



Message from the Head of School

As I reflect on my first full week at Dixons Brooklands Academy, I am impressed by the commitment that I have seen from our staff body and their care and commitment to making a positive difference to the lives of our students.

I have spent the week observing the daily routines and have had conversations with a number of students, which has provided me with an insight into their views of the Academy.

I am excited by the challenge ahead, and I am looking forward to helping Dixons Brooklands Academy become the school of choice for Wythenshawe; which will provide the best outcomes for our students and provide them with a sense of purpose, fully prepared for their next steps after leaving school.

Although the week has been a short week for students, a number of exciting events have taken place. Students participated in World Book Day and enjoyed guessing the characters that their teachers were dressed as. A competition took place and we had lots of correct answers. As this week has been National Careers Week, we have had visitors from local businesses speaking to students about the world of work. We also received news that our students who participated in the Kath Fry Challenge in January, an outdoor activity inter-school challenge that takes place in the Lake District each year, won the event – this is not the first time Dixons Brooklands Academy have won this challenge and we are very proud of our students. They will meet with the Lord Mayor of Manchester to receive their trophy.

We look forward to students returning to the Academy on Monday 11th March, in the correct uniform and fully equipped for their lessons. Our focus for next week is student behaviour around the Academy, and truancy from lessons will not be tolerated. If you have received a letter to advise that your child is engaging in the behaviour and causing disruption to other students, please have a conversation with them to reinforce our expectations.

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, my door is open and if you would like to meet with me to discuss your child's experience at the Academy; please contact reception to arrange an appointment. As I anticipate meeting with a large number of people, I cannot guarantee an immediate appointment, however I will arrange a time for everyone who wishes to meet with me.

Year 11 Boys Football

Our Year 11 boys' football team maintained their unbeaten run in the league this week, with a difficult game against top of the league Loreto High School, winning 2-1 with goals from Junior H securing the victory.

Wishing the team good luck next week when they play Wright Robinson in another top of the league clash.



Mrs K Gardner
Head of School

World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

What a successful World Book Day we had! Staff enjoyed getting into character, whether it was investigating incidents (Sherlock) or creeping up on students (Ghost of Christmas yet to come)... students will be told who the winner of the 'Guess the Character' competition is next week.

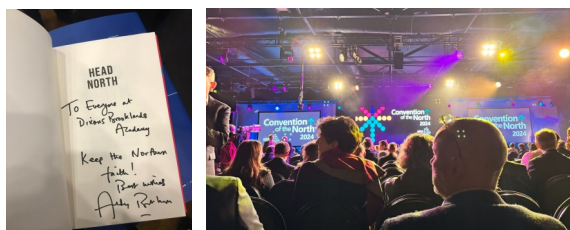
Please take your children to Tesco or participating retailers over the 4-day break to redeem their £1 book token. Let's use the enthusiasm shown today to get our young people stuck into a good book or obsessed with Sparx Reader.

As always, thank you for your support.



Convention of the North

Five Year 9 students attended the Convention of the North in Leeds last week as part of a 50-strong cohort of young people from across the North of England organised by Citizens UK. Over 400 MPs, Mayors, policy makers, researchers and business leaders were in attendance. Ms Wood and Ms Dutton worked with the group to create fantastic speeches setting out the topics they are passionate about including: the cost of living crisis; safe spaces to socialise; housing; health and provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Everyone who came across the students loved their speeches, with one panellist urging them to "keep going, the world needs you." A highlight of the two days was the students arranging a meeting with Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham. He listened to all of their speeches, agreed with all their points and asked if he could come into school to meet with them again! We are in the process of arranging this. One of our group even asked a question at the keynote speech which was answered by Michael Gove MP! The students did their school and community proud and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to see how they can make a difference in the world. We've no doubt they will!



National Careers Week

Students have attended virtual talks from exciting employers including Manchester Airport Group (well done to Mr Ormiston's Advisory group for correctly guessing which job our speaker did at the airport!), Microsoft and Savills. Students can do more research into different careers online using the links on our website <https://www.dixonsbk.com/why/careers-education> and my accessing the National Careers Week Virtual Careers Fair: <https://ncw2024.co.uk>

Year 11 Exam Support Event

Year 11 parents and carers have been invited 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'. At this event we will also be giving your child a set of brand new revision guides for their core subjects.

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

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

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 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.

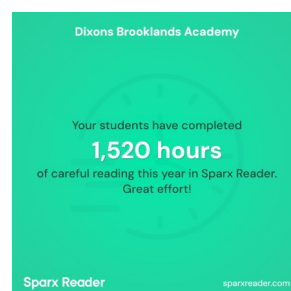
**If you have not yet activated your parent app and need help with it, please email info@dixonsbk.com with your child's name and our office team will be in touch to assist.*

English: Sparx Reader

Over the staff training days and weekend, please support us by ensuring your child completes their 30 minutes of Sparx Reader. A reminder that students access Sparx through their same log on as Sparx maths.

Last week's top readers were:

- Robert B, Year 7
- Ceridwen D, Year 7
- Imogen F, Year 7



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

Opening Hours

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

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



Dates for your Diary: March/April 2024

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