



## **A message from our principal**



**Mrs K Gardner  
Principal**

At our school, we believe that learning flourishes best in a community where people feel safe, supported, and valued. Education is not just about what happens in the classroom - it's also about how we treat one another, both in and out of school.

Looking after each other is a shared responsibility. When students, families, and staff show kindness, respect, and care, we create an environment where everyone can belong and thrive. Simple actions - checking in on someone, offering help, listening with empathy, or speaking up when something doesn't feel right - can make a powerful difference.

Inside school, we encourage students to support one another, celebrate differences, and resolve challenges with understanding and respect. These skills help build strong relationships and foster a positive culture where everyone feels included.

Outside of school, our values continue. How students interact in the community, online, and in social settings reflects the importance of compassion and responsibility beyond the school gates. When children see adults modelling care, respect, and cooperation, those lessons stay with them.

We are grateful to be part of a community that understands that we are stronger together. By working in partnership - school and home - we can help our children grow into thoughtful, caring individuals who look out for themselves and for others.

Thank you for being an important part of our community and for helping us create a culture of care, connection, and respect.

# **NEWSLETTER**

**30 January 2026**

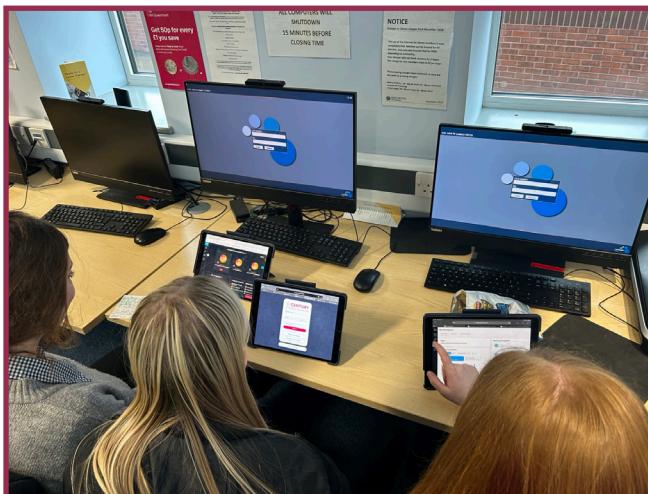
**Issue #16**

# Celebrating our students

## through focus

### Year 11 lunchtime revision in Brooklands Library

Brooklands library have kindly opened their doors to allow year 11 a silent revision space at lunchtimes. Students are able to borrow an iPad and access Century Tech, for a peaceful lunchtime revision session!



### English subject stars



Students who have demonstrated our values and excellent subject knowledge throughout their English lesson.



Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sienna O</li><li>• Jackson S</li><li>• Aneesa R</li><li>• Olivia P</li><li>• Varsin F</li><li>• Willow M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dolly-Mae</li><li>• Natalie S</li><li>• Hoorain C</li><li>• Henry L</li><li>• Harley H</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• George W</li><li>• Aria I</li><li>• Maizie C</li><li>• Brooke T</li><li>• David H</li><li>• Jack H</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anais C</li><li>• Emmanuella</li><li>• Daisy O</li><li>• Luke E</li><li>• Kyle H</li><li>• Summer W</li><li>• Ruby G</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jake B</li><li>• Libby M</li><li>• Heidi H</li><li>• Evie B</li><li>• Erin H</li><li>• Alfie R</li></ul>

### English independent thinkers

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

#### KS3

- Malakai T
- Mali X
- Felix R
- Jack T
- Isla D
- Richie P

#### KS4

- Alexander M
- Kayla M
- Gabriela Z
- Harry C
- Lilly May M
- Tamsin N
- Ellie-Mae M

