



The Dixie Grammar School

Nursery • Junior • Senior



New school year rung in, as tradition dictates, by the youngest senior boy and girl—Oliver Keates and Mia Ward.



Year 11 Geography fieldtrip to Withernsea

Dear Parents

This half term has been unusually short, but we have done our best to squeeze the proverbial quart into a pint pot! School trips have included Pippins to the farmer's field to pick blackberries, apples, potatoes and sweetcorn, Year 3 to Lunt Fort, Year 4 to Skern, Year 5 to Beaumanor Hall, Year 7 Bushcraft trip to Boughton Woods, and Geography department fieldwork trips at both GCSE and A level. The GCSE geography trip (L) reminds us that not all educational visits are sunny!

Significantly, we also celebrated the return of the German Exchange trip abroad—forty senior students enjoyed a spectacular week immersed in German culture. I was delighted to receive this email from Mrs Till, Head of German on their return:

***"We are home! All children delivered safely to parents and all staff back with their families. It has been an exhausting week but it's the best type of exhausted you can be. I am so proud of the students. Every single one of them was so brave to take part and I have heard so many kind and flattering comments about them from their German hosts. They did Dixie proud!"***

Looking ahead, the Junior Pantomime trip (Years 3, 4 and 5), EYFS Snowdome visit to the Winter Wonderland, Year 1 and 2 trip to Conkers, Year 8 theatre trip and Year 6 visit to Harry Potter Studio are all eagerly anticipated next half term. Before then, twenty-nine senior students are packing for their 8-day visit to Florida for the Dixie Science department trip this coming Sunday.

### Parent Briefings and Dixie Culture

We were delighted to see so many for our briefings at the end of September—events we intend to add to our calendar at the start of every academic year. For those unable to attend, please use this link to a full transcript of what was said, including slides shown. Please also find a link to photos of all staff, which we know will be particularly useful for new parents.

**Culture** in any organisation can be defined as "the way we do things around here." Last year, we embarked on a project as a school to define what that means for us here at the Dixie. We see our school community as encompassing not just pupils and teaching staff, but support staff, catering & facilities teams, finance, Governors and parents and it was important that everyone had their say. Surveys were completed during the Autumn Term and the work then began to take that feedback and use it to define our aims and values. At the end of the process, we define our main aim as "fulfilling potential through aspiration and integrity" and we talk in school about pursuing success through challenge, consistency & high expectations. Underpinning that aim are our core values of respect, resilience, courage, commitment and care and it is these values that are forming the basis of many of our conversations in school this year. We have devised a document that puts more detail behind each of these and is our attempt to define what each value looks like in practice. This is displayed in all classrooms and is also printed in the student planner, so please do take a look and talk about it with your child. This current year is about embedding these values, so we are focusing on them one at a time, reinforcing each one through assemblies, form time activities and PSD lessons. We hope that your children have already spoken about this at home, but please do engage with them in conversation and we hope that you will join us in trying to put these core values at the heart of all we do as a school.



## Safeguarding—from Mrs Banton

Games consoles and video games bring many benefits to children and young people including improved levels of concentration, creativity and memory as well as helping to develop important teamwork and language skills. Gaming can, however, also be quite addictive and distracting and consume a large amount of an individual's time.

If your child has a games console, it is important that as a parent, you have set up age appropriate parental controls. The controls will vary across the different consoles but will allow you as a parent to restrict spending and communication.

**PlayStation** – you can set up your account as a family manager and create a separate child account so you can tailor their online experience. Further information for parents on keeping children safe online whilst using PlayStation Network can be found [here](#).

**Xbox** – the Family Settings app allows parents to manage their child's gaming activities not only on Xbox consoles but also on iOS and Android phones details of which can be found [here](#).

**Nintendo Switch** – also offer a free app to allow you to monitor what your children are playing and their gameplay time as well as giving you the facility to restrict your child's gaming access. You can find out more about the app [here](#).

If your child is playing online, please be aware that some games, such as FIFA and Fortnite, allow communication and depending on the game, this could be through in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Please make sure that settings appropriate to your child are set up for the games that they play.

It can be difficult for children and young people to moderate online chat so please do take steps to ensure that your child knows how to block and report inappropriate behaviour or behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable whilst online as well as knowing to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns, however small.

