an “agar plate”.

The agar plates were left for a week. Year 9 were fascinated by the results and together chose the winner (the person with the dirtiest hands in the group?) but Ms Marwaha promised not to put the person’s name in the newsletter!

Cyberbullying

Following Beth Sherburn’s performance at GDA, I have looked into Cyberbullying and what it means. Cyberbullying is being bullied online. It affects people so deeply that some commit suicide. Others bear it because they think that the bully is watching them.

We can prevent cyber-bullying by changing our settings to private and/or friends only, never talking to strangers or giving away personal details and don’t visit sites we are not sure about. Never post inappropriate pictures and messages.

GDA created the Equality manifesto and it tells us a few things to remember when we meet other people online. Please do not discriminate people whether disabled or not; whatever their ethnicity, culture, national origin or national background; gender or identity; religious or faith or their sexual orientation. None of the above should make any difference as we all treat each other the same.

Share your voice, views and opinions at bit.ly/GDAFACE
Symbols!
What mathematical symbol can be put between 5 and 9, to get a number bigger than 5 and smaller than 9?

What comes next....?
11, 12, 20, 30, 80, ....
What comes next....
Do you notice what is common about these numbers....? If you can figure out any of the answers, see Mrs Talwar in N7 to check if they’re correct.

Junior UK Maths Challenge
90 Year 7 and 8 students were among 250,000 students across the UK who took part in the 2015 Junior UK Maths Challenge competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Students answer 25 rigorous multiple choice questions under normal examination conditions with the top 6% receiving a gold certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze. Fourteen GDA students achieved certificates with a gold, Best in School and Best in Year going to Halima Abushego in Year 7 and Junaid Ahmad in year 8 getting Best in Year and a silver certificate.

Silver certificates went to Halima Farouk, Tahmidul Islam, Azaan Idrees, Shreekar Purnik and Tanur Sharma in Year 7. Bronze certificates went to Syed Hussain and Ifzal Khan (Year 7) and Ekta Sidhu, Teddy Adam, Deneth Weerasinghe, Humza Rafiqat and Imdan Hassan in Year 8.

Congratulations to these students who worked extremely hard to achieve this prestigious award.

Ms Hall and Mrs Talwar

Big Brum Theatre come to GDA
The Drama department welcomed Big Brum Theatre in Education to perform their new play, “Sepoy’s Salute”, to their new GCSE Drama students last week. They had the opportunity to explore issues of servitude, freedom and responsibility through the eyes of an Indian soldier that crossed the ‘Black Water’ into the firing line of industrialised warfare. The workshop challenged the students to think about these issues and we look forward to welcoming our new GCSE students to the Performing Arts department in September!

Miss Wallace

Playwright David Calcutt visits Year 7
As part of a cross curriculum project between Drama and English, Year 7 students had the opportunity to interview the playwright David Calcutt as they finish reading his play ‘The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty’ and explore story telling around the theme of journeys. The afternoon was enjoyed by all and inspired students to write some fantastic stories ready for the storytelling competition in English.

I thought his visit was extra cool, an actual playwright visiting our school! Awesome! I had loads of fun and I’m sure David Calcutt did too!

Year 7 Student

Sports Results
Regional Athletics 14 May 2015
In the freezing rain, Miss Harley, Mr Horner, Miss Reid and Mr Brookes took 38 students from Year 7-10 to Round 1 of the Regional Athletics events. Despite many disciplines being cancelled half way due to the weather, our students did amazingly well, competing and achieving the following:

Boys Basketball
GDA 41 – 26 Kings Norton Boys
25 June 2015
The Year 9 boys basketball team played their final game of the season and finished it with another victory in the U14 Birmingham Schools Basketball League Final. The boys, many of whom were fasting as part of Ramadan, played exceptionally well. The final score was 41-26 and the boys picked up their second medal and second trophy of the year. Well done boys!

M.O.M - Mohamed Abushego
MVP - Mohamed Abushego
Squad - M. Abushego, R. Green, V. Ghuman, M. Khan, N. Omar, H. Jallow, J. Baker, M. Ahmad

Year 8 Aston League Rounders Tournament
4th June 2015 at Hamstead Hall
Holte 5.5 - 4.5 GDA
Aston Manor 4.5 - 7 GDA
St John Wall 6.5 - 7 GDA
Nishkam 5 - 8 GDA
GDA were second overall (the best we have done in this competition to date!).

Captain - Cherayah
Player of the Tournament - Maggie

Year 7 Cricket 12 June 2015
GDA won by 7 runs against Saltley Academy
Man of the Match - Ubaid Khan
18 June 2015
GDA lost by 8 wickets against Fairfield School

Year 10 Performance at the Symphony Hall!
Our Year 10 GCSE music group went to Symphony Hall and performed to a massive audience of around 1000 people! They should be very proud of themselves! The group performed Cee Lo Green’s ‘Forget You’ and Amanda and Khaniita performed Ed Sheeran’s ‘1 See Fire’. Year 10 also met and got a selfie with Barney Harwood (from Blue Peter) who was presenting at the event! Well done to the following students:

• Amanda Wickham (vocals)
• Augustas Kalmatavicius (keyboard)
• Ikram Ali (drum kit)
• Juliana Fonseca (bass guitar)
• Khanita Duanyai (electric guitar)
• Lenka Balagova (keyboard)
• Lina Khan (keyboard)
• Mardeen Blbas (keyboard)
• Nikita Kaur (vocals)
• Orighomisan Ejeh (vocals)
• Pleasure Barrett (keyboard)
• Sabiella Gebru (Djembe)

Miss Townsend

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