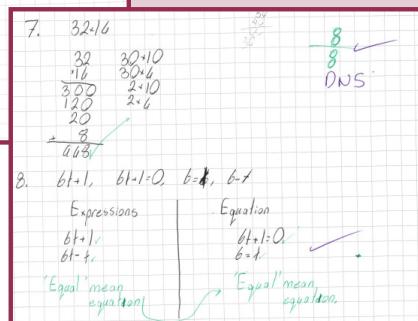
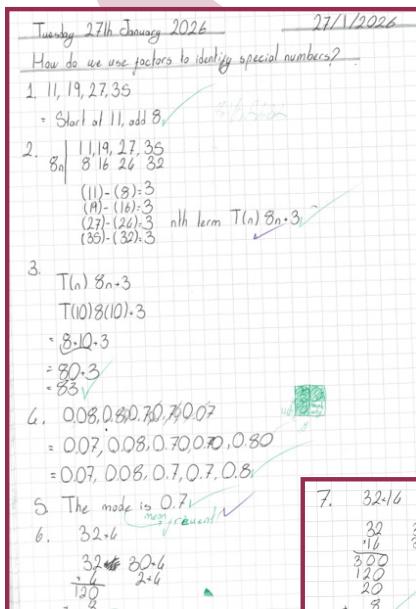


# Celebrating our students

## through academic dedication

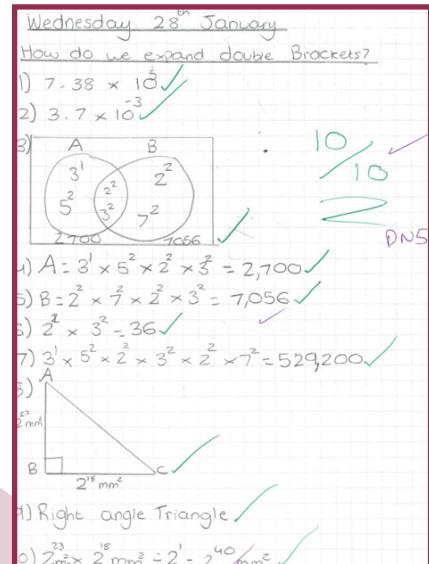


### Student spotlight: Maths



Naseem (7) and Ava-Mae (8), your 'Do Now' work is a fabulous example of clarity and accuracy.

It is clear that you are determined to become the best mathematicians you can be. Keep it up!



The language that you used to articulate the patterns that you spotted in 'Square Numbers' and 'Prime Numbers' was both accurate and technical. It is clear that you are determined to become the best mathematician you can be. Keep it up!



### Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening

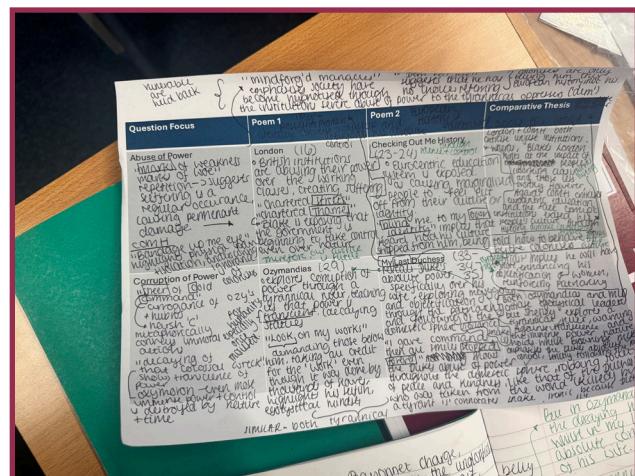
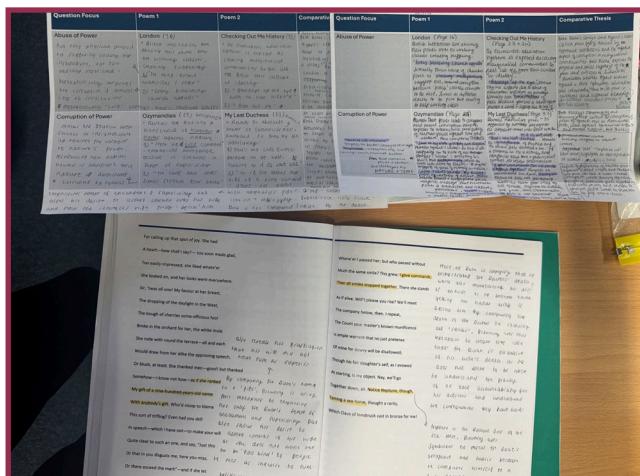
at Dixons Brooklands Academy  
Thursday 5 February, 4-6.30pm

