



## Message from Mr Smith

The first term this year at CoDA has been a special one. Although this is CoDA's fourth term being part of QEGSMAT, and with myself as Headteacher, we continually improve and achieve many firsts.

Our students are all wonderful individuals and working together as a community is having positive impacts on our children and the school vision of 'improving the life chances of all students' is visible and clear on a daily basis.

The extent of our success is regularly demonstrated by my Headteacher Blogs, which are full each week. The paradigm shift is rewarding the students in school who deserve recognition for consistently meeting our expectations and the first activities day will be a huge success as the range of activities, and the excitement of the students to be going on them, is second to none.

I was awestruck by the inaugural CoDA Chromatic concert last week. They were excellently supported by the Twilight Dancers and the CoDA Musical stars. The event was attended by over 200 people and was quite frankly phenomenal. Seeing all of the performers achieve such high standards was a great way for me to start Christmas and another reason why I am so proud of school.

The term has had many successes and achievements. I am delighted by the learning I see in the classrooms and the way in which the

school feedback protocol to students is having positive impacts on learning as well. I challenge all parents to ask their child what flight paths are? What their current grades are? And to describe what they learn, on a daily basis. I am sure you will be pleased with the answers. In addition to that our other achievements have included;



- Stonewall Bronze Certificate
- CODA special remembrance video - 'A Wish for Peace' which was shared wider afield than just Derby
- RAIR project
- CODA celebrations of Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
- CODA/QEGS collaborations
- Our fantastic Academy Council
- Breakfast Club
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Sporting successes
- Bake Sale

All of which have more detail in the newsletter.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and the time you put into supporting your child's education. As we enter our Christmas holiday and look forward to 2019, we spare a thought for those who are less fortunate and hope that the work we do in school with our charity work, such as the recent bake sale, brings comforts to others.

I will close with a heartfelt thank you to all members of the community who have contributed so much this term. Our staff work hard, and are passionate about your child's education and to them I want to say a huge thank you too.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all!

**Mr P Smith**  
**Proud Headteacher**



## RAIR Project

21 pupils from year 9 took part in the RAIR (raising aspirations increasing resilience) project during November. It was the first of 3 days where the pupils work with World Champion skater and Youth Sport Trust Ambassador Jenna Downing. They worked in the classroom on goal setting and what makes a good leader and then as a team on team building 'Cube' like activities - see picture inset 'the rope of trust'.

In the next session they will work on a project to make a positive difference to other pupils in school.

The pupils were amazing!



## Children in Need



Students raised a huge £125 for Children in Need this year. Representatives from Year 9 sold ducks to form groups for the Children In Need Annual Duck Race.

Well done to everyone involved!



## Non-Uniform Day

Earlier in the school year, students were asked to keep the school litter free and in return they would be rewarded with a non-uniform day at the end of half term (26th November) Non-Uniform day is, also, a day we ask students to donate £1, the money is then donated to local/national Charities (each year group chooses their own charities). I am delighted to say that we raised £536.14.

## Bake Sale

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, Sarah L, Shannon T and Nikola W organised a bake sale for Cancer Research. They raised £70 which is fantastic. Well done!



## Remembrance Video

In November, we proudly shared our remembrance video for 2018. The song is called 'A Wish for Peace' and was created to pay our respects during remembrance week. The song was performed by our fantastic school choir and was arranged and directed by Miss Haywood and produced by Miss Woods. The message was used as a theme during assemblies and tutor time that week. If you haven't seen the video, a link can be found on our Facebook page.

## CoDA Chromatics

On Thursdays the school is alive with the sound of music! The CoDA Chromatics (choir) have had a very exciting term! We now have our vocal coach working in school one day a week which means the singers have participated in singing skills workshops, small group sessions and choir practice after school. The singers have grasped this opportunity and their enthusiasm and commitment have been a joy to see.

More than thirty students performed at our open evening back in October, entertaining prospective pupils and parents.

The main focus since the beginning of this term has been preparing for the Christmas Concert which we held in school on Thursday 13th December. The evening featured a wide variety of music including Rock n Roll and an item from The Greatest Showman. The choir, also, performed at The Council House on Friday 14th to add some festive cheer. So, I'm sure you can agree it has been a very busy but an exceptionally rewarding period. Both Miss

Haywood and Miss Woods are extremely proud of all that the choir has achieved.

## Performance

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the choir visited Castle View Primary School (a fellow Trust school) and spent a day with the pupils. They performed a short programme of songs including 'A Wish for Peace', our tribute to remembrance week.

Whilst at Castle View Primary, the choir enjoyed two workshops with the juniors and spent time playing with them at lunch. It was a very special day indeed and we look forward to working again with them very soon.



## Normanton Parents' Evening

We held our first Community parents' evening of the Academic year on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Nearly 100 students and their families came to the evening.



## Uniform Pop-up Shops

Our uniform supplier – Trutex - hold monthly pop-up shops in the school gym between 15:00 – 16:15. The dates for next year are below:

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

You can now purchase uniform direct from our supplier, further details can be found on our website:

<http://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/uniform/>



## Student Lockers

In the New Year we will be having student lockers installed in school, this is something the students have asked for through the School Council.

A letter will be sent out in the New Year providing further details on how to rent a locker for an annual rental fee of £25.00.

## Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Visit

Students attended an epic performance exploring three Greek tragedies, performed by splendid productions, followed by an exuberant and inspiring workshop developing characterisation, and working alongside students from QEGS.



## Derby Youth Mayor

Gloria O-B has been selected to represent the City of Derby Academy as our candidate for Derby Youth Mayor. She is delivered her speech at the Council Chambers on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Good luck Gloria and well done for representing the school at such a prestigious event. The whole school will get the opportunity to vote in a real democratic process as we participate in the Derby Youth Mayor Election process next term.





