



Dear Parents

It is with real pride that I reflect on all that has been achieved in the past term by students at the Dixie. The return of the 57 pupils and 8 staff from the successful ski trip to Austria and the imminent departure of our Silver and Gold DofE groups this coming weekend reminds me that for some, the Easter break is just as busy as term time. I am hugely grateful to the staff who give up their holiday to make these opportunities for travel available—they are an important part of education at the Dixie.

Coming up with words to summarise a term is an impossible task, but as ever, our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds are full of pictures of Matilda, Easter bonnets, skiing, music, sporting success and snow! Our [website news](#) section is regularly updated—most recently with [British Sign Language](#) in enrichment and [local business partnership](#) in Design and Technology.



Year 5: Matilda



My own work outside the Dixie as an Independent Schools' inspector has recently involved visits to well-known institutions including Dulwich College, Godolphin & Latymer School and Winchester College, and these are valuable to the development of education at the Dixie. We are the only independent school in the area to have the top inspection rating from 3-18 and whilst my absence from school causes some disruption, the benefits are clear. I am next away from school in the second week of the Summer Term. Amongst the pupil news in this newsletter there please note requests for incubating chicks, a car mechanic and an exam invigilator!

Pippins Easter Bonnets!

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The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

School Culture

Emma Billington

This term, we have been moving the conversation forward in staff meetings, governor meetings, assemblies and PSD lessons and this will continue through the Summer Term. The aim has been to pin down our values and the work next term will be to consider what that will look like in all aspects of school life. We will be asking questions about what impact there would be on the way we conduct ourselves as teachers, pupils, governors, wider staff and parents if we are upholding the values of the school, be that in the classroom, in the lunch queue, in the way we communicate with each other, or in the way we complete our work, to name but a few. By the end of the Summer Term, we will have an overarching aim for the school, underpinned by our values, each of which is in turn upheld by stated behaviours to which we all agree and just as importantly, recognition of which behaviours undermine our values as a school. We will communicate this to you in due course, however, if you would like to participate in the ongoing conversation, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Cormack and Mrs Craig via the Senior School Office.

Emma Billington



Emma wrote her letter of application for the post of Head Teacher on 5/11/15 – over 8 years later and at the end of last term we said 'goodbye' as she resettles in the Orkney Islands with her family to take on the role of Head of Papdale Primary School. In her letter she wrote: "I know that I have the leadership qualities to take the Dixie Infant and Junior School further on its journey." Emma was right, but she underestimated her own impact, which has been felt from 3-18. It is now common place for staff to work across phases and

for real collaboration between colleagues from 3-18 to the benefit of pupils at the Dixie. Emma instinctively understood the educational benefits of the 3-18 message and has consistently helped lead this cultural change. As a co-designer of and teacher in the Dixie 6 curriculum, Emma really has led by example.

As a previous Headteacher in the maintained sector, Emma has also had her own cultural change to manage – and she has led the same change in new colleagues. Very quickly, she instinctively understood the issues in play – the nuances of differences in approach in independent education – and this combined with her attention to detail (and love of risk assessment) will make her absence keenly felt by all. Most importantly for me, as a fellow member of the leadership team, Emma has been consistently and completely reliable, has overseen a complete overhaul of the Junior School curriculum and has managed the various pressures of her role magnificently.

I will very much miss working with her, and on behalf of us all, wish her every success as she embarks on yet another cultural change in the Orkneys!



From Emma Billington:

As I write this, I am sitting in my office at the Junior School and reflecting on just how lucky I have been to have worked here for the last 7 years. In September 2016, joining the Junior School as headteacher was the start of a new and exciting journey and as I finish that journey and get ready to head onto the next one, I feel both sadness and excitement in equal measure.

Reflecting on the last 7 years, there have been lots of changes at the Junior School. There is now a new curriculum and assessment system in all year groups; subjects are taught thematically and assessment is useful and informative. There is an excellent new music building, the Pippins house has been reorganised and extended, there is a new Reception building and EYFS outside area, a Playpod (which the children love and staff loathe!) iPads, trips in every year group (including Skern for surfing!) and links with the senior pupils are strong. But at Dixie the material and cosmetics aren't what lie at the heart of the school. In Dixie, every single child is valued and known - this is a strength at Dixie like no other I have seen and one which sets Dixie apart. Every child has a voice, every child is valued, cared for, challenged and supported to be their best version of themselves and to grab every moment and opportunity with excitement.

