



1st March 2024

## Message from the Head of School

I am thrilled to join Dixons Brooklands Academy as Head of School. As I step into this role, I am filled with enthusiasm for the journey that lies ahead and the privilege of joining such a vibrant and esteemed school community. I have received a warm reception from both staff and students, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a welcoming family.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas you'd like to share, please feel free to reach out. I am here to listen, learn, and work together with you to ensure the continued success and growth of Dixons Brooklands Academy. My aim is to make sure every student feels not only educated but also genuinely happy and inspired each day.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and I am excited to embark on this incredible journey alongside you and your children.



**Ms Kristy Gardner**  
Head of School

## Oxford Visit

A number of our Year 11 students had a fabulous day on Tuesday this week, when they visited 2 colleges at the University of Oxford; Corpus Christi and Mansfield. They had a tour of the colleges, a delicious lunch in a hall that resembled the dining hall at Hogwarts, and met with one of our former students, Yasmin, who now attends the University of Oxford. She was delighted to meet up with her old English teacher Mr Morgan, and had a talk with the students. She told them that she was a student at Dixons Brooklands Academy just like them, so there's nothing stopping them joining her at Oxford if they work hard and get the grades. It was an inspirational day for the students, coinciding with their mock exams, so has definitely given them something to aim for!



## Convention of the North

Five Year 9 students were invited to The Convention of the North in Leeds on Thursday and Friday this week. They were asked to prepare a speech, which they needed to give to up to 400 delegates. We are incredibly proud of them, and look forward to hearing all about their experience when they return to the Academy next week

## English: Sparx Reader

Thank you for your continued support with encouraging your children to read. Ms Walker is in the process of completing reading age tests and will shortly be reporting scaled scores and progress since October. Cambridge learning says: 'A quarter of students at 15 still have a reading age of 12 or below. There is a significant correlation between student reading ability and eventual performance across all subjects at GCSE, which is just as strong in maths and sciences as it is in arts subjects'. This is why it is important to support our students to read regularly.

Last week's top readers were:

Robert B,	Year 7
Ceridwen D	Year 7
Jessica M	Year 7



## World Book Day

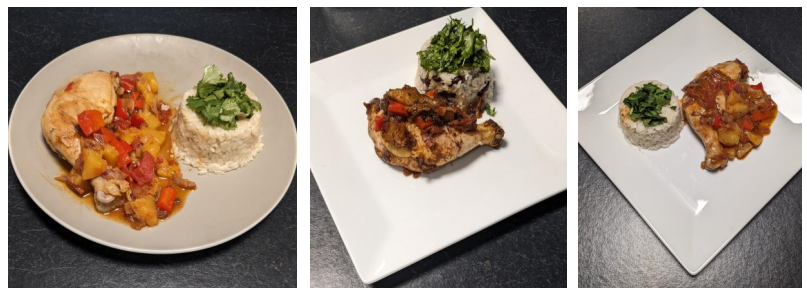
Due to the staff training days on 7th and 8th March next week, we are celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 6th March. Families may be relieved to be assured that students are not permitted to dress up for this event, however there may be a few members of staff in costume as a nod to their favourite book characters! Students will be encouraged to join in the fun by entering a competition on the day to identify all the characters. Competition forms will be available from their advisors and should be handed in at the Hub at the end of the day.

## Year 7 Lead Prefects

Following the vote on 19th February to elect our Year 7 Lead Prefects, we are delighted to announce the winners were Nirav S and Lexi S. We are sure they will be invaluable members of the Student Leadership Team. Well done Nirav and Lexi!

## What's Cooking?

There was a delicious smell coming from the Food Tech classrooms on T floor on Thursday morning. Ms Bowdery's Year 10 produced very professionally plated jerk chicken with rice and peas. All their hard work is helping them to prepare for their mock practical exams in June.



# We are looking for a Librarian and Literacy Coordinator

Apply and find out more:  
[joindixonsat.com](http://joindixonsat.com)



SCAN ME



## Year 11 Exam Support Event

We are inviting Year 11 parents and carers to attend a special Exam Support event on **Thursday 14th March**, 4.15-6.00pm with their child. There will be three talks given which we hope you will find informative and helpful - 'Revision Techniques', 'Using a Revision Guide' and 'Supporting your Child with Exam Stress'.

As well as the Year 11 Team, representatives from the SEN Careers department will be available to speak with during this evening.

