



**DIXONS
BROOKLANDS**
ACADEMY

A message from our principal



Mrs K Gardner
Principal

We are excited to share the fantastic success of our recent Year 10 and 11 Information Evening and Futures Fair! It was truly inspiring to see such a remarkable turnout from families eager to learn more about the future opportunities available to their children.

We were especially proud to hear feedback from the colleges and various services who attended. They commented on the maturity and impeccable behaviour of our students throughout the event. It was heartwarming to witness our students engaging thoughtfully with the representatives, showcasing not only their enthusiasm but also the values we strive to instil at our school.

During the evening, students gathered a wealth of information about the diverse post-school options available to them, from further education to vocational training and beyond. The enthusiastic participation from our families reinforced the importance of this event, as it provided an excellent platform for students to explore their futures and envision the paths ahead.

Thank you for your support in making this event successful. We believe that with the right guidance and opportunities, our students will flourish in whatever they choose to pursue after their time at our school.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the opportunities discussed during the festival, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we are building a bright future for our students!

NEWSLETTER

4 October 2025

Issue #5

Celebrating our students through focus

Spanish writing

Well done to Kai, Dimitris and Georgia for producing great paragraphs and exemplar textbooks in Spanish without referencing resources to help. Keep up the amazing work!

Listening 2

Listen and complete the table using the pictures below.

	when visited	best thing	worst thing
1	Two years ago	A	E
2	Last summer	D	F
3	Four months ago	A	F
4	Three weeks ago	C	F

Source: Viva

Reading

Read the texts and complete Task A and Task B below.

Task A: Find the Spanish for...

- except Tuesday = *excepto los martes*
- I did skiing = *hice esquí*
- I went sightseeing = *hice tourismo*
- It wasn't windy = *no había viento*
- It was cold = *hizo frío*

Task B: Who...

- ...didn't do windsurfing? = *María*
- ...thinks taking pictures is boring? = *Pedro*
- ...bought presents? = *Ana*
- ...went to the beach? = *María*
- ...went on holiday with their sister? = *María*

Writing

El verano pasado fuimos a Italia. Fuimos en avión. Lo mejor fue cuando comí spaghetti carbonara, pero lo peor fue cuando perdí mi pasaporte. Hicimos una excursión muy interesante. Bebimos limonada a la playa. ¡Es genial!

WCF

- What do sentences and names of countries start with? *Capital letter*
- How do you say "it was" in Spanish? *Fue*
- What word is missing from these phrases? *hizo* sol / *hizo* calor / *hizo* frío
- How do you say "the best thing was when"? *Lo mejor cuando*
- How do you say "the worst thing was when"? *Lo peor cuando*
- What do past tense verbs in the I form need to have on the end? *An accent*

El verano pasado fuimos a Canadá con mi madre. Fuimos en avión, lo que es rápido y relajante. Fuimos a Montreal, ver al F1. Fue muy divertido. Comimos pizza y bebimos coca-cola. ¡Pasamos un buen tiempo!

Título: ¿Cómo cambiarías tu insti?

Fecha:

Do New space

WCF

- Translate: *hay* / *tenemos* / *there is* / *we have* / *they are* / *son*
- How do adjectives change in Spanish when describing? *mis profesores* / *divertidos* / *la historia*
- What is the difference between empieza/empiezan? *they start* / *empezan*
- Correct the spelling: *instalaciones* / *clases* / *cuarto* / *cuarto*

Georgia H

Mi insti es grande y el edificio es moderno. Mi insti empieza a las ocho y cuarto y termina a las tres y cuarto. Es la tarde. Lo bueno es que hay instalaciones deportivas. Lo malo es que la comida es horrible.

Hoy mi insti es bastante grande y el edificio es moderno. Empieza a las ocho y cuarto y termina a las tres pero mi madre dice que el día escolar es demasiado pequeño. Lo bueno.

¡Hola!

Vivo en una casa grande.

Estoy en la montaña.

En mi pueblo hay unas tiendas y uno super mercado pequeño.

No hay un estadio grande. Sin embargo se puede visitar un centro comercial.

En mi opinión mi pueblo es muy bonito porque mi barrio es grande y muy bonito.

Futures Fair and information evening

On Thursday 2 October, Dixons Brooklands Academy hosted a fantastic Futures Fair and information evening. During the daytime, Years 10 and 11 were able to spend time talking to post-16 providers. The evening saw a presentation, the handing out of revision guides for Year 11, and the opportunity for families to speak with the post-16 providers. The event was absolutely fantastic, with wonderful compliments about Year 10 and 11 from the providers, and students exclaiming how useful they found it. You did us proud Year 10 and 11!



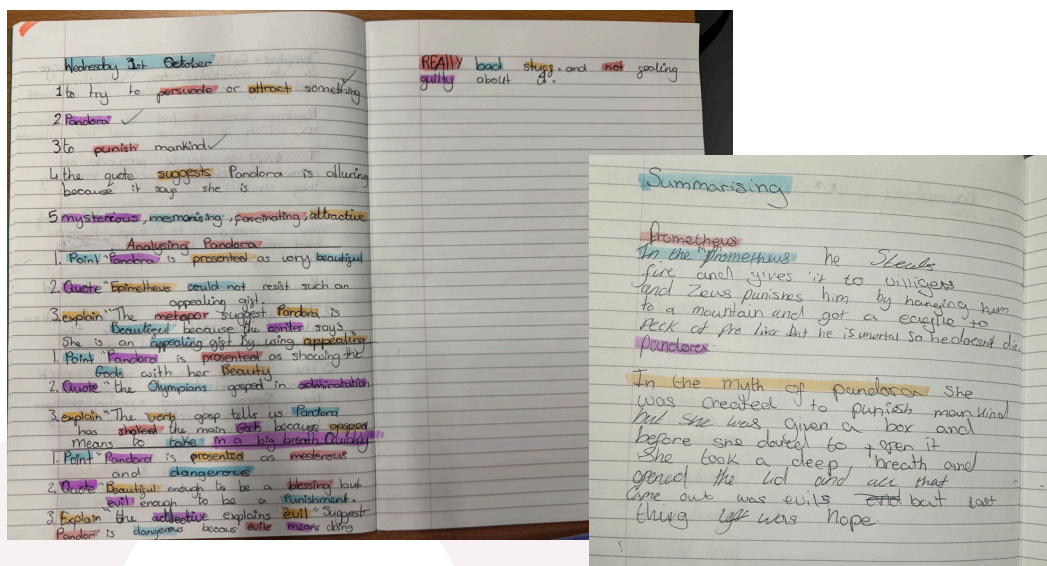
Celebrating our curriculum with their creations

Curiosity Unleashed: Year 7 unlock the secrets of Pandora's Box

This half term, our inquisitive Year 7s have been diving deep into the myth of mystical Pandora, exploring the powerful theme of curiosity and its consequences. Through lively discussions and thoughtful written responses, students have been developing their inference skills—reading between the lines to uncover the deeper meanings behind Pandora's fateful decision to open the box.

Linking their interpretations to the wider context of Ancient Greek beliefs, students considered how myths were used to explain human behaviour and natural phenomena. They explored how Pandora's story reflects societal views on temptation, obedience, and the role of women in mythology. The classroom buzzed with debate as pupils questioned whether Pandora was truly to blame, or simply a victim of fate.

This unit has not only sharpened their analytical thinking but also sparked a genuine interest in classical mythology. We're proud of the thoughtful connections Year 7 have made between ancient stories and modern ideas—and we can't wait to see where their curiosity leads next!



Clubs spotlight: Keyboard Club

Year 7 students who have been attending the Keyboard Club this week learned how to play 'I've got a Feeling' by The Black Eyed Peas. A variety of genres are on the horizon for this club throughout the year.

The Keyboard Club takes place on a Thursday after school in T8. Come and join us!



Celebrating our students through their perseverance

Manchester schools cross-country league

Over the last two weeks our school cross-country team have been taking part in the Manchester schools cross-country league, where they have raced against other schools from across the borough.

We had 25 girls compete across the two weeks. Our Year 7 team scored highly on week one, with our Year 8 and 9 girls team competing in both weeks. We are so proud of the grit and resilience these girls showed on a tough, muddy course.

