



## A message from our principal



**Mrs K Gardner**  
Principal

At our school, we are deeply committed to helping every child grow - not only academically, but also as a confident, motivated, and curious learner. One of the ways we do this is by grounding our approach in three powerful drivers of motivation: mastery, autonomy, and purpose.

Educational researcher and author Dan Pink reminds us that children (and adults!) are most motivated not by rewards or pressure, but by meaningful learning experiences that help them grow, feel ownership, and understand why their work matters. Here's what that looks like in our classrooms:

**Mastery:** We believe learning is a journey. When students focus on improving their skills over time - rather than just getting the "right answer" - they develop resilience, confidence, and a love of learning. Our teachers encourage practice, reflection, and a growth mindset so students can take pride in their progress and effort.

**Autonomy:** Children thrive when they feel a sense of choice and voice. By offering opportunities for students to make decisions about how they learn, what they explore, or how they demonstrate understanding, we help them become more engaged and responsible learners. Autonomy builds independence and shows students that their ideas and interests matter.

**Purpose:** When students understand why they are learning something and how it connects to the world around them, motivation deepens. We aim to connect learning to real-life problems, community, and personal goals so students see their education as meaningful and relevant - not just something they do at school, but something that helps them make a difference.

Together, mastery, autonomy, and purpose create an environment where students are motivated from within. These drivers help children develop not only strong academic skills, but also confidence, perseverance, and a sense of belonging.

Thank you for partnering with us in supporting your child's growth. When school and home work together to nurture these values, students are empowered to reach their full potential.

# NEWSLETTER

6 February 2026

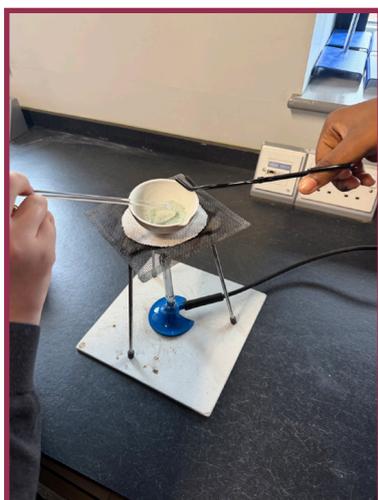
# Celebrating our students through excellence

## Filtration and crystallization- Copper sulphate crystals

Year 7 scientists were buzzing with excitement as they explored a reversible reaction in class. Using a Bunsen burner, they gently heated the blue substance and watched in awe as it slowly turned white. The colour change felt magical, especially when they added water afterwards, the sudden sizzle made everyone jump and laugh as the substance instantly shifted back to bright blue. Seeing the reaction reverse so quickly sparked lively discussion around the room. The experiment helped students realise how heat and cooling can change a material again and again, making science feel hands-on, surprising, and genuinely fun!



Year 10 were amazing in their chemistry practical this week, conducting multiple tests of the same copper sulphate crystals, observing the changes, ensuring accuracy with their controlled variables. From preparation of pure, dry hydrated copper sulphate crystals to recording their results, they did the practical very well and gained excellent results from it.



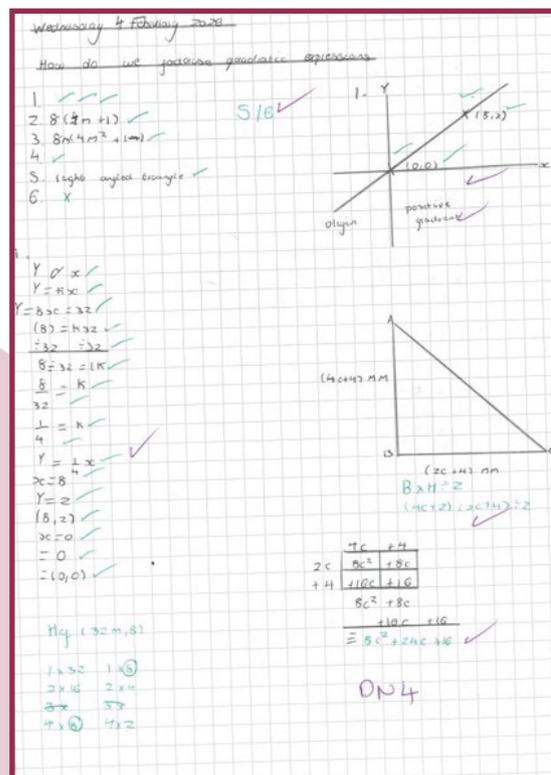
# Celebrating our students

through academic dedication



## Student spotlight: Maths

Lucas (9), this 'Do Now' work is a fabulous example of clarity and accuracy. It is clear that you are determined to become the best mathematician you can be. Keep it up!



Phoebe (7), 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!