If you find yourself in a situation where your child is wanting to play a game, check that they are old enough. **UK Safer Internet Centre** have recently published a [blog](#) which offers practical tips to parents for what to do if your child talks to you about playing a new game. The NSPCC also provide further guidance and support regarding [online games](#).

September saw 18 of our new Lower Sixth elect to train as **Peer Mentors**. This involves a whole day of training from our School Listener Alex Buttery. Alex has a wealth of experience both in counselling and training roles and has been running our Peer Mentoring training for a number of years. We were delighted when she declared this cohort "the most engaged group ever". The training requires students to explore listening skills, the difference between empathy and sympathy and considers body language. The issue of boundaries and when to pass information on are discussed in detail and students are given advice on how to look after themselves as well as others. We are enormously proud of our peer mentors, many of whom have already been deployed to support younger students. The support they offer is varied; it might be meeting regularly to touch base with someone struggling to settle, or supporting a student with some academic worries or perhaps accompanying someone to a co curricular club for the first few times. Our 6th formers both enjoyed and valued the experience: The work our peer mentors do is invaluable and we are most grateful for the additional strand to our pastoral care.



# Autumn in Pippins



Pippins enjoying Autumnal times - collecting apples, blackberries, potatoes and sweetcorn.



After gathering and foraging we headed back to Pippins to make a potato and sweetcorn pie, followed by a blackberry and apple crumble. All handmade by Pippins!







The Dixie Grammar School  
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News @ The Dixie October 2023



Lovely writing in Phonics



Making (and eating) toast at Forest School



Using our map skills around the school grounds



## Reception





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Exploring the school grounds



## Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed their 'WOW' day where they had a tea party with a special visit from a tiger! This tea party concludes our topic 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' and the children all had a fabulous time.







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Forest School fun



Stick of the week



Well-earned rest



Sharing acrostic poems about the Great Fire of London



Houses built and painted—ready for our own Great Fire—[click on the movie link for actions](#)



All that remains

Year 2





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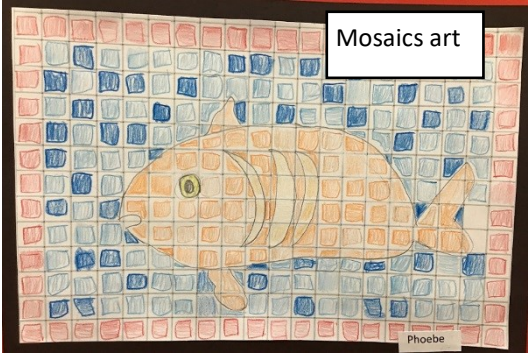
Year 3



Science



Roman  
soldiers at  
Lunt Fort



Mosaics art

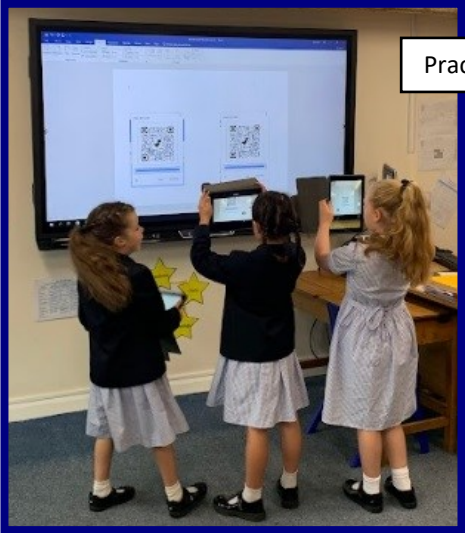
Phoebe



Timelines



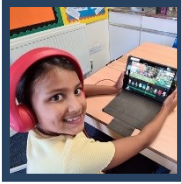
Practising ICT skills







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Using ICT skills



The Tudors



Scan me to see the persuasive Skern videos







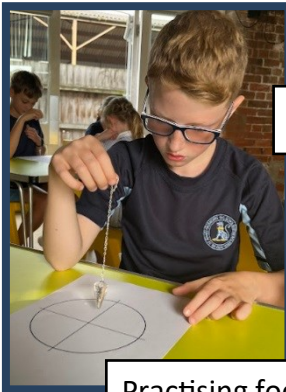
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With Reception Buddies



