



**DIXONS  
BROOKLANDS**  
ACADEMY

## A message from our principal



**Mrs K Gardner**  
**Principal**

I want to begin by expressing our sincere thanks for the outstanding attendance at our recent Year 11 Parents' Evening. Your presence and engagement made it clear just how committed our students and their families are to reaching their true potential.

The turnout was exceptional and reflected the determination and dedication that sets our Year 11 community apart. Such fantastic attendance supports our students' learning and demonstrates how invested our families are in their children's success - both in school and in life.

Every single one of our Year 11 students is a credit to the academy. Their attitude, work ethic, and ambition inspire us every day. We are equally grateful to you, their families, for your unwavering support and encouragement, which makes such a positive difference.

Thank you for being wonderful partners in your children's education. Together, we will continue to support our students on their journey to success.

# NEWSLETTER

16 January 2026

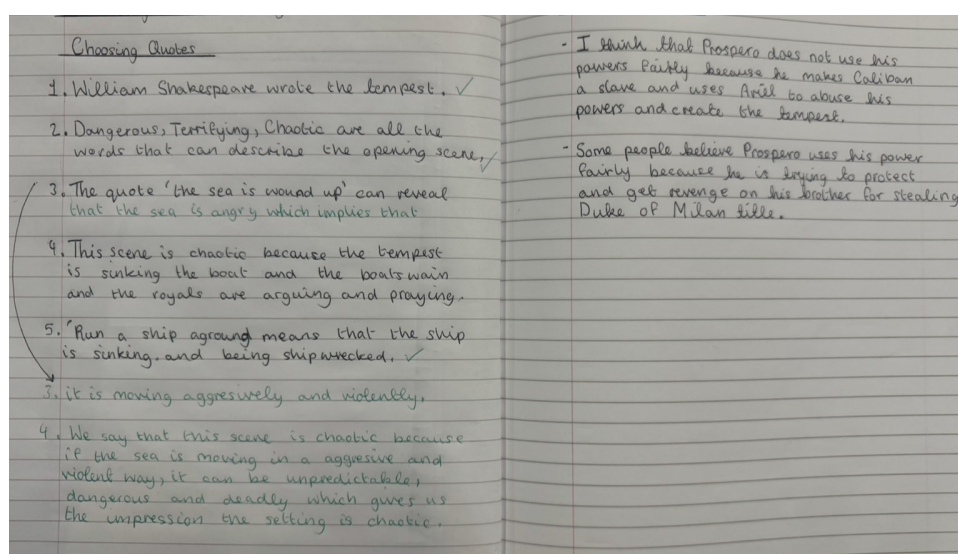
Issue #14

# Celebrating our students through excellence

## The magic of Shakespeare's The Tempest

Our Year 7 students have begun an exciting new journey into Shakespeare's The Tempest, diving into the play's rich language, memorable characters, and timeless themes. As part of their study, pupils have been developing their ability to translate Shakespearean dialogue into modern English.

This activity that has not only boosted their confidence with unfamiliar vocabulary but has also helped them appreciate the humour, tension, and drama woven throughout the play. Alongside their language work, students have been exploring some of the major themes that shape The Tempest, including power, revenge, colonisation, and forgiveness.



Through class discussion and group activities, they have begun to consider how Prospero controls the island, the consequences of seeking revenge, and the complex relationships between those who rule and those who are ruled. Pupils have also reflected on the play's ultimate movement toward forgiveness and reconciliation, discussing what these ideas might mean in both Shakespeare's world and their own lives. It has been inspiring to see Year 7 engage so thoughtfully with such a challenging text, and we look forward to seeing how their interpretations continue to develop over the term.