The previous years have also brought challenges - the years of Covid will never be forgotten. The memories of endless risk assessments and changing government guidelines, planning for bubbles and remote learning, all remind us of a very difficult time. But amidst those difficult times, the hard work, resilience and commitment of Dixie staff and the community was commendable. My own highlights and fondest memories were the road trips to visit all the children and deliver their books and reports. Connecting with the community again, keeping everyone apart but together as we gradually returned to normality was tough in a school where togetherness is key. I am so pleased those days have passed but also thankful and proud of the strength in adversity that everyone demonstrated.

The Junior School is a happy place. It is made happy by the children, staff and parents and by the care, time and generosity that everyone affords each other at Dixie. It is the one thing that struck me 7 years ago and continues to strike me today - at Dixie people care. Children are truly at the centre of every thought and decision. I love coming to school each day now, just as much as I did 7 years ago. I have learnt so much from the excellent support of governors and colleagues and I want to thank Richard Lynn and the governing body for offering me the opportunity of the role, almost 8 years ago. Thank you to everyone in the school community, not least the children, for placing Dixie as the highlight of my career so far. It hasn't just been a place of work, it has been an extension of my family and Max and Milo are equally sad to go. They have both had the best of starts in their school careers and will miss their friends and teachers and the warmth and guidance the school has provided.

The decision by the Governors and leadership to take their time to find any replacement is entirely the best strategy - I wish everyone the very best in the years to come and finally a big thank you to you all for everything you have given me and the imprint Dixie has left on me.



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Governing Body

Governing Body - Chair of Finance

The Governing Body is seeking a suitably qualified person to be Chair of our Finance, Facilities and People Committee (FFP) taking over from Ian Smith next academic year. The overall responsibility for FFP is:

To take delegated responsibility on behalf of the Governing Body for overseeing all financial, facilities and people aspects of the School, working alongside the Headmaster, Head of the Junior School and the Bursar Consultant so as to ensure the School's short and long-term viability. It has a monitoring and advisory role relating to the school's financial health, accounting compliance, overview of Health and Safety, the HR function of the school, including staff establishment and appointment procedures, terms and conditions of employment, and levels of remuneration.

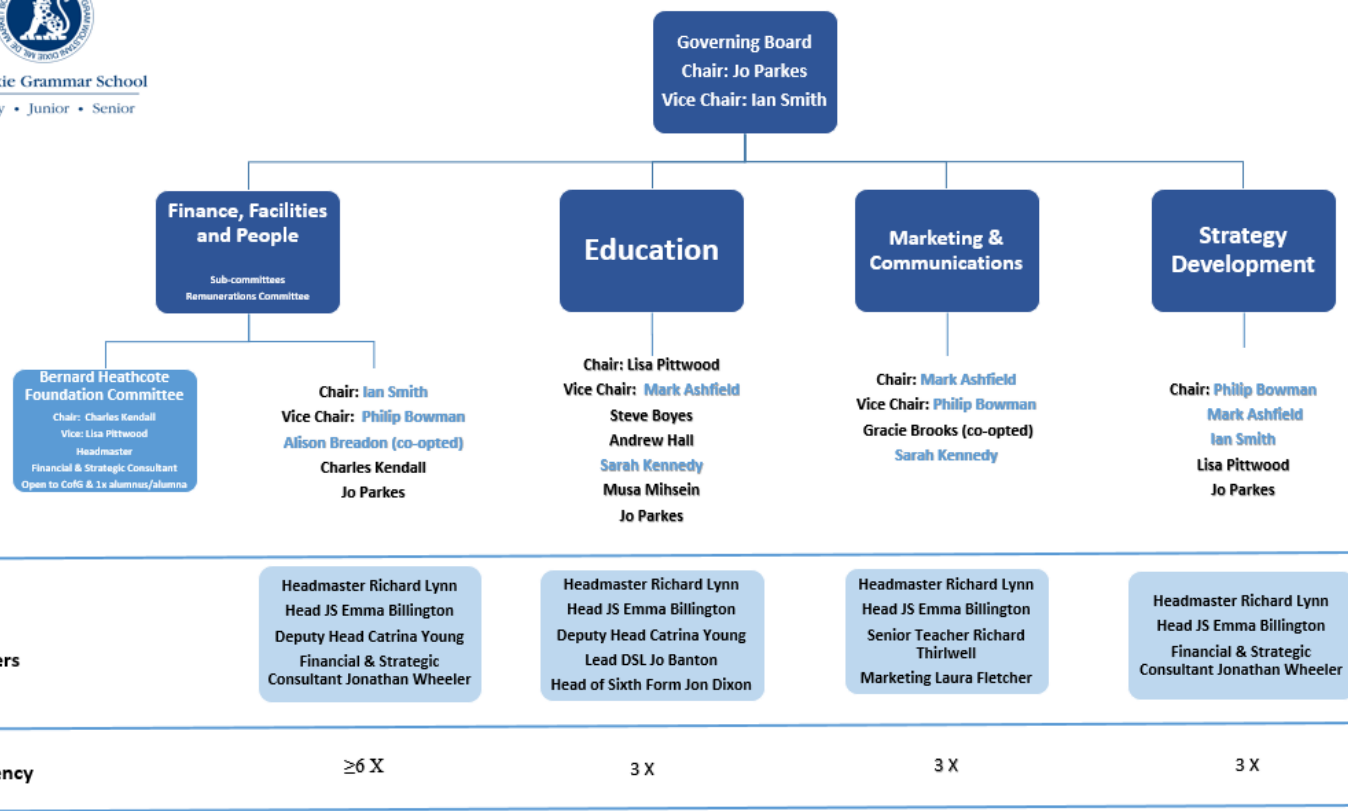
Anyone interested in this voluntary role would be working closely with the Headmaster, Bursar and Chair of Governors. All Governors are Trustees and subject to enhanced recruitment checks for safeguarding and management.

