

## George Dixon Academy Advanced Level students receive a £25,000 scholarship boost from founders family

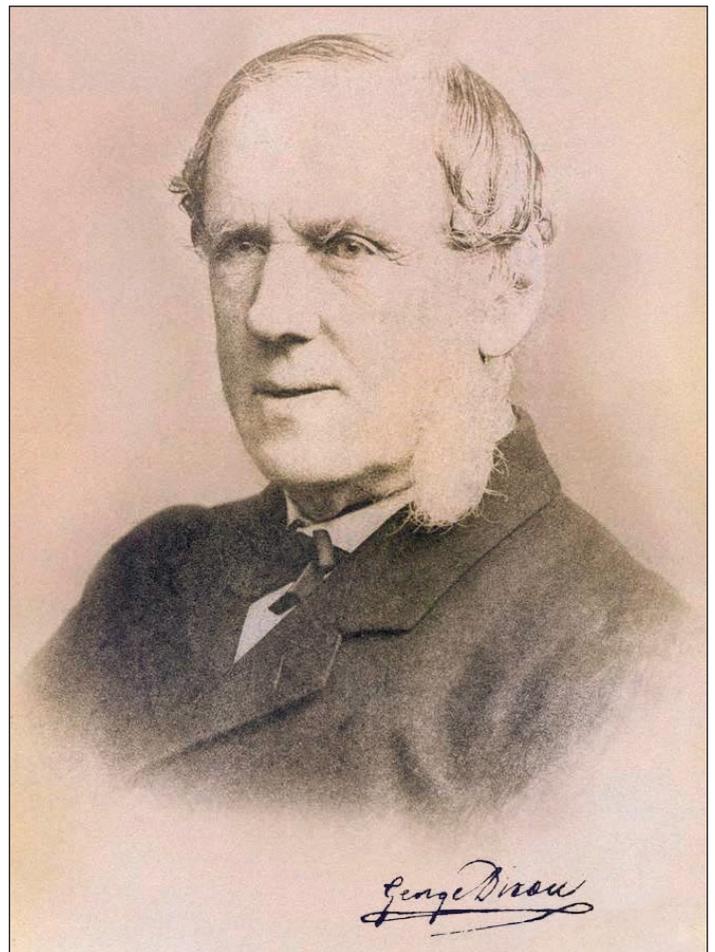
Descendants of the Dixon family have generously donated £25,000 per year for the next 5 years to reward outstanding progress for students leaving George Dixon Academy 6th Form and entering University.

Following a recent tour of the Academy, members of the family were so impressed with our students that they decided to set up a scholarship scheme. The scholarships will be based on progress to help reward and encourage students to University education.

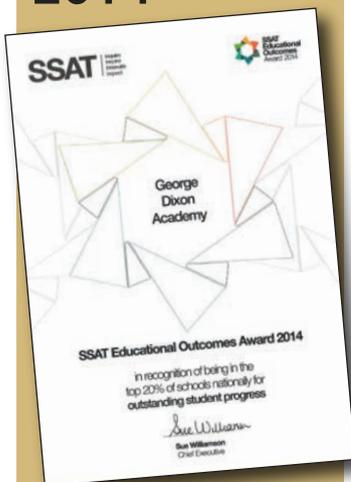
George Dixon established the school in 1906 and was one of the main advocates for free education for all. George Dixon entered local government as a councillor for Edgbaston in Birmingham in 1863. He was elected Mayor in November 1866 and sat in the House of Commons for two periods between 1867 and 1898.

Our Headmaster, Anthony Hamilton, and the Chair of the Academy Trust, Sir Robert Dowling, said **"We are delighted the Dixon family still want to support and encourage our children to aspire to higher education"**.

Should any student wish to apply for our 6th Form, and therefore potentially qualify for scholarship money for university, please contact Mr Coley at the Academy on 0121 566 6565. Application forms for 6th Form are available online at:  
[www.georgedixonacademy.com](http://www.georgedixonacademy.com)  
and should be submitted to:  
post16@georgedixonacademy.com.



### SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards 2014



Mr Hamilton collected GDA's SSAT Educational Outcomes Award for being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between Key Stage 2 results and GCSE results on 4 June 2014 (at Waverley School).



