



Dear Parents

Many sentences in our [recent inspection report](#) could be used as highlights and the inspectors' praise for your children's personal development and achievement, along with the wonderful descriptions of Dixie school life make for very pleasant reading. Towards the end of the inspection process, the lead inspector pushed me to quantify the number of *more able* pupils in the school. I refused and instead suggested a more general statement which better reflects our approach as a school. I am delighted that the sentence made it past the editing process and into the final report:

**“The school aims to identify in each pupil an area in which they are more able, and tailors its provision to further extend them.”**

Abilities emerge at different times and at different rates—consequently we are quick to support and slow to label pupils. We also firmly believe that it is our job to help pupils discover their own 'gifted and talented', both inside and outside the classroom. The two are interchangeable and there are many examples of pupil achievement outside the classroom positively impacting achievement inside—and *vice versa*.

The other aspect of school life we were delighted to have been highlighted in the report is [Student Voice](#)—inspectors recognised and applauded the change brought about in school by pupils at both Junior and Senior level.

This short newsletter is packed with examples from the last weeks of term full of our pupils' emerging gifts and talents—from our senior student inspired and organised Dixie Ukraine Concert, the fantastic Year 5 production of ROAR, our House Cross Country, Artist awards, the Sixth form production of 'All that Jazz' to da Vinci and Kindness awards in the senior school, Year 6 planting 500 trees as part of the Queen's Canopy and our Year 8 and 9 mathematicians working with pupils in years 3 and 4. It also contains pictures from our pupil inspection celebrations—as a 'thank you' to pupils, a cake and bouncy castle celebration was held at the Junior School and a cooked buffet breakfast at the Senior School on the last day of term.

The Senior School site is open over the Easter break for Maths, Physics and RS GCSE and A level revision, and for Year 11 and our Upper Sixth, the break will be full of preparations ahead of the return of Summer Term external exams. As already advised, confirmed study leave dates are: Year 11 Friday 13 May, Upper Sixth Friday 27 May with the final week of half term optional for those with exams (lessons will continue to run throughout this week).

Our Sixth Form induction consists of a week of introductory A level bridging courses which will run in school from Monday 27 June—Friday 1 July. At the time of writing twelve students are joining our Lower Sixth next year. This will be an important week for those in the current Year 11 planning to stay at the Dixie along with those joining the school: both to firm up A level options and to start the process of getting to know and work with each other.

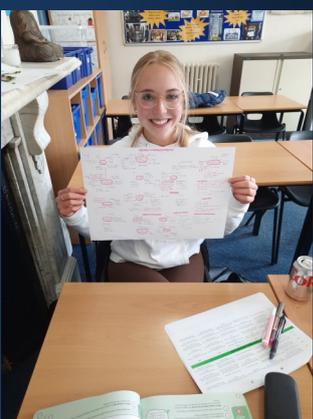


The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

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RS Easter Revision 12 April



## Staff News

Huge congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Mellors who celebrated their wedding just before the Easter break. We wish them both a lifetime of love and happiness together.



Parents will be aware of the difficulty we have had filling the computing post left vacant by Mrs Overton earlier this academic year. We are very grateful to Mrs Walker for covering and for providing resources and lunchtime catch up sessions for pupils. The quality of teachers and of teaching is of vital importance and having failed to appoint in the Autumn Term we ran another recruitment campaign in the Spring Term. I am delighted to announce that Mr Kevin Gold, currently Head of Computer Science at St. Paul's Catholic School will be joining us as a full time Head of Computer Science from September.

I am very grateful to Mr Kirkwood for coming out of (early!) retirement to cover the absence before Easter of Mr Sentance-Davis. As a former English teacher Mr Kirkwood was well placed to provide expert cover and I am also grateful for the additional work the English department took on to ensure progress was maintained by Mr Sentance-Davis' pupils whilst he was away from school.

As some of you may be aware, Mrs Horsfall took on the challenge of introducing A level Psychology to a group of nine students this academic year. From next year she will revert to her role as class teacher at the Junior School and I am delighted to announce that our new Head of Psychology from September 2022 will be Miss Hannah Johnson, currently lecturer of Psychology at Loughborough College. She comes very highly recommended and on our interview day was the unanimous first choice, including from the pupil panel which was comprised of those she will be teaching in the Upper Sixth next year.

Just before Easter we heard the news that Mrs Field will be moving on from her role at the Dixie — we are now advertising for a full time Teacher of German to replace her. The advert is live on the school's website and [in the TES](#)—please do advertise to any individuals you know who might be interested in this rare and exciting opportunity to work in our Languages Department from September.