If this opportunity has relevance for you or someone known to you, have a look at the [governors' section](#) of the Dixie website, speak with the Headmaster, email the Chair of Governors Jo Fenton Parkes (parkesj@dixie.org.uk) or Vice Chair Ian Smith (smithi@dixie.org.uk).

Structure of the Governing Body



The Dixie Grammar School
Nursery • Junior • Senior



SLT
members

Frequency

Patrons:

Eleanor Dixie, Dame Carol Black, Judy Buckell, Frank Robinson, Walter Baynes and Peter Smith

December 2022

Parents of students at the Dixie



The Dixie Grammar School

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Governing Body

Business Studies trip

News @ The Dixie Easter 2023

Dixie's Governing Body - A Source of Expertise, Strength and Support

The checks and balances which a wider team provides are vital for every organisation's health. There are twelve governors at the Dixie, each with their own specialisms, each with their own particular inputs in school life. Among them are educationalists, accountants, doctors, school inspectors, alumni and those with an interest in marketing or who run their own businesses. All are volunteers, dedicated to ensuring the very best for the Dixie: they do not stifle ambition for the future of the school, they encourage it. They do not stand in the way of investment, they look to make it possible and help to ensure that long term aims are well served by expenditure. They are involved in every area of the vibrant Dixie school life, continually helping to ensure that the core aims of the school are translated into daily reality for students at the Dixie. Some read with Junior School pupils, others are parents, all attend meetings, concerts, school events and take the time to talk to students; crucially, they all have oversight of the multi-faceted school development plan, an ambitious document with its focus on pupil personal development and achievement.

Dixie Governors understand their strategic role and its place in delivering excellence. The daily running of the school is delegated to me, but I am in regular contact with the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors in particular and never far from a meeting in which governors offer challenge and support in equal measure. Our meetings are effective and provide an open forum for discussion. For parents of children at the school the Dixie Governors should be a source of comfort - that the 'buck' doesn't stop with me and that the direction and future of the Dixie is assured. Proprietorial schools, and there are several in the immediate area, do not benefit from these checks and balances and as has unfortunately been seen with schools such as Manor House and Milverton House School, they are by their nature less secure – vulnerable to the whim of the owner. The Dixie's business model as a Charity, with Governors as trustees, overseen by the Charity Commission is far better suited to the current environment as any surplus only goes back as investment into the school, with no return necessary to any shareholder or owner. I am proud to have the backing – support and challenge - of such a diverse, supportive and talented group as the Dixie Governors.