An invitation has been sent out to families on the parent app - please respond by 12th March.

## Brooklands Library

We are lucky enough to have Brooklands Public Library on our doorstep, so here is an overview of some of the amazing events and activities they have on offer:

### Weekly:

**Tiny Tots and Toddler Time:** On Mondays during term time only, 11.00am - 12.00pm, for families with a child under 5. Join in for stories, songs, rhymes and crafts.

**Drop-In for Basic ICT Support:** Wednesdays, 2.00-4.00pm

**Lego Club:** Saturdays, 10.00am - 12.30pm

### Monthly:

**Booky Brooky Brew Stop:** Visit on Friday 26th April and tea, coffee and biscuits are on offer to all customers.

**Reading Club:** Adult reading club meet on the last Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday 27th March, 6.30-7.30pm. New members always welcome, light refreshments included.

### Special Events:

**Saturday 9th March:** Mothers' Day Event - make a lovely card for your mum, 2.00-4.30pm

**Monday 11th March, 11.00am - 12.00pm:** World Book Day Celebration - join the regular story time session with your little one (or yourself) dressed as a favourite book character.

**Tuesday 2nd - Friday 12th April:** School holiday crafts.

**Wednesday 3rd April:** Free movie at 3.00pm with free popcorn and a drink!

Please note, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult to all library activities.

For more information, please see a member of the Library staff or email [brooklandslibrary@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:brooklandslibrary@manchester.gov.uk)

## Opening Hours

<b>Monday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 8.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Closed	
<b>Friday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am - 1.00pm	2.00 - 5.00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed	

The library will be closed on the Easter bank holidays  
(29th March and 1st April.)



## Parent/Carer Drop-In Sessions

We are introducing some drop-in sessions aimed at giving parents/carers the opportunity to speak to staff about any concerns or in general about their child and the school. Currently, we have scheduled some sessions on Thursday mornings, starting **14th March**, for Year 11 parents. From 8.30-9.30am, Ms McVey and members of the Year 11 team will be on hand to speak with you about any issues that you would like to discuss. If you have any specific questions, please email Ms McVey at [dmcvey@dixonsbk.com](mailto:dmcvey@dixonsbk.com) in advance.

We also have a Parent/Carer Drop-In for parents/carers for students in Year 7 -10 on **21st March**, to discuss our academy routines, including line ups, corrections, morning meetings plus any other issues you may wish to raise. A consent form has been sent to parents/carers via the parent app (PA Connect\*) - please complete and submit this by Monday 18th March to advise us of your attendance.

*\*If you have not yet activated your parent app and need help with it, please email [info@dixonsbk.com](mailto:info@dixonsbk.com) with your child's name and our office team will be in touch to assist.*

## Dates for your Diary: March/April 2024

<b>Tuesday 5th March</b>	3.30pm: Year 11 Football Fixture at Loreto High School <i>(tbc)</i>
<b>Tuesday 5th March</b>	3.30pm: KS3 Netball Fixture at Parris Wood <i>(tbc)</i>
<b>Wednesday 6th March</b>	2.45pm: Year 8 Football Fixture at Wright Robinson Sports College <i>(tbc)</i>
<b>Thursday 7th March</b>	School closed for staff training
<b>Friday 8th March</b>	School closed for staff training
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	Cyber Girls First Event at UA92 <i>(tbc)</i>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	8.30-9.30am: Year 11 Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	3.00pm: KS3 Girls Football Fixture at MEA
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	4.15-6.00pm: Year 11 Exam Support Event
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	Immunisation Team in school for Year 8 HPV and MMR catch ups
<b>Wednesday 20th March</b>	2.45pm: Year 8 Football Fixture at MCA <i>(tbc)</i>
<b>Thursday 21st March</b>	8.30-9.30am: Year 11 Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Thursday 21st March</b>	4.00-5.30pm: Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Friday 22nd March</b>	School closes for Easter holidays. <i>Students return Monday 8th April</i>
<b>Monday 8th April</b>	School reopens for new term
<b>Thursday 11th April</b>	8.30-9.30am: Year 11 Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Thursday 18th April</b>	8.30-9.30am: Year 11 Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Thursday 25th April</b>	8.30-9.30am: Year 11 Parent/Carer Drop In
<b>Thursday 25th April</b>	3.40-6.35pm: Year 8 Parents' Evening