



20th October 2023

Message from the Principal

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Parent Forum Coffee Morning this week. It was lovely to welcome you into the Academy. I hope you enjoyed seeing our morning routines and that you found the forum informative. Our focus for this forum was how we teach reading so parents can support at home.



I am delighted to announce the appointment of our Head Students for 2023/24. Our Year 11 students voted for the Head Students to represent the Academy for this Academic year. It was a close vote, but our elected Head Students are Khadim and Lottie and our Deputy Head Students are Jovan and Ellie. Congratulations to all who took part.



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of good attendance and punctuality to school. Students who had over 90% attendance in last year's Year 11 cohort achieved significantly better than national average in their GCSEs. School attendance is the most crucial prerequisite for quality education; students cannot learn if they are not in school. We know that attendance to school is linked to high quality GCSE results which our students require to reach their full potential. Please watch our latest film clip on the importance of attendance. (<https://www.dixonsbk.com/about/attendance>)

Sometimes students do struggle and make mistakes or poor choices. Sometimes this results in suspension from the Academy. We are committed to ensuring our provision is purposeful and inclusive and we open our new Compass provision on Tuesday 7th November. Our Compass provision aims to ensure students are supported if they breach our behaviour policy, as a step before suspension may be required.

I look forward to seeing our students again on Monday 6th November when they return from the half term break, and I hope they enjoy their two week break.



Students of the Week

Congratulations to Lexi, Tye, William, Riley and Max, who were nominated by staff to be our Students of the Week for demonstrating our values brilliantly.



Corrections

At Dixons Brooklands Academy, we want all our students to climb their mountain to university or a real alternative, thrive in a top job and live their best life. However, we also understand that not all students will be able to achieve this without making mistakes along the way. Our learning habits are in place to allow teachers to teach and students to learn. Where students fail to meet our learning habits, corrections are issued to reinforce our expectations every day so that they can climb their mountain. Corrections are an opportunity for students to reflect on their mistakes and understand how they can be a little bit better each day, as well as to all the staff body to support in addressing any barriers that lead to a sanction before the next day.

We have listened to feedback from students and families and recognise that, although we expect all students to attend their correction so they can start afresh the following day, daylight hours are reducing and we want all students to feel safe when leaving the Academy, and we want to work with those families who also require support from their child with collecting siblings. Consequently, beginning November 6th 2023, the length of corrections will reduce from 30 and 60 minutes to 20 and 40 minutes. Please review the table below that outlines the new corrections model, and we ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to attend their correction when issued, to allow them to learn from their mistakes and understand how to be a little bit better the next day:

Correction Types	Issuing	Overview
Class teacher interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any stage and time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One to one conversation at the end of the lesson 100% strategies Phone call home Planner Warning
20 minute centralised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 missed habit in a day On call from 1+ lessons Truancy Homework Poor corridor behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed expectation of any 1 of the 6 learning habits within one school day Completed centrally in key stage spaces
Lunch Time centralised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed 20-minute correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to attend a 20-minute correction Completed in TSpace Students to be reminded during Advisory time
40 minute centralised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 missed habit in a day Missed 20-minute lunch correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed expectation of any 2 of the 6 learning habits within one school day Completed centrally in key stage spaces
RLR - all day and 40 minute correction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed 40 minute correction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed in Red Line Room for the full day Correction completed centrally in the key stage space

Equipment

We insist that all students have the equipment necessary at the start of each school day and for each lesson to support them with their learning. This equipment and 100% booklets have been provided by the Academy to every child. Should students need replacement equipment and are unable to provide it for themselves, to avoid a correction for not having the required equipment, we have an equipment shop which is open daily until 8.12am where students can replenish missing stationery at no cost to themselves; we do this so that students are equipped and ready to learn with no excuses. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure they bring in their own equipment and keep it safe. Equipment is checked in every Morning Meeting.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Silver Expedition

Last weekend, our Year 11 students completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition in North Wales, walking through the beautiful landscapes of Snowdonia National Park. Day 1 and Day 3 had students walking up Maesgwm, with day 2 consisting of students walking around Beddgelert Forest. All students successfully completed their expedition; hiking, cooking for themselves and putting up and camping in their tents.

What an achievement to these 11 students, who learnt some amazing skills on this incredible journey. Well done to all these students, especially from your accompanying staff - Ms Riches, Mr Rowlinson and Ms Larkin!



Bronze Award

Dixons Brooklands Academy is proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award programme to all students in Year 9 as part of the curriculum. When we return after the half term break, we will begin the registration for each Year 9 student to take part in the DofE Award, enabling them to develop life skills and independent learning skills that are so widely recognised.



There are four main sections of a DofE programme; Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition, all must be completed to gain the award. Please refer to the website: <https://www.dofe.org/do/basicinformation>

For your child to gain the DofE Bronze Award, the following needs to be completed. The Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections all require three months of evidence. Additionally, your child must spend an extra three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections, continuing to gather supporting evidence for the chosen section. Ideas about what can be done for each of the sections can be found at [Ideas for Activities - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#) and will be discussed with your child during an assembly after half term break and during a student clinic. Please discuss the activities your child can do with them.