GDA is now on Twitter  
**@GeorgeDixonAcad**  
Find out all the latest GDA information

# Comenius Visit to Osnabrück

On 14 June, eight year 9 students left for the final Comenius project in Osnabrück, Germany. Mr Ibbotson and Miss Darwood travelled with Mohammed Ibrahim, Zain Ahmed, Zubeyr Jama, Antonio Balu, Monika Rana, Amandeep Kaur, Ashvinder Hayer and Anisha Patel.

GDA were joined by students from other European countries, including Spain, Czech Republic, France, Turkey and Germany. The objective of the trip was to make new friends and learn the culture and background of Germany

whilst discovering our identity as a European country. When we went tree top climbing, students had to gain trust in and co-operate with their partner. Antonio and Zain climbed to the highest level and we were very proud of them!

Making new friends was one of the greatest things about this trip and we are still in contact with many of them. Amandeep's and Anisha's Spanish was tested when they conversed with the girls from Valencia; Spanish lessons have certainly paid off!

On the final day we visited the host

German school, a large building for non-uniformed children. A highlight was when our boys played a football match against the Spanish boys, England lost 10-2 however the Spanish teens were older than us!

We all returned with memories we'll never forget and we enjoyed every minute. We watched World Cup matches (cheering on Germany!), explored the history of Osnabrück, looked around the shops with our fun teachers and learned something new every day. Going to Osnabrück, Germany was just... "Awesome!"

Anisha Patel



# Leadership Programme



Earlier this term 14 Year 10 students were selected to take part in our new Leadership Programme. Parents and families came to an initial meeting outlining the programme, which was four half day sessions over a six week period. Students worked in small groups, off site,

and were shown how to develop their Leadership Skills. The sessions were led by Errol Lawson, Director of Emerge Leadership UK, who has led many successful programmes at GDA.

On completion of the programme, students collected their certificates at a celebration event with parents and families. The aim was for our students to become ambassadors of the Leadership programme and feedback to GDA peers and to implement skills learnt through this programme at GDA and beyond.



Students who took part in this programme were Mariya Mahmood, Lerone Thomas, Angelo Madourie, Aqil Mohammed, Ruweyda Barkehadle, Hassan Javed, Pumlan Musa, Dilani Budhai, Shemar Hansel, Akeel Simpson, Shadwa Abdulla, Rowayne Reynolds, Ali Abdulghaffar and Nicole Nyengedza.

# Comenius Trip to Valencia

On 6 April, eight Year 9 students set off on the fifth leg of our Comenius Project Partnership, to the City of Valencia. They took part in a range of different activities including sightseeing in Valencia and Sagunto. During their stay, students learned about cultures and identities associated with the different schools in the partnership. It was an amazing experience for the students involved. Some were travelling by plane for the first time and their reactions were priceless! There were plenty of opportunities for students to practice Spanish in day to day situations and they became more confident as the week passed by. They worked alongside students and teachers from Germany, France, Spain, Turkey and the Czech Republic.

The trip was a huge success and many friendships were formed between our students and those from other schools in the Comenius Project. The group were a credit to the Academy with their enthusiasm and attitude towards all of the activities.

# Goodbye Year 11's



## Loudest Person

Asiea

## Happiest Person

Thulani

## Best Member of Staff

Mr Horner

## Best Smile

Jonathan

## Best Laugh

Taig

## Best Dancer

Korinthia

## Best Musician

Rene

## Best Artist

Taybah

## Best Personality

Raheem

## Most Creative

Taybah

## Most Hardworking

Kumbi

## Most Caring

Nura

## Best Sportsman

Edwin

## Best Sportswoman

Nieka

## Most likely to be famous

Edwin

## Most likely to win an Oscar

Halima Sadia

## Most likely to win an Olympic Medal

Ibrahim

## Most Competitive

Tanzeel

## Biggest Drama Queen

Wendy

## Biggest Flirt

Tinashe

## Class Clown

Mateen

## Funniest Person

Sebastian

## Nicest Person

Shaniz

# George Dixon and the New Street Project



On the 17 June, 11 Year 8 students visited New Street railway station as part of the 150th Anniversary project with the Midlands Acting Theatre (MAT). The project brings students from across Birmingham together to research and commemorate the building of the Station in 1864 and the re-launch of New Street Station later this year.

