



6th October 2023

## Message from the Principal

We are working hard to ensure that Dixons Brooklands Academy provides a first class education to enable students to live a fulfilling life and make a difference on their community.

I feel it important to share with you our key areas of improvement, which will require the help of parents/carers, students and staff working together as a team. Everyone has a role to play in helping us have a school that our community is very proud of.



**Mr James Haseldine**  
Executive Principal

1. Improving Attendance - the more time students spend in school the more likely they are to achieve highly. The significant majority of students in Year 11 in 2022/23 who had over 90% attendance achieved better than the national average progress rate and secured colleges places of choice.
2. Addressing the minority of students who have not yet developed good learning habits or do not yet meet our shared behaviour standards, our learning habits are:

- **Punctuality and attendance**

*Getting to school and lessons on time, attending school regularly – is a good habit to develop for the world of work.*

- **On task behaviour**

*Focused learning in class, to ensure we can maximise achievement.*

- **Positive response**

*Showing kindness and good manners to staff, visitors, each other and the public, making the right choice if you make a mistake.*

- **Perfect Uniform**

*Untidy, incorrect uniform can lead to low standards. We want our students to look and feel professional as we prepare them for the world of work) <https://www.dixonsbk.com/about/uniform>*

- **Equipment**

*Every day, we insist that students have the right equipment, school bag, pencil case with full stationary set, morning meeting pack, reading book, planner – so they are ready to learn) [Dixons Brooklands Academy | Uniform \(dixonsbk.com\)](#)*

- **Meeting deadlines for homework**

*This helps students develop their organisational skills.*

3. Improving communication between home and school. Please contact your child's Advisor to discuss the general progress and pastoral care of your child. Please contact your child's Subject Leader if you wish to discuss your child's progress in a subject. Please contact your child's Director of Standards to discuss issues that cannot be resolved by your child's Subject Lead or Advisor. These staff members are named on your child's timetable and on our website and can be contacted via [info@dixonsbk.com](mailto:info@dixonsbk.com) or via 0161 998 3992. You can also send an enquiry via our website <https://www.dixonsbk.com/contact>

If you wish to speak with our Designated Safeguarding lead, Sarah Murdoch, please email [smurdoch@dixonsat.com](mailto:smurdoch@dixonsat.com) or call 0161 998 3992

If you wish to speak with our SENCO Paula Etheridge, email [petheridge@dixonsbk.com](mailto:petheridge@dixonsbk.com) or call 0161 998 3992.

## Students of the Week

Congratulations to Adam, Sarah, Kai, Joseph, Tallulah and Kieran, who were all nominated by staff to be our students of the week for demonstrating our values brilliantly.



## Ethics Debate



Mr Hughes held a lively debate with his Year 8 Ethics class this week. The Drama Studio was set up as the House of Commons and students were split into the Government and the Opposition. They elected a party leader and held a very important debate on the much discussed issue of whether Jaffa Cakes are a biscuit or a cake!

This session gave students a taste of debating as the government would, as they are currently studying the political system of the UK in Ethics.

## Black History Month

October is Black History Month and theme for 2023 is 'Celebrating our Sisters'. Each faculty within the Academy will be focusing on the contributions made by black women in their subject areas to showcase throughout the month.

This week, we would like to celebrate the work of Mary Jackson. Mary Jackson was an American mathematician and aerospace engineer at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which in 1958 was succeeded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. She worked at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, for most of her career.

The film, Hidden Figures, is based on the true story of Mary Jackson, amongst others.



**SALUTING OUR SISTERS**



## New Staff at the Academy

We have a number of new staff who have joined the academy. As a regular feature of the newsletter, we'd like to introduce them to you. This week, it's the turn of Ms Boden in English and Director of Standards for Year 8 and Mr Dawodu in Maths. We've asked them 5 questions to find out a little bit more about them.

### Ms Boden – English Teacher / Director of Standards, Year 8

#### What is one of your hidden talents?

*Until recently, I was the Performance Director for a womens' acappella chorus which I founded with my best friend. I still love performing, especially singing. Whilst I mainly now stick to singing in the car, I still like to believe I can 'nail' Tina Turner's Proud Mary and Dusty Springfield's 'Preacher Man' at karaoke!*

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

*I enjoy having 'new' things for new beginnings, so any excuse to shop for a new bag, shoes, coat, especially stationary sounds good to me. Does that count?!*

#### What's the best thing about your role?

*Working with young people, building positive, authentic relationships with all students, and knowing that I made a difference. Every day, I am fortunate to have a list of wonderful reflections and experiences because of the students I teach and support. Every day is a school day, quite literally!*

