Following the inspection in March, we remain a GOOD school. Below are some extracts from the report:

- Pupils make good progress from their starting points
- Pupils are respectful of their teachers, each other and visitors
- Leaders have created an inclusive, supportive and aspirational school culture
- Leaders and staff pay great attention to pupil’s welfare and provide many opportunities for personal development
- Pupils behaviour is positive in almost all lessons and around the school site because leaders and teachers have consistently high expectations
- Feedback from pupils to staff is highly effective

Holocaust Survivor speaks to Year 10

On 12th May, Janine Webber, a holocaust survivor from the Holocaust Educational Trust, came to visit the academy to talk about her experiences and how she survived. She showed Year 10 a PowerPoint presentation about the Holocaust and pictures of family. She was born in 1932 in Lwów, Eastern Poland (now in the Ukraine) and lived with her mum, dad, younger brother and grandma.

During the war, Nazis were persecuting Jews and bullied and abused them. They broke into her house, found her father and shot him. Her cousin and uncle were taken to a concentration camp. She was moved to a ghetto with her mum and brother, and had to sell possessions to buy food and supplies. Her mum fell ill and died of typhus. People were starving and corpses were everywhere. Janine, her brother and aunt hid in a stable, but were told to leave. She stayed with another family but a Nazi officer discovered Janine and shot her brother. She moved into an orphanage for Jewish children but there was a lot of anti-semitism and people threw rocks at the orphanage. At age 11, she became a maid and moved to the town of Kraków. When she came to England, she was 24 years old. She married an Englishman and has two sons and two grandchildren.

Overall, the assembly was very emotional and inspiring to Year 10 because it showed how people survived to get food, clothes etc, and how easy it is to take things for granted. It would benefit people studying history as they now have more background information about the Second World War and how tragic it was.

Selina Akhtar, Year 12 History Student

As part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project, Sixth Form students Selina Akhtar and Sumaya Yusuf requested an interview with Janine Webber, a remarkable woman with a fascinating story as a Holocaust survivor. Students had the pleasure to sit down with Janine during an intimate assembly to discuss the relevance of remembering what occurred during the Holocaust as well as taking a journey of understanding the story of Janine’s life; the fears, hopes and loss she had to face during this horrible period. Students also had the chance to pose questions in regards to how she felt whilst moving from place to place and how unsure she had felt in her own country, living as a Jew.

Janine Webber, with Selina in Year 12
GDA6 Teambuilding

As part of our PSHE and tutor time activities, sixth form were set the task of building the tallest, freestanding spaghetti tower in fifteen minutes with the aim of developing team work and planning. Students were supplied with dried spaghetti, Sellotape and scissors. Teams used a range of strategies to create their towers, some more successfully than others! The winning tower reached the heady heights of 114 cm. Well done to 12.1 for securing first and second place!

Debate Mate 2017

Debate Mate has had a fantastic end to the season, with wins by both teams in the Midlands region cup, a brilliant first debate from the accelerate team and a great trip to London to see Bill Gates talk about the work he does with his foundation at the “Big Debate”.

We went to the Midland region debate cup at Birmingham University and entered our A and B teams and a new team who had never debated before. The B team (Vidusha, Adama, Solen and Adjele) had their first win as a group and won two of their three debates. The A team (Naomi, Nawal, Aisha and Grace) also won two of their three debates. They scored so many points that they ended up in 5th place out of 30 schools! It was the last debate for Nawal, Naomi and Aisha, but they have been fantastic and I hope they continue in the programme through graduate school.

We also hosted the second round of the Debate Mate Accelerate League. The team made up of Kacper, Hashim, Ayub, Ali and Mareks competed against Erdington Academy in two debates. Although they didn’t win, they worked so well as a team and all spoke confidently and did themselves proud.

During the Easter holidays, nine Debate Mate students went to watch the Big Debate. We saw the top teams in the country compete against each other on the motion “this house believes that the world is getting better for people in developing countries”. The standard was incredibly high and was judged by news reader Jon Snow, Tina Daheley (from Radio 1) and Emma Thompson. After the debate, the host, Strictly winner Ore Oduba, announced a surprise guest, none other than Bill Gates! He talked about how his foundation was helping to improve life in developing countries and took some questions from the audience. He seemed like a really normal, lovely man, you would never tell that he was the richest man in the world! After that we went to the Houses of Parliament and met with our former MP for Edgbaston, Gisela Stuart. To finish the day, we went to Downing Street to have our photo taken outside number 10. We walked back to the train station via Trafalgar Square and the gift shops and went home tired and happy!

