GDA Students triumph in Friends of the Earth Competition

Three students represented the Academy at an art exhibition led by Birmingham Friends of the Earth. The theme of the artwork was ‘Home Matters’ and students raised awareness of climate refugees. Representatives from environmental and humanitarian organisations were extremely impressed by the work and enthusiasm shown. Out of over 100 entries, all winners for the 12-17 age category were from the Academy! Their work will be published in a book and was displayed in a trail across Birmingham.

Precious Gyasi (2nd place) - ‘Precious’ (Medium: Pencil)
The girl displayed is a climate refugee and her life is being destroyed. The leaves in her hair symbolise life however, further from the roots, the colours are changing to symbolise nature dying. The girl is losing her grace and beauty. She is looking at the destruction of her home, the Earth. As she is crying, she is also releasing her memories and emotions as she is leaving her home. These memories are shown by the items drowning. The photos symbolise her past, the teddy bear her childhood and the Statue of Liberty symbolising her hometown.

Mekhi Trotman (3rd place) - ‘Breaking Point’ (Medium: Pencil)
The person in the middle of the eye is a climate refugee and she is crying because she has lost her home to climate change. The eye represents the rest of the world looking on to the destruction and the people affected and not doing enough to help. The picture is drawn on lined paper to also symbolise this. Lined paper is something we use every day in school yet we do not consider the destruction this has.

Maria Akther (1st place) - ‘Drowned Memories’ (Medium: Watercolour and pencil)
Drowned Memories is about the predicted sinking of Bangladesh due to the rising sea levels. Bangladesh, one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, suffers many storms and floods. This piece is very personal to me as I am Bengali and so it affects my culture and shows my memories being drowned. In the eye is the original memory, how I see Bangladesh – exploding with colour. In the background is reality – grey waters, floods hardly any houses and no more joy. The tear drop with the Bangladesh flag represents the fear of everyone in Bangladesh and their emotions. Global warming is very serious and can have many drastic consequences and even has the power to ruin countries.

GDA Website has a makeover!

The academy website, originally launched in March 2013, has been updated. The site is now completely device friendly, with the most popular areas being accessible from the homepage through shortcuts. We hope you like it! Please see www.georgedixonacademy.com for further information.

As well as a snazzy new website, we have also created a mobile app! Free to download from both the Apple and Android Store, the School Jotter app ensures families will be kept informed of necessary information much like the current text messaging service, only you can choose the information you receive (such as specific year group notices or sports news). We look forward to families utilising the app fully from September.

www.georgedixonacademy.com
Congratulations to Year 11, we hope you enjoyed the Prom!

Emotional Wellbeing through Animal Care with the Young Wellbeing Leaders

Maryam, Assa and Grazia taking the alpacas for a walk!

Lola, Saira and Yaseen taking care of the hedgehog

A-Level History Visit

Myself and three other members of the A-level History group recently visited the University of Birmingham to visit the library in order to help us develop a better understanding on our chosen coursework projects. On arrival at the library, we received a pleasant welcome from a member of staff at the library that showed us around and taught us how to access books relating to our coursework. We were then free to go and look for books that could help us. I have chosen the First Crusade and spent the time reading a book detailing some of the events that took place. Overall, it was a fine experience.

Emmanuel, Year 12 History Student

Scholastic Bookfair Takeover in the LRC!

In June, the Scholastic Bookfair delivered a half-price bookfair to the GDA LRC. Absolutely everything, including books, posters and stationery, was half the normal price. This year, the bookfair was completely run by students as part of the Scholastic Bookfair Takeover scheme. Bookfair managers Leila, Wasifa and Kanika organised and planned the whole event, starting with the recruitment of other students to help. This was a thorough application process, those interested in taking part had to complete an application form, attend interviews held with both the bookfair and Mrs Buckingham our Careers Advisor and then those successful attended training sessions. Much of the work began before the bookfair arrived for many volunteers, creating displays, posters and visiting forms as part of their duties as promotional volunteers. This created a real buzz around the bookfair, which was open throughout the day, as well as during Year 7 Parent’s Evening and Year 6 Induction Events. Miss Dewell would like to thank every volunteer and visitor to the bookfair, the target of over £400 was hit and meant the LRC got some great rewards!

Events Coordinator Rejwan at the Bookfair

Miss Dewell would like to thank every volunteer and visitor to the bookfair, the target of over £400 was hit and meant the LRC got some great rewards!
**Debate Mate - Taylor Swift concert**

On 23rd June, some Debate Mate students were lucky enough to get two free tickets each to see Taylor Swift Live at Wembley Stadium! Leila Le, Adama Jallow, Maria Akhter and Louise McDonald all attended the concert. We arrived in London early and walked around Regents Park in the sunshine, and after a quick trip to Pizza Hut, we made our way to the arena. Charlie XCX and Camila Cabello were the support acts for the opportunity. This year has been another amazing year will bring us. We are sad to lose Adjele from the team as she moves into year 11 and Louise and Maria as they start new adventures at new schools, thank you for your contributions and good luck with any debating you do in the future!

Ms Blakeman

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**GDA’s Got Talent 2018**

Winners Gurleen and Fatu collecting their prize from Mr Hamilton

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**CEIAG Update**

**Key Stage 5**

The Universities of Birmingham, Coventry and Northampton have worked with year 12 students preparing for UCAS applications and developing a deeper understanding of courses. Year 12 attended a UCAS Exhibition at the NEC. Sixteen students completed work experience at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, solicitors and legal practices through the Pathways to Law scheme. Deloitte Business Engagement Teams of year 12 students took part in the Deloitte ‘Business in the Classroom’ exercise. They developed solutions to business problems and presented them at the Deloitte offices. The winning idea showed a clear idea for resource management in schools. The network built with Deloitte has secured one of our students a Higher Apprenticeship in Tax Consulting from September.