## English subject stars

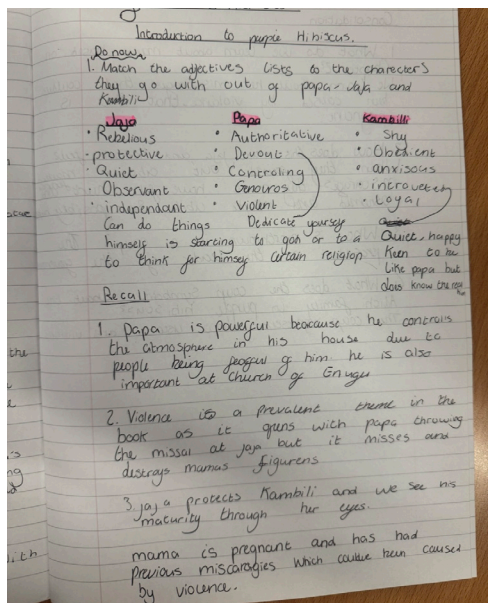
Students who have demonstrated our values and excellent subject knowledge throughout their English lessons first week back.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ahmed M</li><li>Georgie N</li><li>Leo M</li><li>Nevaeh M</li><li>Elsie Mae T</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roisin L</li><li>Charlie M</li><li>Bonham O</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Caridwen D</li><li>Mohamed M</li><li>Leba M</li><li>Liam C</li><li>Jeremi S</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jodie B</li><li>Jake S</li><li>Matthew F</li><li>Amy-Rose J</li><li>Raiya K</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jess B</li><li>Josh R</li><li>Freya A</li><li>Nicholas P</li></ul>

# Celebrating our students through excellence

## Purple Hibiscus - independent character research

Our Year 9 students have made an impressive start to their study of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Purple Hibiscus, with a special commendation for 9A4, who have demonstrated exceptional independence and curiosity in their research. Pupils have been exploring the novel's key characters in depth, gathering contextual insights and analysing how Adichie crafts complex personalities and relationships within the story.



This research has led to some lively and thoughtful debates in class, particularly around character contrasts and the shifting dynamics within the Achike family. Students have engaged critically with themes of authority, freedom, tradition, and personal growth, using evidence from both the text and their independent findings. Their contributions have shown real maturity and insight as they begin preparing for their Cycle 2 assessments.

It has been fantastic to see 9A4 approach their learning with such enthusiasm, independence, and analytical skill. We look forward to seeing how their ideas continue to develop as we move further into the novel.

## English independent thinkers

Students that have worked through a problem or skill independently and increased their knowledge and chance of academic success.

### KS3

- Gabriella M
- Kai B
- Willow D
- Alice C
- Lydia H
- Mohammed A

### KS4

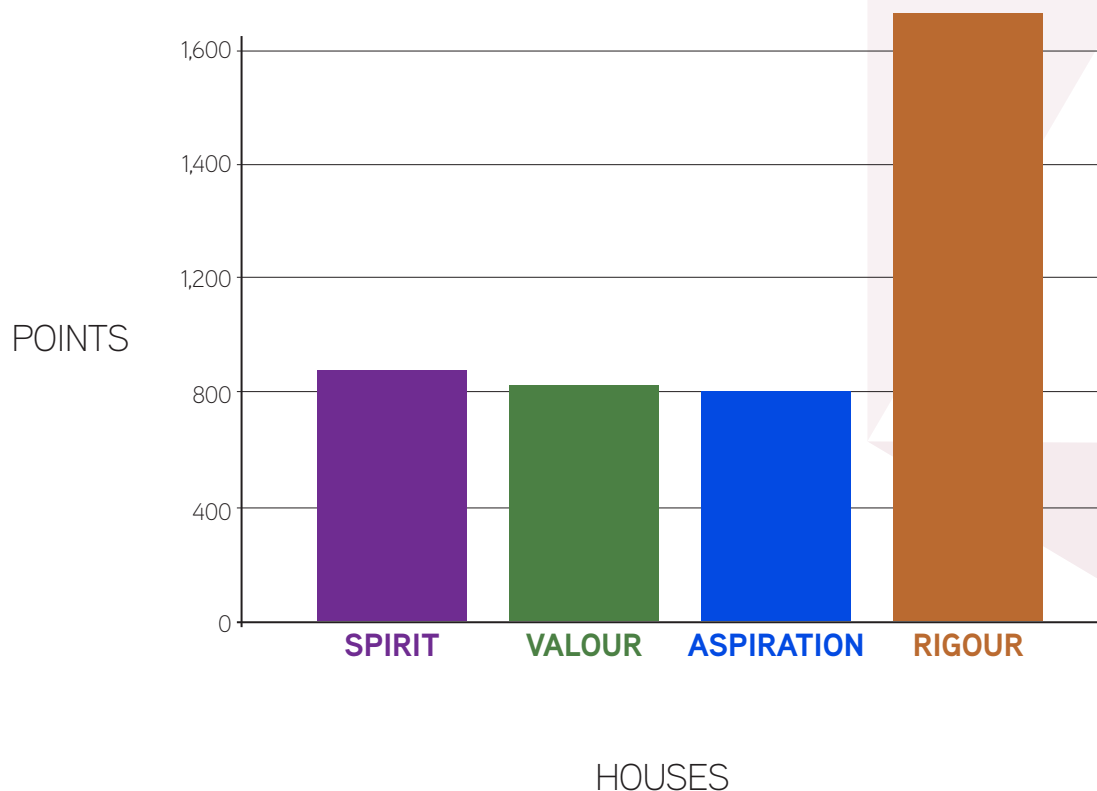
- Fabian B
- Ralphy M
- Dina S
- Max J
- Clayton B



