



**DIXONS  
BROOKLANDS**  
ACADEMY

## A message from our principal



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

I want to take a moment to share my appreciation for our fantastic students and their exemplary behaviour this week. Their smart appearance in uniform not only looks great but also reflects their pride in being part of our school community.

I've had the pleasure of observing many lessons, and I am incredibly proud of the hard work our students are putting in. Their creative and insightful contributions make our learning environment vibrant and engaging. It's truly inspiring to see their enthusiasm and dedication.

This week, we also had the opportunity to meet many wonderful parents during our Meet the Advisor evening. It was heartwarming to listen to the positive conversations and feedback, which highlight the strong partnership we have in supporting our children's education.

As we look ahead, I'd like to remind everyone about our Annual Open Evening on Thursday 25 September. Please feel free to spread the word to your family and friends who have children in Year 5 and 6. It's a great opportunity for them to experience our school community firsthand. A quick reminder: on the day of the Open Evening, we will close at 2.15pm to prepare for the event.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an integral part of our school community.

# NEWSLETTER

13 September 2025

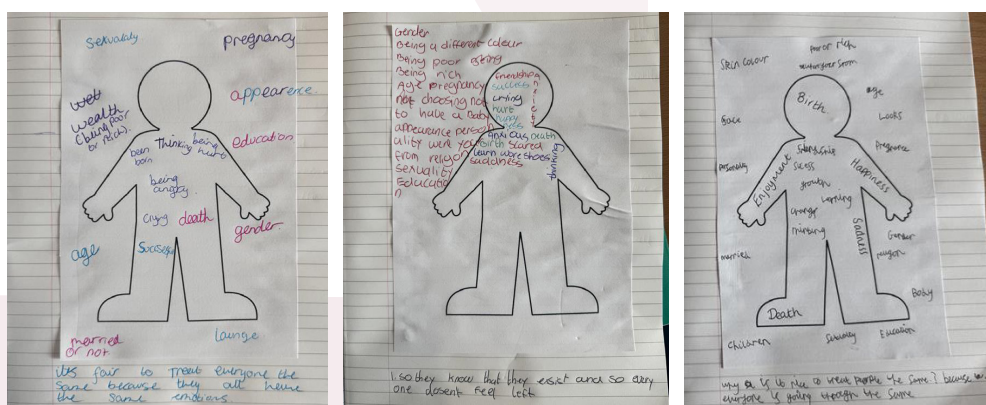
Issue #2

# Celebrating our students

## through their exploration and dedication

### Year 8 social injustice awareness

Miss Moran's Year 8 class kicked off the term with some brilliant work exploring social injustice. Students have been delving into the human condition, examining why respect, equality, and fairness are so important in our society. Their thoughtful discussions and creative responses have already shown a real commitment to understanding the world around them and reflecting on the values that shape our communities. A fantastic start to the year!



Maimouna, Reilly and Layla

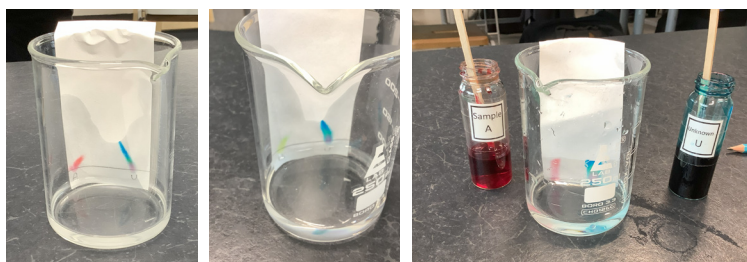
### English stars of the week

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruno</li> <li>Ashton</li> <li>Nadia</li> <li>Henok</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roisin</li> <li>Simeon</li> <li>Shannon</li> <li>Natalie</li> <li>Amelia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amelia</li> <li>Louie</li> <li>Zac</li> <li>Lexie</li> <li>Tyler</li> <li>Quade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brooke</li> <li>Paige</li> <li>Lily</li> <li>Clementine</li> <li>Cameron</li> <li>Macauley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cassiel</li> <li>Logan</li> <li>Noah</li> <li>Freya</li> <li>Max</li> <li>Adam</li> </ul>