## Year 5

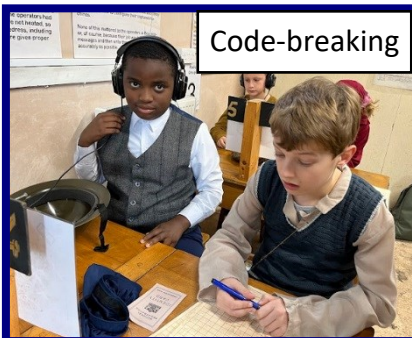


Positive Education

Practising focus



Jubilation  
dance



Code-breaking



Beaumanor Hall—WWII day—experiencing life as an evacuee



Rationing



Air-raid shelter





The Year 6 Enrichment groups have been working well as individuals and as a team. Also included is a photo of our saplings which have taken really well to the DOSE area, a fantastic first half term of Dixie Open Skies Education!



**Year 6/7  
and DOSE**





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## Year 6

Year 6 and 7 have made the most successful of starts this half term, both in and out of the classroom.

In Languages, the students have done a great job learning about school in Germany this half term, have learned some key vocabulary and produced some really great Schultueten! Linda was the winner in 6Y, for her German/Harry Potter themed Schultuete but all of the students produced something to be proud of and have enjoyed the contents of the cone just as much than the project itself. Huge thanks to their parents for helping them fill their cones.





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News @ The Dixie October 2023

In the last week of September, all of **Year 7** embarked on a fantastic three-day adventure with The Bushcraft Company at Boughton Woods in Kettering. Students were provided with an unforgettable back to nature experience where they learnt a range of survival skills including shelter building, ponassing, first aid, trap building and much, much more! Away from screens and technology, students spent two nights in safari-style tented camps, fully enveloped in the wilderness, sleeping under the stars and cooking on open fires.



## Year 7— Bushcraft

In addition to all this, it was a great way for students to work with their new tutor group, building on new and existing friendships, whilst also spending time with their tutors and the skilled Bushcraft camp leaders. It was brilliant to see students working collaboratively as a team during group activities but also develop their self-confidence as individuals. The Bushcraft Company camp leaders commented on how 'respectful' Dixie students were and how much they enjoyed working with 'one of the best schools this year'.



All of the students were a credit to their parents and to themselves, a big thank you to Year 7 and the staff that attended for helping make this year's event such a success. There was special recognition for following students who were nominated by staff and camp leaders on the trip;

Luca Kurpil – A future tribe leader; Savannah Bentley-Showell – A camp leader in training; Kianna Naik and Callum Keenan – Bushcraft buddies; Sophia Stobie, Will Fay, Ellie-Mae Oakley and Toby Wayte - Bushcraft Superstars.

Here is a link to this year's [Bushcraft celebration video](#) should you wish to see what the students got up to.





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Rotary and  
German  
Exchange

## Rotary Young Chef

Thirty-one students competed for just six places in the local round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition. Entrants were asked to create/design and cook a batch of six scones. The choice of actual recipe was down to student preference, they could adapt and add to an existing recipe to make their scones individual.

The scones were very creative and some of the more memorable efforts included: sundried tomato served with humus, chocolate orange and lemon scones.

Mrs Hannaghan, Head of HE reports that the enthusiasm of the contestants was "amazing"!

The 6 winners who go through to the local round on 16th November, at which they will have to serve a 2-course meal that is healthy, judged by Rotary members are:

Joel Shaller, Henry Davies, Savannah Reid, William Taylor, Angel Leel and Will Fay.

Their winning entries are shown below. Huge congratulations to them and well done to all entrants for having the courage to take part and commitment to see the challenge through.

Winning scone pictures



## German Exchange

"After running an exchange for almost 20 years in my previous school, it was as nerve wracking for me as it was for the students this time around... meeting new people, doing new things, visiting new places. However, the staff and students of Jade Gymnasium couldn't have made us feel any more welcome. The welcome banners and cheers and "Kaffee und Kuchen" that were waiting for us on the Saturday when we arrived got us off to a great start.

The week was full of different visits and lessons in school and of course there was the all important football match, which ended in a draw, though the England players claimed the victory due to goal difference. Some amazing performances across both sides, though a special mention has to go to George Zavalis for his 4 goals, Luca Trevor for his fancy footwork, Bailey Baker for his very well timed and well executed goal and Lawson Ashfield for some excellent goalkeeping.