Business Studies Trip to Suncream Dairies

After a 2 year break, A Level Business students were once again able to visit ice cream makers Suncream Dairies in Tamworth. Students were able to view their operations and ask Rebecca Davies (Managing Director) and her team about how she runs a multi-award winning business. It was particularly pertinent for students to experience the meticulous attention to detail observed in the factory to maintain the highest levels of quality. Many theoretical areas were brought to life including the impact of the pandemic and rising energy prices. Our Sixth Formers also experienced the delights of a full 1 minute in a -30 degree freezer and, of course, got to eat some delicious ice cream. It was also great to see former student Joey Thirlby in his role as Buyer and Stock Controller.





Aston Martin Experience

This term, Business Studies, DT and Science A Level students enjoyed a visit from iconic British brand Aston Martin. Bal Choda, Lead Design Engineer and Sam McKee, Design Engineer and former Dixie student, gave an inspirational talk on how they secured their positions at the company, their experiences and how students should pursue their dreams. Indeed, Sam McKee was introduced to Aston Martin by Mrs Anstruther when he was a student at the Dixie and has taken full advantage of the range of opportunities that the company offers.

Students learned about the engineering processes involved in creating their luxury sports cars and that customers can wait up to 2 years for their purchase. They also learned that one of the perks of the job was all the celebrity visitors to the manufacturing plant including David Beckham and Daniel Craig. As an additional treat, they brought with them the V8 Vantage in Dixie blue!



We are looking forward to our Summer Open Morning on Saturday 13 May 9am-12.30pm. At the Junior School the morning will follow the pattern of previous years and at the Senior School the emphasis will be on the outdoors—we hope to have lots of participatory activities on offer. As ever, it is our students



Saturday
13 May
2023
9.30am

Summer Open Morning

Please [click here](#) for details and to book a place.

who give the very best impression of the Dixie and to this end we would be grateful if, where possible, your sons / daughters could make themselves available to support this event. Teachers will be asking for volunteers after Easter; thank you as always for your support.



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Music

Music

It has been a wonderful term for the Senior Music Department & Orchestra. We had the pleasure of hosting the Rotary Young Musician first round and District final. All pupils performed exceptionally well and we had first place success in the Ensemble round with a fantastic duet from Miles and Evie. On 15 March we welcomed Year 5 to join Years 6-8 as we hosted an 'Instrumental Exhibition' at the senior school. It was fascinating to hear from our peripatetic staff and senior musicians and listen as they performed with the Orchestra. On 23 March the Orchestra went on a road trip to the Junior School. Pupils from Years 3-5 asked some fantastic questions following the demonstrations made by the musicians. We hope they were inspired by the performances and we look forward to welcoming the instrumentalists from Year 5 in September.



Music—A Red Carpet Extravaganza

We are excited for our Summer Music Event, 'A Red Carpet Extravaganza' celebrating the music from stage and screen on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 June at 7pm in the Senior School hall. Orchestra have already started rehearsing Jurassic Park, James Bond and Star Wars. Choir and small ensembles will begin rehearsals after Easter. There will be opportunities for performers from Years 6-13 to be involved so pupils need to look out for further information on our return to school. Tickets will be available from school in May.



June.
29th
&
30th



Choir
Soloists
Orchestra
Dance
Musicians



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior

Sports Kit

BBC News visit

Team Dixie looking the part on and off the pitch

Team Dixie are going to be the envy of their opponents both on and off the field thanks to the generosity of our Dixie parents. The PE department recently asked whether any parents would be willing to sponsor a new sports kit. Thankfully, four parents responded and were willing to sponsor a Team Dixie kit. This enabled the PE department to purchase four fantastic new kits - lower and upper school have new home and away kits for football and hockey fixtures, which will also be used by the 6th form. Each new kit has the logo of the sponsoring companies: Reid Speed UK, Platinum Financial Services, Moran Logistics and E-PPL Group.

Dixie's Head of PE and Sport Mr Burns, is delighted with the new kits. He said, "A huge thank you must go to our sponsors. Our students are very impressed with the quality and design of the new kits. We hope that the new kits will bring continued success on the sports field and we are sure that our students will be proud to wear the kits for years to come".

The new kits have already been used this term, so keep your eyes peeled for future sports reports and our social media platforms to see the new kits in action. If parents would be interested in any future sponsorship opportunities please contact Mr Thirlwell or Mr Terry.



