



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

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Dear Parents

My first message to students at the start of term was that “Success is the product of daily habits, not once in a lifetime transformation” - and reflecting on this relatively short half term there are many signs of outstanding daily habits! We are delighted with the progress made by those new to the school in settling in—from the large group new to our Lower Sixth, to the success of our Year 6 and Year 7 students. At our New Parents’ social function earlier this month I reflected on the evidence that those new to Senior school are thriving—from the [Bushcraft trip video](#), my observation of Years 6 and 7 lessons, to the Year 6 girls’ positive response to the injustice they felt at being overlooked for the ISA football tournament. They made an appointment to see me, constructed a most persuasive letter on headed school paper and in their reply, the ISA Sports Coordinator said:

“Thank you for your heartfelt letter this week....please remember, your passion and enthusiasm make you ALL an inspiration to girls everywhere, especially to those you will inspire to take it up in the future. Sport can be full of disappointments, but this just makes you stronger, and this will eventually lead to success. Stick together as a team, be there for one another and in the near future we will see you at an ISA football event, or maybe something even bigger!”

It has been wonderful to reinstate our 30-year relationship with our German exchange partner school in Jadeberg. Huge thanks to all volunteer families for help making the visit a success—we appreciated your understanding with the DBS paperwork and acknowledge the challenges associated with hosting for a week. The exchange also offers the opportunity for a fantastically rich cultural and linguistic experience and we look forward to our return trip to Germany next year.



Year 6 have completed a German project this half term based on School in Germany. They have each made a Schultuete. Mrs Till, Head of German is very proud of them for the way they have worked on this task so independently and with such enthusiasm. They are taking them home for half term (with a few goodies Mrs Till has started them off with) to fill with sweets and school equipment ready for the start of next half term.

Mrs Till and other colleagues new to the Dixie Senior School this academic year were introduced in the [September news-letter](#), and other staff changes are detailed on [our website](#).





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From the
Headmaster

Enrichment

So much of the great work of the last few years has been achieved in reacting to change, in responding to the unprecedented. As we look ahead our hope is that we will be able to be more creative and proactive in forging positive change in our community and in the world around us; moving from a reactive and adaptive approach brought about by necessity, to an exciting, dynamic, creative proactive change making.

We want Dixie pupils to have the skills of innovators: inquisitive, open-minded, with the confidence to test out new ideas and explore new ways of doing things. We want Dixie students to have a positive impact on others and their community through inspirational leadership, through demonstration of kindness, compassion and empathy. We want their commitment to leadership to be driven by a sense of others rather than self, by a deep-rooted conviction about the importance of social responsibility and making a positive contribution.

To drive this, we need to nurture values, skills and character attributes that centre on creative thinking, social responsibility, empathy and teamwork—whole school enrichment is new this year and is the vehicle through which these skills will be further embedded in Dixie students. It runs weekly on Thursday—11.10am to 1pm.



In enrichment so far this year, Year 6 have been participating in Dixie Open Skies Education (DOSE), building teamwork skills and learning bushcraft and survival skills. Year 9 are working through components of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, pupils are learning skills such as cooking on Trangias and volunteering as litter pickers. Year 7, 8, 10, 11 and the Lower Sixth were put into mixed year group teams and set the challenge of researching, developing and pitching a business idea, as part of the 10 x DIY business challenge. Pupils were very impressive and all staff facilitating enrichment have commented on how well pupils rose to the challenge of the task, as well as working with and presenting in front of new people from different year groups. The winning team, 'Super Stickers' had gone beyond the task by researching costs with an actual business and were looking beyond their product to the impact it could have on the marketing of other businesses. The Upper Sixth were set a series of challenges which were either related to their prefect roles or marketing.



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Year 7 have now embarked on their second challenge, to organise a school fete, for a charity of their choice. Year 8 are working towards the step into the NHS competition, where they will create a job advert for one of over 350 NHS roles. The Upper Sixth are completing a series of activities related to the next stage of their lives, learning how to cook on a budget, researching Post-18 study and career options and completing open



university modules on money management. Year 10 to the Lower Sixth are participating in a wide range of activities including designing games, completing online courses (Including a certified course in British Sign Language), participating in a mock trial and learning about the British legal system, Young enterprise and leadership for DOSE. We are also organising a school show with principal parts able to use enrichment to prepare

for the performance—later in the year there will be an opportunity for pupils to contribute to set design, props, costume, lighting and sound. As we approach examinations, enrichment will be used to help pupils prepare through a combination of taught revision skills, time for private revision and well-being activities. In addition pupils are helping to shape the enrichment curriculum with plans now being put together to introduce some crafting activities, beginners guitar and volunteering opportunities based on feedback from pupil surveys. As our recent thought for the week suggests "You must expect great things of yourself before you can do them." (Martin Luther King); Dixie Enrichment provides a wealth of opportunities for pupils to excel and challenge themselves.