**Key Stage 4 - University of Exeter**

The relationship built over the last two years with the University of Exeter enabled fifteen year 10 students to compete with students from across the country on a four day residential experience. It was a great success, developing insights into university life.

Ms Rehman

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**Year 10 Islamic Exhibition Trip**

On Monday 4 June, a group of GCSE RE students attended the Islamic Exhibition Experience. During the exhibition, students had the opportunity to further extend their knowledge of what they had been taught in lessons about Islam. Students were able to see how famous Muslims impacted other academic areas such as science, mathematics and art. Many students were amazed at how many different languages the Qur’an had been translated into and were fascinated with feeling the Qur’an in braille (patterns of raised dots that are felt with the fingertips so blind individuals can read).

Furthermore, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about anything they were unsure about. Our students really challenged the founder of the exhibition and its representatives!

Ms Blakeman

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**SMSC**

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.

**Thought for the Term:**

"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

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**Key Stage 3 - Aston University ‘Aspire to Aston’ Project**

Aston University is working with the Academy to provide a programme of opportunities focused across Key Stage 3 beginning in July. Giving an insight into universities at an early stage of academic life while engaging children and their families,

Careers Hub

The Careers Hub has a greater range of materials for students.

Mrs Buckingham

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**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 a member 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

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Beautiful Bruges

‘Travel broadens the mind’ they say, and for the seventeen adults who went on the recent cultural trip to Bruges this is certainly true. We all came back with a little more knowledge of medieval architecture, a tiny bit more understanding of the Flemish language, and a lot more expertise in the art of eating chocolate. Bruges, is the capital of chocolate making, and a visit is not complete without browsing the chocolatiers and tasting their wares. Of course, this is not the only thing the city is famous for. Known as the ‘Venice of the North’, it is criss-crossed with rivers and canals and our intrepid seventeen got the chance to see the city from the water when they took a guided boat trip in the morning sun. The flowers were out, the swans were gliding past and the locals were giving us a welcoming wave: it was glorious! Add a little of the celebrated Belgian beer to the mix and lunch at a chic pavement café, and you have the perfect trip.

When we arrived back in Brum, twenty five hours after our departure, we were tired but renewed, and looking forward to our next adventure.  

Ms Voyce

European 100m Champion visits the Academy

What a day for GDA! A visit from a top GB athlete! James Dasaolu currently holds the 2nd fastest 100m sprint time for a British athlete and he is also European champion!

On 27th June 2018, James met with Year 9 students, and firstly discussed his lifestyle, his training methods and how his career started. He inspired the whole room, discussing how he was inspired as a boy to take up athletics. Following his assembly and a question and answer session he then led the group in a series of training sessions; similar to what he would do on a day to day basis. James put the group through their paces and our students really got a feel for what it was like to be a professional athlete. He even offered a race to some of our students and they beat him! It is not very often that you can say that you beat an Olympian! To finish James stayed around for photos and autographs. Thank you to James Dasaolu and well done to our year 9 students who were fantastic ambassadors for the academy.

Year 9 Students train with Real Madrid

Being at St George’s Park was the best thing that has happened to me. I was able to learn lots of skills from the coaches of Real Madrid. Also they have inspired me to become a better player in the future and I was glad and honoured to have this opportunity in year 9 and I hope that I can play for Real Madrid alongside Cristiano Ronaldo one day.  

By Yousief Yeabio, Year 9

On Wednesday 20th June 2018, I went to St Georges Park and we trained with Real Madrid. I learnt a lot of new things like different football skills. I hope I become a better footballer player in the future. This day will always inspire me and I hope that one day I will play like professionals.  

By Prince Singh, Year 9

Level 3 Turkish Airlines Birmingham School Games – Athletics

On what was a bright but chilly Thursday, Mr Pickard and Miss Gwinnett were fortunate to take two teams (Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys) over to the Alexander Stadium to represent the academy in the city wide competition. We successfully reached this stage following victory in the level 2 games. On the day there were some incredible individual performances with some notable wins along the way. Well done to all students involved.

Year 7 Girls: Amiya Davis, Sienna Russell, Oumou Gumanhe Jarra, Sumaya Osman, Mariah Taylor, Kimya Milford (notable results include: Amiya – 100m 1st and shot-put 2nd place, Sienna – Shot-Put 1st place, Mariah – 800m 2nd place and 4x100m relay – 2nd place)

Year 8 Boys: Timi Akinwale, Jeremiah Cameron, Lesaa Legsiter, Csongor Mar, Ahmed Kefoma, Mohammed Adam (notable results include: Timi – 200m 2nd place and Mohammed – 100m 1st place).

Sports Results: Rounders: Year 10 Girls - GDA 7 - 9.5 St John Wall (L), Year 8 Girls - GDA 7 - 4 St Pauls (W), GDA 5 - 3 1/2 King Edwards (W), GDA 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 JQA (L), GDA 8 1/2 - 1 St John Wall (W), Year 7 Girls - GDA 6 1/2 - 9 1/2 St Pauls (L), GDA 7 1/2 - 4 1/2 Jewellery Quarter Academy (W), GDA 10 1/2 - 3 1/2 St John Wall (W)