## Sparx Maths highlights

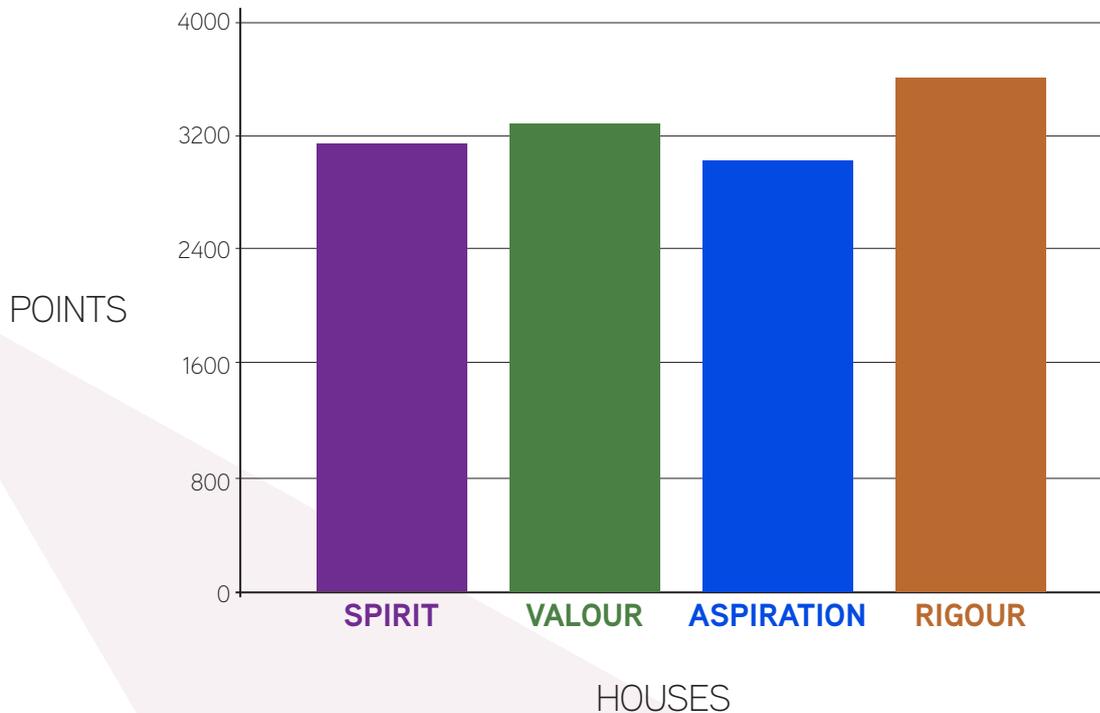
The following students, through their commitment to their learning, have reached the following XP levels on Sparx Maths. This indicates pride in your work and determination to succeed. Keep it up!

Student	Year	XP Level
Emily O	Year 7	Level 22
Jack D	Year 8	Level 63
Sheng Wei Z	Year 9	Level 96
Aistis V	Year 10	Level 123
Fodayba K	Year 11	Level 74



# House points

As students continue to display our core values of 'Work Hard, Have Integrity, and Be Kind', they continue to earn House Points for their respective Houses. The running is very tight, and the gaps are set to close further with our dodgeball events and the large number of points on offer!



## 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>George W</li> <li>Precious R</li> <li>Amber H</li> <li>Charlie B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeen S</li> <li>Lucy G</li> <li>Joshua A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isabelle R</li> <li>Imogen A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emmanuel E</li> <li>Matilda D</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alexia B</li> <li>Chloe P</li> <li>Duane L</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	KS4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Madison B</li> <li>Maisie J</li> <li>Thomas H</li> <li>Mia A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raghav P</li> <li>Dennis W</li> <li>Dina S</li> </ul>

# Encouraging our students through opportunities for growth

## National Apprenticeship Week 2026

Thinking About Next Steps? Explore Apprenticeships!

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week, and the aim of this week is to shine a light on the fantastic opportunities that apprenticeships can provide.

If your child is in Year 10 or 11, now is a great time for them to start thinking about their next steps after school. An apprenticeship can be an excellent pathway, allowing young people to continue learning while gaining real experience in the workplace, all while earning a salary. Apprenticeships offer the chance to:

- Earn while they learn
- Gain hands on experience in a real job
- Train with industry professionals
- Achieve recognised qualifications
- Start building their career from day one

If your child is interested in exploring apprenticeship opportunities, they can find out more through many local colleges, or by speaking to Mr Morrison, Dr Rogers, or Mr Gordon.

In assembly next week, we are lucky enough to have a young apprentice joining us to tell Year 11 about her experiences!

Visit their website for information and how to get involved: <https://naw.appawards.co.uk/>



## Special menu next week

As Pancake Day falls in half term, we have moved it a week forward! Students will be able to purchase pancakes at short break on Wednesday 11 February to enjoy the experience with their peers.

Similarly, to mark the beginning of Ramadan, there will be a South Asian inspired meal available at lunch on Thursday 12 February.

