



Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine

We are striving to provide a first-class education to enable our students live a fulfilling life and make a difference in their community. As you can see from our newsletter, students have had an array of opportunities this week to build their confidence, resilience and character.

Students of the Week

Leo, Heidi, Fabian, Bobby, Leon and Ryan who were nominated by staff to be our students of the week for demonstrating our values brilliantly this week.



Ski Trip

Our curriculum extends beyond the academic to support students' broader development. Part of this personal development offer at DBK is to offer to a wide, rich set of experiences for students; this year students will be traveling to Prato Nevoso, Italy in December for a ski excursion. Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the Ski trip information evening on Thursday. The countdown to take-off has begun!



World's Largest Foam Board Aircraft

We work hard to prepare students for future success in education, employment or training. Last academic year, in conjunction with the University of Manchester, our Year 10 students helped construct the World's Largest Foam Board Aircraft. Following a successful test, on Monday, the University of Manchester came into the Academy to present an assembly to our Year 7, 9 and 10 students and giving them the opportunity to see the aircraft first hand.

As you can see, the aircraft looks fabulous. It was a wonderful experience for students to work with University students, learn about engineering and start to think about careers and possibilities in this field.



Vocational Learning

Our vocational Key stage 4 courses are now well underway, with many students experiencing our fantastic facilities. Students on our construction and catering pathways (pictured) are already working hard to develop the skills required to succeed in their courses. The swiss rolls created by Year 10 were particularly good!



Sports

Good luck to our cross-country teams who are taking part in events at Wythenshawe Park today and next Friday 29th September.

Open Evening

We are pleased to confirm that our Opening Evening for Class of 2029 will be on Thursday 28th September from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Come along, meet the staff and take a tour of our academy. Our student leaders will be your guide throughout the evening where you will be able to visit academic departments, get involved in activities, sample our canteen service and meet staff and students. We look forward to seeing you and your family. No need to book, just turn up!

Careers - Futures Fair Event

Today, Friday 22nd September, our Year 11 students have had the opportunity to attend the Academy's 'Futures Fair' careers event. Students met with a host of employers, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. This has hopefully given students more ideas about what they want their next steps to be. We were also delighted to welcome a member of our alumni Connor McCartney. Connor left in 2016 and serves in the British Army with the Duke of Lancaster Regiment.



Reminder: Start of school day and punctuality

Our school day starts promptly at 8.15am. Students are expected to be in their year group space at this time with their planner and pencil case in hand. If students arrive after 8.45am, without an acceptable reason from a parent/carer, students will receive a U code mark and an attendance intervention. If a student has 10 or more U marks, we will request a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority.

Reminder: Attendance and What to do if your child is too unwell to attend school or there has been an emergency that prevents attendance.

When communicating with the school regarding absence or punctuality, we encourage you to either leave a message on our school phone line (0161 998 3992), send an email (attendance@dixonsbk.com) or use our parent app PA Connect (if you have any issues with this app, please contact the school). Please be aware that although you may provide a reason for absence, it is the academy that decides if the absence is recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

Thank you for making appointments for the doctor, dentist, optician etc. outside of school hours. However, where appointments must take place during school time, we require notification in advance of the appointment and a copy of the appointment letter/card to allow us to record this absence with an authorised medical mark. When a student is leaving early for an appointment, it is your child's responsibility to go to the student exit at the appropriate time. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow students off-site without a parent or nominated emergency contact physically collecting a student from school premises during the school day, this includes when if your child has been suspended.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of attending regularly and being on time to school and all lessons.

Students who attended school regularly last year achieved 1.5 grades higher than those who had frequent time off. Students cannot learn if they are not in school.

Legal Framework

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996, states parents are responsible for ensuring that a child, of compulsory school age, attends school regularly and punctually. If parents fails in this duty, then the Academy will work with Manchester City Council and initiate legal proceedings; this may involve issuing Fixed Penalty fines or prosecution.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

Following changes in legislation in 2013, parents are no longer entitled to take leave of absence during term time. Leave of absence during term time will only be granted under exceptional circumstances; this does not include family holidays, celebrations or weddings.

Requests for leave of absence in term time should be put in writing to the Headteacher by letter or email. The Headteacher's decision is final and cannot be appealed. If parents take their children out of school without making a request, or if parents still take their child out of school after a request has been denied, the absence will be marked as unauthorised and they will be issued with a Penalty Notice fine by Manchester City Council.

