



24th November 2023

Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

We have 15 school days left to learn as much as possible before we finish for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December. We will finish slightly earlier than usual on Friday 22nd December at 12.00pm. Our normal lessons and curriculum is planned right up until we break up on the Friday and attendance is essential. 'Grab bag' packed lunches will be available for students on free school meal plans should they be required; please let your child's advisor know.

Year 11 students will receive their mock exam marks on Monday 18th December in a results event. This information will be sent home to families on the same day.

At Dixons Brooklands Academy, we want students to be prepared for their next destination in life. Just as they will when they attend interviews for top jobs in the future, it is important that all students take pride in themselves and their appearance. To this end, we have held assemblies this week on our uniform expectations and the purpose of taking pride in our appearance. There is an emphasis on being clean, tidy and presentable. This means all students must follow the uniform expectations including on their way to and from school. For the avoidance of any doubt, our uniform expectations can be found here <https://www.dixonsbk.com/about/uniform>



We welcomed visitors from Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port to the Academy this week to look at our morning meetings and deliberate practice. Our amazing student ambassadors led our visit and make a superb impression on our guests, talking about our values and why we do the things we do.



Thank you to families and students who attended our Year 9 Pathways and Qualification Pathways event this week. I was delighted to see so many families engaged with staff in discussions with our team about student attainment and discussing the courses that we offer in Year 10/11 to get our students to university, high quality apprenticeships or a real alternative.

Today, 1 December is World AIDS Day, an international day to raise awareness of HIV among people worldwide, and the aim to end new cases of HIV in the UK by 2030.

The George House Trust is a charity organisation based in Manchester. George House Trust supports anybody living with HIV and go into schools to offer educational sessions focusing on awareness, prevention and discrimination. They will be taking part in assemblies for Year 10 and Year 11 students.



Students of the Week

Congratulations to Liam, Alana-Mae, Angel, Kyle and Jovan, who were nominated by staff to be our students of the week for demonstrating our values brilliantly.



Christmas Holiday Activities, Food Programme Information and Booking Code

MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of FREE places for children to access a variety of activities and a FREE meal over the Christmas holidays in Manchester for those on benefits-related free school meals. To book your child's space: Sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/>

Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' - Use code when asked: 99765 to book free eligible activities. Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.

Christmas Show 2023

We are hoping you are looking forward to supporting our students in the Christmas Show that takes place on Thursday 7th December. Refreshments will be served at 6.30pm and the show will begin at 7.00pm. We have a fantastic line-up of performances from our students and will be an incredible evening. Tickets are on sale at reception for just £1.00.



The Big Ambition

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, is asking students to participate in The Big Ambition Survey.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important!

In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

[The Big Ambition | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)



As a reminder...

We are still accepting donations of food for the Bideford Food bank. Students can hand items to their advisors or parents/carers can drop off donations at reception 8.00-3.30pm before Friday 15th December.

A traditional Christmas lunch dinner will be on offer to students on **Wednesday 20th December**. This day will also be our Christmas jumper day, where students are allowed to wear a Christmas jumper or an item of red or green alongside their uniform (i.e. a jumper underneath their blazer or red/green socks or hairband) for a cost of £1 (payable via ParentPay only) which will be donated to a local charity, decided on by students.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

This week, a group of 50 Year 11 students who are studying Creative Design subjects, visited Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield. The students enjoyed viewing a fascinating (if somewhat muddy) display of exhibits. This should give them lots of ideas for their final pieces of work.



New Staff at the Academy

This week we introduce a new member of staff to our Year 7 families, but a familiar face to our Year 8-11 families. We say a big welcome back to Ms Connolly, our Assistant Curriculum Lead for Geography and History, as she returns from maternity leave. We have asked Ms Connolly to answer the 5 questions that have become part of our regular feature:

Ms Connolly - Assistant Curriculum Lead: Geography and History

What is one of your hidden talents?

I can Irish dance - or at least I could in my youth!

What are some traditions or superstitions you have for the first day of school?

When I was at school I loved shopping for new stationary and a nice notebook in August and I still get excited for that now.

What's the best thing about your role?

The students! I feel so lucky to work with young people every day - they have a care-free and fun attitude to life that I think we lose as adults. And having the opportunity to help them channel all that energy into

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

It's hard to choose, but probably to the Rainforest in Costa Rica.

What would you like students to remember about you?

I would love to be remembered as someone who was kind and made them feel like they could do absolutely anything they put their mind to. If they remember the formation of river landforms that would be an added bonus.

Dates for your Diary: November/December 2023

Wednesday 6th December	8.10-9.30am: Parents/Carers Coffee Morning: Safeguarding / How we keep our children safe online
Thursday 7th December	Christmas Concert
Friday 8th December	Flu immunisations (years 7-11)
Tuesday 12th December	8.15-9.15am: Coffee Morning - Meet the Year 11 Team
Tuesday 12th December	5.30pm: Class of 2023 GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening
Wednesday 13th December	8.15-9.15am: Coffee Morning - Meet the Year 7 Team
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas Lunch on offer to students
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas jumper day
Friday 22nd December	12.00pm: Term finishes for Christmas break