



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

From the
Headmaster

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News @ Dixie September 2021

Dear Parents,

It really is wonderful to hear the buzz of excitement in the corridors of the school—I am delighted that we are back and pleased that so much of what has been missing in school is able to return. In our staff training days we focused on what should return, reminding ourselves of the great many aspects of normal school life that have not been possible over the last 18 months. Music, competitive sport, concerts, assemblies, clubs and societies, student buddying, educational visits and peer mentoring are all returning in earnest this term.

Some control measures remain in school—the one way system for example—and we regularly remind students of the need to sanitize, to act responsibly and to test twice weekly, logging all [results on our website](#) and [NHS](#). Please do remember to notify school immediately in the case of a positive test. Our [outbreak management plan](#) is on our website and details our planned response should infection levels rise in school. Thank you for your support in maintaining the routine of testing at home and particularly for your cooperation at the start of term—I was very impressed by students' sensible approach to testing in school. Finally, please do not send your child(ren) to school if they are displaying any possible symptoms of Covid-19 and you may need to extend isolation periods until all symptoms have passed—[guidance here](#).

The start of term always involves welcoming new faces to our team and I am delighted to be able to introduce you to new colleagues. The first two faces may be familiar—Hannah and D'arcey are both former Junior and Senior students and it is wonderful to welcome them back to their old school.

- Miss Hannah Arnold, Teaching Assistant, working predominantly in Year 7
- Miss D'arcey Arrowsmith, Teacher of PE and tutor of 7A
- Mr Robert Baden, Teacher of Physics
- Mr Gavin Bailey, Head of Biology
- Miss Alicia Corten, Teacher of Chemistry
- Miss Bryony Haggart, Teaching Assistant, working predominantly with Year 6
- Mr Daniel Lenton, Head Groundsperson
- Mrs Rachel Marshall, Teaching Assistant, working predominantly with Year 6





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Upper Sixth Geography Field Trip to Wales 7-10 September

We have been delighted by how quickly Year 6 have settled into their new routines and life in the Senior School. Mr and Mrs Sentance-Davis transformed Rooms 1 and 2 over the holidays in preparation for our new Dixie6 curriculum and the first term's Harry Potter theme. From Herbology, potions and transfiguration in science; legends involving magic in humanities; cauldrons in Design and Technology; prejudice (referencing 'Muggles') in Personal and Social Development to quidditch in PE, Year 6 are in for a magical term! This current week concludes with a film night for them (pizza, gobstoppers and chocolate frogs) and the term concludes with a trip to the Warner Bros. Studios in London.



The summer holiday also saw the most incredible equestrian team news as the Dixie were crowned national champions at the British showjumping Just for Schools National

Finals at Stoneleigh Park in the week commencing Aug 9th 2021. The Dixie qualified 5 teams for this event including our 1st placed team, Florence Baron, Lilymay Dawe and Oliver Dunk. In the second team was Annie Baron, Dara Davidchak, Mia Bowring - they picked up 4th team place.

In the next class Oliver Dunk, Florence and Lilymay were reserve national champions bringing home a second team place nationally. Mia Bowring, Annie Baron and Dara Davidchak picked up a 6th place and in Class 3 we had Max Coleman, Tolly Coleman and Florence Baron bringing home 4th place.

Congratulations to all our riders and of course, their inspirational coach Suki.

Many thanks to all those who supported Dixie's Playscheme 2021. Over 140 children enjoyed the range of activities in each of the two weeks. Many thanks to the staff who made it possible and the Senior students who gave up their time to help supervise.





Green Plaque shortlist — Sgt. Pilot Herbert Black RAFVR



Herbert Black is a former Dixie Grammar School student and as far as we are aware he is the only Battle of Britain pilot to be buried in the county. In 2008 Walter Baynes and a fellow Dixie Grammar School Association member Graham Rawlings compiled a complete history of Bert's family background and life. His sacrifice is commemorated in our Remembrance Assemblies in school and his name is displayed in the hall on our Roll of Honour. Walter Baynes and Senior Dixie students lay a wreath on Herbert's grave annually and it would be wonderful to have a former Dixie student commemorated through the Green Plaque scheme. We are delighted that the school's nomination was successful in placing Herbert on the shortlist—now we need your help! To register your vote please [click here](#).