As an Academy, we may request a fixed penalty notice for the following reasons:

- Unauthorised leave/holidays during term time for 6 or more half days
- If parents/carers do not attend In-School Attendance Panels where they have been invited to discuss their child's unauthorised absences and/or lateness
- Attendance of 90% or less over a school term with 20 or more unauthorised half-days. Where parents/carers have failed to work with the school to address and improve the situation

Reminder: Attendance and What to do if your child is too unwell to attend school or there has been an emergency that prevents attendance (continued)

- Late arrival to school after the registers have been closed resulting in an unauthorised code for morning attendance.
- A mix of unauthorised absence and avoidable lateness.
- If families do not make sure their child is not in a public place during a suspension from school without a good reason.

We try to ensure we have a range of provisions for all our students to encourage them to attend school every day. It starts with a free breakfast for any child arriving to school before 8.00am. In addition to this, we have a 'quiet' break and lunch area for students who may feel more comfortable out of the busy canteen area.

Reminder: Health and Safety

I would like to remind those of you who transport their child to school by car that it school is inevitably busy at the start and end of each day and so there is an area of risk around school at drop off and pick up times. I must insist that drivers respect the traffic lights which control the entrance and exit to our premises. There have been some near misses recently when drivers have become impatient and driven out on red lights or have been confrontational with staff who are managing our car park to keep students safe. We all have hurried and stressful school run mornings/afternoons from time to time, but if you are driving I ask you to take time, drive slowly, respect our staff who are keeping your children safe, park carefully and be mindful of young people who, despite all we say, may not be mindful of you.

European Day of Languages 2023 - Tuesday 26th September

Tuesday 26th September is European Day of Languages. At Dixons Brooklands Academy we value learning an additional language as it is a skill that can open doors in the world of work and also expand students' travel opportunities. This year, to celebrate EDL, the Spanish department are running a competition for students. On Tuesday 26th September, students will be shown 6 short videos of our staff speaking in another language. Students will be encouraged to make a note of which language they think is being spoken and by who. Students who bring their guesses to S9 at the end of the day will win a prize if they have identified all 6 languages correctly.



Year 10 Work Experience – 1st-5th July 2024

Following on from the success of last year's work experience week, our current Year 10 students will be going out on work experience from 1st-5th July 2024. We are working with an external company called Our Futures who manage the process of vetting employers, conducting health and safety checks where necessary and collecting the relevant information and consent from students and parents.

On Thursday 28th September, Our Futures will be in school for the launch assembly with students and after this information on what happens next will be sent home. Students are expected to find their own work experience placements with support from families, Our Futures and school as we find that this is the best way to ensure that every student undertakes a placement that is meaningful to them.

Due to the volume of work necessary to make work experience happen, the deadline for students to find their own placement will be 15th December 2023. Please have conversations at home about where students might want to do their work experience. If they are very unsure then they can drop in to see our Careers Advisor, Ms Geary, after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays for help and advice.

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 Niven, in Science, and Ms Baker-Haslam in Geography. We've asked them 5 questions to find out a little bit more about them.

Ms Niven – Science Teacher

What is one of your hidden talents?

I used to drive a rally car at university!

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

First day has always been a bacon barm as a treat breakfast!

What's the best thing about your role?

Every day is different so life is never boring, however I also love seeing my students all grown up and doing well in various jobs.

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

San Francisco and Yosemite National Park (Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge and the national park of Yogi Bear!)

What would you like students to remember about you?

The practicals, the dissections and the science facts that they will remember for years to come! Did you know that a cockroach can live for a week without its head and a grasshopper has ears in its belly!

Ms Baker-Haslam – Geography Teacher

What is one of your hidden talents?

I love to cook, and I am always trying new things - I'm still not sure if it is much of a talent though!

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

I'm really not a superstitious person so I don't think I have any. I normally treat myself to some new stationary before the year starts if that counts?!

What's the best thing about being a teacher?

Making a difference in the lives of young people - everyday is different and normally very entertaining.

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

As a geography teacher, the list is endless! A safari trip in South Africa would be amazing, a trip to Yellowstone national park in the USA, boat trip down the River Nile, I could go on and on...

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

Obviously how amazing geography is, but more importantly how I much care about them doing well so they can go on to achieve their biggest dreams.