



22nd December 2023

Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

It is with great sadness that I need to tell you that one of our Year 10 students, Tyrique Jemaa, died on Wednesday evening. Tyrique was loved by his family, staff and friends. He will be missed very much.

Naturally, our efforts have been focused on supporting the family of Tyrique, while handling this news for our full community of 1100 students in partnership with Tyrique's family. We ask that their privacy is respected at this time.

We spoke with small groups of students who were withdrawn and spoke with their parents, before speaking with Year 10 pupils as a group in a supportive way. On Friday we addressed all students in an age-appropriate way. Our messaging with students was followed up with an opportunity for students to attend our Hub to speak with our staff and counsellors. Many students took up this offer of support, others took the opportunity to speak with staff individually. We also had a moment's silent reflection for Tyrique on Friday. We are in contact with Tyrique's family to find an appropriate and acceptable way to celebrate and commemorate Tyrique's life. I have been very proud of our students and the way they have supported one another.

We have shared links for support outside of school for you to contact if you feel the need to do so.

Leadership Update

I am sorry to report that I will be leaving Dixons Brooklands Academy when my contract comes to an end in December. I have taught for 25 years and been a senior leader for 15 years, serving four communities as Head or Executive Head. I have now accepted an offer to work overseas in a totally different role.

I have very much enjoyed helping the school to build on its improvement journey. I have particularly enjoyed working with students to hear about their experience of school and make changes that have a positive effect. I have enjoyed the school performances and of course, I have enjoyed the sports fixtures that our teams have competed in. It has also been a pleasure speaking with students each week who have won the Student of the Week award. I have been profoundly affected by this week's loss of Tyrique and the amazing response of staff and students; this is something I will not forget.

Mr Harrison, Executive Director for the North West, who has been associated with the school and community for 20 years, will lead the school from January until a new Executive Principal and a new Head of School are in post.

I have every confidence that the hardworking school staff and senior team, Trust, Academy Ambassadors, wider community and students will continue to work together to keep improving the school to make it one we are all proud of. It has been a pleasure and privilege to be the custodian of this special role. Please do work hard, be kind to one and show integrity. Make this school a great place to learn.

I wish you all a great holiday and best wishes for 2024.

Students of the Week

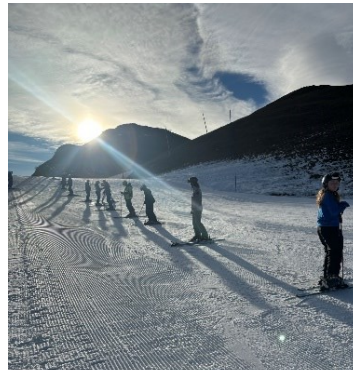
Congratulations to Jordan, Aliae, Gabriel, Gabriel, Imogen and Kieran, who were nominated by staff to be our students of the week for demonstrating our values brilliantly.



Ski Trip 2023: Prato Nevoso, Italy

Students (and staff) have been having an amazing time on the 2023 DBK Ski trip to Italy, and there has been some impressive progression of skiing ability too. The spectacular views have made for a wonderful trip to the scenic village of Prato Nevoso.

Students departed on Friday 15th December and will arrive back to the academy on Friday 22nd December.



Year 10 students took part in a workshop with our careers advisor Ms Geary this week. Ms Geary was talking with students about our extensive work experience programme which takes place in July 2024. You will be able to see a special feature on work experience later on in this newsletter.



Year 11 students are working hard in our Morning Mastery programme. Morning Mastery takes place from 8.40am each day and is attended by all Year 11 students. The sessions are led by our subject experts who recap and delve deeper into key areas of our curriculum to help students prepare for their final examinations. Here, Mrs Farby is working on English Literature.

We welcomed academy local ambassador (Governor) Kemoy Walker to DBK this week. Kemoy, along with our other ambassadors, works hard behind the scenes to support and challenge the academy. Kemoy enjoyed meeting our student leaders this week, who took him on a tour of the Academy to see the changes we have made to the school day.



We held our annual Christmas Jumper day on Wednesday this week, where students (and staff) were invited to wear a Christmas jumper or item/s of red and green alongside their uniform in exchange for a donation to charity. Wednesday was extra festive as a traditional Christmas lunch was being served in the canteen at lunch time and our steel pan band played whilst students ate. Our charity this year was Manchester Mind <https://www.manchestermind.org/> Manchester Mind are a great local charity committed to improving the lives of people with mental health needs. They promote the health and wellbeing of people affected by mental distress and take a positive approach to mental health, challenging stereotypes and discrimination. Thank you to all families who contributed to fundraising for the charity this week. A whopping **£278** was raised; this will mean so much to the charity - thank you.