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## German Exchange

Saying farewell was a lot harder for some than they ever imagined. Tears were flowing but for the right reasons. Life long friendships have been made and the Dixie - Jade Exchange continues to thrive. I am so, so proud of all of the students that took part this year. It takes real commitment, bravery and resilience to take part in an exchange and our students did not let us down. I also need to say a huge thank you to Mrs Cormack for her videographic skills, Mr Gold for his Computer expertise and Mr MacQueen for his refereeing and navigational skills. I couldn't have asked for better company.

We are now all looking forward to the return visit in Sept/Oct 2024!" Mrs Till

"I had a very positive experience on the German exchange. I was matched up very well with my partner and we got along very well, his family were very welcoming. The activities were organised well and were fun. German school was very different to English school but I quite liked it and I enjoyed the change in culture and scenery." Sam Giles

"I really enjoyed the German exchange and I'm so happy I took the opportunity to do it. It has been one of the best experiences and my partner is honestly one of the kindest, funniest people I've met. I mostly enjoyed it when we went to the Kramermarkt and when we all got together for an evening and danced to different German and English songs. Not only was I able to learn better German and meet new people I spoke to different people that go to our school that I never would have spoken to before, but because of the exchange I got to know other people that turned out to be really nice. Although it was scary at first I'm super glad I did it because I have made some unforgettable memories and met some great people." Ava Butwell



"The German Exchange was the best trip I've ever been on. I was quite nervous leading up to it, including on the way and meeting with the family. Although, once I met the family and got settled and used to my new surroundings, I really started to make the most of the trip and find the positives within it. I loved the way there was a communication system between the students and the staff included on the trip. Although I did get homesick, it passed quickly so I'd still recommend it to anyone!" Jess Rafelt







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## German Exchange Open Morning

News @ The Dixie October 2023

"We had a great time, it was a bit awkward at first but once we got to our partner's houses we had a great time and we miss it already... Mrs Till paired us up so well... we would definitely recommend you do the exchange, as we had an amazing time! Our partners really helped us to become more confident." **Grace King and Mollie Sampey**

"I never thought I would be able to do anything like this on my own. But in the end, it was a really amazing experience and I really hope it carries on.

It was a very good experience and although it was difficult and challenging, It was so much better than I thought it would be. There was so much to do and it was practically impossible to be bored." **Emily Astle**



A report of **Open Day, 7th October 2023** by Sophie Penrose (Lower Sixth)

On Saturday, our visitors arrived in the hall to talented pianists, singers and flautists organised by Miss Mason before beginning their tour. My first tour was a Year Eleven student, Rosie, interested in studying Psychology, Religious Studies and English Literature in the Sixth Form next year, so we first set off to see Mrs Hillier in RS and Miss Johnson in Psychology, joined by Upper Sixth Psychology student Josh Mottram. We discussed course content, international trips and future career paths, after which Rosie's parents remarked on how impressed they were with the staff they had met. We then talked about Sixth Form life and the opportunities offered to Sixth Formers at Dixie, namely examples of Enrichment activities, the Peer Mentor Scheme and the Subject Leaders Award. We finished the tour in the hall whilst diversity prefect, Frankie Humber, was playing the flute, where we spoke to Mr Dixon about studying English Literature. My second tour was with Year Five student Louis. Louis' favourite subjects are PE, especially athletics and swimming, and Science, so naturally Louis particularly enjoyed visiting the Biology dissections of the kidneys, eyes and heart. This was led by Sixth Form Biology students Maya Richichi and Maddox Richardson, who delivered detailed and interesting demonstrations. Excitement continued in Chemistry where Louis completed flame tests and a rainbow density column. Around school, students greeted Rosie, Louis and their families with outstanding respect: smiling, standing to one side and saying hello as we met them. This was clearly noticed by our visitors. Overall, a resounding success for the Dixie Grammar School. We look forward to seeing some of these new faces again in September!





