

Discover More About



DOWNHAM MARKET
ACADEMY

Friday 20 November 2020

Anti Bullying Week

This week has been national Anti-Bullying Week and at Downham Market Academy we want to spend some time raising the awareness of the issues that surround bullying. We are very proud of our anti-bullying culture and have even been recognised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance with the "All Together" gold award! To ensure we continue to grow our anti-bullying provision, we asked all students to complete a questionnaire to help us to understand the experience of bullying and assess wellbeing of the students at DMA.

Students also took part in a group activity to make pledges for our own individual contribution we can make to remain united against bullying as a school community.



Banksy has DMA "Hooked"!

KS4 & 5 Art students at the Academy were treated to a unique Banksy interactive art experience where an extraordinary signed Banksy sculpture known as 'The Grappling Hook' was exhibited during a unique careers talk from a local specialist collector.

One of Banksy's most iconic pieces, this powerful and infamous Banksy sculpture was created in 2017 as a "powerful statement" on the political and religious struggles in the West Bank and one of the most iconic pieces to emerge from Banksy's *Walled Off Hotel*. It was a major tourist attraction while exhibited in Ely Cathedral last year and brought a boost to our talented students at the Academy.

Students learned about careers in art as well as learning first-hand the value of such artwork, estimated to be over £250,000 and belonging to a private collection of the modest and unnamed collector who very generously volunteered to bring this piece in for our students.

The Grappling Hook is a crucifix, with three steel grapples, attached to a 14ft 5in long (4.4m) piece of knotted rope and has deep symbolic meaning.



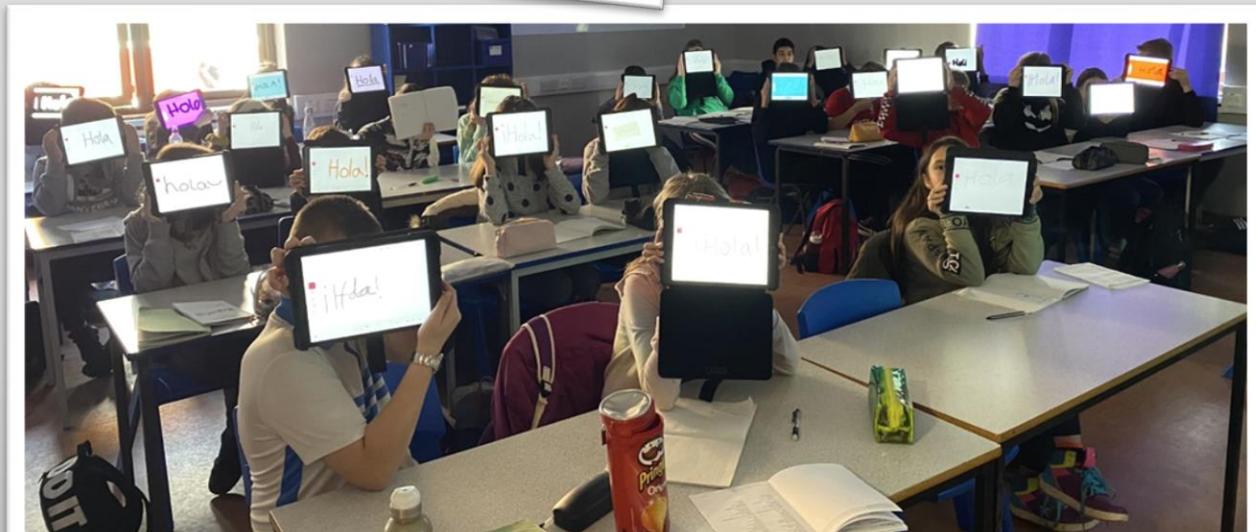
The iPads are up and running!

An exciting moment has come for Downham Market. In our continued journey to deliver innovative and meaningful change to the student experience of lessons, we are proud to launch the use of I-Pads, both in school and at home. All students in Years 7 to 10 now have I-Pads and staff have already begun to use them actively and creatively in lessons. These devices are also invaluable to students completing homework, revising outside of school and of course completing work whilst isolating. Students will also be able to receive video tuition virtually and other services from the school, as the year progresses.



To ensure that students of all backgrounds can take part, particularly in these difficult times, the scheme has been heavily subsidised by the school. At present we are asking for contributions of £10 per device from families, this is charged for 10 months of the year and the I-Pad kept throughout the student's time at school. This contribution also covers IT support, insurance, a secure case and access to the full Microsoft Office suite of software and a whole host of apps. We would like to ask families to support us in making these contributions and to complete the gift aid form alongside them.

The I-Pads will enhance learning and help students to develop independence and resilience as well as provide many new engaging ways to learn both in lessons and at home.



Art at the Academy



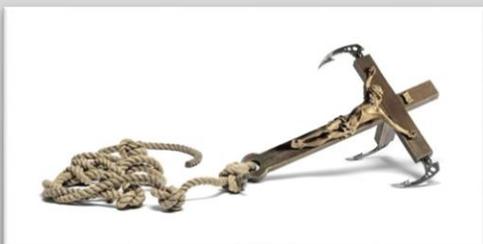
When you walk up the stairs to Art, four famous artists greet you in a huge mural painted by Mrs Kelly, one of our art teachers. This really sets the scene for Art at DMA – we're not shy about how important art is to life!

