



15th December 2023

Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

Awards Evening event: Class of 2023



It was a pleasure to welcome back the class of 2023 to celebrate their achievements this week. The class of 2023 had to endure isolation and school closures due to the pandemic during key years of their education. They still managed to achieve the best results the school has had and more students than ever went on to colleges studying the courses of their choice. A special award went to George Mitchell who received the Lee Collier Prize for exceptional attainment – George achieved results that were in the top 5% of the country. Also, Hien Nyguen was awarded the Jodie Dixon prize for overcoming adversity. It was a pleasure to speak with families and students on the evening, addressing the challenges that lie ahead and reminding all to ‘be kind’, ‘work hard’ and to ‘show integrity’. Congratulations to the class of 2023.

We were delighted to host Exact Academy from the USA to play against our Year 11 students this week. Exact pick their players from each state in the USA after a lengthy trial process and were touring the UK this week. They were a high standard opposition and our team put up a spirited performance.



A number of students enjoyed an expedition to the Chill Factor in Trafford park this week. Students enjoyed snowboarding and skiing practice as part of our enrichment programme.

On Monday 18th December, Year 11 students will be receiving their mock examination results during a special assembly. These results will also be sent to parents/carers via the MCAS app. Please note, the SchoolCloud booking system will also open on this day for parents/carers to make their appointments for Year 11 Parents’ Evening on **Thursday 11th January**.

The school term is drawing to a close and we will finish for the Christmas break on Friday 22nd December for 2 weeks. We expect all students in school every day next week and we have a week of great learning planned to ensure our students stay on track for university or a real alternative. Our curriculum for this term is planned right up to Friday and we have much to cover next week. Students are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper or an item of red or green on Wednesday 20th December, in exchange for a donation to our chosen charity, Manchester Mind (<https://www.manchestermind.org/>) We will also be serving our annual Christmas lunch on this day.

The final day of term contains an assembly with myself, followed by normal lessons. Year 7 will be treated to a musical performance during period 3 from our star performers to celebrate the end of their first term with us.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be dismissed at 11.50am and

Year 10 and 11 students will be dismissed at 12.00pm on Friday 22nd December.

School Day

We have been working with our student leaders to make improvements to our school. As indicated in last week's newsletter, one of these improvements is amendments to the flow of the school day for students. While we are keeping **the start and finish times the same**, we have identified key areas to make our school experience better for stuen. These changes start on Monday 18th December.

The improvements include:

- Moving the time of advisory (with pupils tutors) from 11.40am to 8.15am
- Moving morning meeting from 8.15am to 8.40am
- Reducing number of lunch sittings from 3 to 2. This means Year 7 pupils will join Y8 and Y11 for lunch.
- Year 11 to line up morning only. (not break/lunch)
- Provide zoned seating for year groups at lunch and provide Y11 with separate space to eat.
- Move break time for Y7/8/11 to slightly later in the morning.
- Remove the Year 7 split lesson at lunch.

Our student leaders presented the changes that begin next week to all students in assemblies this week. They focused upon why we were making the changes. The reasons they shared include:

- Increasing the opportunity for students to meet advisors straight after line up for a personal start to the day.
- Advisors will do the equipment and uniform checks – rather than them being done in morning meetings.
- Increasing the opportunity for intervention at the start of day.
- Calmer corridors and improved punctuality to lessons.
- Reduction in lunch sittings give staff more time to help pupils.
- Later break means start to the day/learning flow not interrupted.
- Year 7s do not have their learning interrupted daily by a split lesson.



The amended school day from Monday 18th December 2023:

Dixons Brooklands Academy

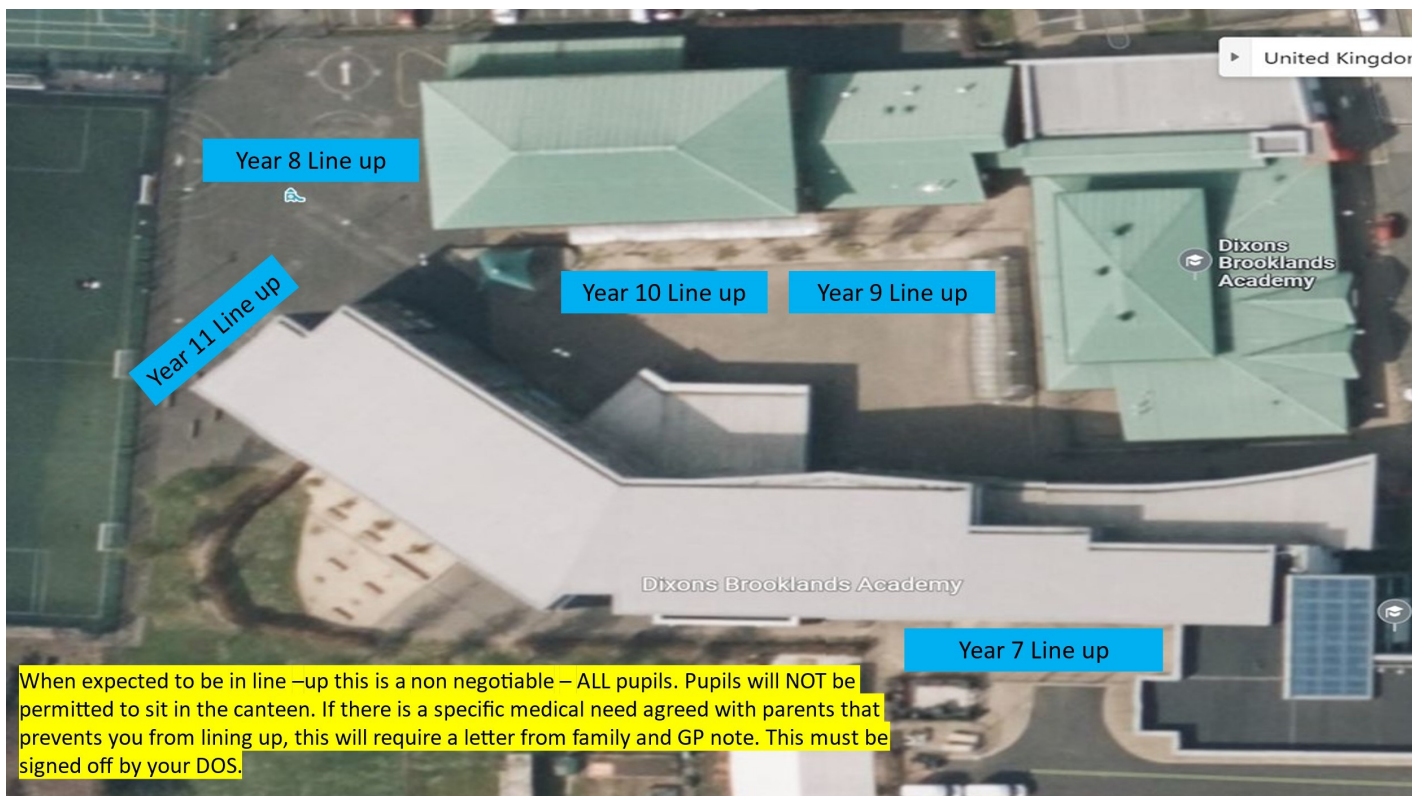
New school day												
	8.15-8.40am	8.40-9.05am	9.05-10.00	10.00-10.15	10.15-11.10	11.10-12.00	12.00-12.35pm	12.35-1.30pm	1.30-2.25pm	2.25-3.20pm		
Year 7	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lunch 1	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6*	Guided Transition	
Year 8	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lunch 1	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6*		
Year 9	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lunch 2	Lesson 5	Lesson 6*		
Year 10	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lunch 2	Lesson 5	Lesson 6*		
Year 11	Advisory	Morning Meeting	Lesson 1	Break 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lunch 1	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6*		

*Students finish at 2.25pm on Wednesday and Friday. Staff stay until 3.20pm on Wednesday for CPD and leave at 2.25pm on Friday.

Year 7 students will be brought down to lunch at 12.00, period 3 teachers will walk them to the canteen and stay with them until 12.05.

The Line Up Zones

(Year 11 only line up at the start of the school day.)



Sport at DBK

Girls Football

The KS4 girls football team had another fantastic set of results this week - winning 5 of their games and drawing 2 at Wright Robinson College. As always, they demonstrated great teamwork and they are really gelling together as a team now which shows in the quality of football they produce. Player of the matches was Lilia O for her tireless work rate and leadership skills. Well done girls - keep it up!

After-School Basketball



Harvey S and Abdulla A received our after-school club basketball player of the week this week! Their hard work and consistently showing a positive attitude have paid off and it's a well-deserved achievement.

Well done and keep up the fantastic work!

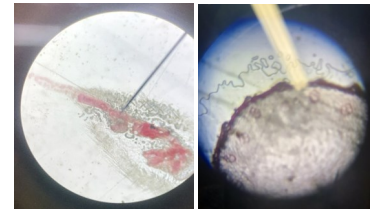
Thank you for all your food donations which will be going to Bideford Food Bank. Your generosity will be appreciated by those in need in our community.

Science at DBK

Biology

Year 8 students have been learning all about photosynthesis and plants in science recently. We have tested leaves for starch and been looking at cells from plants using the microscope.

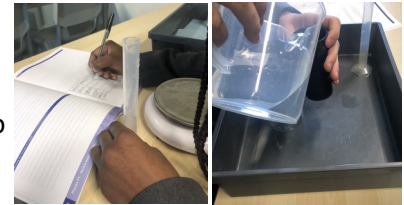
If you have a child in Year 8, ask them if they can identify the root hair cell from our images.



Year 8 students tested leaves for starch by looking for a colour change when they dropped iodine onto the leaves. The leaves turned blue/black in the presence of iodine.

Physics

Year 9 have been learning all about density in science this week. We have been using the eureka cans to measure the density of regular objects and then using our maths skills to calculate the density of that object. Be sure to ask your Year 9 child all about it!



In Year 7 Physics this week, we made our own paper helicopters! We investigated how blade length affected the time taken for our helicopter to hit the ground.

We found that the smaller the blade length the faster the helicopter landed- ask your Year 7 child why this happened; they should be able to tell you all about the forces involved!

Dates for your Diary: December 2023 / January 2024

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
Monday 8th January	Term 3 starts
Thursday 11th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 16th January	Year 9 Parents' Coffee Morning: Meet the Team, 8.15-9.15am
Tuesday 23rd January	Year 8 Parents' Coffee Morning: Meet the Team, 8.15-9.15am