Congratulations to all who have competed this year, if anyone would like to join us next year, please see me in W17.

Miss Blakeman

Former GDA Students return to the Academy

I really enjoy the student life even the challenges like living away from home as it makes me more independent. Thanks to all the GDA teachers!

- Rashida Sheik Alauddeen. I am at Birmingham City University studying Business and Management. Thank you to all the teachers who helped me to achieve my A-Level grades.

- Samrawit Geday. I am studying Accounting and Finance at Staffordshire University. George Dixon has been a great place to learn and has helped me become the person I am today. I would like to thank all the teachers.

It has been amazing to be back at the Academy. It has brought many fantastic memories back. Thank you!

Professor of Chemistry holds workshop with Sixth Form

On May 4th, Dr Mark Read from the University of Birmingham provided an interactive workshop on ‘Spectroscopic techniques’, an invaluable topic for students studying A Level Chemistry. Dr Read brought some complicated and expensive equipment including a Mass Spectrometer, which identifies unknown chemical substances and is used by the police, airport security and pharmaceutical industry. During lessons, I learnt about the theory of how it functions, however it was only when I saw how easy it is to use that I truly understood how it works.

We took turns to use the device, using a pipette to carefully place the sample onto a small area with a diamond coated sheet underneath. Only a few droplets are necessary for complete analysis and identification to be achieved. We used the graphs produced to forensically determine the structure and therefore identify the unknown substances. The graph showed different fragments of substances detected and through our knowledge of molecular formula calculations; we could identify the compounds present.

Dr Read and Mr Afzal delivered a presentation to enhance our understanding of organic analysis. They demonstrated the various methods of calculating the properties of unknown compounds and how they are used in the world of chemistry. The students found this event to be really useful and we will be able to apply this knowledge in our examinations.

Gurjit Korotana, Year 12

UCAS Conference

Sixth Form students had a positive and worthwhile experience at the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition at the NEC. Packed with stands from over 100 universities, students could get advice and guidance to help them in deciding their future plans. They also attended training sessions that dealt with issues that were most relevant to them which students found useful, informative and inspiring.

Follow us @GeorgeDixonAcad

Gurjit Korotana, Year 12
Thought for the Term:

behaviour, their health and understanding of themselves, their

SMSC at GDA aims to help students’

development. It develops the

responsibilities as adults in our

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roles.

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 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.

I am always doing

that which I cannot do,
in order that I may

learn how to it

— Pablo Picasso

Students thoroughly enjoyed this experience!

GSUS Live comes to GDA!

The GSUS live trailer landed at GDA on June 26th – June 30th. These

sessions were run by Birmingham City Mission. This was an exciting

opportunity for students to take part in an interactive session to

investigate religious teachings on Forgiveness, Fear, and Rejection.

Thought for the Term:

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— Pablo Picasso

Students thoroughly enjoyed this experience!

Safeguarding Training at the Academy

All staff at the Academy are currently undertaking online, CPD Accredited

Safeguarding Training that meets all current legislation and inspection

requirements. There are several courses to complete and by the end of

the term, staff will have completed courses on Prepare for PREVENT for the

Education Sector, Child Sexual Exploitation, FGM and Forced

Marriage, with an Honour Based Violence course to be completed

next term.

This training is a statutory requirement and ensures staff at the academy

have a clear understanding of these issues and can effectively identify risk

indicators and when support and/or intervention is needed.

With that in mind, a group of students in Year 9 known as the Freedom

Ambassadors, have been planning their own workshops to highlight to

above issues with students and the wider community.

We are stronger, together

It’s in the news. What feels like everyday!

People going into public places and committing acts of violence by taking

innocent lives. Some folk are being conned into thinking that Islam is a

religion of war and death. How can that be so, when it’s gifting

Assalamu Alykum, grants peace and blessings upon the recipient?

According to the Holy Qur’an, killing an innocent person is like killing all

of mankind; let’s be clear: Islam does not condone war and death under

any circumstances.

True Muslims do not kill, harm or put any life in danger. In Syria recently, as

one individual tried to blow up a public square, another man risked his

own life by hugging him, holding on to him and saving countless lives.

He lost his own as a consequence. This is the meaning of true bravery,
courage and strength.

Safeguarding everyone is VERY important to our

Academy. Not one student must be at risk of any form of

abuse. Please, please, please, if you have any worries, talk
to some-one, a parent, a teacher a friend.

I strongly believe this is a topic that needs to be
discussed. Together as one, when we are strongest.