As part of the evening we will be holding  
three 30-minute options talks.

# Celebrating our students through excellence

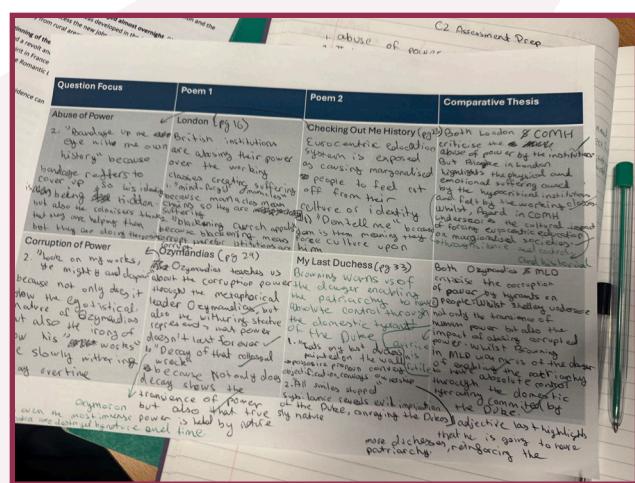
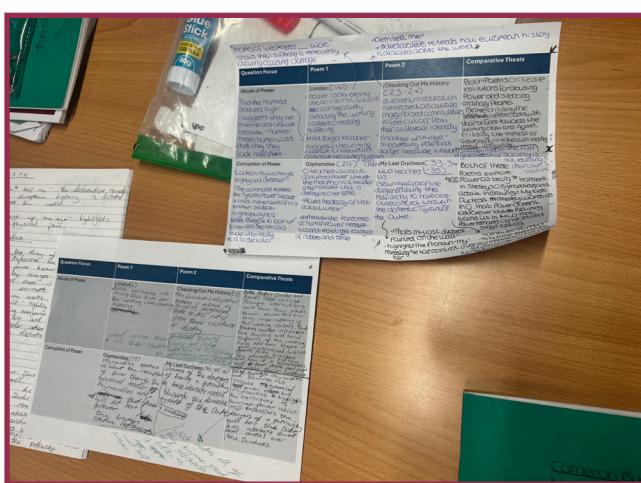
## Year 10 English: preparing with purpose for Cycle 2 assessments

Year 10 have been working with great focus and maturity as they prepare for their upcoming Cycle 2 assessments. In recent lessons, students have been developing the crucial analytical skills needed for GCSE success by annotating poems in depth and exploring how writers convey ideas, emotions and viewpoints.



Alongside this, they have been practising comparative writing, learning how to draw thoughtful connections between texts and select evidence that supports insightful interpretations. These tasks are building their confidence and helping them approach unseen poems and comparison questions with increasing independence.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication Year 10 have shown, and we look forward to seeing their hard work reflected in their Cycle 2 results.



