



Message from the Executive Director

The big event this half term was our school show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Our staff and students have worked so hard on this production, and I would like to give my thanks to them for their time and commitment, and to you, their families, for your continued support.

If, like me, you were fortunate enough to see the show, which took place on Wednesday and Thursday this week, you would have been blown away; it was a spectacular production of the highest calibre. I would like to say a special thank you to our Year 11 students, for whom this was their final performance for the Academy. I'm sure, if you have attended our events over the last five years, you would have seen familiar faces in the cast. I wish them the very best of luck in their future endeavours.

We have now finished for the February half term break. I wish all our students and families a safe and restful break. Students should return at the normal time of 8.15am on Monday 19th February 2024. As usual, students are to arrive on time, in the correct uniform, and ready for learning.

In addition to appointing our new Executive Principal Mr Hussain, we are excited to announce the appointment of a Head of School, Ms Gardner. We look forward to Ms Gardner joining us at the beginning of March:

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Head of School at Dixons Brooklands Academy, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know all our students, parents, carers and staff.

When I first visited Dixons Brooklands Academy, I was immediately struck by the warm welcome I received from both staff and students and knew that this school was where I wanted to be. I am genuinely excited about the prospect of working closely with each of you to uphold and further enhance the academic and personal development of our students.

I have worked in schools across Greater Manchester and have been committed to achieving a positive impact in every role. I am passionate about giving young people every opportunity they deserve to reach their true potential. I bring this passion and determination to Dixons Brooklands Academy and will work alongside an amazing staff body to support your children to success.

From my experience as an Operational Headteacher, a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. As parents and carers, you make an essential contribution to your children's achievements, and it's crucial that we build on the relationship between you and the school.

I will be holding several events over the next term, which will allow me to meet with you and learn more about our school community. These meetings will take place at several different times in the hope that as many families as possible will have the opportunity to attend.

Mrs K Gardner



Mr Mark Harrison
Executive Director -
Manchester and Liverpool

Academy Production: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

An amazing Dreamcoat and an amazing performance! Wow! If you managed to come to the Academy to see our show this week, we're sure you will agree it was fantastic. Our students put on an incredible performance. We're sure we have some future West End performers in our cast.



National Apprenticeship Week

This week was National Apprenticeship Week and the Careers Department has been busy!

It was great to see so many parents and carers at our most recent Coffee Morning, Wednesday 7th February, which was focussed on National Apprenticeship Week.

Monday: Year 11 students had a presentation from the Manchester City Council Early Talent Team about their exciting new apprenticeship programme starting in September.

Wednesday: We had several parents and carers attend our Coffee Morning, focusing on National Apprenticeship Week. Our visitors had a tour around the school and a Q&A session on all things Apprenticeships with our Careers Lead and Advisor, Victoria Geary. The event was described by one parent as 'inspirational'!

Thursday: All students took part in The Big Assembly, a national initiative, joined by schools across the UK to hear from current apprentices and employers offering apprenticeship opportunities.

Also on Thursday, a number of Year 11 students travelled to the Forum in Wythenshawe to attend the Apprenticeship Fair with Ms Geary and Mr Chai, which provided lots of information about career opportunities and apprenticeships from a wide range of employers and providers. Mike Kane MP was also at this event to support the community, and our students agreed it was very interesting and informative and gave them lots of ideas for pathways for their future. Feedback from the employers said our students were "impressive" and "just what we are looking for".

NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK™
5th-9th FEB 2024

Street Reds



Foundation

Free football sessions

Street Reds offers free football sessions and alternative activities for young people aged 8-18 in a supportive and positive environment.

Parents/carers must register their child's interest before attending.

To register or for more information, please visit: www.mufoundation.org/streetreds

Students of the Week

Our winners from last week, Savannah, Ahmet, Duane, Mia and Ruby, were invited to meet with Mr Harrison during Advisory time on Monday to receive their certificates. They were nominated by their teachers for displaying the Academy Values of Work Hard; Be Kind; Have Integrity.

Congratulations to all our winners. Here are Ahmet and Duane, proudly displaying their certificate.



Sport at Dixons Brooklands Academy

KS3 Girls Football

The KS3 girls football team took part in the monthly league tournament playing 7 games - and they were unbeaten in all 7! They played 3 teams from Trinity High School, 2 from Manchester Enterprise Academy and 2 from William Hulme, scoring 25 goals in total and only conceding only 2. They are really starting to progress together as a team which is shown in the style of football they are playing - even receiving compliments off other school's teachers and spectators. All the outfield players were on the score sheets (Eva, Clem, Maisie, Payton, Lucy, Aliae, Alisia and Summer made some fantastic saves in net to keep

our number of goals conceded so low. Player of the tournament was Clem, not only for her individual brilliance on the pitch but also for her constant teamwork and support of others on the team. Fantastic effort girls - keep it up! We are very proud of you all.



Boys Football

Our Year 11 boys played a match against MEA Central this week; we were trailing behind 3-1 but some amazing hard work and skill brought us back to draw 3-3. Goals were scored by Khadim, Junior and Lewis scored the equalizer. Well done boys!

