

A message from our principal



Mrs J Whitworth
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Last week, we were delighted to host our first careers drop-down day for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 – a fantastic opportunity for our young people to pause their usual timetable and focus on future pathways and aspirations. Throughout the day, students took part in a wide range of engaging careers-related workshops designed to broaden their understanding of the world of work and the many routes available to them. These sessions encouraged students to think ambitiously, ask thoughtful questions and begin to reflect on how their interests and strengths may link to future careers.

A particular highlight of the day was our first ever Careers Fair. This was an exciting milestone for the school and provided students with the chance to meet employers, training providers and further education representatives face to face. The enthusiasm shown by our students as they engaged in conversations, listened carefully and sought advice was truly impressive.

I would like to commend all students involved for the excellent way they conducted themselves throughout the day. They were polite, respectful and highly engaged, making both staff and visitors extremely proud. Many of our external partners commented positively on the maturity and curiosity shown by our students.

Events like this play a vital role in helping students make informed decisions about their futures, and this successful Careers Drop Down Day has laid strong foundations for further careers education across the school. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to provide meaningful opportunities that inspire and prepare our students for life beyond the classroom.

NEWSLETTER

4 February 2026

Issue #6

Careers and Aspirations Day

On 22 January, Dixons Newall Green held its first drop-down day, where the usual timetable was collapsed to allow students to take part in a rich programme of sessions designed to broaden their personal development and future thinking.

Year 7 – Future You

Year 7 students engaged in a variety of sessions focused on imagining and preparing for their future selves. Activities included:

- Scratch coding and digital skills
- GCHQ-themed code-breaking
- Creating a time capsule letter to their 2030 selves
- Exploring machine learning and artificial intelligence



Year 8 – Global Careers

Year 8 explored the theme of global opportunities and the power of languages. Highlights included:

- A Mandarin session exploring the language's global importance
- A guest lecture from Dr Neal, who spoke about how Mandarin can shape future career pathways
- A highly engaging workshop from an ecologist, introducing students to living organisms and their environments
- Oracy-based sessions such as role-play and exploring how languages can be applied in real-world careers



Year 9 – Exploring Pathways

Year 9 students took part in a carousel of subjects they may not have encountered before, opening their eyes to new possibilities. These included:

- Health and Social Care
- Travel and Tourism
- Hospitality and Catering
- Creative subjects including arts and drama, exploring their different components

Across all year groups, students demonstrated maturity, curiosity, and exceptional engagement. They were a credit to the school and embraced the opportunity to learn beyond the traditional classroom.



Year 7

Drop Down Day: Future You

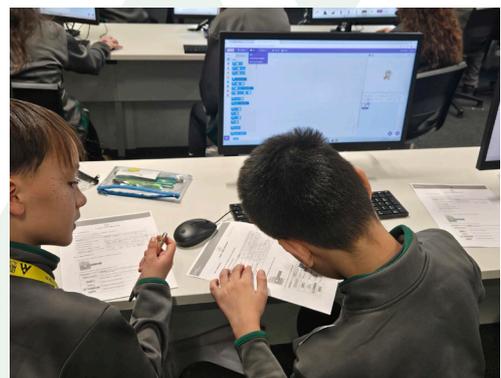
Year 7 students have sealed a little piece of their present into the future by writing heartfelt letters to their Year 11 selves, ready to be opened just before their exams. Each time-capsule letter captures their hopes, dreams, and ambitions, creating a magical moment of reflection waiting four years down the line.



Students recently took part in an engaging session exploring artificial intelligence and machine learning. They began by looking at the many ways AI already plays a role in daily life, from online recommendations to smart home devices. This led into a thoughtful activity where they ranked how comfortable they would feel trusting AI with different tasks, such as choosing a birthday gift or preparing a meal. To build on this, students then explored how machine learning works in practice. Using an online tool, they created quick sketches while an AI attempted to guess what they were drawing, offering an insightful look at how these systems learn and improve.



Students threw themselves into their first scratch coding lesson with fantastic energy and creativity. After learning the basics, they quickly began designing their own vibrant sprites by adding movement, personality and flair to their projects. It was amazing to see how confidently they experimented with code blocks to bring their characters to life. The room buzzed with excitement as students shared their animated creations, showing real imagination and skill. A brilliant start to their coding journey.



Year 8

Drop Down Day: Global Careers

Our Year 8 students shone this week as they explored global communication through a series of engaging, real-world tasks linked to our theme of Global Careers. They learned how communication styles shift across cultures and professions, then put this into practice by adapting messages for international audiences and taking part in lively role-plays, from professional introductions to interview-style conversations. Students approached the challenge with real maturity and enthusiasm, developing the confidence and adaptability that are essential in today's interconnected world.



Year 8 had a fantastic day finding out about global careers and opportunities available to them, especially relevant given Manchester Airport is one of the largest local employers! As part of the day we discussed the importance of learning languages and students were challenged to produce a poster promoting language learning. It was so difficult to choose but the winner was Izabella K in year 8. Well done!