During the visit, students talked to visitors sharing their memories of the station, how it changed over the years and what it was like to travel in the 1950's. Students also completed a collage of some famous landmarks from Birmingham built since 1864.

As part of the Project, 8G1 has worked with MAT to research the history of New Street through Oral

History interviews. They researched the history of the station through diaries and letters, and interviewed members of the public who explained their New Street memories and how life has changed over the years. Films produced for the project will be shown in an exhibition at New Street Station and online with copies retained at Library of Birmingham.

## UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

Before the Easter holidays, over 3700 schools took part in the 2014 UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. Year 7 and 8 GDA students took part and got the following certificates:

Year 8	Certificate
Ilyas Kachry	Best in school, Best in Year 8, Gold
Ranjeet Bhogal, Diyad Shariff, Mohammed Abushego	Silver
Shafayat Khan, Efrata Belayhun, Muhammad Khan, Daljit Basra, Omar Barkhadle, Vedhas Ghuman	Bronze
Year 7	Certificate
Teddy Adam	Best in Year 7, Silver
Aaliyah Hussain, Sumeya Begum, Deneth weerasinghe	Bronze



Well done to all who took part!

## Newsroom in a Day at GDA



Have you ever wondered what it's like to cover a major news story as it breaks? Well, on Tuesday 10 June some Year 9 students were given the opportunity. The LRC was transformed into a simulated newsroom, complete with cameras, hi tech audio visual equipment and a green screen. Students took on different roles, from being a TV researcher to being in front of the camera.

Two highlights represented an opportunity to talk to experts in the field. Firstly, students put questions to Amanda Lamb, a BBC producer, about how to put their news programme together. Then,

as the news story was about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Naples, two students interviewed Professor Nichols, an expert historian from Reading University, via Skype.

The following week, students watched the finished recording and stills from the day during a breakfast premier. They then reflected on what they had learned about being a journalist and about themselves. Who knows, we might see a GDA student reporting live on TV for real one day!



## Reading Events at GDA

This term has been full of rich reading experiences at GDA- from an author visit to the launch of our Reciprocal Reading programme.

Here's what our students think:

" Being a Reading Leader on the Reciprocal Reading programme means a lot to me. Firstly, it helps me work together with young people which will help me in my future life, by giving me experience to show others. Secondly, planning activities for my group makes me feel like a teacher and I feel proud because a group of young people will benefit from me."

*Masooma Nahimi, Year 9*

" I am very privileged to be a Reading Leader; it is a very great part of my academic life. It brings a great sense of helping someone younger than myself to improve their reading skills, preparing them for the reading possibilities that might come up in their school life. It means I am a teacher who is helping students to improve."

*Darnell Richards Year 9*

" Absolutely phenomenal! No other words to describe Pete Johnson's visit on the 1st of April. We learnt about the difficulties of various characters- I mean, who wouldn't be scared if their parents popped out of nowhere and told you that you were going to grow a fang! We also experienced what it is to write a book (very painstaking). Some books take years to get published. Overall, I would say the experience was magnificent."

*Abdullah Marecar, Year 9*

" It was an enjoyable and exciting experience because Pete was a very entertaining and enthusiastic speaker. He included everyone and was interactive with students, which was what I liked best."

*Amandeep Kaur, Year 9*

" When Pete came to GDA, he discussed many things both personal and professional, like when he first started writing, how he likes to write and what inspires him. A few of us had chances to win prizes and books written by him. We learned many things like what it takes to be a writer and how writing and being creative helps you in the future."

*Gurjit Korotana, Year 9*

## GDA Grabs Top Place in Birmingham Made Me Design Awards

Charles Morgan, part owner of Morgan Technologies and Chairman of Judges for Birmingham Made Me Design Awards, said "The team from George Dixon Academy clearly demonstrated the creative talents that drive the Midlands' economy. This is exactly what we were

looking for. The winning students wowed us with their ideas, their energy and enthusiasm".

The GDA Team (Samron Perttola, Hussain Ali Kachry, Ken Phung and Sultan Hamid, all in Year 10) won with their Hydrostraw project. Miss Lund said "We couldn't believe it when we first heard. The standard of the other entries was so high.



