



8th December 2023

Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

The highlight of this half term, for me, was last evening's Christmas Concert. We had an eclectic mix of performances; guitar medleys, songs from the choir and duets and trios from students Ella,



Ellie and Rosie, festive tunes from the steel pans, Year 11 Lyla performed a piano solo, a preview from the school show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, our Year 9 band, and last but by no means least, the BTEC band, who ended the show with a rousing rendition of Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody! Thank you also to the staff who made it possible, especially Ms Moreton, Mr Hughes, Ms Taylor, Ms Ginty, Ms Moran and Mr Moreton.

I was so proud to see our students giving such a confident performance. It was lovely to see so many families and members of the community gathered together to see what students and staff have worked so hard on. Thank you

Next week will bring another night of celebration as we invite our Class of 2023 students to the GCSE Presentation Evening. Their hard work and dedication to their studies has provided them with the tools they need to take them to their next steps, whether it be college or the world of work.

Next Friday, 28 of our students will be travelling to Prato Nevoso in Italy for our annual ski trip. This will be an unforgettable experience for our students, and one we hope they will enjoy immensely.

Having a calm and orderly school environment is very important. It helps students learn. We want our school staff to build positive relationships with students. After reviewing our school schedule and talking to staff and students, we plan to make some small but important changes.

These changes will not impact the start or end times of school. But they will impact student schedules and where students need to be during the school day.

Our goals are:

- Give students a better start to their day and help advisors support students more effectively first thing in the morning. This will help students be prepared to learn.
- Provide more help for students who need it at the start of the day.
- Have students move between classes in an orderly way to reduce disruptions and help them get to class on time.
- Have more staff available at lunch to assist students.

In short, we will:

1. Move the time when students meet with advisors.
2. Move the time when students attend morning meetings.
3. Reduce lunch periods from three to two sittings.

The start and end of school will stay the same.

The changes will begin on Monday 18th December, to allow us to practice our new routines.

We will share the specific schedule changes and overview with students at assemblies next week and inform families of these changes in next week's newsletter.

Students of the Week

Congratulations to Bobby, Mohamad, Shayne, Brooke and Paige, who were nominated by staff to be our students of the week for their year group for demonstrating our values brilliantly.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Our football teams have enjoyed another successful week. Monday saw our Year 8 team play Our Lady's and won 7-1. Our Year 11 team beat Loreto High School 3-0. Both teams are through to round 3 of the Manchester Cup.

In Basketball, Anvi and Musdul received our After-School Club Basketball Player of the Week! Their hard work and dedication have paid off and it's a well-deserved achievement. Well done and keep up the fantastic work!



Army Games

Last week the Army came in to do a PE breakout day with a number of our classes. It looked at working on key skills students will need to take forward in post-school life such as teamwork, problem solving and communication. Our Year 10 Sport BTEC cohort got to talk about some of the different roles available in the army as well whilst taking part in these activities and developing their understanding of what each role would require. Overall it was a really positive fun-filled day and something different for the students to enjoy.

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students impressed Miss Bowderly and everyone who taste-tested their food this week as part of their internal assessment. Students needed to create two dishes showcasing a variety of food preparation and cooking skills and present them to a professional standard.

Miss Bowderly was incredibly proud of all their hard work and resilience during their 3-hour exam but wanted to give special appreciation to Dylan's beautifully piped traditional trifle and Alfie for his professional fish and chips. Well done to all taking part!



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.

Nut Free Policy

Dixons Brooklands Academy is a nut-free school and therefore no types of nuts are permitted to be consumed on site - this includes chocolate coated nuts, i.e. M&Ms, peanut butter, etc. Please remind your child of this policy.

Manchester United Foundation Street Reds - Free Football sessions

Street Reds offers free football sessions and alternative activities for young people aged 8-18 in a supportive and positive environment.

Parents/carers must register their child's interest before they can attend.

To register or for more information, please visit: www.mufoundation.org/streetreds



Winter illnesses

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their classmates and studies. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time. Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The e-bug resources for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important - to your child or teenager.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the NHS web pages.

To try and combat winter flu symptoms, Intrahealth, part of the NHS, visited the Academy today to administer flu immunisations to students. Thank you to those families who gave permission for their children to have this preventative measure.

Dates for your Diary: December 2023

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	Term finishes for Christmas break; KS3 at 11.50am / KS4 at 12.00pm

Students return at 8.15am on Monday 8th January 2024