Year	Science stars of the week
7	Victoria has had a great start to science showing all the values of the academy.
8	Henry and Giorgi have been working really hard and sharing all of their ideas in class
9	Dylan has had a great start working hard on chemistry work and sharing his knowledge about particle theory; Olivia has been really resilient and kept on working hard.
10	Alana has been working hard in chemistry and sharing good practice with others in the room showing that value of kindness; Caitlyn and Scarlett have been excellent lab partners to each other during science experiments.
11	Macie has made a great start showing hard work and integrity from the get go; Telaqwon has demonstrated integrity by participating and having excellent manners in class.

# Celebrating our curriculum

## with the scientific method



**Year 11** have started their year with chemical analysis, and have been doing chromatography experiments with different soluble dyes.

Questions to ask your child in year 11 (and answers)

- What does soluble mean? (dissolves in a solvent, such as water)
- When you do chromatography, why do you draw the starting line in pencil? (is it insoluble in water so doesn't dissolve)
- How can you tell how many colours are in a dye? (they will split out on the chromatogram)

**Year 10** have started with energy changes in chemical reactions, and have been performing experiments to measure the temperature changes in chemical reactions.

Questions to ask your child in year 10 (and answers)

- If a chemical reaction gets hotter, is it exothermic or endothermic? (exothermic)
- If a chemical reaction gets colder, is it exothermic or endothermic? (endothermic)
- What happens to the energy in an exothermic reaction? (it is transferred to the surroundings)

**Year 9** have started their year by learning about atomic theory.

Questions to ask your child in year 9 (and answers)

- What three sub-atomic particles found in atoms? (protons, neutrons and electrons)
- Where are protons and neutrons found in atoms? (in the nucleus)
- Where are electrons found in atoms? (in the electron shells, or energy levels)

**Year 8** have started learning about plants and photosynthesis.

Questions to ask your child in year 8 (and answers)

- What energy transfer is important in photosynthesis? (light)
- What are the reactants used in photosynthesis? (carbon dioxide and water)
- What products are made in photosynthesis? (glucose and oxygen)

**Year 7** are learning science skills and about different equipment.

Questions to ask your child in year 7 (and answers)

- What equipment do you use to measure the mass of a substance? (a mass balance)
- What equipment do you use to measure the volume of a liquid? (a measuring cylinder)
- What equipment do you use to measure the temperature of something? (a thermometer)

# Welcoming our families

## by embracing and sharing our values

### Meet the Advisor

On Thursday 11 September, we were delighted to welcome over 110 families to our “Meet the Advisor” event. Families had the opportunity to meet their child’s advisory teacher and attend a short presentation introducing Dixons Brooklands Academy. The evening was a great success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback from both parents and staff. We look forward to inviting you to more events soon!



### Open evening

We are excited to host our annual open evening on Thursday 25 September at 4pm for Year 6 students. If you know a family who are exploring their options for secondary education, or you have a child of your own in Year 6, come along to discover how we continue to develop Dixons Brooklands to be an exceptional place to learn.





# Extra-curricular activities

## to enrich our students' experiences

### Timetable

We are delighted to show you our extra-curricular timetable for this academic year. 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!