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## Open Morning Parents' Evenings

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**Open Morning** was, once again, a huge success thanks largely to the efforts of your sons and daughters. Thank you to all the students who supported this important event and to parents for facilitating this support. In assembly this week I thanked the students and reflected my conviction that supporting events like Open Morning actually benefits students greatly. It takes huge commitment, resilience and sometimes real courage to give up a Saturday morning to support staff in departments or to act as tour guides to our visitors but the sense of pride at being involved in such a key school occasion is a reward in itself. I know the students prefer their edible reward but I remain convinced that one day they will look back and realise that it was through occasions such as Open Morning they acquired the confidence needed to converse with strangers, the sense of team that comes with pulling off a successful day. They will one day appreciate that there is as much to be gained from giving to a community as there is from being supported by that community. Our second Open Morning of the year will take place on 27 April 2024.

Catrina Young



Our first **Parents' evenings** of the academic year have started— this year we are trialling for some year groups in the Senior section a mix of online and face to face appointments. We know this flexibility is most convenient for our families —staff are showing plenty of commitment, resilience and courage in making this work!





## Facilities

### A snapshot of individual achievement



August was National Hair Loss Awareness month. Having not cut his hair since 2020, Joseph Fish was able to donate a whopping half-metre length of hair to The Little Princess Trust. [Joseph is very close to his £700 target](#)— please donate if you can!



Following selection for and competition at an FIA training camp in Italy over the summer, Bella Fairclough has been crowned as one of the four fastest female kart drivers in the world. Huge congratulations to Bella. (2nd from R)



Preston Cropp (of BGT fame!) starred in a leading role in 'The Book Thief' which played throughout September and October at The Curve. Preston enjoyed a wonderful 6 weeks in London rehearsing with the cast and creative team. Several colleagues had the privilege of seeing Preston perform live.



Lydia Graves, Head Girl, has won a national technology competition. To take part, contestants had to devise an idea for how technology can be used to improve schools and education. The awards ceremony took place at Abbey Road Studios in London at which Lydia received her impressive trophy along with media training from a TV presenter.





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## Facilities



The transformation in the senior servery over the summer was spectacular. Work planned for the half term break alongside regular maintenance and servicing includes a new security fence for the front lawn at the Junior School, which will allow pupils to play on this area during the school day. The improvement in catering infrastructure will be accompanied by a new range of themed days after half term in both Junior and Senior.





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## Facilities

### Photographic competition 2023



#### Dixie Values

Respect  
Resilience  
Courage  
Commitment  
Care

Deadline: Monday 11th December

All students, parents, guardians, staff and governors are welcome to submit photographs for the Dixie Photographic Competition 2023.

Email entries to:

[mcgranaghank@dixie.org.uk](mailto:mcgranaghank@dixie.org.uk)

There will be a winner for each category and all winning photographs will be made into a Dixie Values montage which will be displayed prominently in school.

The judges' decisions are final!



We are very proud of our Sixth form organisers and the school's response to the Hinckley foodbank assembly and subsequent collection this week. The warehouse manager has informed us that we donated 303.3kg which equates to a value of £718.82 and about 680 meals. Thank you!

Additional donations received on the last day of half term will be collected during half term.





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## Equestri- anism

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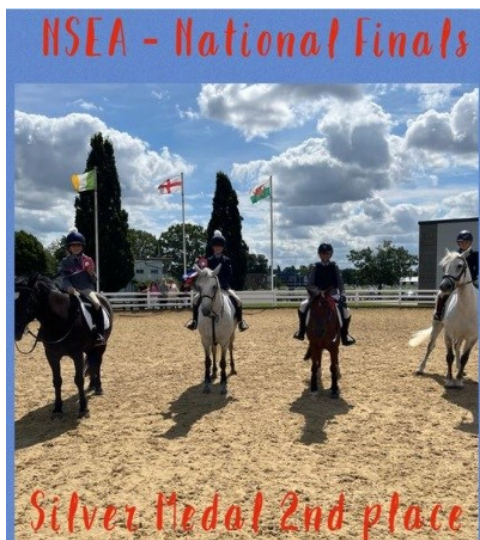
Following our incredible equestrian success on the National stage in the summer, our equestrian superstars have gone from strength to strength and the Dixie is in an enviable position in the national league. Regular news about our success is posted to our media channels. Huge congratulations to our pupils, thanks to their parents and of course our team coach, Suki.