From the 20th of November, there will be DofE student clinic for support and advice on Tuesdays from 3.20-4.00pm. When students complete their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections, there will be an expedition in June 2024 to complete the Bronze Award.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the award, or have any questions, please contact Mr Andrew Martin, DofE Award Manager at amartin@dixonsbk.com

Sport at DBK

Football

Match report from Mr Caldwell; PE Teacher

On Wednesday afternoon the Year 7 football team took on St Paul's in a double header (league and cup game together) for their first game representing Dixons Brooklands Academy. The team made a solid start, passing the ball through the opposition and showing some great skills to beat the defenders. In the 13th minute a great through ball from Joshua was taken towards goal by Isaac who put the ball past the keeper into the far corner to take the lead 1-0. Two minutes later however, a missed clearance ended up with the ball bouncing off a few players before being kicked towards goal to draw level at 1-1. 2 minutes before half time Charlie took a corner and it was poked in at the back post by Isaac for his second goal of the game.

In the second half it was all about the defence and blocking shots, making last minute challenges from their forwards and unbelievable saves from our goalkeeper Jordan. In the 35th minute we thought we had taken a 2-goal lead when Isaac slipped through Charlie who finished emphatically, only to be given offside. We rectified this in the 40th minute with a great through ball by Isaac again to Charlie who took on one defender and finished into the far corner to lead 3-1. The game was end-to-end as St Paul's looked to get a goal back, which they did in the 45th minute through a penalty, sending the ball into the right side of the goal to set up a tense finish. St Paul's striker in the 48th minute took the ball past a couple of players went wide of the goal but managed to send the ball goalwards hitting the crossbar, with a great attempt. The referee then blew the final whistle, ending the game and sending Dixons Brooklands Year 7 into the 2nd round of the cup and adding our first 3 points of the season.

A fantastic result which was well deserved. Well done boys!

Extra-Curricular Basketball

Well done to Stella and Bradley, both Year 9 who received our after-school club basketball player of the week!

Their hard work and dedication exemplify the qualities we strive to instil in all our student-athletes.

Keep up the fantastic work!



Ski Lessons at Chill Factor^e

28 students from across Year 9 and Year 10 are preparing for the Dixons Brooklands Academy 2023 Ski Trip to Prato Nevoso later in the year.

All students successfully completed their 3-week beginners course at the Chill Factor^e this week, having learned new skills over the 6 hours, whilst showing our school values - working hard, having integrity and being kind. Group 1 of our Year 10 students took on the big slope, showing outstanding resilience and hard work throughout the big challenge. All students are prepped and ready now for the exciting trip to Italy in December!



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 Larkin in History.

We've asked them the same 5 questions that we have been asking all our new members of staff, to find out a little bit more about them.

Ms Larkin – History Teacher

What is one of your hidden talents?

I can write with my feet!

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

Go for a long run and (try) to get an early night.

What's the best thing about your role?

Getting to help my students succeed! Many believe they can't do things, but always can if given the right support. When a student wants to show me their work because they are proud of it, or can do something they couldn't do before, I know I have done a good job as their teacher.

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

I would take them to parts of Southern Spain to see some of the oldest cave drawings in the world and acknowledge all of the cultural influences that makes Spain such a beautiful country.

What would you like students to remember about you?

That learning History is incredibly important and interesting. I'm the teacher who will always listen and loves when students try their hardest to learn - and that I occasionally wear really excellent socks!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Today (Friday 20th October) our students held a Macmillan Cake sale at break time to raise money for this amazing charity. The stall was a sell out, and our students all enjoyed taking part.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the sale. The Academy raised **over £400** for this very worthwhile cause.

Macmillan offer services to people living with cancer at every stage of their experience. They provide invaluable work supporting people with cancer, emotionally, financially, practically, physically and offering financial support. 98% of their work is funded by voluntary donations and we would like students at Dixons Brooklands to support in contributing to this worthy cause.



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.



**SALUTING
SISTERS**



This week, we would like to celebrate the work of Mary Seacole.

Mary Seacole was a daring adventurer of the 19th century. A Jamaican woman of mixed race, she was awarded the Order of Merit posthumously by the government of Jamaica and celebrated as a 'Black Briton' in the United Kingdom.

Mary Seacole is one of black history's unsung heroines. She made her way independently to nurse soldiers in the Crimean war, despite being refused passage by the government. Seacole was born to a Scottish father and Jamaican mother in Kingston in 1805, and came to England in the 1850s after building her reputation as a nurse.

Careers

Next Steps for Year 11

On Thursday 26th October, Trafford College is hosting an Apprenticeship Fair with over 100 career paths at varying levels from Entry Level to Degree Level. No need to register, just turn up on the day:

The address is Trafford College, Manchester Road, West Timperley, Altrincham WA14 5PQ

Other Open Events that may be of interest:

Greater Manchester Skill Centre	Thursday 23rd November, 4.00-6.00pm
Access Creative College	Saturday 4th November, 11.00am-2.00pm
Trafford College	Saturday 4th November, 10.30am-1.00pm
Cheadle College	Saturday 11th November, 10.30am-1.00pm
Stockport College	Saturday 11th November, 10.30am-1.00pm

Dates for your Diary: October/November 2023

Friday 20th October	Students break up for half term break.
Monday 6th November	Return from half-term break
Wednesday 8th November	Parent/Carer's Coffee Morning - 8.10-9.30am <i>Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum Information</i>
Thursday 9th November	Year 10 Parents' Evening: 3.40-6.35pm
Thursday 23rd November	Staff Training: School closed to students
Friday 24th November	Staff Training: School closed to students
Thursday 30th November	Year 9 Parents' Evening