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

# Celebrating our curriculum through focus and independence

## Hospitality and Catering



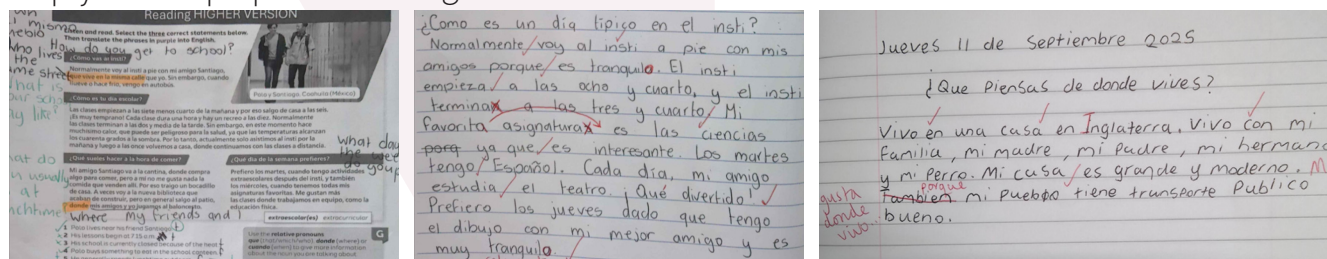
Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students demonstrated outstanding knife skills in their first practical lesson of the course. All were highly organised and produced professional quality minestrone soup.

Special mentions to:

- Amir
- Max
- Sion
- Harry
- Ashnah
- Kai

## Spanish

Well done for producing an amazing paragraph in Spanish without using any resources to help you! Keep up the amazing work.



Grace and Robyn

## School Council

This week has been very important for the school council: advisory groups have selected their representatives! In the coming weeks, year representatives will be selected and students will begin their work on improving the academy. I am very excited to see where the school council takes us this year!

# Attendance

Our **academy target** is for all students to achieve between 97 - 100% attendance. All students are **expected to arrive by 8.15am**, any student arriving after this time are late. Students arriving after the register has closed at 8.45am will receive an unauthorised absence (u code) which will impact on their attendance.

We can and will provide support to remove any barriers to attending school on time every day. Please contact the Attendance Team should you wish to discuss how we can work together to improve your child's punctuality and / or attendance: [attendance@dixonsbk.com](mailto:attendance@dixonsbk.com)

## Students who have achieved 100% this week

162 students achieved 100% attendance this week, on Monday they will be in with a chance to win a queue jump pass for use in the canteen!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
130 students	140 students	116 students	161 students	125 students

## Top advisory groups

7X	8X	9C	10X	11W
100%	97%	95%	95%	91%



## Club spotlight: The Achieve Club

Every Monday in T9, the Achieve Club offers students the chance to build vital life skills and boost confidence. Through flexible sessions, students work on topics like employability, personal development, money management, and resilience, all tailored to their needs.

The programme also gives access to a qualification and a variety of free resources. It's a positive space where young people can grow, explore new possibilities, and get ready for whatever comes next. This club is offered via The King's Trust, and we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer it this academic year.



**King's Trust**

# Next week

## Menu week commencing 15/9/2025

	Main meal	Vegetarian meal
<b>Monday</b>	Pasta bolognese with garlic bread	Vegetable spring rolls with noodles and sweet chilli sauce
<b>Tuesday</b>	Steak sliced with chips and garden salad	Cheese and tomato turnovers with potato wedges
<b>Wednesday</b>	Beef enchiladas with spicy rice	Vegetable giant samosa with noodles
<b>Thursday</b>	Chicken curry with rice and naan bread	Cheese and onion slice with side salad
<b>Friday</b>	Jerk chicken flat bread with chips and sauces	Spicy roast vegetables with noodles

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.