Adam Mohammed, Year 8 Student Journalist

Freedom Ambassador Update

Freedom Ambassador Update

We are the Freedom Ambassadors.

A year ago, Aneeta Prem visited

our school and delivered an

assembly about forced marriage and

FGM. Since that assembly, we

decided to make a change to the

crimes that were happening

against girls and sometimes even

boys.

Aneeta Prem invited some

ambassadors to the launch of her


It was an eye-opening experience

as they were able to talk to a

victim of FGM. This made us more

determined to stop this horrible

practice. From then, we have made

more people aware of what FGM and

forced marriage is.

Our first introduction to the

academy was delivering

assemblies about being a Freedom

Ambassador, which was followed

by a showing of the movie

documentary, ‘He Named Me

Malala’. This movie was a big

success as students of all ages
came to see it. This helped

students to understand that you
can say ‘no’ to something that is

wrong.

Year 10 students take part in

HMRC and UK Youth Schemes

HMRC:

“On this HMRC programme, I have learnt that communication and team

work are very important.”

— Carla Ferreira, 10.2

“I have learnt about customer service. I really enjoyed the cake and

samosa sale as I used my customer service that I learnt from the mentors.”

— Mohammed Hussain, 10.4

“I learnt how to work together as a team on this programme and I

developed my communication skills.”

— Methus Sawangsang, 10.7

UK Youth:

“I would describe the overall experience as phenomenal. I learnt

leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. I have learnt that I am

confident as I was nervous talking with the visitors that came to speak

with the group. For the future I want to look into photography projects,
as I enjoyed taking photographs during the litter picking.”

— Uzair Mohammed, 10.7 (Team Leader)
Creative Arts Update

Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition
The culmination of lots of hard work saw the George Dixon Academy Year 11 Art exhibition open on the 14th June. Many pieces of art were on display.

Chair of Governors, Sir Robert Dowling and Mr Smedmore at the Year 11 Art Exhibition

Performing Arts Update

GDA’s Got Talent
GDA’s Got Talent was back in full swing this year. The audition process was intense and the semi-finals where the audience selected the performers for the final were very exciting. Our five finalists presented an amazing show of singing and dancing, leaving our judging panel with a very hard decision. La-Tia Reece in Year 7 was announced as winner, who dazzled the judges with her dancing skills. Thank you to students who auditioned and watched the show. We raised £132 for the charity of La-Tia’s choosing, OSCAR Birmingham (Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Relief and Thalassaemia Support).

Music Makers
GDA’s Base students were invited to take part in a music project, working with local composer Sid Peacock, mac Birmingham and Birmingham Music Service. Alongside 3 other schools, students composed and learnt new pieces of music, drawing on various musical cultures from across the city. On 27th March, students took to the stage at the Midlands Art Centre and wowed the audience with their singing and percussion skills, they shared their own traditional songs as well as putting their own spin on current tracks. Thank you to the families that supported us, it was a fantastic achievement for the students involved.

Product Design Club at St Germain’s Church’s ‘Community Fun Day’ on Saturday 1st July

Most Able Student Update
GDA most able students have been busy this academic year. They have had opportunities to join clubs and enter competitions; visit universities and hear visiting speakers; attend masterclasses and creative writing workshops. Before the end of this term students still have chance to enter the GDA Flash Fiction Competition; attend the Aston University STEM Challenge Day; and for our year 10 and 12 students, take part in an educational research project with Keele University. We are already planning events and opportunities for our most able students for the academic year ahead.

Art and Photography in the James Dixon centre
Students in the James Dixon Centre have been creating some great work from their own research. They have found natural forms from the playground and made several studies to turn into symmetrical patterns. Photography has also been successful with the students starting a “guess the location” competition. Where are these images from?

Can you guess the location?

Experim ental Drawing trip
Twelve Year 10 students went to the BCU summer workshop on 30th June to try different ways of drawing. They created large scale drawings and increased the speed of the decision making process. The course was led by top university lecturers and students were pushed to their limits.

Giant Easter egg
At the end of Spring term, students from all years contributed to making an enormous Easter egg. Working on a large scale and using Willow and tape, the egg stood 5 metres tall and 3 metres wide and was covered in tissue paper and decorative borders. The egg was supposed to be put on display in an outside space but unfortunately would not fit through any of the doors so it was suspended from the ceiling.

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S port s Results

Year 8 PE enjoying the Rounders weather!

Year 7 Cricket
Stacey Jackson Trophy
Lost to Holte 9 wickets (their first ever game)

Dougie Brown Cup
Win against Washwood Heath and have progressed into the next round (yet to be drawn)