The finals will take place on Tuesday 4 November.



Primary Tag Inspire event

We were incredibly proud to have 5 brilliant Young Leaders from Year 8 and Year 9 take centre stage at the Primary Tag Inspire event!

These students showed outstanding leadership and teamwork as they delivered a carousel of five dynamic skill stations, helping primary pupils develop key rugby skills such as:

- Passing
- Evasion
- Teamwork
- Target accuracy
- Speed & agility

After energising the younger students with fun and focused activities, our Young Leaders showed great confidence refereeing some T1 rugby games! Their display of fairness and communication on the pitch was exceptional.

The Primary teachers and staff were full of praise for their professionalism and enthusiasm. They truly embodied what it means to be role models in sport and leadership.

A huge well done to our Young Leaders who inspired everyone around them and made the event a huge success! They go again next week, when they take charge of the Excel competition where five schools will come to play in a high level tournament.



Celebrating our curriculum with the scientific method



Year 7 have just started to learn about particles and solutions.

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

- What are the three states of matter? (solids, liquids, and gases)
- What is the motion of solid particles? (they vibrate around a fixed position)
- What is the arrangement of gas particles? (they are randomly arranged, and far apart)

Year 8 have just finished their plants and photosynthesis topic.

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

- What do plants need for photosynthesis? (carbon dioxide and water)
- Where does the energy for photosynthesis come from? (light)
- Why don't root hair cells have chloroplasts? (they are found under the ground where there isn't any light so don't photosynthesise)

Year 9 are learning about the periodic table.

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

- Who created the first periodic table? (Dimitri Mendeleev)
- Why did Mendeleev leave gaps in his periodic table? (for elements that hadn't been discovered yet)
- How did Mendeleev order the elements? (by atomic weight)



Year 10 are learning about bioenergetics..

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

- How can you see if plants are photosynthesising? (Use pondweed under water, and look for bubbles being formed)
- What gas is in the bubbles formed by the pondweed? (Oxygen)
- What is the word equation for photosynthesis? (carbon dioxide + water --> glucose + oxygen)

Year 11 are learning about inheritance and variation.

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

- Which is bigger - a gene, or a chromosome? (a chromosome)
- What is meiosis? (when sex cells (egg cells and sperm cells) divide to produce more cells that are genetically different))
- What are gametes? (sperm cells and egg cells)



Extra-curricular activities

to enrich our students' experiences

Timetable

We now have over 25 amazing clubs up and running and 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"> Football Basketball Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14) Music club (T8) (Week A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve club (T9) Football (Girls) Rowing Singing rehearsals (T8) Duke of Edinburgh (P18)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Basketball Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14) Music club (T8) (Week B) Cooking club (Week A) (T7) Steel Pans (T8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Netball Rugby GCSE Art Club (S8/P16/S13) Sustainability club (P12) Poetry revision (P3) Homework club (P13)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Basketball Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14) KS3 Spanish film club (T4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football (Boys) Sparx homework support (P22) Guitar club (T8) Show acting Maths games and puzzles (T4) Creative writing (P1)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Basketball Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14) KS3 GCSE Spanish exams skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC Sport Basketball Keyboard club (T8) Media Cubs (Year 7 only) (S1)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Basketball Thrive and Dine (by invite) (T9 and T14) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Country Dance Foundation science revision Year 11 (P13) Singing club (T8)

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

Celebrating our students

through focus and independence

English subject stars

Students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, integrity, and perseverance in their pursuit of powerful knowledge. Their consistent hard work and commitment to learning have not only elevated their own understanding but also inspired those around them.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kai• Izzy• Harrison• Jaxson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tyler• Layla• Cecilia• Midhah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mali• Imogen• Heidi• Isla• Mariam• Brooke• Dillo-Joe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ahmad• Robyn• Lucy• Chloe• Mehdi• Sienna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mia• Libby• Lilly May• Tegan

English independent thinkers

Students who are developing into resilient, inquisitive young people. These learners ask bold questions, explore ideas beyond the classroom, and embrace challenges with a growth mindset.