British Showjumping  
National Champions 🏆



NSEA 90cm Team 💙



Silver Medal 2nd place





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## Music



It has been a busy start to the new school year in the Senior Music Department and wonderful to have over 120 pupils settled and enjoying instrumental lessons throughout the week. We are in full swing preparing for 'The most wonderful time of the year' with Orchestra and Dixie Voices rehearsing a variety of festive pieces ready for the festive season. It has been fabulous to see some of our new Year 6 pupils getting fully involved in the extra curricular opportunities on offer. 'A Touch of Christmas' will return for a second year on December 14th after last year's huge success and we look forward to seeing all those who wish to be involved after half term.

### New Parents' Social Evening

We were delighted to welcome into school parents of those pupils new to Year 6 and Year 7 this year. Our Sixth Formers set the tone for this social evening, greeting our guests and providing a wonderful musical backdrop as they had the chance to chat with their child's form tutor. Pupils had drawn pictures of their parents to act as place settings and our in-house catering team served up superb samples of main courses and desserts from the school menu to keep parents fuelled as they puzzled their way through quiz questions inspired by our Lower School curriculum. With prizes, great food and great company, this evening proved a real success once more and is a popular feature on our school calendar.







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## Alumni

News @ The Dixie October 2023

Chloe Vinestock (former pupil and a 4th year medical student who is on GP training placement) came in to school on 3rd October to run mock interviews with potential 6th form medical students (we have 7 in this year's Upper Sixth hoping to study a combination of Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Medicine) to help them gain up to date experience. It was a wonderful opportunity to use Chloe's experience and take advantage of her modern (ever evolving) medical training, and the question and answer session was very insightful for our budding medics as they prepare for university testing, some of which is over half term.

In return I had the following email from Chloe: "Hi Mr Lynn, it was great to come back to the school and see you today, I really enjoyed coming back. I spoke to 7 students today and I was **really impressed** with how they performed under pressure, despite my tough questioning!! They are all very **capable, intelligent and compassionate** individuals and I know they will find success in the future, whatever it holds for them. I hope that today gave them an extra boost of confidence so they can succeed in their interviews, and I have passed on that if the students would like to contact me with further questions they are free to do so.

I really enjoy that Dixie has such a **strong culture of inviting pupils to return**, and I felt really welcomed by all. If I am needed in future years I am always happy to come back and **give back some of the time that was invested in me when I was a student, which has certainly stood me in such good stead so far**. Feel free to contact me at any point."

### Governance

Dear Parents and Friends of the Dixie Grammar School

We are pleased to welcome two new governors to our Board, Katy McKintyre and Jonathan Marsh. I would like to thank Ian Smith for serving as Vice Chair for over four years and for his continued support as Chair of Finance, Facilities and People Committee. The Board welcomes Mark Ashfield, a governor since 2016 as Vice Chair. Please do have a look at the website for more details about governance.

Three governors, Ian Smith, Lisa Pittwood and Sarah Kennedy, formed the working party who led the Teachers Pensions Scheme consultation. This was concluded during the Summer with our exit finalised in August with staff now enrolled in the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools scheme. Staff appreciated the briefings governors provided as well as the individual consultations available to them. Our Staff are our key asset and worth our investment as individuals and a professional body. Best wishes for a fabulous school year.

Jo Fenton Parkes, Chair of Governors

**OCTOBER DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS\***

TUES 17th / WED 18th / THURS 19th  
TUES 24th / WED 25th / THURS 26th

Mornings (9.30-12.00) - all ages  
Full days (9.30-3.00pm) - Y4 and above

TO REGISTER EMAIL:  
IAMFootballUK@yahoo.co.uk  
\* Split by age/ability

Led by Ex Pro/Manager and  
UEFA 'A' / Level 4 Coach  
ANDY MORRELL

**www.IAMFootballUK.co.uk**

**MARKET BOSWORTH SPORTS CLUB**  
WELLSBOROUGH ROAD, CV13 6PD  
£15 per morning / £40 for 3 mornings  
£28 per full day / £75 for 3 full days

**www.IAMFootballUK.co.uk**

I have enjoyed hearing about pupils' plans for the holiday— from Centre Parcs, Tenerife, revision and everything in-between. Whatever your plans, I wish you a restful time away from the school routine!

With my best wishes,

*Richard Lynn*