Our Year 8 students took part in an engaging session on Accent and Dialect, exploring how the way we speak is shaped by region, culture, and identity. Students began by identifying accents from across the UK and discussing what dialect really means. Using examples such as Geordie, Scouse, and Manchester dialects, they explored how local language influences who we are and how others see us. They then practised speaking in different dialects and reflected on accentism — the unfair stereotypes people face based on the way they speak. The session helped students celebrate the diversity of spoken English while recognising the importance of respecting all voices in a modern, global society. .



Year 9

Drop Down Day: Option Tasters

Our Year 9 students showed exceptional creativity and focus during their recent GCSE Art and Design taster session. Inspired by the mixed media and monoprinting processes used by artist Emanuel Ologeanu, students experimented confidently with layered collage backgrounds, ink techniques, and expressive mark making. They engaged thoughtfully with artist examples, and produced impressive early outcomes that showed their artistic potential.



Our Year 9 students had an inspiring introduction to GCSE Drama this week as they took part in a dynamic taster session designed to showcase the full breadth of the course. Students explored the key components of GCSE Drama, gaining a clear understanding of the differences between devising original work and performing from a script, as well as the analytical skills needed to evaluate both their own work and the work of others.



Students explored a range of career pathways linked to Health and Social Care, including education, psychology, and care as well as a range of jobs within the NHS. They were also introduced to human lifespan and development where they applied their learning to a case study examining the positive and negative impacts on an individual, similar to how they would be assessed in Y10.



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
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• Squad Football Training	
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



English Stars!

Y7 Corey G demonstrates our school values in every single lesson in English. He has been working hard to understand different perspectives on the character of The Tempest and explain his opinions through clear evidence.

Y8 Olly H has risen to the challenge of assessment preparation for his Cycle 2 assessment on Romeo and Juliet. He has applied his skills to challenging language and is able to articulate Shakespeare's intentions brilliantly.

Y9 Jonny has shown dedication to improving his written responses in English while studying Purple Hibiscus. He has attended extra lessons to support his learning and engaged thoughtfully, considered what he finds challenging, responded to feedback and improved his work.

Science Stars!

Y7 Mia-Faith J For always working her hardest in every lesson, she also consistently shows the value of integrity by completing her homework on time and being polite and helpful around the classroom.

Y8 Kaden P For succeeding in improving his science mini-assessment scores. Kaden has been working hard outside of school by doing extra revision to ensure that he is making as much progress as possible.

Y9 Lilly M For showing fantastic technical skills in her recent required practical lessons. Lilly has a real drive to expand her knowledge ensuring she is setting herself up to achieve great things in her GCSEs.

Maths Stars!

A huge well-done to our fantastic group of Y9 students who successfully completed the Junior UKMT Maths Challenge on Wednesday 28th January! These pupils showed outstanding dedication, choosing to prepare in their own time and pushing themselves to tackle complex and creative mathematical problems.

Their commitment, resilience and enthusiasm really shone through, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. They have set a brilliant example for our younger mathematicians, and we look forward to supporting our Y7 and Y8 students as they take on the challenge in the future.

Congratulations to all involved—you've represented the school wonderfully!