KS3	KS4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ceridwan• Kian• Isabella• Jessica• Darcey• Cody	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paige• Hollie• Jake• Alfie• Wes



Getting Drama-tic!

Year 11 drama students were creating their own oversized masks this week. This was part of their mock exam prep! Can you guess who is who?



Extra-curricular activities

to enrich our students' experiences

Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition

A group of Year 10 pupils recently completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition by paddling along the Bridgewater Canal to Hollinwood Campsite in Worsley, where they camped overnight before returning the following day.

Throughout the journey, they demonstrated outstanding resilience and teamwork; overcoming physical challenges and unpredictable weather with determination and a positive attitude.

The expedition route offered a mix of urban and natural scenery, requiring the group to navigate the canal which flows over the Manchester Ship canal and narrow stretches of canal.

Each pupil contributed to the success of the journey, whether through steering, teamwork or motivating their peers. Upon reaching the campsite, they showed excellent camp crafting skills — pitching tents efficiently, cooking meals on Trangias, and maintaining a tidy and safe camp environment.

On the return leg, the group applied what they had learned, improving their paddling technique and timekeeping. Their ability to adapt, support one another, and stay focused under pressure was a credit to their maturity and growth. This expedition not only fulfilled the requirements of the Bronze Award but also highlighted their personal development and readiness for future challenges. It was a truly commendable achievement and a memorable experience for all involved.



Harvest Food Appeal

A huge thanks to our students and their families who donated items of food to support Wythenshawe Foodbank this year.

These will be picked up next week and your donations will support the making of food parcels for individuals and families in our local community facing hardship.

We thank you warmly for your support and will continue to support our local organisations.



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

Students who have achieved 100% this week

619 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
111 students	137 students	106 students	150 students	115 students

Top advisory groups

7Y	8A	9W	10C	11X
93.8%	98.6%	94.3%	93.8%	95.5%

Countdown to the holidays

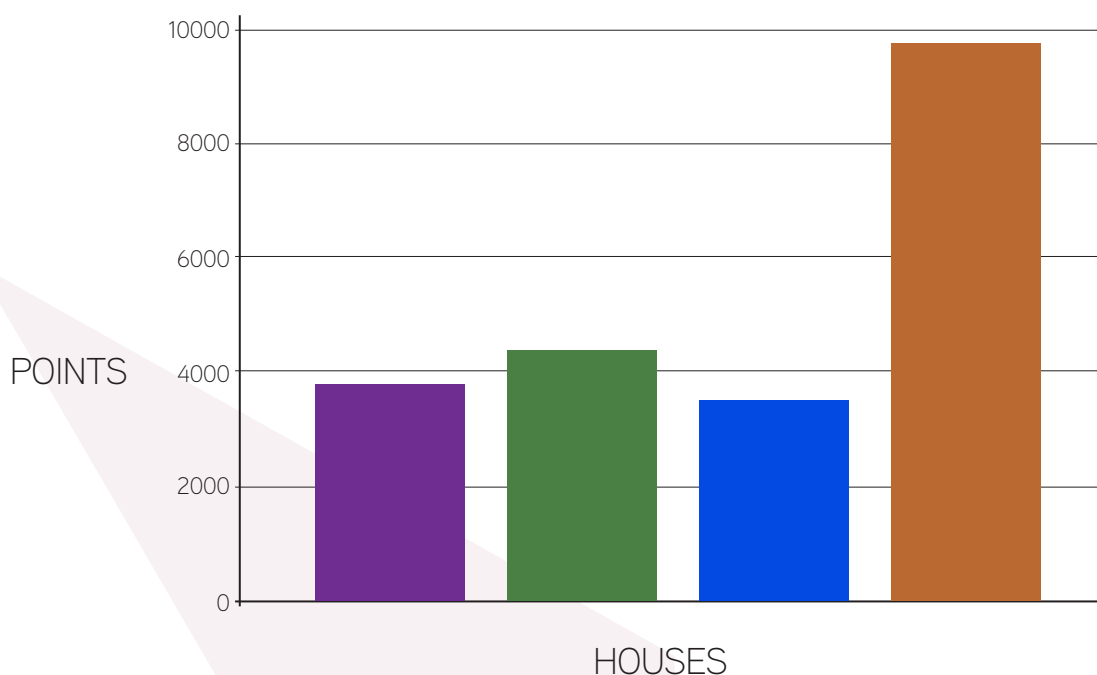
Attend school for ten days leading up to the half term holiday for a chance to win a £20 voucher on Friday 17 October. There will also be daily prizes up for grabs!