Cross Country

You may recall from our Newsletter dated 10th November that several students attended the Manchester Schools Cross Country finals, and a number were selected to represent the borough of Manchester at the Greater Manchester Schools Cross Country Championships. This took place on Saturday, when two of our Year 11 students, Kieron and Maks, competed in the Inter Boys Race which was a 5km gruelling course up and down the muddy hills at Heaton Park. The boys ran brilliantly, with the Manchester Borough team taking team Gold against the other boroughs. It was a very proud moment to have students from our school represent the Borough at this competition, as they had to compete in 2 previous races to qualify to gain that vest! Congratulations to Kieron and Maks.



Children's Mental Health Week

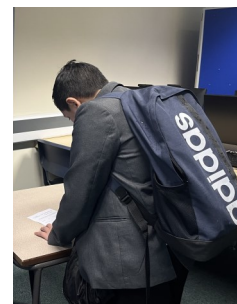
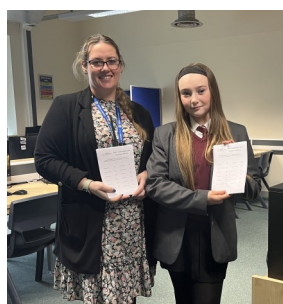
5th-11th February is Children's Mental Health Week, a national mental health awareness week aiming to empower, equip and give a voice to children and young people in the UK. This year's theme is My Voice Matters. A link to a selection of resources has been put on our website which we hope you find useful. <https://www.dixonsbk.com/events/childrens-mental-health-week-2024>



Year 7 Student Leadership Ballot

In Westminster they may be preparing for a General Election, but at Dixons Brooklands Academy we have had our own elections to think about! On Thursday, our Year 7s cast their votes for their Lead Prefects. Good luck to Abigail, Danielle, Bobby, Elaine, Heidi, Maisie-Grace, Leba, Amelia, Elise, Lexi, Nirav and Maisie!

Pictured are Lexi and Ms Keelan (Year 7 Welfare Coordinator) at the ballot box, and Leo casting his vote.



English: Sparx Reader

Well done to last week's top 3 Sparx Readers - Samantha, Alfie-Blue and Faith, all in Year 8.

Please support your child to read by reminding them to read for 30 minutes a week.



Thank you to parents/carers for the positive feedback received regarding Sparx Reader and for continuing to support your children to become more competent readers. Ms Walker has been liaising with Sparx, and over the last month they have made some positive improvements to the system: parents/carers will receive a welcome email from Sparx Reader using the email addresses you provided; we have listened to student feedback and now students have more control over their book choice. Finally, please look at the parent report regarding your child's Sparx Reader homework so you can keep them on track. Students are working hard on their reading and we are proud of their achievements. Thank you for your support.

Words for students to learn for Ms Walker's reading group:

- Twilight
- Conjecture
- Nonconformist
- Dusk
- Pretence
- Initiate
- Abate
- Assortment
- Scapegoat
- Frugal

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 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

Coffee Day: As part of their Age Friendly offer, each Tuesday complimentary refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits) are on offer to visitors between 10.00am and 12.30pm and 2.00-4.30pm. There is also a selection of board games for customers to use during this day.

Monthly:

Booky Brooky Brew Stop: Visit on Friday 23rd February 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 28th February, 6.30-7.30pm. New members always welcome, light refreshments included.

Special Events:

Winter Warmer: Keep warm and cosy during the winter months; help yourself to a cup of tea or coffee.

Baby Rhyme Time Session: Friday 16th February, 10.30-11.00am - for all non-walking babies and their grown ups.

Free Movie Screening: Wednesday 21st February, 3.00pm. Free popcorn and drink included.

Free Crafting: Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February. Free crafting sessions during opening hours.

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



Dates for your Diary: February/March 2024

Friday 9th February	School Closed to students: Staff Training
Monday 19th February	School reopens for Term 4
Monday 19th February	All week: Spanish Speaking Mock Exams
Monday 26th February	Year 11 Mock Exams (over a 2-week period)
Monday 26th February	1.30pm: Year 8 Football Fixture at St Peter's High School (<i>tbc</i>)
Tuesday 27th February	Year 11 Oxford University Visit
Thursday 29th February	3.00pm: KS4 Girls Football Fixture at Wright Robinson Sports College
Tuesday 5th March	3.30pm: Year 11 Football Fixture at Loreto High School (<i>tbc</i>)
Wednesday 5th March	2.45pm: Year 8 Football Fixture at Wright Robinson Sports College (<i>tbc</i>)
Thursday 7th March	School closed for staff training
Friday 8th March	School closed for staff training
Wednesday 13th March	Cyber Girls First Event at UA92 (<i>tbc</i>)
Thursday 14th March	3.00pm: KS3 Girls Football Fixture at MEA
Wednesday 20th March	2.45pm: Year 8 Football Fixture at MCA (<i>tbc</i>)
Friday 22nd March	School closes for Easter holidays. <i>Students return Monday 8th April.</i>
Monday 8th April	School reopens for new term.