# House points spring term update

House Rigour have made a superb start to the term, already clocking up a magnificent 1672 points through excellent behaviour and participation in events! Aspiration, Spirit, and Valour are neck and neck, with only a handful of points separating them.

Keep up the good work - every credit and participation goes towards your House total!



## Parent Forum

We look forward to seeing you at our next Parent Forum, details below.



## Parent Forum

Help us support our children's and academy's success by sharing your views. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

Monday 26 January | 5-6pm  
Dixons Brooklands Academy, Moor Road, Wythenshawe, M23 9BP

# A message from Mr Morrison

## supporting Year 11 students

### Year 11 Parents' Evening

On Thursday 15 January, Dixons Brooklands Academy held the final Parents' Evening for our Year 11 students. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for parents, carers, and students to meet with subject staff, review current progress, and agree the final steps in preparation for the upcoming GCSE examinations.

We were delighted with the exceptional turnout on the night. The positive, purposeful engagement throughout the evening was truly pleasing, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers for their continued support.

Alongside the individual subject appointments, we offered revision masterclasses in English, maths, and science, designed to support students and parents as they enter the final stages of GCSE preparation. We also offered careers meetings for those wishing to explore post-16 pathways, ensuring every student has the guidance they need for their next steps.

**With just 12 weeks to go** until GCSEs kick off, we continue to provide a strong programme to ensure every student is fully supported. These include:


- **Morning Mastery sessions (from 8.15am):**  
These sessions provide focused, high-impact learning at the start of each day. It is crucial that students attend promptly to gain the full benefit.
- **After-School intervention sessions:**  
Monday – Maths  
Tuesday – Science  
Wednesday – English  
These subject-specific sessions allow students to strengthen understanding, address misconceptions, and practise key skills.
- **February and Easter holiday sessions:**  
Additional intensive revision opportunities delivered during the school holidays to give students valuable extra time with subject experts.
- **Ongoing post-16 interventions (Mondays and Thursdays):**  
Targeted support for students exploring their next steps, ensuring they are prepared and informed about post-16 options.

We are grateful for the continued partnership with families as we move into this crucial phase of the year.



# What's on

There are some fantastic events taking place locally during these cold winter months, please explore the posters and enjoy some brilliant experiences in our local community!




## Winter water safety

In winter, children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.


Taking a nice walk in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Here are some useful tips to keep safe this winter:




### KEEP BACK FROM THE EDGE

Keep back from slippery banks.  
Stick to well-lit areas and plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.  
Never go onto the ice.




### KEEP CHILDREN AND DOGS WITHIN REACH

Teach children not to go onto ice.  
Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.  
If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.




### IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP.

Stay calm, float on your back and call for help.  
Wait for help and keep as still as possible.  
Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.  
Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



### CALL 999

Do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.  
Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.