House points leaderboard

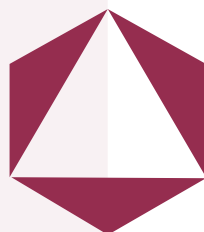
Students have been working super hard to add to their House Points this week! House Rigour are, at the moment, storming ahead, but there is a long way to go before the final results.

There is one week left to go for the House Logo Competition, hand your design to Mrs Cashmore by Friday 10 October for final judging!



VALOUR

RIGOUR



ASPIRATION

SPIRIT

Well done everyone, keep pushing!



Tips on managing your child's social media and an open conversation about social media. Cake provided!

Parent Pulse

Managing Social Media

Monday 13 October | 5-6pm
at Dixons Brooklands Academy
All parents invited

dixonsbk.com

What's on?



**DIXONS
BROOKLANDS**
ACADEMY



Book a tour to visit our fantastic academy! **Year 6 School Tours**

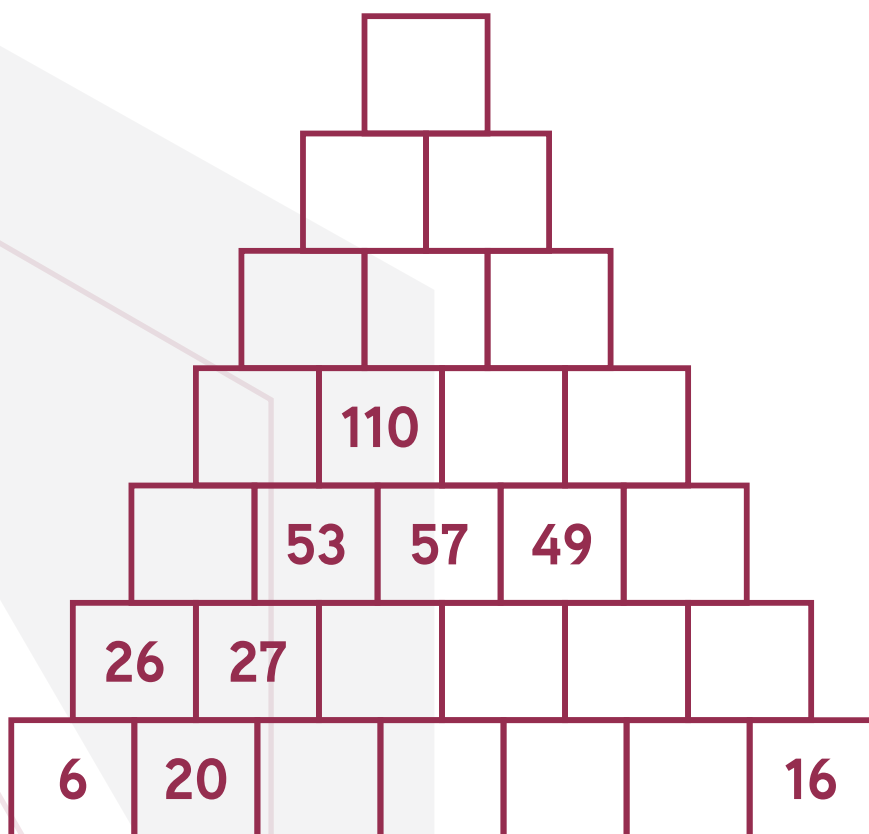
Anytime between 8.45am and 11am
Until Friday 17 October
Email nrogers@dixonsbk.com to book

dixonsbk.com

If you know a family who are interested in attending Dixons Brooklands Academy, please ask them to contact Dr Rogers via email at nrogers@dixonsbk.com to book a tour between 8.45 to 11.00am from until Friday 17 October.

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:

WAIT
WANT
WANE
WARE
WERE
HERE