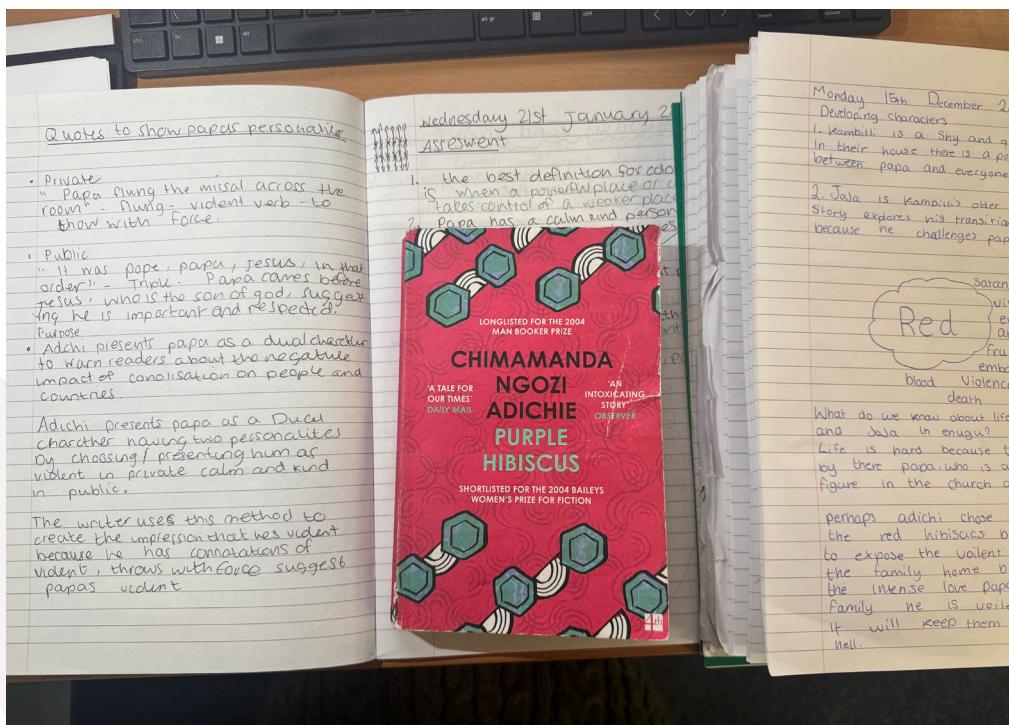
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# Celebrating our students through excellence

## Exploring new worlds through Purple Hibiscus

Year 9 have started 2026 with real momentum as they embark on a whole-class study of Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Students are already demonstrating impressive curiosity and engagement as they complete a full reading of the novel and immerse themselves in its vibrant characters, rich settings and powerful themes.

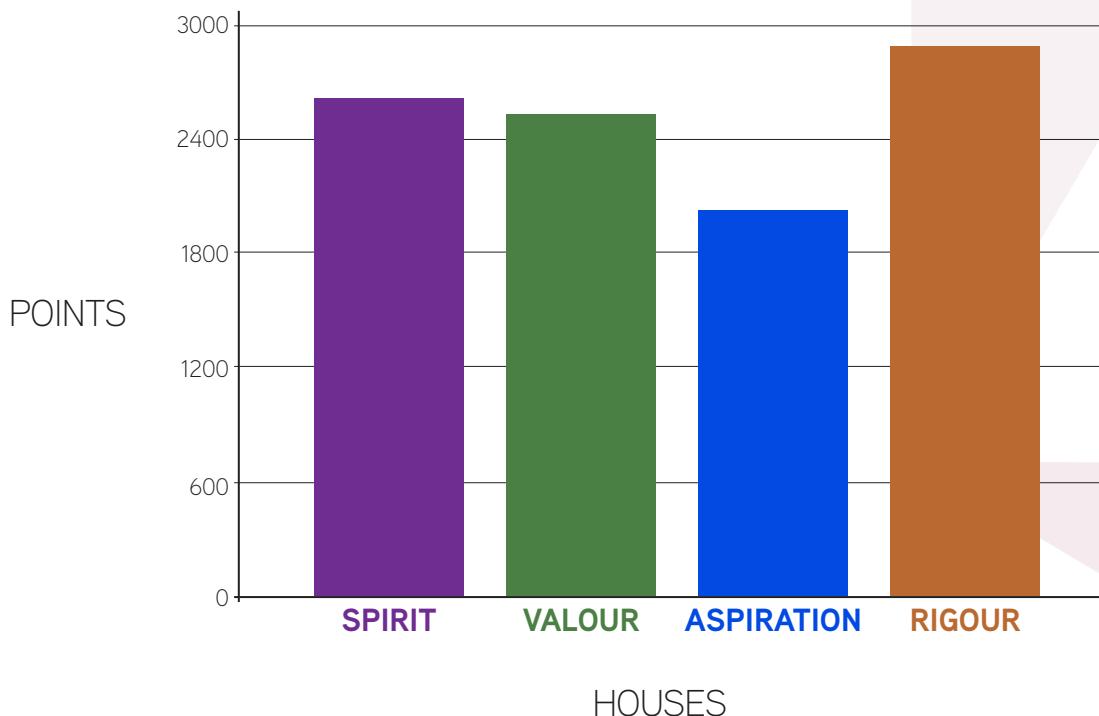
Through the story's compelling portrayal of family, identity and personal freedom, students are exploring a range of cultural lenses, gaining insight into Nigerian life and the complexities of growing up within shifting political and religious landscapes. This has opened up meaningful conversations about how literature allows us to step into new worlds and broaden our understanding of experiences beyond our own.