Miss Entwisle

Safeguarding

We all have an important part to play in keeping our children and young people safe online. We recognise that there are many positives for pupils being online, indeed being online is an integral part of their lives. The internet and associated technologies provide a wealth of new opportunities for learning and growth but they can also expose them to new and different types of risks.

E-safety forms an integral part of school life and the safeguarding measures we take. We ensure that our online procedures are regularly monitored, reviewed and updated in order to keep pupils safe as well as embedding online safety, in and outside of school, into our curriculum and Form time and assembly programmes.

We also foster an open environment. All pupils are encouraged to talk about the benefits and challenges of the online world and know that if anything makes them feel even slightly uncomfortable, they know they can talk to a trusted adult in school.

At [Internet Matters](#), parents can find useful age-related guidance, from pre-school to teens and practical advice on the steps you can take to keep your children safe on social media and the internet, and in online games.



FIFA 23 released at the end of September and, like many of its predecessors, is a hugely popular football simulator. [National Online Safety](#) have created a parent fact sheet containing tips on a number of potential risks such as age-related inappropriate chat, scammers and addiction.

As part of our health education curriculum in PSD, we ensure pupils are taught the facts about dangerous substances, smoking, drugs and alcohol. This now includes information about vaping as it appears to be on the rise amongst young people nationally. A recent fact sheet on the [use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) and released by [Action on Smoking and Health \(ASH\)](#) shows a marked increase in the last two years. It comes as latest data shows the proportion of young people vaping is rising, up from 4.1% in 2020 to 7% in 2022, alongside the growing popularity of disposable vapes. The number of children who admit to ever trying vaping has risen from 13.9% in 2020 to 15.8% in 2022.

Whilst most young people have not, and will not, try e-cigarettes and regular use remains very low, higher levels of youth use are being seen nationally and we wanted parents to have access to information to help with conversations at home.

Useful facts to remember:

- You must be 18 to buy any vaping related product including e-liquid and e-cigarettes
- Vape shops and online stores in the UK are prohibited from selling these products to anyone under the age of 18
- It is illegal for someone under the age of 18 to sell e-cigarettes and vape liquid and for someone else to buy these products for young people who are under 18
- It is not technically illegal for a young person under the age of 18 to carry an e-cigarette but if caught in public, the police can confiscate it from you
- Vapes and e-cigarettes are intended to be used as a way to quit smoking
- They contain nicotine which is highly addictive and research is starting to show vaping as a gateway drug
- Research is lacking on the effects of the other chemicals used in vaping equipment. Ingredients are not always listed.
- Products are designed to manipulate and appeal to young people
- Vaping is not allowed in school.





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The following links also contain useful information for parents:

[E-cigarettes and vaping fact sheet](#)

[Vaping and young people for parents and carers](#)

[Electronic Cigarettes](#)

We are also pleased to be able to offer you complimentary admission to an online event provided by the Independent Schools Association (ISA) for parents on the topic **Teenagers and Drugs – what parents need to know**. The session will be run online via Zoom on **Tuesday 18 October from 7.30pm - 9.00pm** and it is recommended you aim to join from 7.15pm.

As children get older, they often start to question the life lessons they hear from parents and teachers and they can become more heavily influenced by the things they see on social media, the internet and television. Teenagers tend to listen to what their peers say as well as paying attention to celebrity role models and influencers and what they do. As a result, they get mixed messages and they have to determine which information to believe.

During this session Liam Watson, Director of Drugstraining.com, will provide a fascinating overview of the increasing role of Snapchat and Instagram in the buying and selling of drugs, which drugs are now popular with teenagers and how parents educate their children about substance use.

7.15pm	Waiting Room Opens on Zoom
7.30pm	Overview of drug use in 2022
7.45pm	The role of Snapchat, Instagram and other Social Media apps
8.00pm	Information on Commonly Use Drugs such as Ketamine and MDMA
8.30pm	Tips on Talking to Teenagers about Drugs
8.45pm	Q and A
9.00pm	Close

Link to join on the day: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84194625409?pwd=YnlNWHD1Nm44Qk1QaDdkZXkrR3pCUT09>

Meeting ID: 841 9462 5409

Passcode: 9FaTBW

Should your son or daughter need support from a member of the pastoral or safeguarding team during the half term break, the pastoral@dixie.org.uk email is always available and members of the safeguarding team are on duty throughout the break.

Mrs Banton

Much has been accomplished this half term by students and staff and there are many reasons to look forward to next half term. I will leave you with pictures from the last six weeks, key dates ([also available on our website](#)) and other information as we look forward to Christmas. I wish you all a wonderful break.