Our team worked really hard so winning makes all that effort worthwhile. Many of our students are planning to study for careers in design and engineering and so winning this award is a recognition for the whole Academy."

The Awards are organised by the region's leading universities and design-led manufacturing

companies, with almost 80 submissions in total. "People need look no further than our schools in the Midlands to see we have the capability and the capacity to fuel growth. The calibre of the entries speaks volumes for the region's skill in innovation, creativity and manufacturing design. Well done to all the schools which took part!" said Beverley Nielsen, head of the Birmingham Made Me.

## GDA Music Department News

### GDA's Got Talent!

This year has been a rewarding one musically at GDA. Following the Music Showcase last Autumn, students were again performing, in their own version of GDA's got talent.

The Progress Academy, a Birmingham music academy, volunteered to judge alongside Mr Hamilton with the winners recording their performances at the Progress Academy recording studios. The event was a sell out and students and families that attended were impressed with the wide range of talent, from dances to bands. The solo category winner was Wendy Cooper who was accompanied by Mr Nicholas and best group went to Rene Billy, Marek Holub, Andrei Giocosa and Viliam Boldi- The GCSE Band. Their contribution to music this year has been fantastic and we wish them well in the future.

### String Ensemble Performance at Symphony Hall

On Wednesday 4 June, a group of violin and cello students who form the first GDA Ensemble performed at Symphony Hall. Melanjia Gaille, Sabeilla Gebru, Nikita Kaur, Amanda Wickham, Deontaye Osazuwa, Ikram Ali and Marek Holub started violin this year and have made incredible progress on a very difficult instrument. The solo cellist, Mohammad Uzair (Year 7), had played this event twice before but the Year 9s were surprised at the size of the hall and the audience.

As the moment got closer we were all nervous but led by Mrs Sally Hobbs from the Birmingham Music Service, we went out on stage and gave a

really good and exact performance. It was lovely to be applauded when leaving the stage and we felt really proud when congratulated by Barney Harwood, the Blue Peter presenter. We look forward to performing there again next year.

### Music Instrumental Lessons

The year has been busy for students attending instrumental lessons and we hope to build on this year's progress made thus far. Places will be available in September, with Year 7 students offered places first, followed by other year groups. If interested, students must collect a letter and consent form from the website or from Ms McCarroll-Davies when you get back to school in September and let her know by the second week of September.

**The Music department would like to thank all the Instrumental and Academy staff for their work and support this year and we look forward to a musically busy year!**

### Farewell to GDA Staff

A number of staff are leaving the Academy at the end of term. These include:

- Mrs Stokes (English)
- Mrs Rowe (Science)
- Mr Kelly (History)
- Mrs Gupta (Urdu)
- Mrs Tibbitts (Administration)
- Mr Muirhead (English)
- Mr Madahar (Maths)
- Mr Bradbury (ICT)
- Mrs Kuzielova (MFL)
- Mr Adamo (School Displays)

We would like to thank them for all their efforts and support for helping the Academy to achieve good outcomes for students. We wish them all the best for the future.

## Singers required!

In September, the Music Department begins rehearsals for Young Voices 2015. This national event is held every year and encourages students to sing and dance - glee club style with other schools in their area. We will be performing at the LG Arena in January 2015.

If this appeals to you, please see Ms McCarroll-Davies in September for a letter and consent form.



## Sports Results

### Cricket

King Edwards Edgbaston 93 – 104 GDA (now in the semi-finals of the Docker Shield).

King Edwards Camp Hill 59 - 79 GDA

GDA batted first with a total of 63, but were narrowly beat by 2 wickets by King Edwards Stratford (Willis Cup Quarter Finals).

### Rounders

#### Year 7

King Edwards Girls School 7 – 3 GDA  
Nishkam Faith School 3 - 3 GDA

#### Year 8

King Edwards Girls 8 - 2 GDA  
Holyhead 4 - 4 GDA.

### Athletics

Year 7 were 2nd overall and Year 8 were 4th overall in the Aston Competition. Combined, the GDA Athletics Team were 3rd in the Aston competition.

### Sports Day 2014 Thursday 17 July

This event will take place on the GDA field. We have such wonderful facilities that we have decided to use them and showcase the event and talents we have.



George Dixon Academy

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