Alongside their reading, Year 9 are also building their contextual understanding by studying the historical impact of colonisation and how this influences both the characters and the society depicted in the novel. This grounding will support deeper interpretations as they continue their analytical work in the coming weeks. We are delighted with Year 9's enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and willingness to engage with challenging ideas—an excellent start to the year.

# House points spring term update

After a slight recalibration of our House Points tracker, the houses are far closer together than was previously evident! While Rigour remain marginally, ahead Spirit and Valour are only fractionally behind. The competition is hotting up, every point counts!



## Elective Spotlight: Y8 Sewing

Year 8 students have been busy in their sewing elective, creating a wonderful collection of handmade hearts and stars. Many pupils have chosen to hang their creations on bedroom doors, while others have added a personal touch by scenting them with perfume.

Throughout the project, students have developed key hand-sewing skills and have now begun learning how to use sewing machines for the first time.

Their next challenge will be designing and making their own hair scrunchies—an exciting step in their growing textile skills.



# Extra-curricular activities

## to enrich our students' experiences

### Timetable

We now have over 25 amazing clubs up and running at Dixons Brooklands Academy! Every student is expected to attend at least one club per week, and with such a wide range of clubs on offer, there is something for everyone! Get involved and reap the benefits of being involved in clubs!

	Lunch	After school
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14)</li><li>• Music club (T8) (Week A)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieve club (T9)</li><li>• Football (Girls)</li><li>• Rowing</li><li>• Singing rehearsals (T8)</li><li>• Duke of Edinburgh (P18)</li></ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14)</li><li>• Music club (T8) (Week B)</li><li>• Cooking club (Week A) (T7)</li><li>• Steel Pans (T8)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Netball</li><li>• Rugby</li><li>• GCSE Art Club (S8/P16/S13)</li><li>• Sustainability club (P12)</li><li>• Poetry revision (P3)</li><li>• Homework club (P13)</li></ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14)</li><li>• KS3 Spanish film club (T4)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football (Boys)</li><li>• Sparx homework support (P22)</li><li>• Guitar club (T8)</li><li>• Show acting</li><li>• Maths games and puzzles (T4)</li><li>• Creative writing (P1)</li></ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14)</li><li>• KS3 GCSE Spanish exams skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BTEC Sport</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Keyboard club (T8)</li><li>• Media Cubs (Year 7 only) (S1)</li></ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Football</li><li>• Basketball</li><li>• Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cross Country</li><li>• Dance</li><li>• Foundation science revision Year 11 (P13)</li><li>• Singing club (T8)</li></ul>

There is also a free breakfast club every morning before school from 7.30am, this is open to all students.