At this term's Full Board Governors' meeting Mrs Parkes led the thanks to Andrew Churchill for his 8 years' service as Governor. After a short presentation to Andrew, Year 6 and Sixth Form Mandarin students wished Andrew well in Chinese, which he speaks fluently. Andrew is stepping down as Governor but will maintain his association with, and support of the Dixie.

The Dixie Grammar School

New today

Teacher of German (with French)

Dixie Grammar School  
Leicestershire



Dear Parents

It has been a long and busy Spring term at the Junior School which has culminated today in a day of celebrations of all things Easter, along with an afternoon of games, cakes and bouncy castles for the children to celebrate our inspection report.

This term has seen the return of many sporting and musical events that we have so missed for the last couple of years. Inter-House cross country was courageously run by all pupils from Pippins to Year 5, in what can only be described as torrential rain, with York victorious in holding the trophy at the end. The children were soggy and muddy but all smiling and all playing their part for the House totals. The same was true for the Inter-House Swimming Gala, although this time Lancaster were the victors. It was then Lancaster again in the Inter-House Spelling Bee in the final week - there were some excellent demonstrations of spelling skills!

The oldest pupils in the Junior School have shone this term in their outstanding performance of Roar. After taking them to London to watch The Lion King I have to admit my scepticism in what they could do, but what a talented, committed and impressive group they are. Two performances and the two resulting standing ovations were very much deserved. There is a short video of photos and extracts from the songs which can be viewed [here](#).

Musical performances have also returned this term with both the Strings and Woodwind concerts. After having weekly lessons since September the children in years 3 and 4 shared their new skills admirably - I hope many will decide to continue with the instruments as they move into the next year - there is certainly talent and promise there.

We have been very fortunate to capitalise on the skills of our Senior School pupils this term. Reception Class visited the Senior School Design and Technology department to make boats and Year 3 and 4 pupils have benefited from both Senior School Maths Leaders and Football Activators visiting them. At the end of term we had some 6th formers visit again to judge the Easter Egg competition - a very difficult job!

The Summer Term is sure to be another busy one so please do take note of the Summer Calendar when you receive it early next term. You will also be aware that the children will need to return in their summer uniform so we are all hopeful for the warm weather: not least so the children can enjoy playing altogether on the field again. I wish you all a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 26 April.

Finally, please click on these links to see our Easter Egg Entries 2022 - [video 1](#) and [video 2](#)—well done to all who entered!

Kindest regards

Emma Billington



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Nursery • Junior • Senior

**ROAR**





The Dixie Grammar School

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Young Enterprise,  
Intergenerational Care,  
STEM,  
DT



This year's Young Enterprise team, Scribe, are exceptionally proud of their hard back gratitude journal. "We have had a fantastic response and are almost completely sold out! It was a great experience to sell at the Junior School. A huge thanks to everyone who supported us! All profits will go to the Choose Love charity."



The Year 6 Intergenerational Care project (L) has continued throughout COVID. Year 7 and 8 Design and Technology projects: buggies and puppets, STEM club, including STEM photos making chromatography rainbows using capillary action.





The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Sports Practices — Senior  
School Summer Term  
Inspection celebrations

Summer Term regular lunch-time and after school sports practices for both boys and girls from Tuesday 26 April through until week ending 1 July. Please note there will be no after school sports clubs running in the last week of term due to other whole school activities. All pupils are required to wear full school PE kit for practices.

**Please will parents collect their child at 5.15pm from the after school sessions at the synthetic pitch/pavilion area.**

	Lunchtime	After school
<b>Monday</b>	Running club – (All years) HG/PMQ//LB (rotation)	Cricket (All years) – CF & GG
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 10-sixth form Gym – CF	Tennis (All years) – PMQ, CF/GG
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 7-10 tennis squad - DA	Rounders (All years) – HG, DA, LB
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 8 & 9 Gym – GG Year 7-10 Tennis squad - CF	Athletics – DEI, DA, VE
<b>Friday</b>	Sixth form Gym – DA	





## Senior School—Summer Internal Exams

The Summer Term sees all senior school students preparing for and completing exams. Our GCSE and A Level candidates are already embroiled in the build up to these external exams and are expected to dedicate a significant proportion of the holidays to exam preparation, whilst managing of course to get some break from academic studies. Holiday revision days in some subjects are arranged and revision classes will resume in earnest after the break. As with other aspects of maturity we recognise that students don't automatically know how to prepare for external exams, how to manage their holiday time vs revision or even how to revise. At the Dixie we have a carefully staged programme of exam preparation:

**Year 6** - Sit exams in most but not all of their subjects using teacher prepared summary notes. These are open book exams with the emphasis on showing understanding of the material covered rather than memorising information.

