



Message from the Head of School

I am delighted to share some exciting developments that mark a significant step forward in fostering a stronger sense of community and collaboration within our school. We are thrilled to announce the introduction of a new House System, which aims to bring students closer together, inspire personal growth, and create opportunities for everyone to shine.



Mrs Gardner
Head of School

The House System is more than just a way to organise activities; it is a framework designed to encourage teamwork, healthy competition, and shared responsibility. At the heart of this initiative is a metaphor that will guide our journey: **climbing a mountain**. This concept represents the challenges and aspirations each student faces as they strive to reach their personal summits, supported by the collective strength of their peers, teachers, and the school community.

To make this initiative truly meaningful and student-centred, we are inviting all students to play a pivotal role in naming the houses. This collaborative effort will not only reflect their creativity and values but will also ensure that the houses feel uniquely theirs. Over the coming weeks, students will work together in discussions and brainstorming sessions, guided by our staff, to propose names that resonate with our shared vision of growth, perseverance, and achievement.

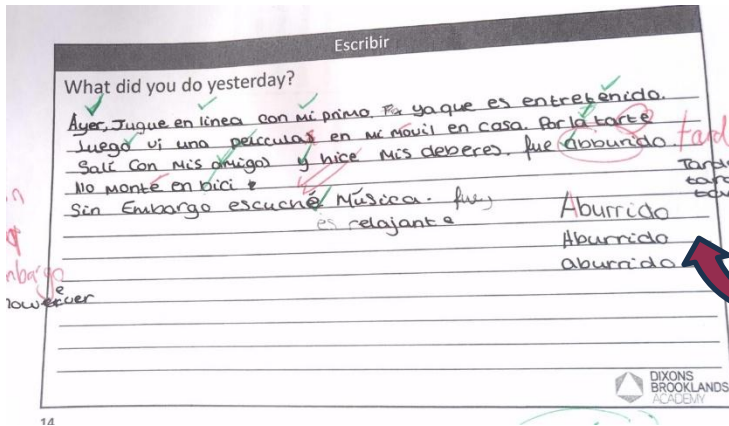
We believe this metaphor will inspire students to reflect on their individual journeys and appreciate the support systems that help them succeed.

This is an incredibly exciting time for our school community. The enthusiasm among students is already palpable, and it is heartening to see them so engaged and eager to contribute to shaping this new chapter.

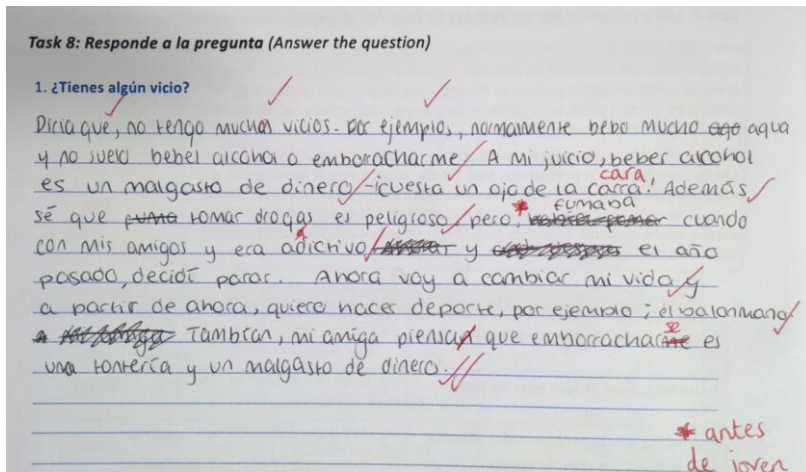
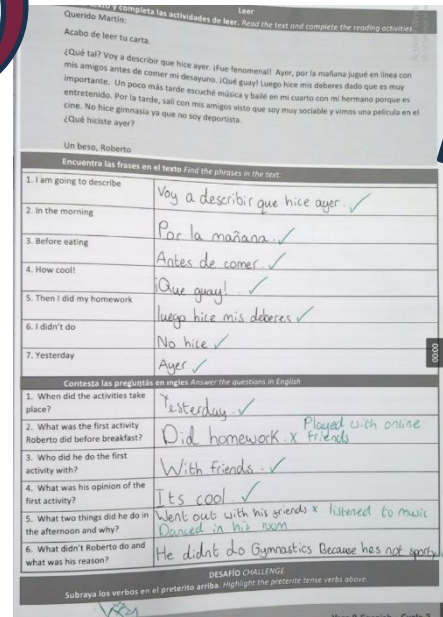
We will keep you updated as the process unfolds, and we look forward to sharing the final house names with you soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to share ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create an inspiring and united school community.