# 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.

**Plus free blood pressure checks!**

**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.



**STUDENT  
FILM CLUB  
16-20**

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## Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening

at Dixons Brooklands Academy  
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three 30-minute options talks.



# Next week

Menu week commencing 2/2/2026

	Main meal	Vegetarian meal
<b>Monday</b>	Fajita or Chinese drumstick with salt and pepper noodles	Vegetable spring rolls with noodles and sweet chilli sauce
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sausage & mash with Yorkshire pudding and peas	Bean chili burrito
<b>Wednesday</b>	Cottage pie with green beans	Cheese and onion slice with side salad
<b>Thursday</b>	Chicken katsu curry with rice and garlic naan bread	Giant vegetable samosa with noodles
<b>Friday</b>	Chicken burger with chips and spicy mayonnaise sauce	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.

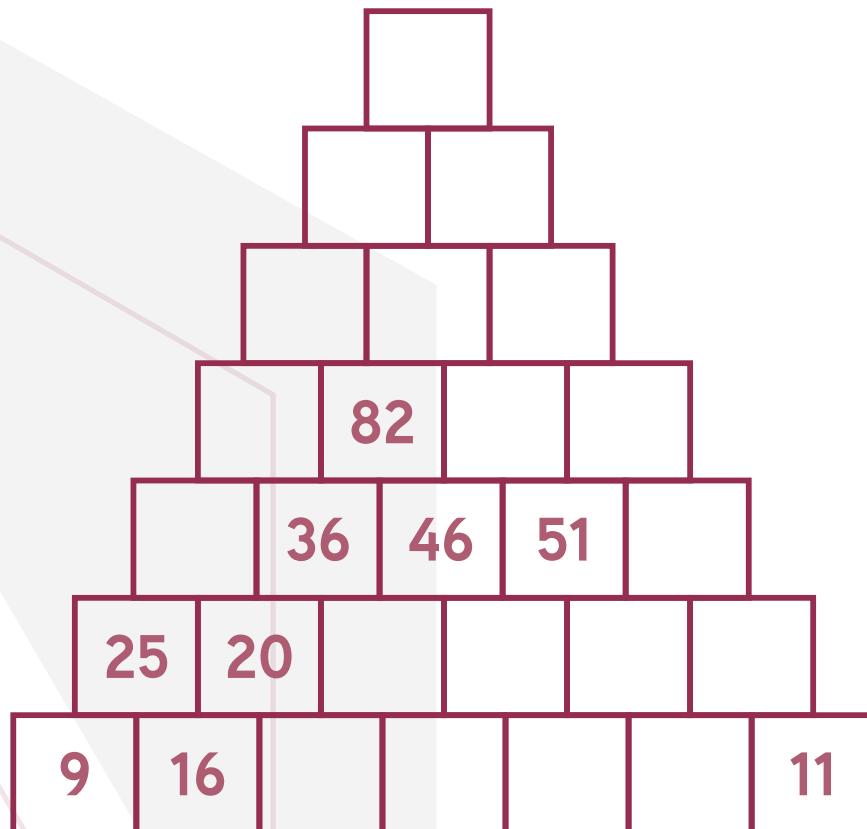
We follow best practices in safe food handling to prevent cross-contamination. However, we cannot guarantee our products are 100% free of any specific allergens. Allergens are listed on the front counter, which refer to the ingredients we use. We also are unable to guarantee an allergen-free environment 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>Saturday 31 Jan</b>	Year 11	Spanish morning revision session
<b>3-5 &amp; 10-12 Feb</b>	Year 11	Spanish speaking mock exams
<b>Thursday 5 Feb</b>	Year 9	Parents' and Options Evening
<b>Thursday 12 Feb</b>	All	Final day of half term

# Brain teaser

The value of a square is the sum of the two squares directly below it. Can you reach the top?



Last week's solution:

