



The Dixie Grammar School  
Nursery • Junior • Senior

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

01455 292244

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At the end of a busy term in school it is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights of the last few weeks. As I write Mr Wright, Mrs Goode and their teams are busy restoring the school sites to a pre-Christmas sense of order—ensuring misplaced Christmas jumpers find their way to Lost Property, gathering wayward tinsel and sweet wrappers for the bin and cleaning the site after the celebrations of the final week. As a culmination of the term in which so many of our pre-pandemic routines returned, including the PTA Christmas Bazaar, it really was wonderful to be back in St. Peter's church for our carol services.







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## Christmas



The children all sang beautifully. For those in years 1, 2 and 3 this was their first Carol Service and it was a beautiful evening much enjoyed by all. Children and parents were treated to a surprise Bells performance from the Junior School staff. Including some body percussion!

Christmas is an exciting time of year whatever your age but the anticipation felt by our younger pupils is particularly infectious!



Pippins visited Freizeland Nurseries to choose Christmas trees for school—thank you Pippins!



The Children in Nursery and Reception started Christmas off with their very special performance 'Our First Nativity'. I am not sure how the Innkeeper turned this Mary & Joseph away!



Christmas dinner was yummy this year! Reception Class sat with their buddies to pull their crackers and enjoy their Christmas dinners together.







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## Christmas



The PTA Christmas Bazaar made a welcome return this year after absence from the previous 3 years. With a wealth of stalls and games the favourite was definitely Santa's grotto! We raised a fantastic £1185! Thank you to everyone who helped on the day, donated and supported. We also want to thank everyone for their generous toy donations to 'Toys on the Table' charity. The toys gifted will be delivered to children locally who would otherwise not receive presents this Christmas - thank you.



In the Senior School, pupils have been decorating the D&T Sustainable Christmas tree. Decorations had to be created by upcycling items and the entries were most impressive.







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## Christmas



Gareth and his team provided a fantastic festive feast, appreciated by all, and the last day of term, as tradition dictates was also a Christmas Jumper Day—fundraising as always on this day for Save the Children.







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## Alumni



Our last day of term was also the final day of term at university for many of our alumni—as such, some were unable to make it back to school for Christmas lunch and mulled wine. Twenty-eight former pupils returned to school from a variety of years and it was wonderful to hear their updates and reminisce with them.

## Year 7 DT

### Sustainable Christmas Tree Decorations



Above: Edgar Collette    Top Right: Ellie Newson

Left: Jacob Spears (present)  
Toby Douglas



The sustainable decorations were all brilliant and there were some extremely creative entries! Students and staff re-using old materials, coffee pods, pasta, tin cans, yoghurt pots, jar lids and corks. Thank you to all that entered, five entries were chosen as stand out winners, they were, Edgar Collette for his incredible

cork reindeer, Bella Fairclough for her upcycled snowglobe, Olivia Sketchley for her canvas reindeer, Thomas Rafelt for his Rudolph inspired tin can and Ellie Newson for her Actimel snowman.



End of term events included our Senior choir performing on their own and alongside 'Voices' the Choir in the beautiful Polesworth Abbey, our Year 1 and 2 visit to Conkers at which the sprinkling of snow made it even more magical, and the return of the show the teachers tried to ban (!) - the Sixth Form int(f)ernal concert which included 'The Chase', Family fortunes, and a 'Who killed Santa?' murder mystery. Well done to all of those who contributed to making these events memorable and to those who made them possible. 'A Touch of Christmas 2022' included talent and enthusiasm in abundance: choirs, orchestra, small groups and soloists including ballet from the wonderfully talented Frankie.



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## A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS

An evening of festive music, dance and singing

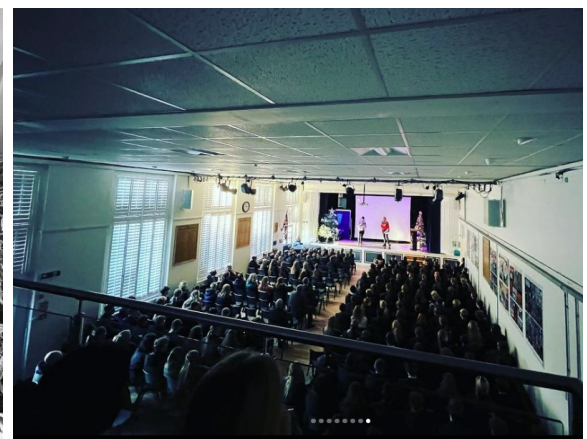
Come and enjoy performances from our talented pupils, including our choir and orchestra.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

7PM-9PM

Drinks and refreshments being served by our  
World Challenge 2024 group

**End of Term**







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## Enrichment



Timetabled **Enrichment** for all has been a major development this term in the Senior School and we are all delighted by the achievements so far! From Mock trials to Nativity plays, from sign language to First Aid qualifications, via the incredibly successful Yr 7 fete, students have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm and its value is evident throughout school. My thanks to Miss Entwisle and the enrichment team for all their hard work to ensure its success and congratulations in particular to Year 7 whose fantastic fete raised an incredible £709 for charity. Frowsty and Kully—two cats being sponsored as a result of the fete are pictured below.



Year 6 have enjoyed **DOSE** sessions during Enrichment time and competition is fierce for the coveted 'Stick of the Week Award'! More often than not however it is awarded to the group as a whole who have continued to impress greatly this term.







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## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding

The festive season is upon us once again and many children and young people will be unwrapping a new mobile phone, tablet or games console on Christmas Day. For some, it will be the first time that they have owned a device that connects them to the online world. For others, a new device means new areas of the digital landscape to explore and new risks to navigate.

National Online Safety have put together the following top tips for parents to ensure that this year's Christmas presents do not unleash any unexpected dangers as well as a guide to setting up apps, games and software:

1. Always set a password – use the password protection feature.
2. Set up parental controls and customise settings.
3. Pay attention to age ratings – many popular games and apps have content that is not suitable for younger ages.
4. Keep numbers and devices private.
5. Have “the money” conversation – talk about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through the device.
6. Discourage device dependency – a gentle reminder about having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise.
7. Explain secure WiFi networks – using a portable device on an unsecured network could lead to a hacker accessing personal information.
8. Limit screen time.
9. Only pair with known Bluetooth devices.
10. Turn location settings off – avoid inadvertently making other people aware of where they are.
11. Stay aware of the surroundings – screens and walking do not mix!
12. Be there if they need to talk – listen to concerns, empathise and reassure them and block and report if necessary.





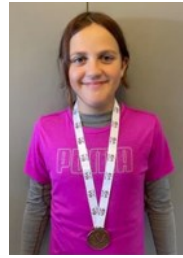


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## Sport



**YEAR 1 - YEAR 8 GIRLS, BOYS AND SPOT**



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Sport



## ISA MIDLANDS GYMNASTICS CHAMPS



Sporting success this term has been considerable—and in a growing and diverse range of sports. Huge thanks to our parents who make such representation possible—our equestrian, cross country and sporting stars in particular rely on huge support from parents. Thanks also to our team of committed PE teachers and Suki Stripp who from 3-18 are always on the lookout for sporting opportunities, which do so much to enable our pupils to shine.







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## Educational Visits



### The Year 6 Trip to the Harry Potter Studios

During the second last week of term the whole of Year 6 went to the Harry Potter Studios. Harry Potter is such a great series of books and films. We've been reading 'The Philosopher's Stone' in our English lessons and I was really excited as I love it so much.

We came to school as usual but instead of lesson one we got to get on a bus. We played loads of games and chatted but we were all really excited. When we got there and saw the building with its giant wizard chess pieces outside we all screamed! When we entered we were met by a lady who took us up a magic staircase then we did...a...lesson!!! We learnt all about movie pitches and we got to see Luna's and He-Who-Can't-Be-Named's costumes. We quickly had our lunch then it was the tour. We took loads of pics and it was amazing to see all the costumes and all of the scenes. We went in the Dursley's house and saw the cupboard under the stairs along with the night-bus, the motorbike (which I got to sit on with Kianna), the dragon and loads of other things from the films. After the tour was the gift shop- which was massive! There was loads to buy but you had to be careful because it was sooooo expensive (it's ok mum I didn't buy too much). It was a really good trip and so much fun. Everything was so cool and really interesting. Looking at the sets was amazing and the Yule Ball scene was very cool. It was a great experience.

### Bea Nightingale



Year 7 and Mr Mellors go feral!



Year 7 and Year 4 trips were amongst many highlights out of the classroom this term, which also included a very popular Physics trip to CERN.

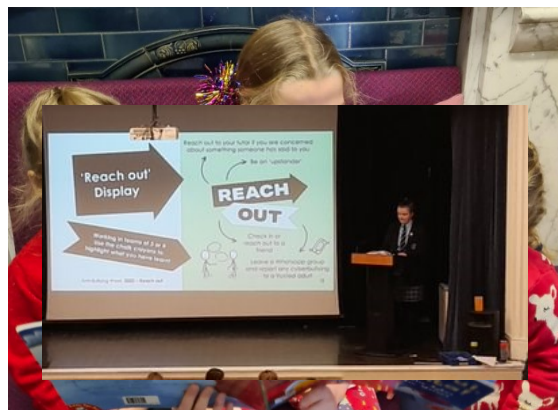






The Peer mentor group are a valuable addition to our pastoral team and this year's Lower Sixth volunteers are excited to start their new roles—contact can be made via any member of staff or two designated postboxes in school.

From my work leading inspections of independent schools, I know just how impressive and innovative our **Student Voice** programmes are— from 3-18. These were central in helping us again [achieve the top grade of excellent in our educational quality inspection](#)—a grade that sets us apart from others.

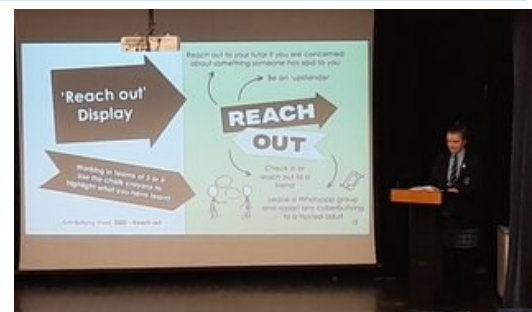


Year 4 had a lovely time sharing Christmas stories with Pippins at the end of term. Just another way we develop confidence and friendships across the year groups.



The **Cross Schools' Project** with Stafford Grammar School is now in its third year. Another very successful project day took place this term at Dixie—Lower Sixth students from both schools discussed the impact of discriminatory language.

Tuesday's presentation assemblies are dominated by reports from Music, Sport and Academic prefects. Our Remembrance Assembly this year was led entirely by students and senior students delivered assemblies to each year group during Anti Bullying week.







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**Pastoral**

**Absence**

**Governor Recruitment**

**Staff News**

**Use of internet**

Our pastoral support is at the heart of all that we do at The Dixie and this extends to the school holiday period. Individual students in need of support over the Christmas and new year period are encouraged to reach out via [pastoral@dixie.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@dixie.org.uk).

Youngminds ([youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk)) is also a great source of advice for children and young people as is the online community Kooth ([kooth.com](http://kooth.com)). There is also a dedicated section for children and young people through The NHS - Every Mind Matters ([nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](https://nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)) where you will find expert advice and practical ideas to help everyone look after their mental health.

### Absence

If your child is unwell please telephone the school office by 9.30am to explain this, **alternatively please send an email to [info@dixie.org.uk](mailto:info@dixie.org.uk)**. Please phone again after 3 days or if the absence extends into a second week.

If you wish to request absence for your child this must be done in writing to the Headmaster, **via email to [info@dixie.org.uk](mailto:info@dixie.org.uk) FAO Headmaster**

### Governor Recruitment

Our Governing body is looking for new members to join the board of twelve. If this voluntary role is one which may interest you, you can find out more about us from the [Dixie website](http://Dixie website), by emailing the Chair of Governors Jo Fenton Parkes ([parkesj@dixie.org.uk](mailto:parkesj@dixie.org.uk)) or speaking with the Headmaster.

All Governors are Trustees and subject to enhanced recruitment checks for safeguarding and management.

### Staff News

**Mrs Cormack's** band, Seven Lights have just released two EP's: [click for the Spotify link!](#)

**Miss Haggart** has decided to step away from her role at the Dixie and will take up a new Teaching Assistant position at the start of next term. We thank Miss Haggart for her huge contributions to the Dixie—and to Year 7 in particular. 6H will continue to be known as 6H and will be overseen by Miss Mee.



### Use of the Internet in the curriculum

As you would expect, the internet is now thoroughly embedded in our curriculum. Students are often asked to undertake some research for homework or directed to specific sites within a lesson. They collaborate on a wide variety of projects, usually via Google Classroom, link to media websites for stimulus material and so much more. Of course, internet use in school is carefully monitored and we have robust filtering systems in place to ensure that as far as possible students cannot access unsuitable material. The latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education makes it clear there is an expectation on schools to inform parents of the ways the internet is used in school. In addition to the general information above, staff members will communicate when there are expectations of internet use that go beyond this - for example if the material being explored is particularly sensitive or in any way controversial.

I hope this reassures you of our continued attention to online safety and trust you will get in touch if you ever have questions or would like more information.





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## Remote Teaching Art Rooms

### Access to Remote Teaching via Google Classroom

Current COVID -19 infection rates among the school community are thankfully extremely low and we are grateful for your continued vigilance in undertaking tests if at all unwell and observing the recommended isolation periods if positive - 3 days for under 18s and 5 days for adults.

The focus of teaching within school is very much the classroom and remote access cannot be guaranteed for each and every lesson. That said, if your child is required to isolate, yet is well enough to attend lessons please do let the office know and teachers will endeavour to provide remote access.

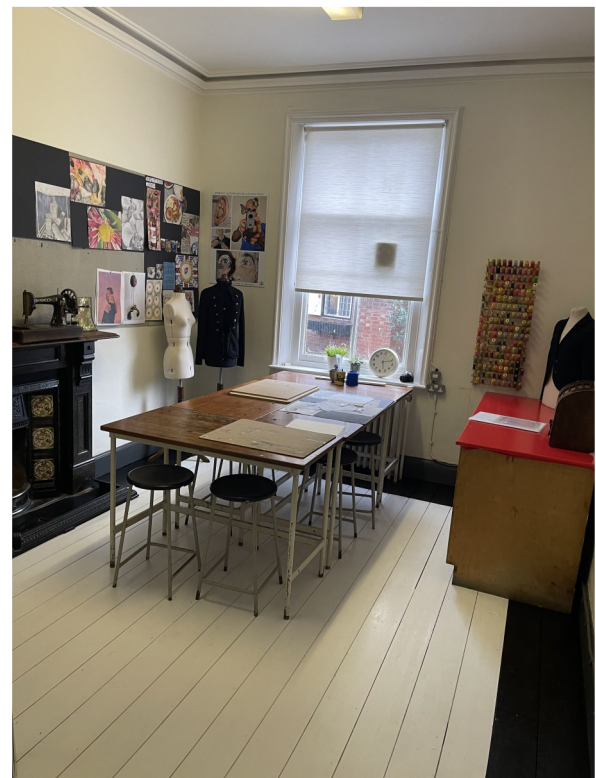
In the case of other absences, it is usually the case that a student who is not well enough to attend school should be resting and recovering, not trying to keep up with schoolwork! Teachers can easily put details of work completed in the lessons on Google Classroom ensuring that once the child is well, they can catch up on any missed work. A short absence of a single day is best addressed by speaking with the class teacher on their return to find out which tasks need completion and what support materials can be given to the student. A longer absence may require the Form Teacher's help to communicate missed work from staff and a reasonable schedule for catching up.

Again if you have any concerns regarding your child's absence or ability to catch up on missed work, please don't hesitate to get in touch - the Form Teacher is the most likely to be able to help in these circumstances.

### Art Room

Not all parents will know about Mrs McGranaghan's and the Art team's transformation of the space in which art is taught—if you would like a look around, they would be more than delighted to give you a guided tour. For now, here is a 'before and after' shot that goes some way to explaining why it is that Art is so popular at the Dixie!

Thanks to Mrs McGranaghan's vision and hard work, our budding artists enjoy a working environment that would match any university—with dedicated and allocated individual space for our A level students to work on their projects.







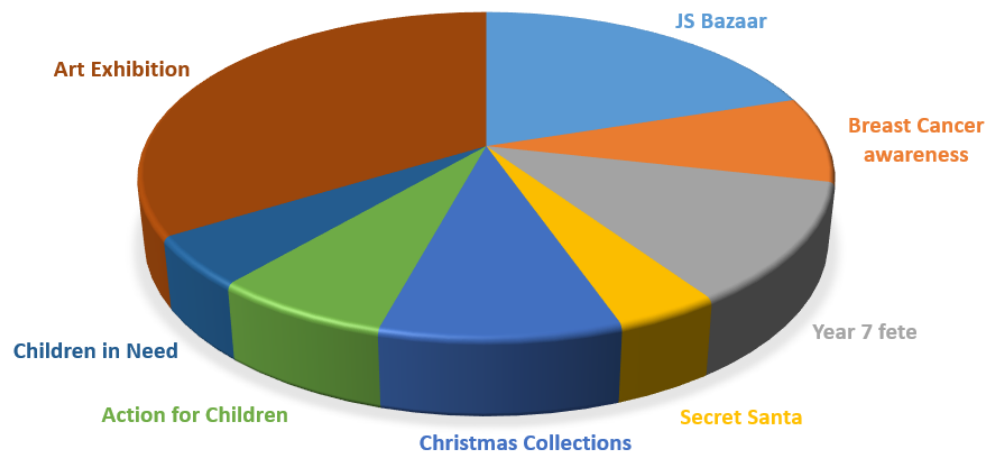
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## Autumn Term Fundraising

# FUNDRAISING AUTUMN TERM 2022 £5,926



Thank you all for your outstanding support with our various fundraising initiatives this term. The total amount raised for national and local causes is spectacular.

I am sorry that, despite the length of this newsletter, I have only managed potted highlights of what has been a busy term. I wish Year 11 and the Upper Sixth every success in finding a balance between work and relaxation as they prepare for their January mock examinations. Finally, thank you all for the support of your children, the Dixie from 3-18 and its staff throughout 2022. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

*Richard Hyman*



## Fundraising