**Year 7** - sit exams in all their subjects using self prepared revision materials. Again these are open book exams but students are expected to be developing the skills necessary to identify key information, summarise topics etc. Students are expected to bring in a few specifically designed revision sheets; they are not allowed simply to sit the exam with their text or exercise book in front of them!

**Year 8+** - By now students are expected to be developing the skills of note-taking and revision and will be examined without access to additional resources.

All the exams for Years 6-9 are completed week commencing 23 May leaving the half term holiday for relaxation and family time. In Year 10 students get their first taste of having to balance holiday time with revision with the final days of exams in the first week back after half term. Students in Years 6-9 are not expected to revise over the Easter holiday but would be wise to ensure that all their notes are up to date and organised - this leaves plenty of time in class to ask about any areas in need of development.

**Study Leave** for Year 11 starts **Monday 16 May** (last day in school Fri 13) and for Upper Sixth starts **Monday 6 June** (last day in school 27 May with lessons in w/b 23 May optional).

### Catering

Please ensure your child's cashless catering account is in credit. After the Easter break students with overdrawn accounts will not be able to purchase break time snacks. Please be assured we will never allow a student to go hungry at lunchtime but the additional administration of issuing break time snacks where students do not have sufficient funds is causing significant delay to the service and resulting in some students missing out on their purchase.

### Online Safety

internet matters.org offers helpful advice on discussion online safety with young people. This important topic is at the forefront of PSD lessons, assemblies, form times and lessons. Please take a moment to look at the resources offered in order to support our work in school. <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/>

### Easter Revision

The school is open over the Easter break for GCSE and A level revision in Maths, Physics and Religious studies.



# House Cross Country

from 3 to 18



Final results were as follows:  
York 1105—  
Lancaster 1211  
(lowest score wins)  
Our **Victor and Victrix** awards go to:

Lower school -  
Henry Davies/  
Mya Kirkbride

Middle School - Adeson  
Hanson/ Dara Davidchack

Upper School - Evan Par-  
ker/ Nadia Gauhar

Senior School - Ethan Kir-  
wan-Jones/ Emily Cutler



## National Cross Country Final Qualifiers



**Nadia Gauhar—  
Bronze Medal in the  
ISA National Cross  
Country Finals  
representing team  
Midlands**

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Maths workshop  
Equestrianism



Mrs Daniels and Mrs Deacon took twenty—one Year 8 and 9 pupils to the Junior School. Students rose to the challenge of leading four Easter Maths activities to Years 3 and 4. With a little guidance with timings the pupils ran the event on their own demonstrating excellent leadership skills. It was a pleasure to see Senior and

Junior school pupils working so well together. Year 8 and 9 have already thought of other themes we could extend this to including Halloween, Christmas, Summer Holidays and even Valentines! Well done to all involved and thank you to the Junior School for hosting.



Dixie Equestrianism — incredible success again this term and very much the envy of other local schools. Congratulations to all - particularly to our pupils and Suki, our amazing team coach. Many thanks also to our parents who make possible so many of the opportunities for Dixie pupils to compete .



The Dixie Grammar School

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All That Jazz





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**Mandarin Chinese trip to London**

A group of 26 Mandarin students went to London on Friday 18 March. They visited Chinatown and the British museum. In Chinatown, the students completed an exciting treasure hunt, they need to find many Chinese words over cafés and shops with the given clues; Then they indulged in their favourite bubble tea and everyone all ate a delicious lunch. Of course, shopping for souvenirs was an essential part as well.



The trip went very smoothly and everyone enjoyed it. Mrs Gu organised this trip, and thanks to Dr Ketchion, Mrs Malde, Mrs Bedford, Dr Rimmington and Mr Wang for their support throughout. It was indeed a fantastic educational and enjoyable trip. Our students not only applied the language they learnt in the classroom in a real language environment, and gained more knowledge about Chinese porcelains, but also got real insight into Chinese history and culture.



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Art Department showcase

We have spent time selecting Dixie Artists from each year group that deserve a special mention and in the final assembly of the term we awarded Dixie Artist prizes for the students that have worked hard and have excelled in art—a selection of their work is shown here.

