



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

www.dixie.org.uk

01455 292244

From the
Headmaster

News @ The Dixie Summer 2021

Dear Parents,

It would have been an easy decision to cancel Sports Day and Prize Giving, but in a year in which so much has been lost, we made the decision to go ahead with our end of term plans, albeit in slightly different formats to normal.

There is not enough space in this year's [40-page Prize Giving programme](#) to list all the achievements, all the contributions that have been made to the many successes of the year. Not all students will win prizes, but all have had the opportunity to feature in this booklet, which tries to capture every achievement this academic year – every da Vinci, music performer, science or maths Olympiad award winner, sporting contribution, those who entered the Photographic competition, the business and entrepreneurship competition, those who have contributed to our hugely successful equestrian club, those who are prefects, have music honours and who have passed music exams – even those who have at any time played music before assembly. The [Junior School](#) and [Senior Prize Giving assemblies](#) are available through these links. Streaming through Google gave us less control than we would want and I am sorry to those of you who had difficulty accessing the Senior Prize Giving—we hope the recording makes amends.





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Safeguarding

Although we have now reached the end of what has been a uniquely challenging academic year, our pastoral support extends beyond the ringing of the School bell. We recognise that the challenges of the pandemic have impacted greatly on mental and physical well-being and for some, the long summer break may bring its own difficulties. Individuals in need of support can reach out to the safeguarding team via pastoral@dixie.org.uk and a Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Banton, Mrs Billington, Ms Young or Mr Dixon) will get back to the individual as soon as possible.

With the anticipated lifting of most Covid guidance and legal restrictions on the horizon, we hope that our students will enjoy greater freedom throughout the summer break and meet family and friends in person. For some, however, the temptation to spend time using the internet to keep in touch with school friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends and play games will be difficult to resist. The summer break is a good time to check sites that our young people are using and do a check of privacy settings. Some children may want to share photos and videos online of their summer holiday adventures – please do ensure that they are aware that photos can inadvertently give away personal information. Having conversations about the types of photos and videos that are appropriate to share is also recommended.

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/> is a useful site designed to help anyone in reporting harmful content online. The National Cyber Security Centre also gives helpful guidance on the latest 'package delivery' text message scams: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/flubot-guidance-for-text-message-scam>

Finally do please take care whilst in and around water - always follow the Water Safety Code found here <https://www.rlss.org.uk/the-water-safety-code> - and enjoy water safely. In addition, in the same way that we promote road safety and encourage our students to take care on the roads around school, it is important that they appreciate the hidden dangers of railway lines and the need to beware and stay safe.

UCAS

This term is the time when the attention of Lower Sixth students begins to turn to life beyond Dixie - whether that be university, an apprenticeship or employment.

All members of the Lower Sixth should now have registered with UCAS for 2022 entry. Students have already received initial guidance on personal statement writing - and beginning to draft this over the summer will help to ease pressure once the new academic year begins. Some students are, of course, certain what they want to study and where they want to study it, whilst others are much less sure. I would encourage students to make use of online prospectuses and the UCAS search function to narrow down options that can be discussed with tutors in September. If visiting institutions is possible, then this is obviously hugely valuable.

The small size of our Sixth Form means that we are able to work closely with individual students to offer tailored advice and give them the best chance of obtaining a place on their first-choice course. In addition to guidance from tutors, I oversee all personal statements and ensure they meet the needs of the courses and institutions to which students are applying. Most courses do not require candidates to undertake an interview, but where this is part of the application process (for example Oxbridge applicants and Medicine) then interview practice will be provided - both internally and through partnerships with other schools.

There is a UCAS evening shortly after our return to School in September and this is an opportunity for parents and students to ask any questions about our UCAS provision or to seek further guidance on university finance and selecting a course/institution.



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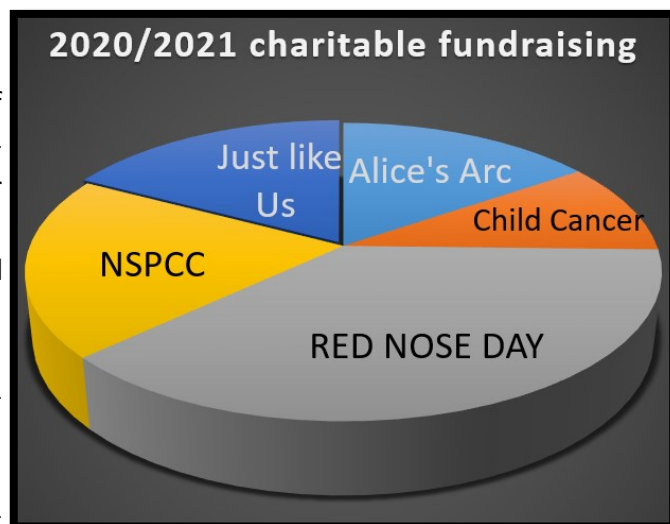
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Charity Fundraising

In such a disrupted year it is wonderful to report such impressive levels of charitable fundraising through our various non-uniform days and other events. With parental support, and from 3-18, over £4,000 has been raised this academic year. Funds have been allocated to local as well as national charitable organisations and the decision to support charities are made with the direct involvement of students via Sixth Form prefects and the Student Council. This month's charity as highlighted by Sixth Form prefects George Steel and Mason Ross is [Flamingo Chicks](#).

Catherine Nightingale, a teacher at our Junior School is taking part in some of her own fundraising over the summer break— for a great cause—details are below.



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|--------------|-----------------|
| ALICE'S ARC | £628.70 |
| CHILD CANCER | £405.50 |
| RED NOSE DAY | £1534.10 |
| NSPCC | £802.48 |
| JUST LIKE US | £702.67 |
| | £4073.45 |

[“On 28th August I will be swimming Windermere, 11 miles without a wetsuit”](#), to raise money for Islastones foundation. This is the first time I have ever done anything like this. I have been training throughout the winter and spring months in open water, where the temperatures have sometimes been as low as 6 degrees. Below is the reason why. Isla Tansey, a 7-year old girl from Hinckley, she was diagnosed with DIPG in



October 2017. She & her family started a phenomenal worldwide stone-decorating movement called #Islastones in March 2018. which brings communities together worldwide. Sadly, Isla passed away on 10 July 2018. Isla's family wants to share and raise awareness of this untreatable childhood cancer as there is very little funding into this area of research despite 80% of cases of all brain tumours being in children between the ages of 5-9 years.”

If ever there is a year in which we have made the best of a bad situation, this is it – Dixie resilience and fortitude have shone through and all in the Dixie community have played their part in helping us to a successful end of term. For me, the conversations with students in school - the greetings in corridors, the good manners, the informal conversations in the playground and broad smiles have helped me get through the year. Thank you to our parents for their continued support and understanding and also to Governors, support staff and teachers for their determination, ingenuity and hard work. Together we will continue to aim for the highest standards in all that we do. Pride is our over-riding emotion as we look back on 2020/21 and head for a well-earned break. I wish you all a wonderfully relaxing, restful and healthy holiday.

Richard Hyman