We hope that students enjoy these special meals that facilitate a chance to learn about new cultures and practices, or share their own!



# What's on

## Children's Mental Health Week 2026

The official theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place'. We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

This year, Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week will aim to support the groups and systems surrounding our children. You can discover more, including activities and how to get involved, here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>



## Wythenshawe Hall Open Day

Pop over to Wythenshawe Hall for the first Open Day of 2026! Venture back to Tudor times and explore what life would have been like for the people living at the Hall and in the surrounding area.

On the day, they will be welcoming Lutanist Collin Rodriguez to the Hall to play the lute for visitors. The fabulous Silver School of Arms will be displaying their amazing collection of armour and weapons from the period and (weather permitting) will be demonstrating some sword fighting too.

**WYTHENSHAWE HALL**  
Open 11am to 4pm  
**Sunday 15th February**  
Entrance £3 (Cash preferred)  
Under 10s Free

**Tudor Times at Wythenshawe Hall**



Historical weapons handling and combat display (weather permitting) from **The Silver School of Arms**



Find out about Tudor food, medicine and make-up.

Traditional lute music from **Collin Rodriguez** in the library throughout the day.

1926 **100 YEARS** 2026  
Wythenshawe Park

# 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
<b>Monday</b>	<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>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<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>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<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>
<b>Thursday</b>	<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>
<b>Friday</b>	<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.

# Next week

## Menu week commencing 9/2/2026

	Main meal	Vegetarian meal
<b>Monday</b>	Chicken and sweetcorn pasta bake with garlic bread	Vegetable spring rolls with noodles and sweet chilli sauce
<b>Tuesday</b>	Beef steak slice with chips and garden peas	Mexican bean chili burrito
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chicken tikka masala with rice and naan bread	Giant vegetable samosa with noodles
<b>Thursday</b>	Lamb biryani with fragrant rice and garlic bread	Onion bhaji and veg samosa with honey chili sauce
<b>Friday</b>	Staff data and planning day (Students not in attendance)	

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.

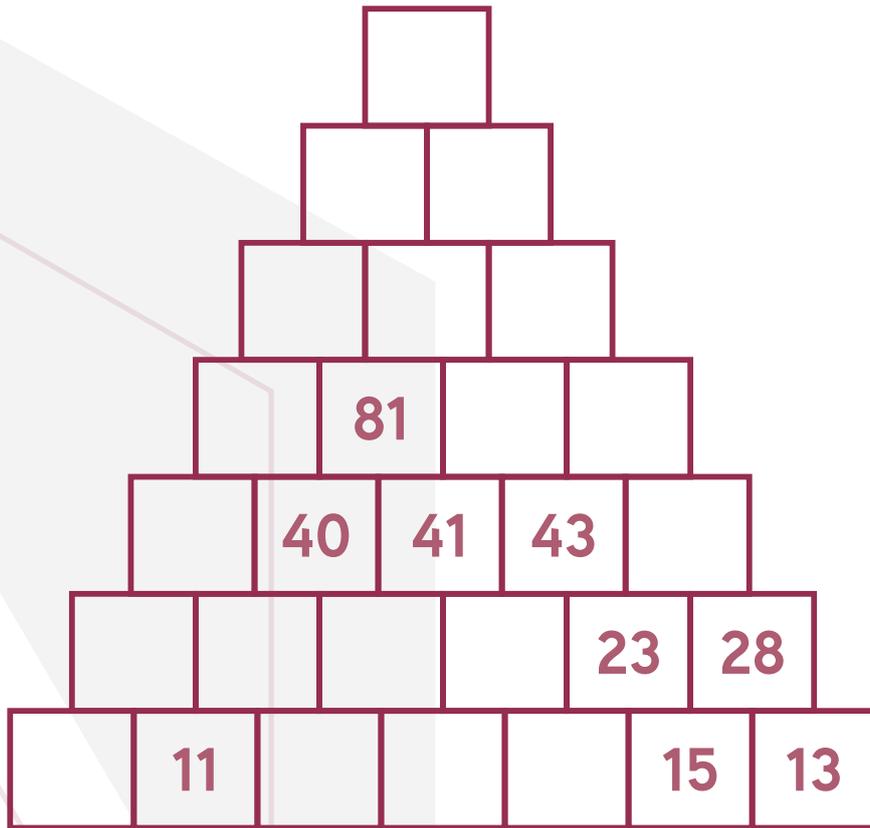
We follow best practices in safe food handling to prevent cross-contamination. However, we cannot guarantee our products are 100% free of any specific allergens. Allergens are listed on the front counter, which refer to the ingredients we use. We also are unable to guarantee an allergen-free environment 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>10-12 Feb</b>	Year 11	Spanish speaking mock exams
<b>Thursday 12 Feb</b>	All	Final day of half term
<b>14-19 Feb</b>	Year 11	Holiday revision sessions
<b>Monday 23 Feb</b>	All	Term 4 begins

# 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:

