

## A message from our principal



**Mrs J Whitworth**  
**Principal**

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back. We hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

The previous term was an exceptionally busy one, filled with trips, visits, and a wide range of enriching opportunities for our students. As we begin this new term, we are very much looking forward to another exciting and purposeful period of learning.

This term, we will continue to place a strong focus on our core values of hard work, integrity, and kindness. These values underpin everything we do as a school and play a vital role in supporting students to thrive both academically and personally.

Alongside this, we will be working closely with families to ensure that all students are attending school every day and arriving on time. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential in helping students make consistent progress, build positive routines, and feel fully part of school life. A shared commitment between school and home in this area will have a very positive impact on student outcomes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the term ahead.

# NEWSLETTER

20 January 2026

Issue #5

# Celebrating our students through their achievements

On January 13 our Rowing teams entered their first ever rowing competition. The Dixons cup Rowing Competition, and I'm proud to announce some fantastic results:

- **Year 7 Boys** - Dixons Cup Champions
- **Year 8 Boys** - Dixons Cup Champions
- **Year 8 Girls** - 2nd place in Dixons Cup
- **Year 9 Boys** - Dixons Cup Champions
- **Year 9 Girls** - On the verge of becoming champions (unfortunately, the rowing machine snapped in the final minutes, preventing us from completing the race).

These achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our students.



**Year 7 Boys team -  
Egehan, Hansline, Kobe  
and Aston**



**Year 8 Boys team -  
Zack, Liam, Kye and  
Nafiz**



**Year 9 Boys team -  
Seb, Riley, Sheriff and  
Taylor**



# Celebrating our students through their creativity

## Stretch Project: Supporting Students to Aim High

At Dixons Newall Green, every Year 7 student is taking part in an exciting Stretch Project designed to build the skills they need for success—whether that’s university or a real alternative in the future.

This cycle, students have chosen a ‘big question’ on a topic that is personal to them that and will prepare a Stretch Speech to share their findings with others. This project encourages students to:

- Research independently and think critically
- Manage their time and resources effectively
- Meet deadlines and present their ideas confidently

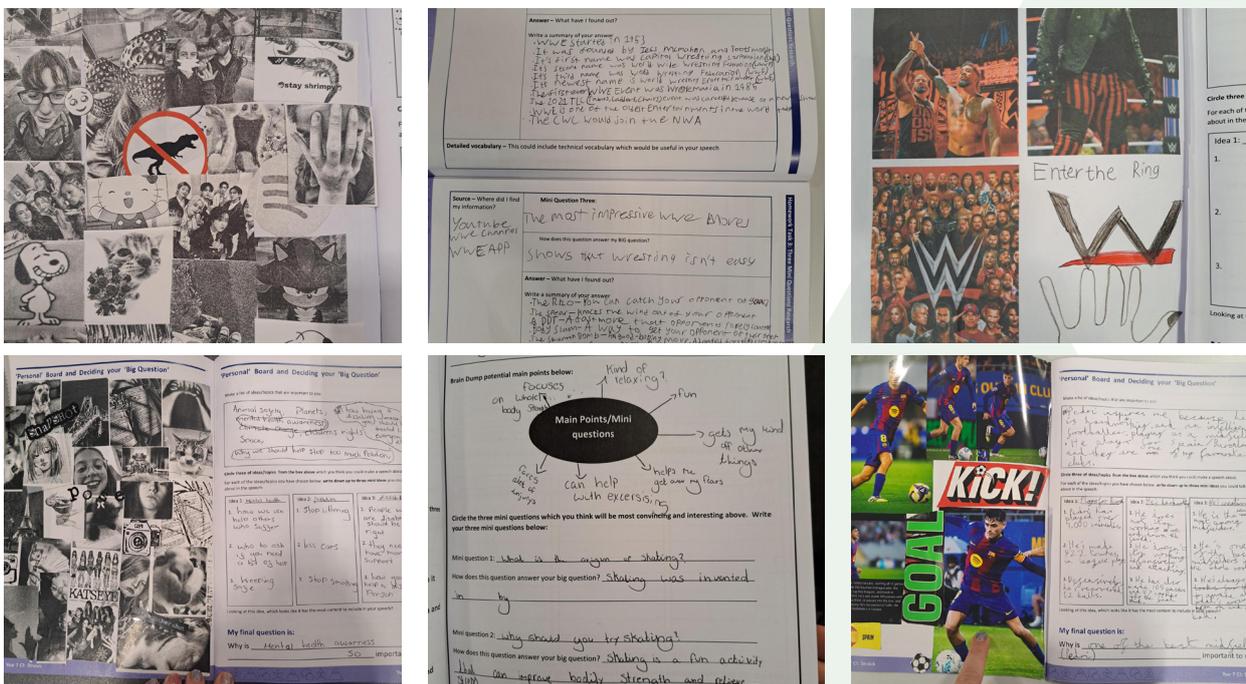
The Stretch Project is all about developing curiosity, resilience, and independence—qualities that reflect our school values of **Hard Work**, **Integrity** and **Kindness**. These values guide students as they climb their mountain and develop skills outside of the usual curriculum areas.

## How Parents Can Support at Home

- **Show interest:** Ask your child about the question they’ve chosen and what they’ve discovered so far.
- **Encourage practice:** Offer to listen to sections of their speech as they draft and rehearse.
- **Help with organisation:** Remind them of deadlines and check they have the resources they need.

If your child has any questions about Stretch, they can contact **Ms Mullen** (hmullen@dixonsng.com), **Ms Cobb** (acobb@dixonsng.com) or speak to their advisor.

Over the past three weeks, we’ve seen some incredible work, and in this newsletter we’ll spotlight examples of excellence from our Year 7 students:



# Celebrating our curriculum through skills in Drama

Year 7 are now exploring the topic Staging the Media. Media drama explores storytelling through multiple platforms—film, television, and live performance. Students will learn how narratives are shaped, how audiences engage, and how technology influences the art of drama.



Year 8 drama students are exploring the chilling worlds of Horror and Thriller, inspired by the revolutionary ideas of Antonin Artaud and his Theatre of Cruelty. Artaud believed theatre should shock, provoke, and deeply engage the senses—perfect for creating suspenseful and immersive performances.



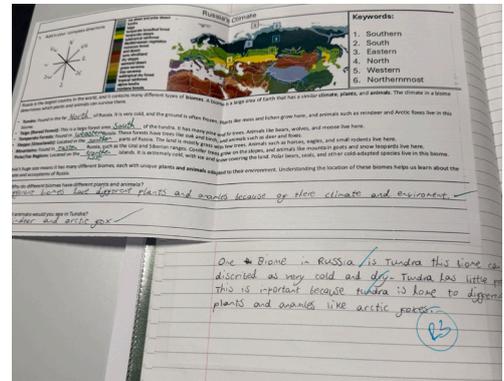
Year 9 have been exploring the exciting world of Commedia dell'Arte, a traditional Italian theatre style known for its colourful characters, masks, and physical comedy. Students have learned about the history of Commedia, developed exaggerated character walks and voices, and experimented with improvisation techniques.



# Celebrating our students through geography

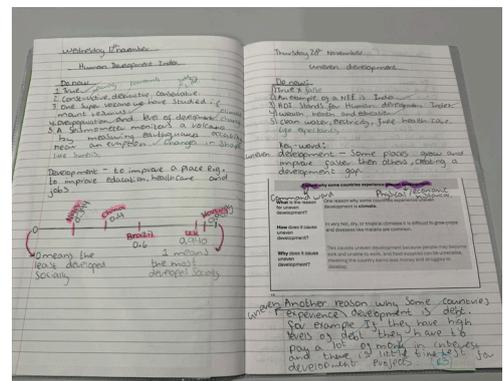
## Year 7

Year 7 students have been exploring the fascinating topic of hot deserts. They have learned about the key characteristics of desert environments and the challenges they present. As part of this unit, pupils have also examined desertification, using Sudan as a case study to understand the causes, impacts and possible solutions. This has helped students develop a strong awareness of how physical geography and human activity are closely linked.



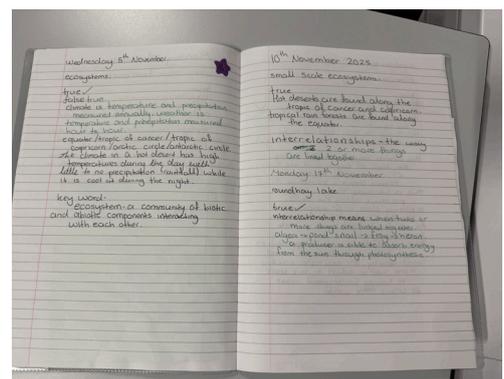
## Year 8

Year 8 are making excellent progress in their studies of development in India. They have been developing their understanding of how countries change over time by exploring the Demographic Transition Model and analysing population pyramids. Through this work, students are gaining valuable insights into population growth, age structure and the social and economic challenges faced by developing and emerging economies.



## Year 9

Year 9 students have been learning about the UK's resources and how they are managed. As part of this unit, they have studied a detailed case study on agribusiness in the UK, examining modern farming methods, food production and sustainability. This topic encourages students to think critically about resource management and the balance between meeting demand and protecting the environment.



# 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. Get involved and reap the benefits of being involved in clubs!

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

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



## Celebrating Sparx Reader Success!

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We're thrilled to recognise the top-performing classes in Sparx Reader so far this year! These students have shown incredible commitment to reading regularly and completing their targets. Their hard work and enthusiasm for reading are helping them build vocabulary, comprehension, and a lifelong love of books.

The top classes have been awarded based on overall class completion rate since September 2025.

**1st: 9a/En1 2nd: 8b/En2 3rd: 9b/En1**

## Celebrating Sparx Science Success!

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This week, we're excited to celebrate the highest-achieving classes in Sparx Science. These students have demonstrated outstanding dedication to consistent study and meeting their home-learning goals. Their determination and curiosity are strengthening their scientific vocabulary, deepening their understanding of key concepts, and nurturing a lasting passion for science.

The top classes have been awarded based on overall class completion rate since September 2025.

**1st: 7a1 2nd: 8b2 3rd: 8b1**

## Celebrating Sparx Maths Success!

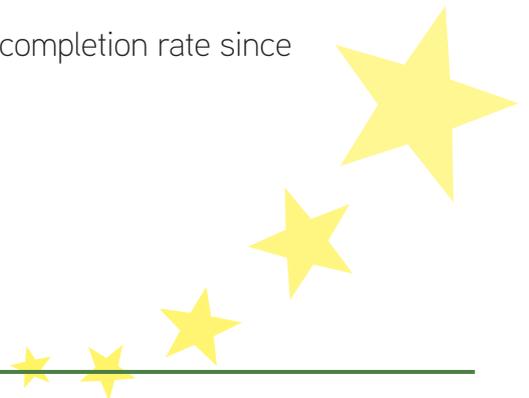
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This week, we're proud to celebrate the highest-achieving classes in Sparx Maths — students who truly live out our Dixons Newall Green values of hard work, integrity, and kindness.

Their dedication to completing their weekly practice shows real hard work: pushing through challenges, staying focused, and giving their best effort every step of the way. Their commitment to meeting their home-learning goals with honesty and genuine effort reflects true integrity, taking ownership of their progress and striving to improve. And their encouragement of one another — celebrating successes, offering support, and lifting each other up — demonstrates the kindness that strengthens our community.

The top classes have been awarded based on the overall class completion rate since September 2025.

**1st: 7a1 2nd: 9b1 3rd: 9a**

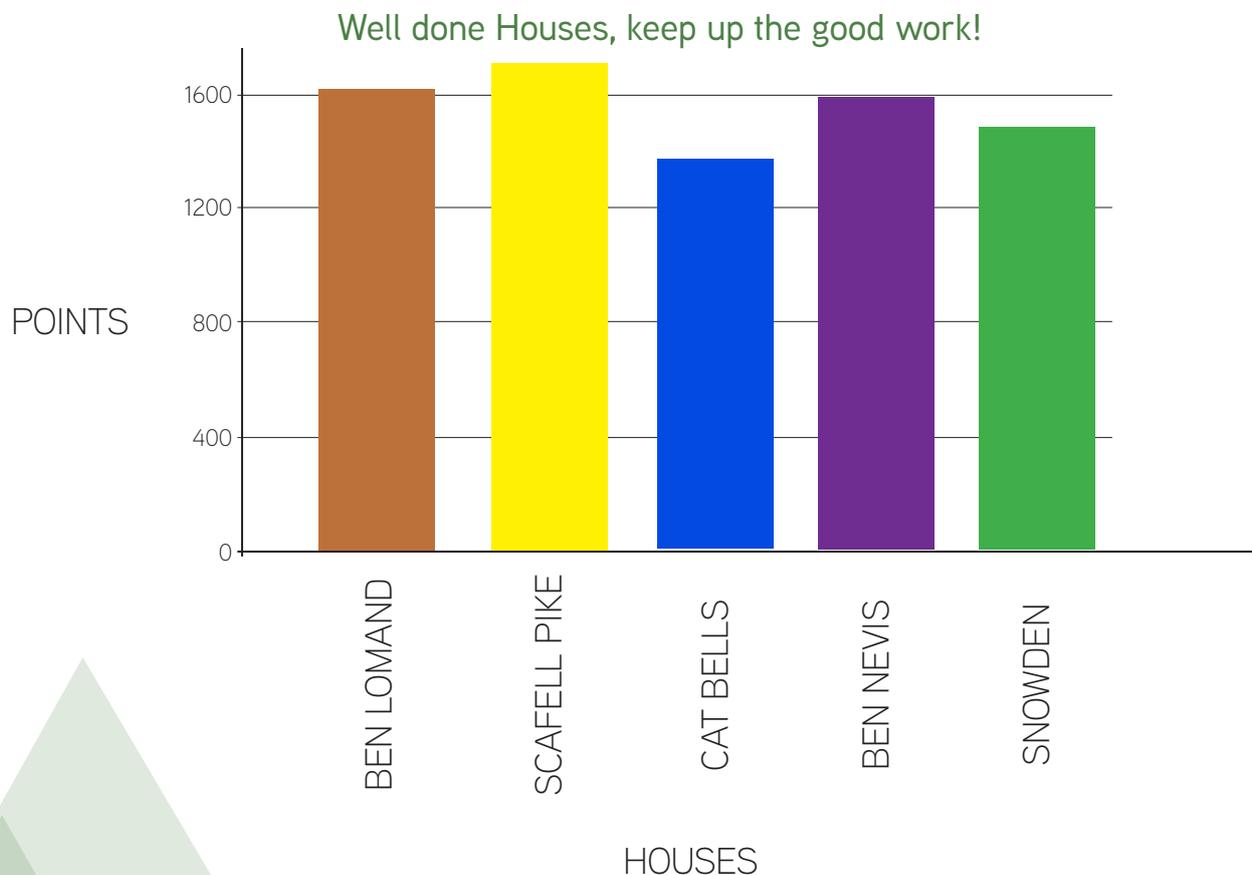


# House points leaderboard

## Who is in the lead?

Our houses are named after the mountains of the United Kingdom. House Scafell Pike are still in the lead in 2026!

House Points are awarded for high levels of attendance, punctuality, golden tickets, and appreciations. More points are added for the lowest number of corrections. Every individual plays their part and contributes to their house, so make sure that you play yours!



### Head of Year Champions...

#### **Year 7** **Kaitlyn N-K**

Kaitlyn works incredibly hard in every lesson, shows kindness to everyone around her, and is always the first student to support others or offer to help out.

#### **Year 8** **Alyssa M**

For always showing our values of hard work in every lesson.

#### **Year 9** **Aaliya H**

Because she consistently demonstrates our school values of hard work, integrity and kindness. She is a great student and a role model for others.

# Attendance

A HUGE shout out to 8SD who are still leading on attendance for Half Term 3! Well done to 8SD for working as a team and showing up to be successful! You've also managed to beat 8BL so far, who were the champions last half term.

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

7SP	8BL	9SP
94.7%	95.5%	93.9%

## How can you help your child to stay well enough to attend school? Here are the top 5 ways for parents to help.

- 1. Maintain a consistent sleep routine:** Make sure children go to bed and wake up at the same time each day so they get enough rest for their age.
- 2. Provide balanced, regular meals:** Nutritious meals—especially breakfast—help boost energy, concentration, and immunity. We have a free breakfast club every day and free fruit at breakfast club, break and lunch time.
- 3. Encourage good hygiene habits:** Regular handwashing, brushing teeth, and bathing reduce the spread of illness.
- 4. Ensure regular physical activity and fresh air:** Daily exercise strengthens the body and supports overall physical and mental well-being.
- 5. Prepare school items the night before:** Laying out clothes and packing bags ahead of time reduces morning stress, helping children start the day calm and ready for school.

## Health and attendance update

1. While we are aware that winter bugs may have affected your household this half term, children are statistically less likely to fall poorly from January into the spring months.
2. Last week attendance rose by an impressive amount. We are so pleased that sickness rates have fallen, however, if you are in any doubt as to whether your child is well enough for school please do follow this link. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

## What are we doing next half term to improve attendance?

1. On a Wednesday mornings, breakfast club at 7:50am will have American style pancakes! Well done to Y7 who petitioned to Mr Ashcroft to make this happen! These are free for all students.
2. On a Friday mornings, breakfast club at 7:50am will have a selection of hot food available, for free, for all students including bacon and halal sausage sandwiches and hash browns.
3. On a Friday we will also have sausage rolls at break time, free for all students.
4. We look forward to our attendance on a Friday being just as good, if not better, than the other days of the week!
5. The 1% Challenge was launched on Monday and has been running all week! Students invited to take part in this initiative will be challenged to attend every to increase their attendance by 1% in two weeks! While 1% doesn't sound like a lot, it could mean that each student is 30% more likely to achieve 5 excellent grades at GCSE.
6. 97% of the 80 students taking part have 100% this week. Well done.
7. The week commencing 26.01.26 will be Attendance Focus week.
8. We'll be sharing information about the importance of high attendance in Morning Meeting and will have a prize draw at the end of the week for students with 100% attendance that week.
9. Regular high attendance is imperative in the run up to Cycle 2 assessments.
10. Students who are present at school have less gaps in their knowledge and will have taken part in revision sessions.

# What's on?

## Kickboxing Intervention: Building Confidence and Resilience

We're excited to share that some of our students have started a new kickboxing classes this week. This programme is already proving to be a fantastic way to support physical fitness, mental wellbeing, and personal development.

So far, students have been learning the fundamentals of kickboxing, including discipline, focus, and respect for others. Beyond the physical benefits, kickboxing will help students build confidence, manage stress, and develop perseverance, skills that will serve them well both inside and outside the classroom.

We are excited to see how our students continue to grow and develop through this opportunity!



## Theatre Trips in December

Bringing Stories to Life: Theatre Trips

Our students have recently enjoyed incredible theatre experiences that bring learning beyond the classroom! They attended *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at The Lowry, immersing themselves in the magical world of Narnia and exploring themes of courage, friendship, and imagination.

In addition, students had the chance to see *Shaun the Sheep Live*, which combined humour, creativity, and stagecraft in a way that delighted everyone. These trips are not only fun but also help students connect literature and storytelling to real-world performances, building cultural awareness and sparking a love for the arts.

We are excited to continue offering these enriching opportunities for our students!



## Laser Quest

To recognise students with excellent attendance and attitude to learning, at the end of the Christmas Term, we were thrilled to be able to provide them with an opportunity to let off some steam in battling each other in laser quest! Students were fully enthralled in team tactics and game play, really getting into character and having a blast to celebrate their successes across the half term.



## Chess Championship

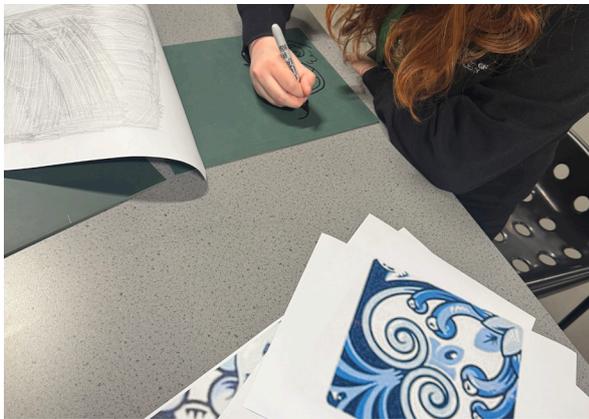
On Tuesday 16 December 2025 Dixons Newall Green held its first ever Chess Championship. 16 of our most dedicated players, with a range of experience, competed against 8 students from St Anne's High School in Stockport in a knock out competition. Daniel in Year 8 did particularly well - and was narrowly defeated by the top player from St Anne's. Saim then went on to be our first ever Dixons Newall Green Chess Champion. The students conducted themselves brilliantly and we hope to take part in more chess tournaments soon!



# Elective Spotlight

## Open Art Studio

In Art elective, students have been developing their own tile inspired designs, taking inspiration from street art and traditional azulejo patterns. They have carefully planned and refined their ideas, focusing on symmetry, detail, and composition. Students are now ready to experiment with lino cutting, where they will translate their drawings into printing plates and explore how repeat patterns can be built through printing. This exciting stage encourages creativity, precision, and hands on making as designs are brought to life through print.int.



## DNG Bake Off Elective – Whisking Up Success!

The DNG Bake Off elective has given our Year 8 students a deliciously creative opportunity to develop key culinary and collaborative skills. From measuring ingredients to mastering baking techniques, pupils have whisked, stirred, and baked their way through a variety of sweet challenges.

So far, the menu has included soft, gooey cinnamon rolls with perfectly swirled layers, classic golden flapjacks packed with chewy goodness, and oat jam bars bursting with fruity flavour. These bakes have tested precision, patience, and teamwork—and the results have been nothing short of delicious!

A highlight of the elective has been the emphasis on presentation and peer feedback, with students taking pride in their finished dishes and offering constructive comments to help each other improve. This has fostered a warm and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and inspired.



# Homework

After a well-deserved 2 week break, students have returned and had to re-establish their routines so that homework is completed on time. Please find below a few helpful tips that have been shared with students this week:

- Plan the work then work the plan-don't leave it to chance. Commit to when you will get the homework done.
- Do homework the day it is set when possible.
- Use homework club-available and staffed every day until 4.10 in the IT room.
- If you have other commitments, then use your time at the weekend.
- Don't suffer in silence-use the support available. You will find this in your planners, knowledge organisers, or email your teacher. We are here to help.

Homework, when done effectively, can add 5 months of additional progress over 5 years. That is like having another 5 months to prepare for your GCSEs. Establishing those learning habits now will set all students on the path to success.

## 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
<b>Thursday 22/01</b>	Year 9	Options Evening
<b>Tuesday 27/01</b>	Year 9	IAG Y9 Virtual
<b>Wednesday 28/01</b>	All Years	Manchester City vs Galatasaray
<b>Thursday 29/01</b>	Y9 Girls	Dixons Newall Green Girls vs Chorlton High