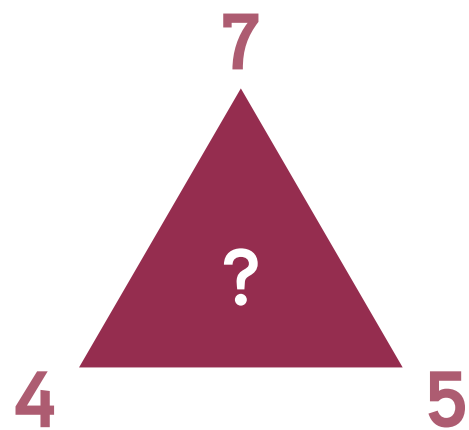
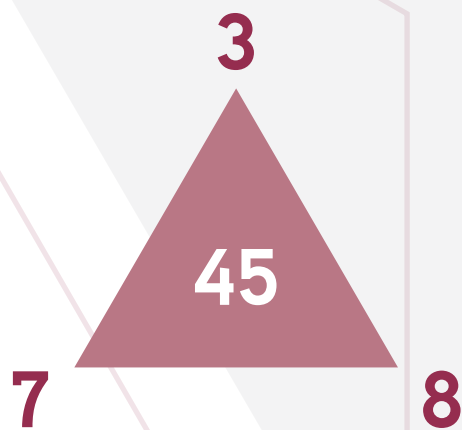
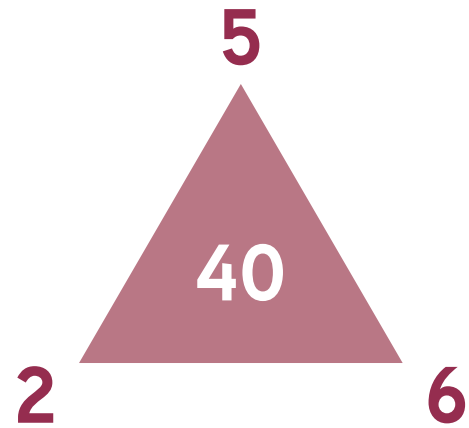
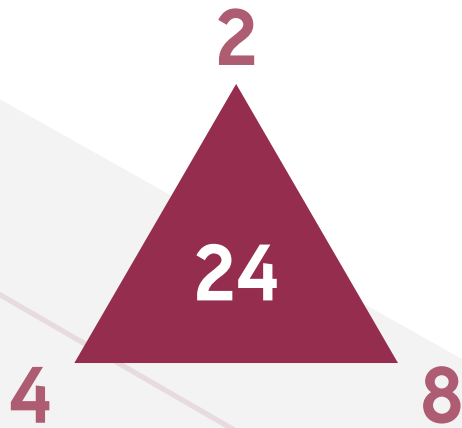
## Upcoming dates for your diary

	Year group	Description
<b>Tuesday 16/9</b>	All Years	Annual student photographs throughout the day
<b>Thursday 25/9</b>	Year 6	Open evening at 4pm
<b>Tuesday 30/9</b>	Families	Parent Power meeting at 4pm
<b>Friday 2/10</b>	Year 10 / 11	Cycle 2 information evening
<b>Friday 17/10</b>	All Years	Last day of term



# Brain teaser

Can you find the missing number?



Last week's solution:

Work Hard  
Have Integrity  
Be Kind  
Joy  
Resilience  
Respect  
Autonomy  
Mastery

E	D	N	O	F	X	I	L	R	W	B	K	G	S	P
T	G	W	L	M	D	A	C	L	G	W	Y	O	C	V
C	S	O	E	W	B	N	R	Q	P	I	L	G	D	I
E	V	R	A	D	F	R	I	V	O	S	P	K	D	L
P	Q	K	M	L	I	P	S	K	C	D	U	Z	M	U
S	P	H	A	V	E	I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y
E	Y	A	A	U	N	Y	S	C	R	B	E	D	A	A
R	L	R	R	H	D	A	X	V	O	F	S	U	G	J
N	W	D	G	A	M	C	K	G	P	E	T	M	V	N
B	M	U	R	P	E	N	V	L	A	O	L	E	O	C
Q	V	X	W	K	L	F	E	T	N	D	I	U	R	I
E	S	A	L	J	P	E	P	O	R	M	E	T	D	K
R	F	M	I	N	O	G	M	V	H	W	N	A	B	P
M	A	S	T	E	R	V	D	S	N	F	Q	O	L	F
V	I	D	M	P	E	C	N	E	I	L	I	S	E	R