BBC News Reporter visit—by Kianna Naik, Year 6

On Friday the 24th of March, Mrs Houldcroft, a BBC news reporter came to visit Year 6. She was invited to talk to us as part of our unit of work on Journalism. During her visit, talked to us about what she does, how hard it is, what you need to know and much more. She gave us tips, for example to be a journalist you need to be quick on your feet and you need to have a good memory. The reason being is that you could be in one place and then 10 minutes later you get a call saying you need to be somewhere else! You stop what you are doing and go! Once you get there you might have 5 minutes to get your facts and then you go live on air!

Mrs Houldcroft told us about different stories that she has covered including both happy and dark content; the teachers' strikes, prison stories, police raids, Covid and even the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.

Our visitor talked to us about how to present your work (e.g. don't just stand there, use things around you to help tell the story.) Mrs Houldcroft told us that when presenting you need to stay on subject, be clear and speak three words per second.



Dixie Chicks

Due to the success of last year's chick hatchlings in the science department, we are on the lookout for a supplier of duck eggs to incubate and hatch at school in the Summer Term. Ideally the hatchlings would be collected once hatched. If you are in a position to help please get in touch. Thank you, [Mr Bailey](#), Head of Biology.

Safeguarding—from Mrs Banton

Like all aspects of our lives, going online can conjure up a wide range of emotions and responses that can impact our mood and well-being. Whilst we know that going online can for the most part be fun, enjoyable and educational, there are times when young people can feel upset, left out or simply not good enough. Digital resilience gives children and young people the ability to recognise when being online is having a negative impact on their well-being and the strategies to help themselves to bounce back and recover from setbacks. It also gives young people the tools to help their peers if they are having a challenging time online and know that there is a network of people to whom they can turn.

Childnet have adapted digital resilience tips published by Mind to help young people:

BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK

- Reach out to someone and support others too. A problem shared is a problem halved
- Find useful sites or organisations who can help

GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK

- You are not perfect and will make mistakes. Be kind and fair to yourself
- Take some time offline if you want to
- Sort out disagreements quickly

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

- Make time for the things and people that make you happy
- Look out for new challenges
- Life can be hectic. Find ways to help you relax

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Get some exercise, be active
- Put your devices away at night to get a good night's sleep
- Eat regularly and healthily

As adults we also have a responsibility to help the young people in our lives to develop their own ways to manage risk and recover from mistakes and challenging situations as well as adapt to the situations they face. Equally, modelling how young people should engage with others around them is just as important in the digital world.

A strong home school partnership is of central importance in ensuring pupils succeed and we are always grateful when concerns are communicated early by parents to school. We regularly remind pupils that when things go wrong, it is important that where possible parents are not the first to hear—we will continue to do all we can to ensure that student voice is heard in school. As parents, you will be aware that sometimes what you hear about events in school is not necessarily completely accurate—if you hear something which does not sound right or if you have any concern, please make contact with school in the first instance.



The Dixie Grammar School

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Exams

Study leave

Catering

Online Safety

Exams

The Summer Term sees all senior school students preparing for and completing written 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 GCSE 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 22 May** leaving the half term holiday for relaxation and family time. **Year 10 and Lower Sixth Form** pupils will complete exams during a two week period starting 15 May. 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 15 May (last day in school Fri 12 May) and for Upper Sixth starts Monday 5 June (last day in school 26 May). Timetabled lessons for Upper Sixth Form pupils will continue until Friday 26 May, to cover revision material but sessions become optional once A level exams begin.

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 breaktime snacks. Please be assured we will never allow a student to go hungry at lunchtime but the additional administration of issuing breaktime 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](https://www.internetmatters.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/>



The Dixie Grammar School

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Swimming Gala

After school practices

External Exam Invigilator

English

7-18 Swimming Gala

Huge thanks to all parents who supported and all pupils who competed in our inaugural whole school swimming gala. We are all grateful to the PE department for their ambition in making the event possible—an event to return next year!



Senior —after School practices

The regular after school practices for both boys and girls will be changing to our Summer Term programme after the Easter holiday and will recommence on **Thursday 20th April**. Clubs are open to all students and the programme is outlined below:

Monday— Cricket

Tuesday— Tennis

Wednesday— Rounders

Thursday— Athletics

Clubs will run from 4:00 pm until 5:15 pm. Students should be collected promptly at 5:15 pm from the school sports ground.

External Exam Invigilator

We are seeking to appoint a temporary Invigilator for the coming external exam series. Considerable flexibility can be offered in this part time role and no experience is necessary—all training will be provided by school. For further information please contact Examinations Officer, [Nicki Giles](#) or contact the school office.

English Department

The English department is excited to announce that the school is going to be part of the [Shakespeare Folio 400 Anniversary](#) celebrations. In the second half of the summer term the playwright [Charlie Dupre](#) will be coming into school to deliver a playwriting workshop for some upper school students who will learn the basics of playwriting, including exercises on how to generate ideas, write dialogue, develop character and themes. They will then go home and write their own short plays in response to the workshop and performance, which they will then submit to be curated in a special Young Person's Folio - printed and bound in the style of the First Folio - a copy of which will be sent to our school. We're really looking forward to this and if any students want to get involved please see a member of the English department.



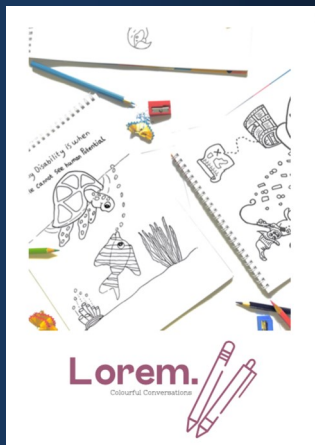
Drama Day

On Friday 17 March, we had a drama day on the well known play 'Macbeth'. All of Year 9 that participated in the activity found it very enjoyable and loved wearing the fun costumes and being able to fight with swords and shields. It helped with people's understanding of the play, along with just having a good day. The day involved acting scenes, learning lines and making props, so there was something there for everyone. It was a nice change to the normal classroom lesson, and gave us a more active involvement in the subject. The organiser of our activities was a lively woman who was very enthusiastic about everyone's participation. I thoroughly enjoyed this day and I was a witch and raven in the first two scenes. The masks were fun to wear and seemed to put everyone into character. However others definitely found this day challenging having to put themselves out there, but at the end of the day they had a good time. **Eva Kirwan-Jones, Year 9**



Young Enterprise

This year's Young Enterprise team Lorem ('therapy' in Latin) have designed a colouring book for sharing. Their aim is to encourage greater conversation through activity whilst promoting and celebrating neurodiversity. Lorem have already sold over half their stock at the Junior School's fantastic performance of Matilda and also at the senior school. Thanks to all who have supported us! We look forward to showcasing the product at a Young Enterprise event at Leicester University in May. Books are priced at £8. Please email HUDSONS@DIXIE.ORG.UK to reserve your copy!





Enrichment Update —Senior School

During the spring term **Year 6** were placed into small ensemble groups and created their own music groups. They were tasked with creating a brand identity and preparing some pieces to record just before Easter. Pupils have also had the opportunity as a group to contribute to the intergenerational care programme and have put forward some ideas for the Bosworth in Bloom display at the front of school. In the Summer term Year 6 will complete some outdoor map skills work.

Year 7 have been participating in DOSE activities during the Spring term. In the Summer term we are offering the opportunity for all pupils to achieve a Blue Peter badge which then allows free entry to over 200 attractions.

Year 8 have completed two projects during the Spring term creating a series of Snow leopard newspapers and then designing and making some sustainable fashion. In the Summer term they will have an opportunity to continue to build skills they have been developing in DOSE.

Year 9 continue to work towards the criteria for the Bronze D of E and have been completing volunteering work by litter picking in the local area, learning outdoor cooking skills as their skill and completing the physical activity component through participation in dodgeball. Recently pupils have developed map skills needed for their expedition, including taking bearings. In the Summer term the Year 9 pupils will complete the specific training required to complete their practice and final expeditions including pitching and packing tents and the art of how to pack a rucksack to carry over distance.

Pupils in **Year 10 to the Lower Sixth** have had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities such as learning British sign language, game design, Extended project qualification, mock trial, car maintenance and participation in a range of business competitions. In addition there have been opportunities for year group debates for Year 11 and the Sixth Form and chances for pupils to support younger pupils with DOSE.

Upper Sixth pupils have had a tailored programme geared towards preparing them for life after the Dixie. Pupils have completed work on cooking, finance and careers.