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

*I'd head off to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh for a bit of escapism. Edinburgh would be a fantastic city to visit for many reasons, I know this as I lived there during my 4 years at university. If we were able to organise a trip during the Fringe Festival in August, we'd all have an opportunity to visit the sites and experience some brilliant 'off the wall' venues, arts and cultural events. Even better, if the field trip included a performance and exhibition from our Dixons Brooklands students.*

#### What would you like students to remember about you?

*I've three answers! I'd like to be remembered for:*

- *being a high expectation, high energy teacher who puts 100% in day in day out which has a positive impact on my student's achievements;*
- *being 'real': warm and strict, fun and productive, supportive but demanding;*
- *demonstrating care and compassion towards both colleagues and students.*



### Mr Dawodu - Maths Teacher

#### What is one of your hidden talents?

*Trained as an actor before I became a maths teacher! Played the role of 'Sean' in the BBC One TV Drama 'Waterloo Road'. Also presented the weekly 'Dead Good Show' at BBC Radio Manchester for several years.*

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

*I don't really have any superstitions about school life. Just enjoy the ride and take each day as it comes. No two days are the same teaching at a secondary school!*

#### What's the best thing about being a teacher?

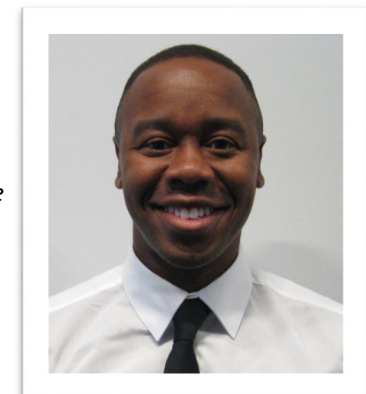
*Inspiring the future generation – actively making a DIFFERENCE.*

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

*I would take everybody to the Chill Factor for some snowboarding lessons before we fly out to the Swiss Alps. Who doesn't love some snowboarding fun!*

#### What would you like students to remember about you and your class?

*The laughter, the giggles, the CRAZY dance moves - but most importantly the GOOD VIBES!! Who said maths couldn't be fun, eh?*



## Careers

### Post-16 Open Days

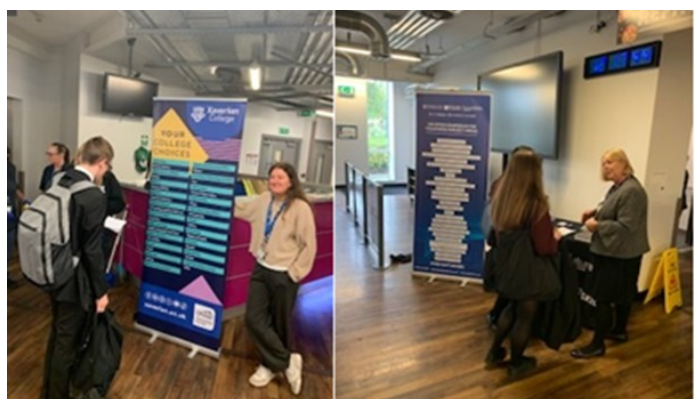
Local Sixth Form and FE providers' Open Day events are starting this weekend. We strongly encourage students and families in Year 11 to take the opportunity to visit these events to ensure they are fully informed about the possibilities available for their destinations post DBK.

A list of events and addresses can be found below:

<b>Xaverian Sixth Form College</b>	Saturday 7th October, 10.30am-2.00pm Sunday 15th October, 10.30am-2.00pm
<b>Loreto Sixth Form College</b>	Saturday 7th October, 10.00am-12.00pm and 1.00-3.00pm Sunday 15th October, 10.00am-12.00pm and 1.00-3.00pm
<b>The Manchester College</b>	Thursday 12th October, 5.00-7.00pm
<b>Greater Manchester Skill Centre</b>	Thursday 19th October, 4.00pm-6.00pm Thursday 23rd November, 4.00-6.00pm
<b>Access Creative College</b>	Saturday 4th November, 11.00am-2.00pm
<b>Trafford College</b>	Saturday 4th November, 10.30am-1.00pm
<b>Cheadle College</b>	Saturday 11th November, 10.30am-1.00pm
<b>Stockport College</b>	Saturday 11th November, 10.30am-1.00pm

### College Options

Students had the opportunity to meet and discuss college courses during their lunch times this week. Lecturers from local Sixth Form Colleges attended our lunch breaks to run drop in sessions for students to assist them in their choices and help them on their journey to university or a real alternative, after they graduate from DBK.