Enjoy Water **Safely**

## Wellfield Pharmacy's vaccination van is coming to a venue near you.

### Flu vaccinations are offered to:

- over 65s
- pregnant people
- people with certain long-term health conditions
- residents in care homes
- carers
- people in close contact with immunocompromised adults
- frontline workers.

### COVID-19 vaccinations are offered to:

- over 75s
- residents in a care home for older adults
- people aged 6 months to 74 years with a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment.

**Plus free blood pressure checks!**

## FREE 2026 Wellness Event

at Northenden Social Club

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

- Check in with your health for 2026 (blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI)
- Cost of living, flood advice & lots of local organisations
- Free flu and COVID vaccinations for eligible adults
- Raffle and prizes\*
- Free soup & roll, refreshments and cake!



All are welcome. Vaccinations will be offered to adults who are eligible



Northenden Social Club, 408-412 Palatine Road, M22 4JT



Tuesday 20th January 2026 | 11am to 3pm

\*Raffle entry subject to sharing your thoughts in a short questionnaire about living in Wythenshawe (closes 2pm).



**STUDENT  
FILM CLUB  
16-20**

**£15 A YEAR**

**INCLUDES 2 FREE  
TICKETS WHEN YOU JOIN!**

**12 FILMS  
A YEAR**

**BLOCK**  
cinema and film club

info@blockcinema.org | 07549 789747 | blockcinema.org/blog

live.com - To exit full screen, press **Esc**

# PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER MEETING

Meet your local officers alongside partner agencies and raise concerns about key issues within the community.

The next surgery will be held on:

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Located at:

**West View Court, West View Road,  
Northenden M22 4LQ**

Time:

**Prompt 6pm start – 8pm**

To help us identify the issues in your area please get in touch with your Neighbourhood Policing Team and tell us what matters to you.

 Sign up to receive free community alerts  
[www.BeeintheLoop.co.uk](http://www.BeeintheLoop.co.uk)

For non-emergency calls or to report a crime call: **101** or use Live Chat at [gmp.police.uk](http://gmp.police.uk)  
Use **999** only in emergencies where there is a threat to life or crime in progress

 **GREATER MANCHESTER  
POLICE**

For more information visit:  
**[gmp.police.uk](http://gmp.police.uk)**

# Next week

## Menu week commencing 19/1/2026

	Main meal	Vegetarian meal
<b>Monday</b>	Jerk chicken drumstick with Jamaican coconut rice	Vegetable spring rolls with noodles and sweet chilli sauce
<b>Tuesday</b>	Doner meat with chips and yoghurt mint sauce	Cheese and tomato turnovers with side salad
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chicken tikka masala with rice and naan bread	Vegetable giant samosa with noodles
<b>Thursday</b>	Tandori or buffalo chicken wings with noodles	Cheese and onion slice with potato wedges
<b>Friday</b>	Chicken burger with chips and selection of sauces	Vegetarian bean burger with chips and selection of sauces

Each day there is also a panini selection with fillings of cheese, ham, pepperoni, and cheese & beans. Alongside this are a variety of sandwiches and baguettes, a salad bar and a choice of dessert.

We follow best practices in safe food handling to prevent cross-contamination. However, we cannot guarantee our products are 100% free of any specific allergens. Allergens are listed on the front counter, which refer to the ingredients we use. We also are unable to guarantee an allergen-free environment where some of our ingredients or products from suppliers may have been produced in an environment with other allergens. Please double-check with a member of staff if you have any questions.

## Dates for your diary

	Year group	Description
<b>19/1 until 30/1</b>	Years 8 - 10	Cycle 2 assessments
<b>Monday 26 Jan</b>	Families	Parent Forum
<b>3-5 &amp; 10-12 Feb</b>	Year 11	Spanish speaking mock exams
<b>Thursday 12 Feb</b>	All	Final day of half term



# Brain teaser

Every square should be filled with a number from 1 to 6, with no duplicates in any row or column.

Every brick that consists of two squares contains both an odd and an even number.

1			2		
				6	5
2			5	1	6
3				4	
			6		1
6	2	1	4		

Last week's solution:

$3^3 \times 2 = 18$