Our equestrian stars came away from the Pickering Grange competition on 25 March with five team wins. Congratulations to Daisy Broome, Luchia Dawe, Rosie Broome, Issac Overton, Mabel Judd, Poppy Handley Jones, Lilymay Dawe, Oliver Dunk and Charlotte Oram. Thanks to parents and of course to team coach Suki Stripp.



Enrichment Update —Senior School, cont'd

In the summer term **Year 11** and **Upper Sixth** pupils will be designated private study time during enrichment and should arrive at school prepared to make best use of the time available. Year 11 will be working independently and will need to bring books, revision notes and chromebooks to each session, they should add the 1 hour 45 minutes of enrichment to their current revision timetables.

After Easter **Year 10** will complete a year group activity completing a public speaking competition in small teams.

During the final half term the main activity for **Year 6, 7 and 10** will be completing a cross year stimulus response project in small groups. This will be an open project allowing pupils to work with the strengths of their group to answer the set task using the medium they feel works best. I look forward to seeing the creative solutions showcasing the wide range of talents our pupils have beyond the classroom.

*As we look towards enrichment next year we would like to extend our provision beyond the skill sets of staff within school. One project we are keen to run is an extension from the car maintenance block of work. Ideally we need **someone with the expertise, skills and equipment to repair cars** who is willing to work on a weekly basis with a small group of motivated pupils to complete a project. Enrichment sessions run from 11.15am until 1pm every Thursday and commitment to supervise at this time for a block of time would be necessary. We would also need any volunteer to complete a DBS check for working with children. It is potentially an exciting opportunity for someone who wants to pass on their knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise to the next generation. Any interest please contact me Ms V Entwisle at info@dixie.org.uk and use the subject Enrichment volunteer 2023.*

Reception Boat Day

The DT department welcomed 19 Reception Class students into the workshop before Easter. Reception students have been working on a boat project at the Junior School and came to the workshop to learn about material selection when making boats and even had time to make a boat that could float. They were a credit to their teachers and I look forward to seeing the future engineers progress as they move up the school. A big thank you to all the Reception students and staff. Mr Domanski, Archie Gudgeon, Harriet Gallagher and Rosie Goss who supported the event.