### Year 10 Work Experience

This week your child will have brought home information about work experience. Please read through this, provide your consent online, support your child to source a work experience placement and complete the necessary forms before the 15<sup>th</sup> December deadline. If you encounter any problems, please contact our Careers Lead and Advisor, Victoria Geary, [vgeary@dixonsbk.com](mailto:vgeary@dixonsbk.com)

## Sport at DBK

### Sale Sharks

Sale Sharks coaches are attending school this half term to work with our students in their PE lessons. We are delighted to work with Sale Sharks and provide our students with the experience of working with coaches from elite sporting clubs.



### Football

Our Year 11 football team had a successful week with two victories over The Barlow RC School (5-3) and William Hulme's Grammar School (5-0). Two excellent performances under the leadership of Head Coach Mr Caldwell. Well done!

### Netball

Well done to the Year 8 and 9 netball team who played a fixture against St Paul's on Monday. They showed outstanding determination in the face of a very strong opposition.

### Cross Country

Recently, the PE department took 23 students to the Manchester Schools Cross Country League at Wythenshawe Park for week 2 of the winter league.

All students put in 100% effort and completed the 1.5-mile route around Wythenshawe Park. Week two of the winter league saw some excellent performances from our Year 7 girls, having 4 students placed in the top 25! And in the first week of the competition we were very proud of our Year 11 student Maks for being our standout performer, finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place.



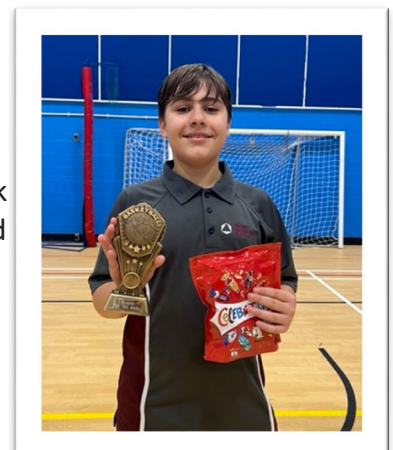
Students will now advance to the Manchester Schools Finals in November.

### Extra-Curricular Basketball

Meet our basketball after school club player of the week - Mattia in Year 7.

Mattia is being awarded our after-school club basketball player of the week for his hard work and integrity which have earned him this recognition and made a lasting impact on those around him.

Congratulations Mattia on this well-deserved achievement!

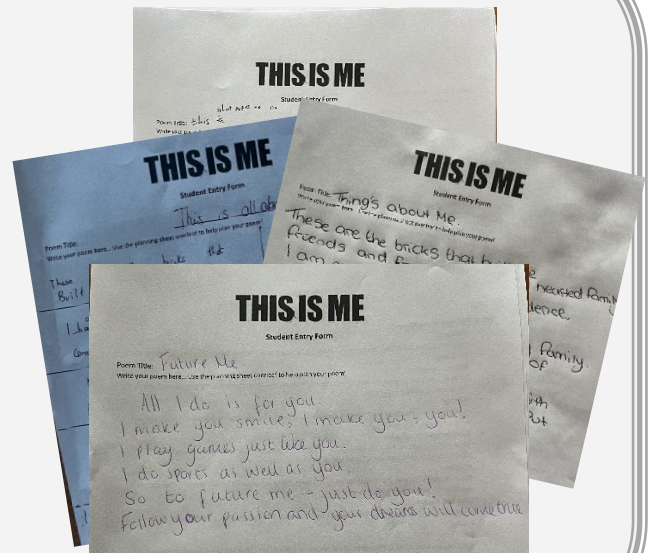


## This is Me

Almost 20 Year 7 and 8 students entered a poetry competition – This Is Me – through the English department recently.

The students all tried really hard and produced some fantastic poems that reflect who they are; being confident, kind and accepting of themselves along the way!

English teacher Ms Moran says “It has been a pleasure to read through these poems, we are excited to hear the results!”



## Duke of Edinburgh Award - Silver

We are looking forward to of Duke of Edinburgh Award group visiting Snowdon for their Silver expedition next week (13-15th October). We hope the weather is good and that student enjoy the experience.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.



## Dates for your Diary: October 2023

<b>Wednesday 11th October</b>	2.00-6.00pm: Ski lessons at Chill Factore
<b>Wednesday 11th October</b>	3.00-6.00pm: KS3 Girls' Football League at Saint Paul's High School
<b>Thursday 12th October</b>	3.00-6.15pm: KS4 Girls' Football League at Wright Robinson College
<b>Friday 13th - Monday 16th October</b>	Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
<b>Wednesday 18th October</b>	2.00-6.00pm: Ski lessons at Chill Factore
<b>Friday 20th October</b>	Students break up for half term break. (Return Monday 6th November)