Dates will continue to be added to our calendar as restrictions ease, but some key dates for the term are shown below:

Autumn Term 2021				Venue
Upper Sixth Parents' & students' UCAS Evening	Thursday 16 September	6.00pm	U6	Hall
Non-uniform day - details to follow	Friday 24 September			
Malawi Miracle Race Night	Friday 24 September	7.00pm	ALL	Hall
New Parents Social Evening	Monday 27 September	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Years 6/7	Hall
Stafford Grammar visit - Diversity Project	Thursday 30th September	All day	6th form	
PTA AGM	Tuesday 5 October	7.00pm	ALL	JS
Open Morning	Saturday 9 October	9.30am - 12.30pm	ALL	SS/JS
Sixth Form Open Evening	Tuesday 9 November	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Year 11	Hall
Half Term	Monday 18th October - Friday 29 October			
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 2 November	4.30pm - 7.30pm	Year 7	
Alumni Concert	Thursday 11 November	tbc	ALL	Hall
Lower Sixth Parents' Evening	Thursday 18 November	4.30pm - 7.30pm	L6	Hall/Remote
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Monday 22 November	4.30pm - 7.30pm	Year 10	
Year 11 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 30 November	4.30pm - 7.30pm	Year 11	
Senior Christmas Carol Service	Tuesday 14 December	7.00pm - 9.00pm	ALL	St. Peter's Church
Christmas Dinner	Friday 17 December	11.30am - 2.30pm	ALL	

We know that our provision of remote Parents' Evenings was warmly received by parents—equally we understand the value for some of face to face meetings with teachers. Our provisional plans for Parents' Evenings this term are to offer both face to face meetings and remote online meetings. We will seek parental preference in advance of the Parents' Evening and design it with a block of remote appointments first, followed by a block of face to face appointments—the range of times of which will be determined by taking account of parental preference. All appointments will be made online—and a distinction between the remote and face to face will be made clear at the point of booking. We will review these plans at the end of this term.

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Finally from me, some perennial requests:

1. Parking. Please park considerately and please avoid blocking driveways in Back Lane. Our relationship with our neighbours is important to us—your consideration of them is greatly appreciated.
2. Crossing. The road outside the school is notoriously difficult to cross and we advise all students to use the crossing just outside the fish and chip shop. Please remind your children to avoid crossing immediately outside school—we will continue to remind them in school.

Our remote access to lessons is working smoothly and we are delighted that those needing time away from school who are able to join lessons, can. If there are any problems with access to lessons, please do not hesitate to call school—and please remember that with the majority of children in class, there is sometimes a small delay for those joining lessons remotely.

Should your child(ren) volunteer their services on Open Morning (Saturday 9 October 9.30am—12.30pm), thank you in advance for your help in ensuring the event's success. I will leave you with two upcoming events and overleaf, some pictures of site upgrades over the holiday and our new Year 6 and 7 — first day nerves a distant memory! With my very best wishes for the term ahead.

Richard Hyman

DIXIE FEST
2021

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER
6-8PM BARTON ROAD

AN OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
SHOWCASING THE
TALENTS OF OUR MUSICIANS

BANDS & SOLOISTS

REFRESHMENTS
FIREWORKS

Gates open at 5.15pm
Music starts at 6pm

World Challenge
Come and join the
Malawi Mayhem...

**World Challenge
Race Night**

On **Friday 24th September** at the Dixie Grammar in the School's hall
Doors open: **7:00 pm**
First Race: **7:25pm**

£10 a ticket
Including:
Your first drink
A fully loaded burger
A night of guaranteed fun for a good cause!

There will also be a **Raffle** held on the night with loads of great prizes for you to get your hands on

ENTER TO WIN

To purchase tickets email macqueenp@dixie.org.uk by the 17th September 2021
(please include whether you would like a vegetarian or normal meal)



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Equestrian National Champions shield, upgrades in the Library, Music and ICT, U6 Geography Field Trip to Wales.





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Year 6

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Year 7

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