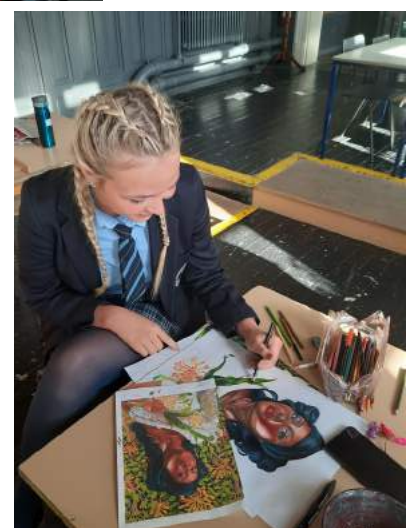
Richard Hyman



Open Morning October 2022

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From the
Headmaster



Open Morning was a huge success and over 70 families from 3-18 made appointments to visit the Dixie. I was inundated on the day and subsequently by email with comments about our impressive students. A sincere 'thank you' to all who volunteered their time last Saturday morning to show the school at its very best.



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News @ The Dixie October 2022





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This term, an exciting new club was launched in biology, seeing 24 attendees at the first meeting. The Dixie Grammar School Medical Society, or 'MedSoc' for short, is open to all students in the senior school. It is aimed at those considering a career within the medical field and has plans to invite guest speakers – medical professionals – to talk with the club, giving an insight into their career and answering questions in a Q&A session. In the first meeting, students explored medical ethics, which prompted many important questions. They looked at the four pillars of ethics and discussed possible responses to some morally challenging real life situations which many physicians face on a daily basis.

Meetings are held weekly on Thursday lunchtimes, from 1:30 – 2:00pm.

Dixie MedSoc attendees look forward to Thursday the 4th of November, when the group will have to opportunity to watch and take part in a real (sheep) brain dissection over lunchtime break, learning about different parts of the brain, and their functions. New students are very welcome to attend.

If you work within the medical field, and would be able to come in and talk to MedSoc about your job, please get in touch.

Photographic Competition

Dixie 2022

Categories

* Hobbies * Landscape * Self portrait

Deadline

Hand to Mrs Mcgranaghan 12th December 2022

Format

Print onto photographic paper A4 size Retain large file as a JPEG



Upper
Sixth
English
Language
trip to
Pippins
Nursery





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News @ The Dixie October 2022

Dixie students have been crowned national champions in British Showjumping. The team of riders at the Dixie Grammar School won the 70 cm British Showjumping Just for Schools national championships this year at Stoneleigh Park in Kenilworth. Comprising two Year 9 students and one Year 11 student from the school's Equestrian Club, the Dixie team finished on a clear round to take the title.

Miss Suki Stripp, who runs the school's club, was delighted with their latest success and commented, "I am so proud of our riders. They really enter into the spirit of the competition and show real commitment at school each week. It is wonderful to be able to offer an insight into such a sport to so many pupils at the school and their enjoyment is plain to see in their riding."

All riders were new combinations this year, which meant that the team's success was a real achievement and adds to the success of the school's younger riders at the NSEA festival of showjumping in August.



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News @ The Dixie October 2022

<u>Breakfast Club</u>	
Buttered Toast	£0.35
Baked Beans	£0.60
Bacon	£0.70
Scrambled Eggs	£0.50
Porridge	£1.20
Cereal	£0.75
Tea/Coffee	£0.50
Fruit Juice	£0.70

Available for the second half of the Autumn Term—from **7.50am—8.10am.**

We know that some students start their journey early in the morning and hope that the opportunity to have breakfast in school might help make the morning routine more manageable for some.

Rotary Young Chef Preliminary Rounds 2022

Congratulations to all who entered—particularly to those who won their rounds: Sophie McCreath, Philippa Davis, William Taylor, Lily Fleming-Smith, Sam Giles and Kaden Boam

Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Group 5



Group 6





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Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 9 November 7 - 9 pm



News @ The Dixie October 2022

Key Dates

Thursday 27 October	CERN trip returns
Monday 31 October	First day of second half of Autumn Term
Wednesday 2 November	1900 Whole School PTA meeting
Thursday 3 November	1630 Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 9 November	1900 Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 10 November	School Open Day
Tuesday 15 November	1630 Lower Sixth Parents' Evening
Wednesday 16 November	L6 and U6 Art trip to London (returning 17/11)
Friday 18 November	1615 Year 6 Harry Potter Film Night (ends 7pm)
Tuesday 22 November	1630 Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 25 November	1800 Art Exhibition Opening (see below)
Tuesday 29 November	Year 11 Art Screen printing workshop
Sunday 4 December	Bosworth Christmas Light Switch on—Alumni mini-reunion 1730 in the Assembly Hall
Monday 5 December	Year 6 Harry Potter Trip
Tuesday 13 December	1900 Senior School Carol Concert, St. Peter's Church
Wednesday 14 December	
1830 Junior School Carol Service	
Friday 16 December	
Christmas Lunch, including Alumni Christmas Lunch & reunion (2020, 2021 and 2022 leavers), Charity Christmas Jumper day, Last Day of Term.	
Wednesday 4 January Staff Training Day	
Thursday 5 January Spring Term begins	





DIXIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Friday 25th November 6-9 pm
Saturday 26th November 10-1 pm
DIXIE ART COLLECTIVE
All proceeds raised from sales will
go to Cancer Research and
Macmillan Nurses

DIXIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUSICAL 2023

BACK TO THE 80's
...THE TOTALLY AWESOME MUSICAL!