

2 February 2024

Dear families,

We have had an enjoyable week at Dixons Fazakerley as our students have enjoyed a range of lessons, extra-curricular activities and experiences this week. Also, We were delighted to welcome Richard Tutt, Director of Secondary Education at Astrea and DAT Trustee, into our Academy this week. Richard was very impressed with the culture within the academy and praised students' focus in lessons and the disruption free learning environment. He was also keen to point out how respectful students were to visitors, staff members and each other. It was a genuine pleasure to be able to show Richard how far we have come as an academy and for the students to be recognised for the immense qualities and potential they have.

Progressive Masculinity

This week a group of our Year 10 students have been taking part in a series of Progressive Masculinity workshops. We know that young men can often feel unseen, unheard, marginalised and frustrated. Through the sessions, we created safe, non-judgemental places where their voice was listened to and where they could talk about issues often considered taboo. Within the sessions, the boys can construct models of masculinity which are consistent with their values and with the kind of men, friends, partners and fathers they wish to be in future. The students were open and honest; a real credit to themselves and to the academy. We look forward to extending this opportunity to more students across the school in the near future.

Online Author Visits

For national storytelling week we arranged a series of author visits from the Book Trust and the National Literacy Trust. We had Geoffrey Boakye talking about black history and black music, Rashmi Sirdeshpande who spoke about good news stories in the world - something that we'd like to hear more about! The students really engaged with the topics and enjoyed the many conversations with the authors. We love our new library and can't wait to host visitors in the coming week.

Urban Debate League

Last week, students at Dixons Fazakerley competed in the first round of the Urban Debate League. Students had to debate a number of challenging topics in order to accumulate as many points as possible. The students prepared for both proposition and opposition sides, coming up with a range of balanced and thoughtful arguments. The students performed admirably throughout the competition. The judges were particularly impressed by their watertight arguments and overall professionalism.

As always, the best start in life for your child is attending school every day and on time so I look forward to seeing them in school for 8.30am sharp on Monday; before then I hope you enjoy a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wilson