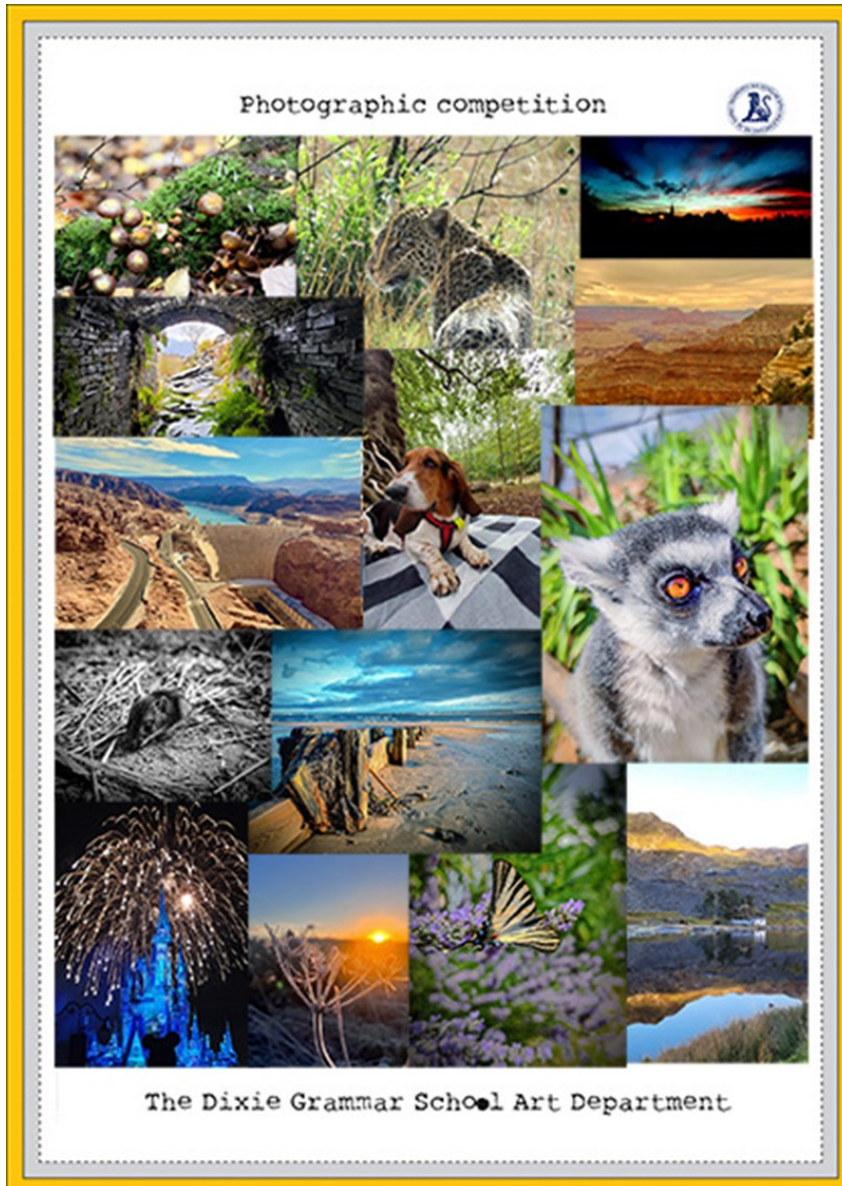


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Photographic Competition

Photographic Competition 2023

News @ The Dixie Easter 2023



Many thanks to all who entered this year's Photographic Competition—the standard of entries was higher than ever. Winning entries were received from Mrs Newson, Amelia Gudgeon, Sam Giles, Natasha Gummow, Tom Giles, Ellie Hughes, Joel Shaller, William Fay, Isabelle Parkes and Olivia Sketchley.

Many congratulations to this year's winner—Tom Giles (Year 11). The winning entry is shown below. Tom receives a 1000 piece jigsaw of his photograph and school also retain a jigsaw. A wonderful photo, but a fiendish jigsaw!





Dixie Does Pi 2023

Pi Recital Record Holders

Overall School Record Holder			
Robyn Walker (2022) - 400 digits			
Year 6		Year 7	
Henry Davies (2022)	90	Dara Davidchack (2021)	125
Year 8		Year 9	
Dara Davidchack (2022)	161	Niamh Sullivan (2023)	219
		Issy Roote (2021)	51
		Year 11	
Maddox Richardson (2021)	90	Tom Giles (2023)	47
		Hannah Clarke (2021)	36
6 th Form			
Robyn Walker (2022)		400	

2023 is the third year of Dixie Does Pi (Recital of Digits) and what an exciting year it was!!! Lots of students took part and the following results can now be announced.

Year 6 Henry Davis retains the title with 90 but Savannah Bentley-Showell is this year's Year 6 winner with 71 digits. Honourable mention to Clark Bessant.

Year 7 Dara Davidchack retains the title with 127 but Jasper Vernon is this year's Year 7 winner with 114 digits.

Year 8 Dara Davichack retains the title with 161 but Mya Kirkbride is this year's Year 8 winner with 40 digits. Honourable mention to Ava Butwell.

Year 9 We have a NEW TITLE HOLDER!! Niamh Sullivan recited an amazing 219! Notable mentions also go to Dara 217 and Sam with 176 each.

Year 10 Maddox Richardson retains the title with 90 Molly Elliot is this year's winner with 45 - well done.

Year 11 Hannah Clarke was the title holder with 36 digits. We have a NEW TITLE HOLDER!! Tom Giles with a score of 47

6th form 6th form title holder and overall school title holder remains with Robyn Walker and 400 digits! Guy Kibble was awarded a very small mini egg in the final assembly for his recitation of 10 digits...

Well done to all who took part and the maths teachers that made this possible.

Finally, my office is now fully moved to the Junior School and my old office is being temporarily converted to a classroom. Works for the Summer holidays have been confirmed and alongside extensive catering service extension and upgrades at the Senior School, redecoration of Science, heating work at the Senior School, roof repairs and pointing at the Junior School and creation of a small teaching room under the mezzanine we look forward to another very successful Summer Playscheme.

For now, all that remains is for me to wish you a restful end to the Easter break—following staff training on Tuesday 18 April we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 19 April for the start of the Summer Term.

Best wishes,

Richard Hyman