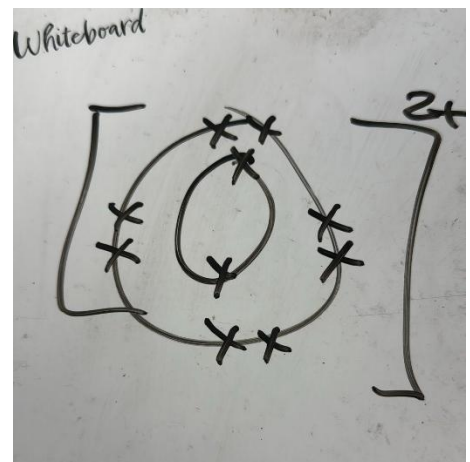
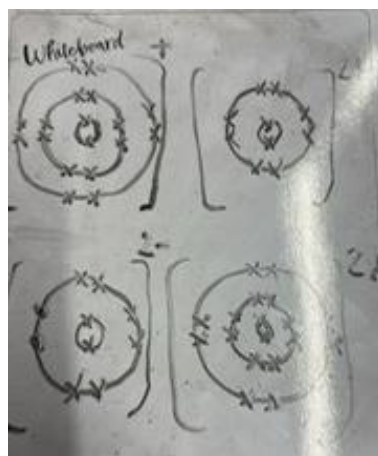
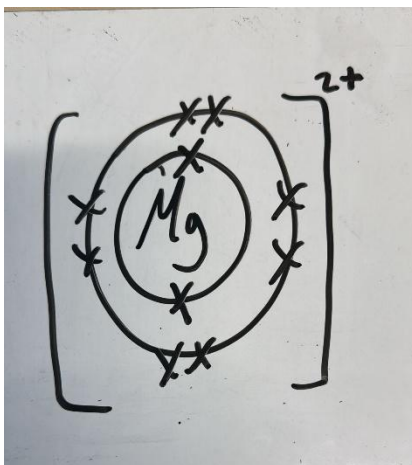
Celebrating our Curriculum



MFL:
Some extraordinary work from students in MFL this week. Work from Isabelle R and Taylor J!



Hatice consistently impresses Miss Marsh in Spanish with her written work. This week Hatice included an idiomatic phrase which was shown to the rest of the class as an example of excellence! Well done Hatice!!!

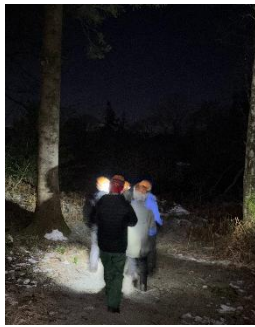


Science:

Year 9 are learning all about ions and their importance in chemical reactions. Great work by all students!

Kath Fry Challenge...

Nine 10-year-old girls arrived in the Lake District for the Kath Fry Challenge. Their first activity, night orienteering on the outdoor centre grounds, was a great success, with the girls reaching 27 out of 30 checkpoints.



On day two of the Kath Fry challenge, the girls successfully reached the summit of Loughrigg Fell in the snow, demonstrating resilience, determination, and teamwork during the 5-hour hike. They also successfully completed the egg drop challenge, creating a contraption to safely drop an egg from a climbing tower, without the egg breaking, earning 100 points. On day 3, they will participate in various tasks to accumulate as many points as possible within the 5-hour timeframe.



On day three, despite being tired and battling the cold snow, the girls showed great determination and resilience as they tackled a series of demanding challenges. They climbed to the summit of Gummer's Howe, skillfully navigated a treacherous swamp, ascended a daunting climbing wall, and carefully worked their way through a tricky maze. Each task tested their endurance and teamwork, but their unwavering spirit carried them through the day.



Attendance

A total of 623 students from Years 7 to 11 achieved 100% attendance, demonstrating a strong commitment to their education. This accomplishment highlights the dedication of these students to maintaining perfect attendance throughout the school year.