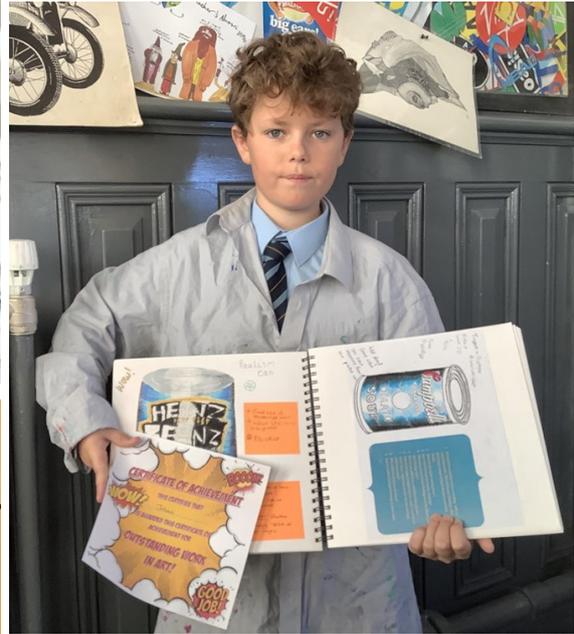
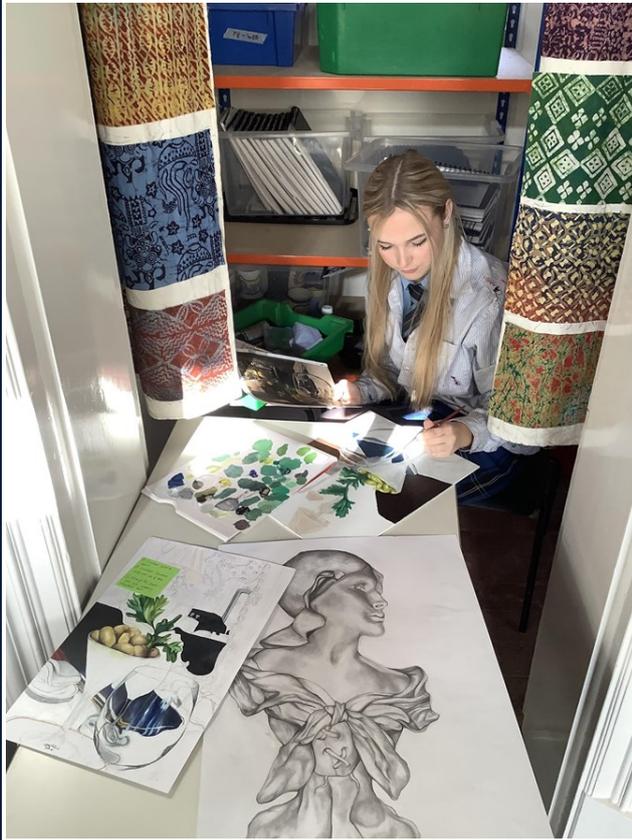




The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Art Department showcase





The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Safeguarding

Sixth Form

## Safeguarding—teenagers and alcohol

With the government having removed all remaining domestic covid-related restrictions in England and the sense of freedom this brings, we have begun to notice an increasing desire amongst our students to socialise more frequently in real life as opposed to virtually. For our older students, striking the right balance between studies and preparation for GCSE and A levels and social downtime can be a challenge.

Although it is fairly common for teenagers to try alcohol before they are 18 years old, it is not normal for them to drink regularly and excessively in social situations such as parties. Whilst it is legal for 5 to 17 year olds to drink alcohol at home or other private premises, it is against the law for anyone to buy alcohol if they are under 18 years old or for under 18 year olds to ask anyone else to buy alcohol from them.

It is inevitable that your child will be offered alcohol at some point but there are things that you can do to prepare them. *family lives* offers useful advice for parents about talking about alcohol [here](#): as does [drinkaware](#) and the [NHS](#). Please do continue to encourage our older students to find alternative ways to chase away exam pressure and maintain positive mental health – playing sport, eating and sleeping well, drinking plenty of water, organising and planning revision and talking to family and friends. By encouraging our young people to avoid stimulants such as caffeine and alcohol which impede energy and concentration in the long term and provoke tensions in friendships, we can continue to support them on the road to success.

### Sixth Form

#### Head Boy and Head Girl 2022/2023

Congratulations to **Eleanor Bee** and **Elliot Breadon** who have been appointed Head Girl and Boy for the coming year. They came through a highly competitive process that required candidates to write a letter of application, create a promotional video for Year 11 students and undertake an interview with the Headmaster. Staff, Year 11 and Lower Sixth students then had the opportunity to vote for their chosen candidates.

