



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

From the
Headmaster

News @ The Dixie 2 September 2022

Dear Parents

We have enjoyed two very productive staff INSET days in school this week preparing for the start of the new academic year. Alongside the routine administration, our focus has been on positivity and the re-setting of expectations—we hope this will be the first school year for three years relatively unaffected by COVID. As such, we look forward to reinstating routines and re-establishing those expectations that in recent years have had to be adapted.



Monday 5 September is a day reserved for our [Year 6](#) and [Year 7](#) students—the programme has been put together to include familiarisation tasks, tutor time, a treasure hunt and in the afternoon the start of normal lessons. Mr Mellors has sent out a WEDUC with this and other information—we look forward to welcoming parents and students in the school yard on Monday morning.

At the end of September we are sending Year 7 away for a Bushcraft experience in Kettering—a letter has been sent from Mr Mellors today, again via WEDUC.

Tuesday 6 September is the first day of term for the whole Senior School and we would ask that students arrive at school between 8 am and 8.40 am ready for registration at 8.40 am and full school assembly at 9.00 am.

Year 9 students are timetabled for Games & PE on Tuesday afternoons - please can students bring sports uniform; no specialist equipment will be required this week. We have a number of new staff to welcome to the school in permanent, temporary, teaching and support roles and I am delighted to briefly put faces to names here:



Miss Johnson—Head
of Psychology



Mrs Isherwood—
Administration



Mr Chambers —
Facilities



Mr Gold—Head of
Computing



Miss Bruton—PE
Teacher



Mr Terry—PE Teacher



Mrs Fisher—Teacher
of English (t)



Mrs Till—Head of
German

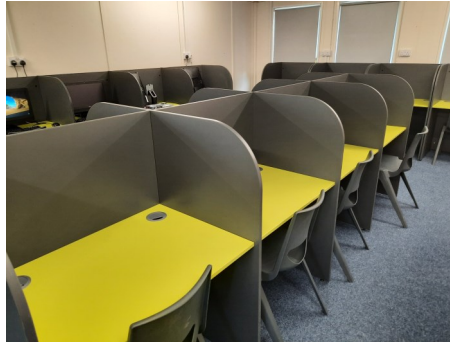


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Miss Mee—Teacher
of English (t)



From dedicated Sixth Form study space and study carrels to new toilet and shower facilities, a new Sixth Form kitchen and totally cleaned

and renovated exterior to the school, it has been a busy summer for our facilities team. The study carrels' arrival will be matched by new expectations regarding Sixth Form private study and the much needed refurbished space will be hugely valuable in setting expectations as we return to school.

Results

Our [A Level results](#) and our students' successes in securing places at their first choice institutions gave us much to celebrate, as did our [exceptional GCSE results](#). With over 20% of grades at the highest Grade 9, there was much celebration on results days—and huge optimism as this talented cohort return to start A level studies.



All 16 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award students in three teams set off yesterday morning on their expedition. Early reports were that beautiful weather accompanied them on their walk up Ingleborough.



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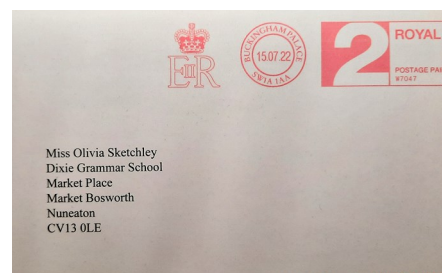
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Summer was also packed full of fun and achievement—our **Summer Playscheme** was a huge success and Mrs Hayward took the time to explain to me just how impressive the Senior School student helpers were in the two weeks in the holidays—thanks to all who helped out and who made such a fantastic impression on teachers, parents and younger students alike.



Our **equestrian teams** enjoyed success on the national stage again this summer and were once again crowned National Champions—this time in a bigger class. Additionally they were crowned reserve champions in the following class. Further details are to follow, but huge congratulations to all our equestrian superstars, including our wonderful parents and of course, team coach Suki.

Parents and students may recall that as part of our loneliness project, students were encouraged to write postcards to people they felt would appreciate the written contact. Olivia Sketchley chose to write to The Queen—she is not aware before now, but in the holidays a letter arrived for her from Buckingham Palace—we very much look forward to hearing about the letter's contents!



Our academic calendar has been populated and Key Dates will be communicated both through [the school's website](#) and separate communication. We have decided that **Parents' Evenings** for Years 6—8, Year 11 and Sixth Form will be face to face this year—we are aware that there are a number of new parents who have missed this opportunity in recent years. For Years 9 and 10 we will retain the benefits associated with online meetings.

It was felt by some parents that our End of Academic Year Reports were published too late for follow up conversation, for which I apologise. Our reporting dates will be moved a week forward this year, allowing for proper face to face review of academic year 2022/23 should it be needed.

Following the success of a Take Away Homework Menu in Year 6 last year, this initiative will be extended to Years 7-9. At the end of next week we will share with you a range of activities from a variety of subjects with which your son/daughter is invited to engage. These tasks are in addition to the normal homework timetable - they are not compulsory but designed to offer additional support and / or extension; a wonderful way to earn the converted da Vinci awards!

With my best wishes for a smooth start to the new school year,

Richard Lynn
Headmaster