Some of our Christmas Jumper 2023 winners



Stars of the day, our kitchen staff served over 500 Christmas meals on Wednesday!



Careers Information

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

As of this week, 81 of our Year 10 students have managed to secure a work experience placement! Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with this and congratulations to the students for taking this opportunity to do something that will have a huge impact on their confidence, future focus and overall personal development. The deadline for submitting self-placement forms has officially passed but if additional forms are brought to Vic Geary, Careers Advisor in the first week back in January, she will be able to take these.

NEXT STEPS

If your child has secured a work experience placement:

Ensure that you have completed the online consent form – the link and the code you need is on the letter your child brought home with their work experience forms.

Our work experience partner, Our Futures, will process the placement and conduct any health and safety checks that are necessary with the employer.

In the summer term, students will be issued with the final details of their placement and instructions on how to make contact with their employer prior to their placement starting on 1st July.

If your child has not secured a work experience placement but would like to find one of their choice:

Encourage your child to contact local employers over the holidays, possibly during the first week of January, to ask if they would be open to offering a work experience placement in July. Complete the form and return to school before Friday 12th January.

If your child would like to be considered for one of the limited number of placements that Our Futures have sourced for us:

Ask your child to see Ms Geary either during Morning Meeting during the first week of January or after school on Tuesday 9th January. Examples of placements still available include:

- Primary schools and nurseries
- McDonalds Restaurants
- Care homes

If your child does not wish to complete an off-site work experience placement:

Employment-focussed activities will be happening alongside some usual lessons during the week of work experience so your child will still get to encounter some employers and learn about different types of jobs/employability skills.

Consider choosing a virtual work experience placement from one of the sources below. If you choose this option, ensure that the details of the booking are sent to Ms Geary as soon as possible so that access to an IT room can be arranged in school:

[BENTLEY: Plan, Design, Make and Sell Bootcamp](#)

[Springpod Virtual Work Experience](#)

[The Forage Virtual Work Experience](#)

If you encounter any problems, please contact our Careers Lead and Advisor, Victoria Geary, vgeary@dixonsbk.com

Careers Information

Year 11 - College Application Deadlines

Students have been made aware of college deadlines regularly during Morning Meetings and Advisory and many have submitted their applications already, but just to make you aware of the process for students wishing to apply to one of the colleges or schools with a set deadline:

1. Student selects their courses (these are not set in stone until enrolment so if they still need more advice from our Careers Advisor this can be sought after the application if necessary)
2. Student writes personal statement using guidance given during Advisory sessions
3. Student completes their sections of the application form and parent/carer signs
4. Student gives their completed application form and personal statement to Mr Morgan as soon as possible
5. Mr Morgan completes the school reference and adds predicted grades
6. Application forms are sent to colleges in bulk by school unless it is received too late in which case it will be returned to the student and they are advised to hand-deliver it

College/Sixth Form	Application Deadline
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Loreto College	12th January 2024
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Xaverian College	19th January 2024
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Parrs Wood Sixth Form	31st January 2024
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Please note that The Manchester College, Trafford College, Stockport College, Cheadle College, Salford College Group and Access Creative College do not have set application deadlines but it is strongly advised that students apply by February half term.

Year 11 – Apprenticeship Application Support

Students who are planning to apply for apprenticeships to start straight after Year 11 have been identified through career guidance appointments and will be offered support in school to make competitive applications. Ways you can help at home:

1. Encourage your child to arrange some work experience for February half term or at weekends. Having work experience is the factor that makes the most difference to their chances of success
2. Sign your child up to the Apprenticeship Academy which starts in February online, after school, from home: [General | Apprenticeship Acad](#)
3. Use this step by step guide: [Your-step-by-step-guide-to-applying-for-an-apprenticeship.pdf \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](#)

All Year Groups

A reminder for parents that there are resources to help you to have conversations with your children about their futures on the Academy website: [Dixons Brooklands Academy](#)

2023 Review

Our students have participated in lots of different activities since they returned following the summer break. Here are just a few of the highlights:

World's Largest Foam Board Aircraft



Open Evening



Vocational Learning

Careers Event

Sixth Form College Fair



Readathon



Head Student Election

Duke of Edinburgh Award - Silver Expedition



Ghyll Head Residential



Year 11 Mocks

Premier League Protect the Planet Event



Pathways Event

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Christmas Show



Cross Country Competitions

Sale Sharks Rugby Visits

Dates for your Diary: December 2023 / January 2024

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

Bereavement Support

Cruse Bereavement Support:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

Child Bereavement UK:

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>

Mind:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/bereavement/useful-contacts/>

Barnardo's Bereavement Service:

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/child-bereavement-service-general>