**All** of the applicants should be proud of their performance - all interviewed superbly and all submitted well-written letters of application. It was not an easy decision!

Congratulations also go to **Emily Cutler** and **Guy Kibble** who have been appointed to the positions of Deputy Head Girl and Boy. The four new Senior Prefects will formally take up their positions at the start of the Summer Term and I look forward to working with them closely.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to the outgoing Head Girl and Boy and their Deputies - **Harriat Whitehead** (Head Girl), **Ethan Kirwan-Jones** (Head Boy), **Jenny Smart** (Deputy Head Girl) and **Mason Ross** (Deputy Head Boy). All have been outstanding ambassadors for both the Sixth Form and the wider school - leading at numerous events, acting as role models to younger students and always willing to give up their time. Their help and support has been invaluable over the last year and I wish them (and all members of the Upper Sixth!) every success as they move into the crucial last few weeks before A Levels.



## UCAS

# UCAS

Many Lower Sixth students are already beginning to look towards life beyond Dixie - and our UCAS programme will begin shortly after the Easter break. Now is the time to begin to think about likely next steps - whether that be university, training or an apprenticeship.

Whilst some students have a very clear idea about what they would like to do at the end of the Upper Sixth, it is normal to feel uncertain. The UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) has a wealth of resources and students can browse both courses and institutions. University websites are also an invaluable resource - remember that even courses with the same name can vary widely in their content and so it pays to research carefully.

There are numerous different sites that rank universities by academic reputation, degree outcome and student satisfaction - these can be useful, but should be taken with a pinch of salt. Just because a university is a member of the Russell Group (a self-selecting group of leading research universities) - it doesn't mean that it is necessarily the best place to study, say, Puppetry. Loughborough University, for example, is one of the best places to study Sport and Nottingham Trent is outstanding (and competitive) for Business - neither are Russell Group universities.

Specific guidance and support will be available for those students considering applications to Oxford or Cambridge or a medical-based degree, including interview practice with external interviewers. As well as giving students individual advice and guidance when the formal application process opens in June, we will be attending the **UCAS Conference at the Birmingham NEC on 20 June** - most universities (including Oxford and Cambridge) will have stalls at this event and it is an opportunity to gather information and speak to current undergraduates about their experiences. The deadline for university applications is **15 October 2022** (Oxford/ Cambridge, medical, veterinary and dentistry courses only) and **15 January 2023** for all others.

Of course, not every student is looking to apply to university and the Sixth Form tutor team will also provide guidance on apprenticeships, gap years and training opportunities. An event for both parents and students will be held right at the start of the Upper Sixth. As always, if you or your son/daughter have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or their Form Tutor.

### A Level Bridging Courses

The move from GCSE to A Level is a significant one - A Level study requires a much greater degree of independence and self-discipline than GCSE and the increase in workload and academic challenge is considerable.

To help with this transition, we are offering A Level 'bridging' courses to all Year 11 students from **Monday 27 - Friday 1 July**. The aim is to introduce students to their chosen A Level subjects and enable them to make a more effective start to their studies in September. In addition to a timetable of academic lessons, students will have a full programme of activities and study periods - to as closely model what they will experience in September as possible. More details will be sent out nearer the time, but I look forward to welcoming our new Lower Sixth in June, including many new to the Dixie!

#### Inspection 2022:

"The school provides excellent information and guidance and provides excellent support for pupils in making these decisions."



The Dixie Grammar School

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Silver and Gold D of E  
expeditions Easter 2022





Our student inspired, organised and produced Ukraine Concert, together with the non-uniform day raised over £2000 for our students' chosen charity: Choose Love. Following an email to the Headmaster and an assembly advertising the refugee charity [Choose Love](#) from Emily in Year 11, members of the Upper Sixth led the school's response to the war in Ukraine.



The concert featured performers from Year 2 to our Upper Sixth and was very well supported by parents, pupils, staff and Governors—and performers!





The Dixie Grammar School

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Tag rugby

Open Day



# ISA U9 Midlands Tag Rugby Bronze Medal Winners!

Thank you for your continued support of the Dixie — we wish you all a most restful Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing pupils back in school for the first day of the Summer Term—Tuesday 26 April.

With my best wishes,



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Happy and motivated children

Small class sizes

Forest School

Music and Sport

**OPEN DAY**

Nursery

Reception

Junior School

Call or click to book your appointment:

[www.dixie.org.uk](http://www.dixie.org.uk) 01455 293024

Saturday 7 May 9.30am - 12.30pm