## Academy Council

The Academy Council at the City of Derby Academy is going from strength to strength. Our Academy Council is run by our Head Students, Connie S and Amrit A. It is made up of representatives from every year group including staff (Mrs Russell), Board of Governors (Mrs Burdis) and our local Community (Counsellor Joanna West).

**The Academy Council meets every half term.**

**This term we have discussed catering, rewards trips and student behaviour.**



Students have asked for lockers to be installed and these will be fitted in the New Year. The suggestions and decisions made by the Academy Council are beginning to have real impact and we are really proud of them.

## Mr Smith's Weekly Blog

Each week Mr Smith uploads a weekly blog to our website, Facebook and Twitter pages. The blogs are a great way to showcase/ recognise students. To read Mr Smith's blogs please visit our website: [www.cityofderbyacademy.org](http://www.cityofderbyacademy.org)

## Prophet Muhammad

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we celebrated the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Danyaal H in year 11 organised roses and cards to be delivered to all form groups in celebration. All students watched a video of peace and love.

Mawlid in the City have been organising events to show the true meaning of Islam. It was a wonderful day to be part of.

Thanks to Connor G, Zainab I, Amelia W, Mohsin A, Harmanpreet S, Kiasungua E and Joris T for helping on the day.



## Coffee Morning

On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December we welcomed parents of our recent arrivals to a Coffee Morning. The pupils welcomed the visitors with a poem. They then performed two Christmas songs and invited their guests to join us for coffee and cake (which they had baked themselves the day before).

The atmosphere was buzzing. Everyone enjoyed the experience and the students were so proud of their progress in the English language they could not wait to share their work.



## Staff INSET Days

Since September, we have had four whole staff INSET days, as well as many after school staff training sessions. During this time, we have been working together to develop and improve a number of areas from our School Improvement Plan (SIP). In particular our Teaching and Learning by embedding our new Assessment Policy and learning inspiring teaching strategies to meet the needs of all learners.

We have also been setting up and developing the Go4Schools data management and reporting system, which parents will see as the new reports come home.



## Farewell

We will be saying Farewell to Mrs Ratcliffe this term. We wish her all the best in her new venture



## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available to all students, from 8.00am - 8.30am every morning.



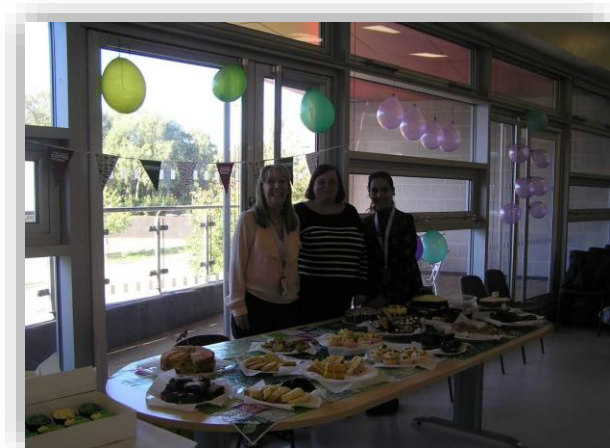
## Stonewall Achievement

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved a Stonewall Bronze award in recognition for our work supporting and educating our community about LGBT.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to thank Mrs Walker-Smith, Mrs Zahid and Mrs Eames for organising a tremendously successful staff Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday (28th). Over £300 was raised.



made outstanding progress in all of their subjects, including gaining grade 8's in some of those subjects and K Bhogul who achieved a grade 9 in his Art and Design exam, placing him in the top 3% in the country.

The vast majority of our students have been successful in securing their preferred pathway and I wish them the very best with their next stages of life.

All of this success is not possible without the dedication and support from every member of staff at the school, and I would also like to thank them for the positive impacts they have had on our students.

## Appointments

It is a requirement that evidence is produced for medical appointments to enable us to authorise and code absences correctly.

Where possible, appointments should be made outside of school hours. Any appointments during school hours should be reported in advance by calling the office.

Students under 14 must be collected by an adult from school, if leaving for an appointment during school hours. They will not be allowed to leave school alone.

Please do not hesitate to call school if you require any further information.



## GCSE/BTEC Results

We are delighted and very proud with the tremendous set of exam results that our year 11 students have achieved this year.

I would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to all of them.

Overall, the students have exceeded the grades that were expected of them and CoDA achieved an Attainment 8 score of 32, having been targeted a score of 29. This has been a dramatic improvement from the exam performance last year. In addition, the proportion of students achieving a pass in both English and Mathematics was 34%.

Although there have been many successes, I would like to highlight the following students for their phenomenal performances. A Azam, N Breyal, T Evans, A Kaur, C Singh, M Mujtaba have

## Did you know...?



When paying for school dinners, trips, etc we are asking that all monies are paid electronically by ParentPay. To access your account please contact the school for your activation details.

ParentPay is a much safer way of making payments, it means your child no longer needs to carry cash with them. You simply top up your account as and when needed to pay for lunch, trips, revision guides, ties, etc.

City of Derby Academy regularly keep parents/guardians up to date via our website, Facebook and Twitter account. Please ensure you follow us on the following pages to be kept up to date. We also have a text messaging and email service. Please get in touch if you need to update your contact details.

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Year 8
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 – Year 11
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Year 10
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Year 7



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## Important dates for your diaries

### Terms Dates 2018-19

- 5<sup>th</sup> November – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- 7<sup>th</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- 25<sup>th</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- 29<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### INSET days 2018-19

- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

### Parents' Evening 4:00pm–6:00pm

- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Year 11
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Year 9