100% attendance in each year group:

- Y7 143 students
- Y8 118 students
- Y9 146 students
- Y10 112 students
- Y11 102 students



Advisory Groups attendance

- 7Y 96%
- 8W 98%
- 9W 92%
- 10A 93%
- 11Y 92%

Student Absence: Reminder

School attendance is the most crucial prerequisite for quality education; students cannot learn if they are not in school. We know that attendance to school is linked to high quality GCSE results which our students require to achieve their maximum potential.

The following are not reasons to be absent:

- common cold
- headache
- feeling sick
- stomach pains or general pains
- Cough
- asthma
- hayfever

Students with any of these symptoms should be well enough to be in lesson. Parents/carers are advised to give their child paracetamol or equivalent in the morning for headache/stomach pains before sending them to school. If your child requires medication during the school day, this can be brought into school for attention of our school nurse, Samantha Divers. The school nurse will oversee students taking their medication.

Students should not be leaving school during the day because of their period. We can discreetly support students experiencing any issues.

Celebrating student achievements

Sparx Maths:

Well done to Year 8 for completing the most homework this week!

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
1st Place	Jack D	Tavonga N	Birva D	Ellie-Mae K	Muhammad A
2nd Place	Samik P	Shafia S	Aarna M	Colette M	Thang N
3rd Place	Jack Mc	Naya R	Catrine P	Dorsa S	Aaron M



Boys Football:

The year 8 boys played amazing against MCA and managed to get a 1-0 win against a strong opposition!

Girls Netball:

The Year 9 netball team played an impressive match against MCA, showcasing strong teamwork and determination throughout. Despite their best efforts, they narrowly missed out on victory, with MCA taking the win. The girls now have one last event this academic year where they will attend the Manchester school tournament in March. Players of the Match went to Phoebe and Georgia!



Updates...

Year 11 Parent's Evening update:

Due to the weather; the Year 11 Parents' Evening was cancelled. The event has now been rescheduled for Thursday, 23rd January. If you have already booked your appointments, these will automatically roll over to the new date. If you haven't yet booked, please do so at your earliest convenience. We look forward to seeing you then.

Should you have any issues trying to login, please email info@dixonsbk.com

Year 10 Work Experience:

All students should have received their Work Experience pack this week. The deadline for submission has been extended to Friday, January 24th, giving students additional time to complete the documents online.



Community Hub

Our aim is to create a safe, supportive space where parents can come to talk, have a cup of tea, seek advice and connect with others. From Wednesday 22nd January we will be opening our Community Hub 11.30-12.30pm and all parents and families are welcome to join us. The Community Hub will be open each fortnight (see dates below), we will offer a varied programme, including sessions with representatives from Early Help, Cross acres Family Hub and Thrive in Education who will join us to offer specialist support. This programme will be shared in advance so please look out for details on our socials and weekly Newsletter.

- Wednesday 22th January 11.30-12.30pm
- Wednesday 5th February 11.30-12.30pm
- Wednesday 26th February 11.30-12.30pm
- Wednesday 12th March 11.30-12.30pm
- Wednesday 19th March 11.30-12.30pm
- Wednesday 2nd April 11.30-12.30pm

For more details, please contact Miss Storr – zstorr@dixonsbk.com





MENU

Week Commencing 20th January 2025

Monday	Blackened Cajun chicken tortilla wrap with side salad	Vegetable wrap with side salad	Panini selection: cheese, ham, pepperoni or cheese and beans
Tuesday	Beef <u>bolognese</u> with pasta and garlic bread	Cheese and potato homemade pasties	Panini selection: cheese, ham, pepperoni or cheese and beans
Wednesday	Sausage and mash with gravy and Yorkshire pudding	Macaroni cheese	Panini selection: cheese, ham, pepperoni or cheese and beans
Thursday	Chicken tikka masala with rice and naan bread	Cheese and tomato turnovers with green salad	Panini selection: cheese, ham, pepperoni or cheese and beans
Friday	Chicken burger and fresh green salad	Vegetable burger with fresh green salad	Panini selection: cheese, ham, pepperoni or cheese and beans

Every day the salad bar plus a variety of sandwiches and baguettes are available, as well as a choice of cold or hot desserts.

*We follow best practices in safe food handling to prevent cross-contamination. However, we cannot guarantee our products are 100% free of any specific allergen. Allergens are listed on the front counter, which refer to the ingredients we use. We also cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment where some of our ingredients from suppliers or products may have been produced in an environment with other allergens.
Please double-check with a member of staff.*