Studying artists – how and why they do what they do - is an important part of growing as an artist. Experiments with a wide range of techniques, styles and media during art lessons soon mean that students can express their own ideas and meaning through their art.

We're always looking for new ways to expand students' experience. This term we're hosting a series of Life Drawing masterclasses for Key Stages 4 and 5. Drawing a living, moving person is a tough challenge, but students who try this experience incredible growth in their confidence as artists and improve their observation skills. It's also about learning to commit to the marks you make and embrace imperfection when drawing – no erasing allowed!



Since Academy trips are on hold due to Covid-19, students are exploring galleries online this term, which is a new experience, and exam students have had an inspirational visit from an art dealer who brought in an original Banksy sculpture for students to see and discuss. There were lively discussions about the context and meaning of the art as well as the experience and career of the art dealer. Students were also astonished at how much Banksy's work fetches on the art market. This was a really unique opportunity.



Student Leadership

This half term, our Student Leaders have been working closely with House Councils to improve the experience at break and lunchtimes. The team identified the need for both practical and aesthetic improvements to the school site. The team have arranged with Mr. Eastwood for benches to be added to playgrounds and are investigating funding possibilities for planters.

The Leadership Team have produced a survey which went out to students last week via the DMA Dispatch. These results will help the team to further improve the experience at break and lunch times for everyone in line with what pupils want to see.

Continuing with the theme of school improvement, the Student Leadership Team will be carrying out a survey of the school site next week in order to target environmental improvements. This will be the first step in achieving an internationally recognised EcoSchools Green Flag Award.

Performing Arts

On Tuesday 10th November, 30 Year 9 students took part in a drama workshop at DMA. A member of *The Workshop* in Kings Lynn came to the school to deliver an exciting, fun and engaging workshop for Year 9 students that have shown an aptitude for drama. We were so pleased to be able to host such an event under the current guidelines and the students performed excellently in front of the professional workshop leader, Freddie Main. He commented as leaving the site that he is always so impressed with the behaviour and talent of students at DMA and can't wait to return to do more creative activities with our wonderful students.

In other Performing Arts news, on Thursday 19th November, 30 Year 10 students that are currently studying GCSE Drama got the opportunity to complete a two hour workshop with the infamous theatre company, *Paper Birds*. Due to the current guidelines, the workshop was lead by Georgie from the company via Zoom. The students responded imaginatively to Georgie's devising tasks and were able to create and perform some outstanding work that will help them on their way to getting their Drama GCSE.



Hugo the reading dog

Hugo joined us this week to support students in their reading interventions – he was very well-behaved and enjoyed hearing stories read to him by students in Year 8!

More students will get the opportunity to meet Hugo next week and we may also be joined by a second dog, Flo!



2456

2028

1738

2116

Above & Beyond points

Upcoming events & dates for the diary

Upcoming dates	
Thursday 26 November	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 27 November	Academy closed
Friday 18 December	Non-uniform: Christmas Jumper Day Last day of term

Parents' Evenings	
Year 7	Thursday 6 May 2021
Year 8	Thursday 25 March 2021
Year 9	Thursday 26 November 2020
Year 10	Thursday 4 February 2021
Year 11	Thursday 21 January 2021

Term dates		
Term	Starts	Ends
Autumn 1	7/8 September 2020	23 October 2020
Autumn 2	2 November 2020	18 December 2020
Spring 1	4 January 2021	12 February 2021
Spring 2	22 February 2021	26 March 2021
Summer 1	12 April 2021	28 May 2021
Summer 2	7 June 2021	21 July 2021

Friends of DMA

NEW - 50/50 Lottery Draw

AREA RESERVED FOR GLUING	00001	Friends of Downham Market Academy Registered Charity No.000000 Promoter: FODMA, DMA, Bexwell Road, Downham Market, Norfolk, PE38 9LL	00001
	Friends of Downham Market Academy 50/50 DRAW	50/50 DRAW Win Half the Cash! <i>Drawn First Saturday of every Month</i>	
		<small>Registered with BOKSIN Printed by: Raffle Tickets 42 - www.raffletickets.co.uk</small>	Ticket Price £1

*Continuing to raise funds for
Downham Market Academy*

Tickets available online

Facebook @FoDMA 50/50 Lottery

Facebook @Friends of DMA

e-mail - friendsofdma@gmail.com

First Draw – 7th November 2020

Tickets £1 Each

How to get involved

To join in the draw, you can contact us at the above FB page and let us know how many tickets you require. Then, make your direct bank payment to Lloyds Bank, Account name FoDMA, sort code [30-98-97](#) account no. [76901668](#) include your name and 5050 as a reference. Or you could set up a monthly Direct Debit. You will receive payment confirmation and your draw numbers. A winner will be chosen at random and receive half of the funds raised during that month in the form of a cheque.**Good Luck**.....