

A message from our Principal



Mrs J Whitworth
Principal

Dear families,

As we approach the end of our penultimate half-term, I find myself reflecting on the journey we have been on together. We have worked hard to induct our staff and students into our wonderful new building while continuing to deliver an outstanding curriculum. Alongside this, we have created many opportunities for students to get involved and to support their personal development.

Next half-term, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate and apply what they have learnt through our Cycle Assessments. With your continued support, we know that all of our hard-working pupils will be able to showcase the effort they have put in this year.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

NEWSLETTER

22 May 2026

Issue #11

Mandarin

Subject overview

Year 7: Building Strong Foundations

Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their Mandarin learning journey this term by focusing on the foundations of the Chinese character writing system. Lessons have introduced students to the building blocks of written Chinese, including basic strokes, correct stroke order, common radicals, and how Chinese characters are structured. This foundational knowledge is essential in helping students understand how characters are formed and supports long-term success in reading and writing Mandarin.

Students have approached this new learning with enthusiasm and curiosity. Many have commented on how interesting and different Mandarin is compared to other languages. Through careful modelling and regular practice, students are developing confidence and accuracy in their writing.

As the only school in Wythenshawe to offer Mandarin, we are proud to give our students the opportunity to learn this fascinating and globally significant language.

Year 8: Talking about Hobbies and Building Confidence

Year 8 students have been developing their Mandarin language skills through the topic of 'Hobbies', where they learn how to talk about sports and leisure activities in a meaningful and practical way. This unit enables students to describe what activities they enjoy, express likes and dislikes, and say what they can and cannot do using clear sentence structures.

Students are also learning how to talk about when they do different activities by using days of the week and time phrases. As their confidence grows, they are beginning to apply different time frames, allowing them to talk about activities they do now, have done before, and plan to do in the future. This helps students communicate more fully and naturally in Mandarin.

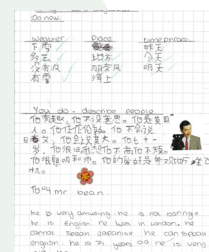
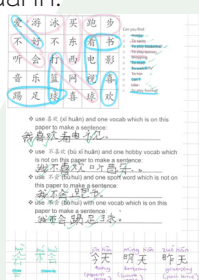
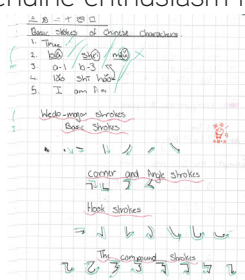
It has been fantastic to see Year 8 students growing in confidence across all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through regular practice, teacher modelling, and interactive activities, students are becoming more accurate and confident in expressing their ideas.

Year 9: Extending Writing Skills Through 'All About Me'

Year 9 students have been making excellent progress in Mandarin through the Jinbu 2 topic 'All About Me', where they are developing more sophisticated language skills and beginning to write with greater confidence and accuracy. In this unit, students learn how to describe people's appearance using verb-adjectives, describe their bedrooms using prepositions, and express their ideas clearly using a wider range of sentence structures.

Students are also being challenged to use different time frames, make comparisons, and give personal opinions, while linking ideas together with connective words to form more complex sentences. These skills are essential in helping students move beyond simple sentences and begin writing extended pieces in Mandarin.

It has been wonderful to see this hardworking group rise to the challenge. Many students are already demonstrating writing skills that align closely with GCSE-level expectations, showing resilience, ambition, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning Mandarin.

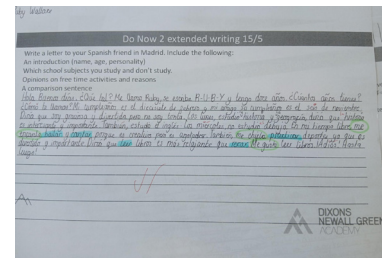


Spanish

Subject overview

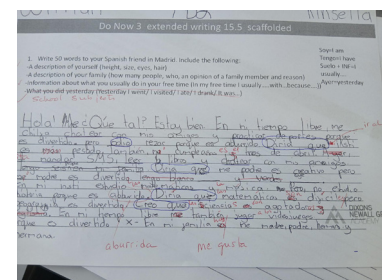
Year 7

In year 7 we have been talking about our free time activities, giving opinions and reasons and learning how to use complex phrases to compare activities so that our Spanish really stands out. We are working hard to build up our writing resilience including completing extended writing tasks without any support. It is amazing to see how far students have come in less than a year!



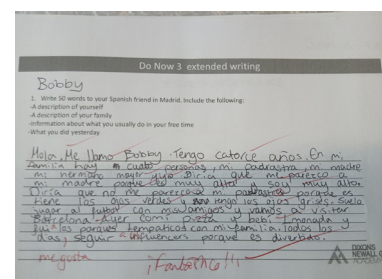
Year 8

In year 8 we have been describing our favourite celebrations and have just started talking about recent celebrations using past tense. We are looking forward to looking at typical Spanish fiestas and traditions in more detail after our Cycle 3 assessments.



Year 9

In year 9 we are revisiting describing ourselves and our families, but building on this now with more complex, GCSE style language. Our year 9 students have been completing timed, independent writing tasks using past, present and future to get them ready for our cycle 3 assessments. They have also completed fantastic written pieces as part of their mastery homeworks.



Extra-curricular activities

to enrich our students' experiences

Timetable

We now have over 14 amazing clubs up and running and Dixons Newall Green Academy! With such a wide range of clubs on offer, there is something for everyone.

	3.15-4.15pm	Electives Thursday
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club• Chess Club• Geography Film Club (Y9 WK B)• Spanish Cooking• Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careers Launchpad• Debate• Science in the Media• Chinese Culture• Pasaporte a Espana• Drama• El come Espanol• Strength & Conidtioning• Dodgeball• Board Games• Warhammer
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club• Choir• Library Team• Open Art Studio• Football/ Gym Fitness (All Years)	
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club• Girls Netball• Media Cubs• Year 7/8 Football	
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework Club	

Free Breakfast Club – every morning from 7:50am, open to all students!

Enjoy a warm start to the day with free breakfast options - Fridays feature bacon, sausage, and vegetarian sandwiches.

Celebrating our students through focus and dedication



Sparx Science Stars

A huge congratulations to the following students for achieving the highest XP totals in Science over the past two weeks. Their consistent effort, commitment, and positive attitude towards revision have really stood out as they prepare for the Cycle 3 assessments. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 7 – Ruby W

Year 8 – Shiyon S

Year 9 – Taylor D

Sparx Reader Stars

Well done to the following students who have been recognised for their excellent engagement with Sparx Reader this half term. Through consistently high completion and a willingness to challenge themselves with additional reading, they have demonstrated a real commitment to developing their literacy and independent learning habits.

Year 7 – Ruby W

Year 8 – Ella D

Year 9 – Taylor D

Sparx Maths Stars

Well done to the following students for earning the most XP points in maths in the last two weeks. These students have shown hard work and integrity in ensuring they are keeping on top of their Maths revision in preparation for Cycle3 assessments!

Year 7: Niranjan VKN

Year 8: Kayden B

Year 9: Taylor D

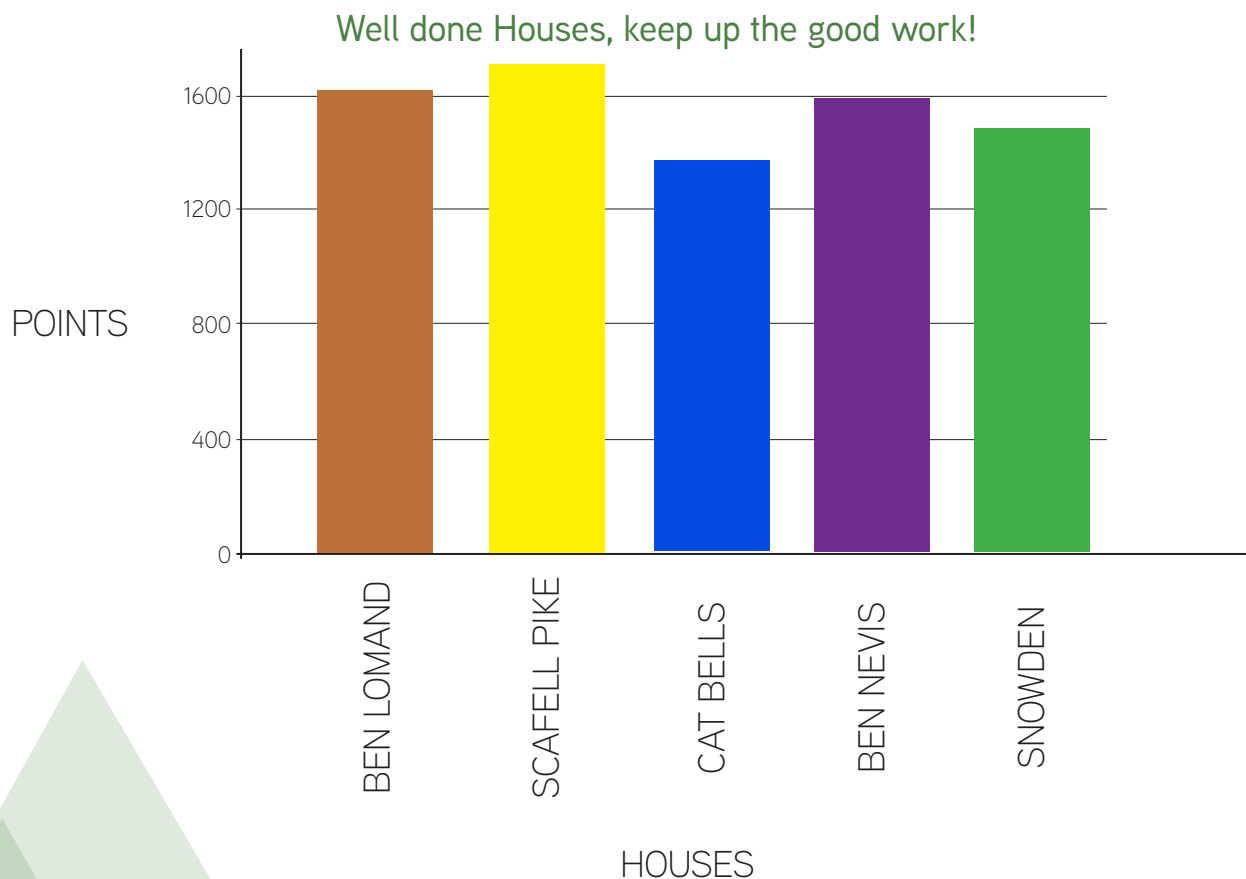


House points leaderboard

Who is in the lead?

Coming up to the summer, Scaffell Pike are still in the lead! Their attendance has been superb. This is a major factor propelling them forwards. Can they be stopped?

Second and third places are still up for grabs, it's very close as we enter the home straight. Make sure that you attend school every day to maximise the chances of your house picking up silver or bronze.



Head of Year Champions...

Year 7 Isabella R

Growing in confidence and has been making a massive effort to participate in lessons!

Year 8 Harmony W

For showing hard work in preparation for her cycle 3 assessments. Harmony has continued to try new revision techniques at home so that she can prepare for her upcoming assessments and continually progress.

Year 9 Sian O'T

Consistently hardworking and a positive character around school. Well done!

Attendance

For this half term there will be weekly advisory competitions in each year group...

The advisory with the highest attendance that week in each year group will win a ice lolly Fridays Robust Reading session!

Who's in the lead so far this academic year?

7SP	8SP	9SP & 9SD
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Attendance in HT 5

In Half Term 5 we are focusing on the positive correlation between high school attendance and better wellbeing and mental health.

-Attending school promotes student wellbeing as it helps students build positive relationships with peers and trusted adults. This supports emotional development and resilience.

Resilience is something that will be really important during your child's Cycle 3 Assessments

-Students who will achieve highly will have attended as many lessons as possible before the assessments

-They will have had the resilience to attend school every day and pick themselves up when needed

For the next 3 weeks, all students who are in the academy every day that week will go into a prize draw for a £50 'Restaurant Favourite' gift voucher

-Well done to PJ A and Olivia S!

-During the Cycle 3 assessments, all students who attend school every day from Monday 1st June to Friday 26th June, will be invited to take part in a recognition session. This will include a session on a giant inflatable and also ice cream!

The advisory with the highest attendance that week will be recognised with ice lolly Fridays Robust Reading session. Well done to 8BL and 8SP, and 9SD and 7CB who have won so far!

On Friday all students who have 100% attendance between Monday and Friday will be entered into

Attendance letters

Each family should have now received a personalised attendance letter through the post which highlights your child's attendance and what this means in terms of your child's likelihood of successful GCSE results.

During Cycle 2 assessments this year, 100% of our top 10 students making the most progress had attendance above 93%, with the vast majority of these students having attendance above 95%.

We'd love for all students to demonstrate excellent, regular attendance, every day and especially in the run up to the Cycle 3 exams. This is imperative so that they can do as well as possible in their assessments. Students have worked so hard this academic year, and they deserve to be successful.

How can you help your child to attend school regularly?

1. How to make sure they are rested and getting enough sleep
2. How to set themselves up for success with a great morning routine
3. What to do if they feel worried about anything
4. Why every student at DNG is important
5. Why high attendance at school opens more doors in your future

Remember:

1. 97%+ = On track
2. 95% = Risk of falling behind
3. Below 90% = Serious concern

If your child is worried about school, please contact us early - we're here to help.



At Dixons Newall Green, Year 8 are taking part in a charity programme called First Give. First Give is a competition where each advisory chooses a local charity and does social action to support them, with the hopes of winning £1000 for the charity.

My advisory, Ben Lomond, has chosen Wythenshawe SafeSpots, which is a charity that helps women who are experiencing domestic abuse.

For our social action, we want to raise awareness about opening Wythenshawe Police Station 24 hours a day. This would mean women and girls could have some where to go for help whenever they need it, not just at certain times, such as when the SafeSpots centre is open.

We would really appreciate it if you could scan the QR code and sign the petition to support women and girls in Wythenshawe and help them have a safe place to go.

Written by Eloise B 8BL



Year 7 Stretch Speech Final

Today saw nine outstanding Year 7 finalists take to the stage to deliver their Stretch speeches, the culmination of 13 weeks of preparation. Every student in Year 7 has been working on a speech around the theme of 'Personal', crafting and performing something meaningful to them within their advisory groups before finalists were selected.

In the lead-up to the final, students were coached by Year 9s – all former Stretch finalists themselves – before delivering their powerful speeches in front of the entire Year 7 cohort.

The standard was exceptionally high, making the judges' decision incredibly difficult. We are delighted to announce that this year we had joint winners: Leo M (Cat Bells) and Robin M (Ben Nevis).

All finalists were exceptional: Ralph, Ava-Rae, Ethan, Ruby, Louis, Zach and Micky impressed both the audience and judges with their confidence, honesty and skill. Each student was recognised with a Love2Shop voucher in celebration of their achievement.

We were also pleased to welcome a guest judge, Amy from First Give, the charity organisation supporting our Year 8 students in their current fundraising work for local community causes. They were joined by our Year 9 coaches and Miss O'Hara on the judging panel.

A huge well done to all involved – a truly inspiring showcase of student voice and courage.

Learning Habit Reminders

At Dixons Newall Green, we want students to develop the habits that will serve them well in the future. They are used to support students with the day-to-day practicalities of school life such as attendance, organisation, homework and behaviour in lessons.

Our learning habits are as follows:

Uniform: We will insist on perfect uniform: not nearly perfect but perfect. We expect all students to be wear their uniforms neatly and with pride, full details of which can be found here: [Dixons Newall Green Academy | Uniform](#)

Homework: Students are expected to complete all homework set, on time and to a good standard.

On-task: We insist on focused learning in the classroom to ensure that learning is maximised for all students. We expect students to calmly transition between lessons so we have a safe and orderly school.

Punctual: All students should attend school and classes on time, every time.

Equipment: Students should arrive to lessons with the right equipment, so that no learning time is interrupted. Students do this without carrying bags, this reduces wasted time packing and unpacking at the start and end of each lesson.

Positive Response: We believe in genuine mutual respect.

Assessment Information

Our students have been busy getting ready for the Trust wide Cycle 3 assessments which begin straight after half term. These assessments allow us to measure student attainment over the course of the year and identify any gaps in knowledge. In turn this enables us to celebrate and recognise student success, and plan how we can close gaps with students next year, supporting them to climb their mountain.

All students have received an overview of when each exam is, and which knowledge they need to revise. In addition, they have had support sessions on developing revision strategies delivered by advisors. These sessions, along with other key information can be found on our website under assessment.

Attendance during the assessment period is very important. Your child might not be able to complete the assessment on another day if they are not in school. As a further incentive, any student who attends school every day from Monday 1 June until Friday 26 June will be invited to our End of Cycle 3 Assessment Party with inflatables and ice cream. This will take place on Friday 26 June.

End of year reports will be sent out to families during our final week of term.

What has been happening recently..

House Competitions

Last week's house competition put numeracy in the spotlight with a fun and fast-paced Fizz Buzz challenge. Students worked brilliantly in their teams, showing great communication, collaboration and support for one another throughout. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and teamwork on display.

A special well done to Cat Bells, who were this week's winners which is an excellent achievement!

Student Leadership – British Values Presentations

Our Student Leadership Team recently demonstrated fantastic confidence and maturity by leading presentations for their year groups on the importance of British Values. They clearly explained what these values represent and thoughtfully explored how they link to everyday school life, as well as their relevance for students' futures beyond school.

We are incredibly proud of the team for speaking so confidently in front of their peers and for showing such strong leadership. Well done to all involved for representing our school values so positively!

Careers Exploration Session – Year 9

A cohort of Year 9 students recently took part in a focused careers session centred on exploring their individual interests and future aspirations. During the session, students investigated a range of potential career pathways, researching routes into different industries and considering the qualifications and experiences required. The session was supported by our external partner, End to End, who guided students in making meaningful connections between their interests now and their future opportunities. This was a valuable step in helping students begin to shape their career journeys with confidence.

Careers Workshop - Department for Work and Pensions

We want students to feel safe on the corridors and their transition to be calm and purposeful. This is why we insist on natural state. Natural state allows a student to take a moment for themselves and walk sensibly to the next lesson. When they arrive, they enter with the right mindset to learn.

Over the coming weeks, we will be prioritising these transitions so that our standards remain as high as ever and so we can support our most vulnerable students who might be sensitive to noise. We are really grateful for your support.

Homework

Well done to our students who continue to impress us each week with their hard work and commitment to mastery by completing all homework. We continue to recognise this through weekly advisory prizes, weekly Sparx Superheroes and of course our weekly Homework Heroes. With Cycle 3 assessments starting after half term, completion of homework is more important than ever. A special mention must go again to our year 9 students who have produced fantastic pieces of work in their extended mastery homework booklets. We are very excited to see how this will support their Cycle 3 assessment results this year!

Equipment at Dixons Newall Green

It is essential that students arrive at school each day with the equipment needed for their lessons to maximise time for learning. If students are missing a piece of equipment, we will support them by providing it free of charge if they let us know before 8.10am. If students are missing equipment after this time, their advisor will log an equipment correction and support them with identifying how to ensure this does not happen again the following day.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child has the correct equipment each day.

Equipment list:

- Pencil case
- Black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Whiteboard pen
- Ruler
- Planner
- Morning meeting booklet
- Knowledge organiser
- Homework booklet
- Lanyard with locker key and name badge
- Plastic A3 or A4 tuff bag

Upcoming dates for your diary

Date	Year group	Description
All week	All Years	House Competitions
Thursday 04/06	Year 8	Vaccine Catch up session
Friday 05/06	Year 9	Manchester College presentation