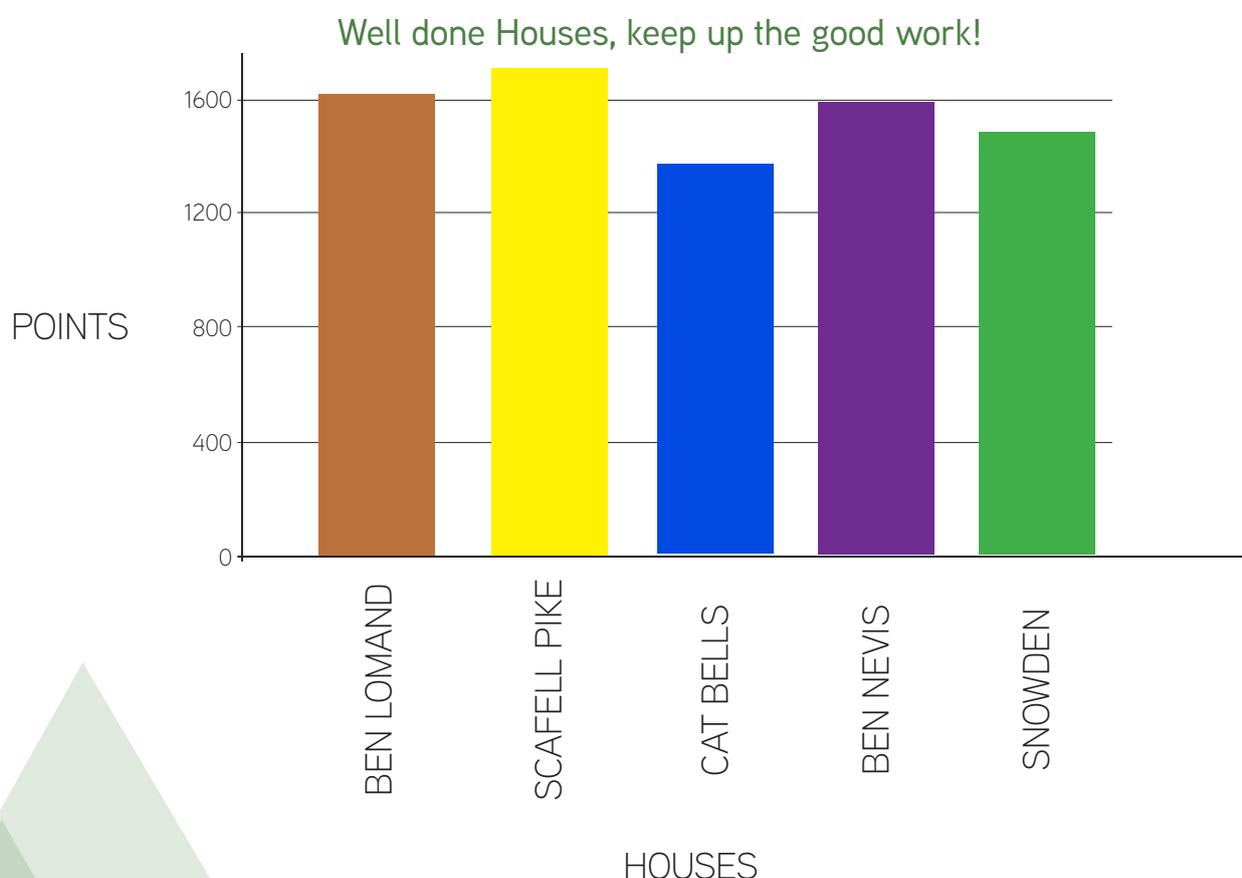


House points leaderboard

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 Destiny R

Always showing our value of integrity and putting 100% effort into everything she does.

Year 8 Yaw B

Consistently showing integrity and kindness every day

Year 9 Nico T

Because he shows integrity and hard work in everything he does.

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%

Attendance focus week W/C 26.01.26, Cycle 2 assessment week 02.02.26

1. Last week and this week, we're encouraging all students to be in school every day.
2. Good attendance at school is essential and is directly linked to improved exam performance and better job prospects.
3. Cycle 2 assessments will begin in the week beginning 02.02.26
4. Students who are in school each day will feel more confident and fully prepared.

To celebrate high attendance, there will be:

1. Daily attendance prizes for advisories with 100% attendance
2. A daily prize draw for all students in school that day
3. Attendance activities throughout the week
4. On Friday all students who have 100% attendance between Monday and Friday will be entered into a prize draw for a Tesco gift voucher.

Well done to everyone who successfully completed the 1% Challenge

We hope that you enjoy wearing your pin badge as a reminder that a small change can have a huge impact!

Year 9 Options Evening – Thank You for Joining Us!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Year 9 Options Evening last week. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout from families, and we are delighted with the level of engagement, thoughtful questions, and genuine excitement from students as they begin planning the next stage of their learning journey.

The event offered students the opportunity to explore the full range of GCSE and vocational subjects available for Key Stage 4. Our teaching and pastoral teams were impressed by the maturity shown by students as they discussed:

- Course content and expectations
- Assessment styles
- Where different subjects can lead
- How subject choices connect to future ambitions

We hope the conversations held on the night have helped students feel more informed and confident as they begin finalising their preferences.

Thank you to those who attended the main presentation delivered by Miss Lowe, Mrs Al-hermezi and our core leads. During this session, we outlined:

- The structure of the Key Stage 4 curriculum
- The options process and timelines
- How to support students with their decision-making
- The importance of selecting a balanced, ambitious curriculum

The online Options MS Form will be emailed on:
[2 February]

The deadline for submitting choices is:
[6 February]

We encourage families to talk through the chosen subjects together at home, considering strengths, interests, and long-term goals.



Elective Spotlight

Mandarin Elective: Exploring Chinese Culture Through Games and Crafts

Our Mandarin elective students have been fully immersed in Chinese culture this term through a range of hands-on, creative activities. Recently, students enjoyed learning to play Chinese chess, one of China's most traditional and strategic board games. They embraced the challenge, developing problem-solving skills and learning the Chinese characters used on each chess piece.

In addition to this, students took part in a lantern-making workshop, exploring the cultural symbolism of lanterns in Chinese festivals. They designed and created their own colourful paper lanterns, showing great creativity and enthusiasm.

The session was a wonderful opportunity for students to deepen their cultural understanding while having fun and working collaboratively. We are incredibly proud of their engagement and the vibrant atmosphere they created during the activities.



Spanish Cooking After-School Club Serves Up Culture and Creativity!

Our Spanish Cooking After-School Club has been buzzing with energy this term as students combine their Food Technology skills with a taste of Spanish language and culture. Led by our enthusiastic team, pupils have explored traditional recipes while picking up Spanish food vocabulary and phrases along the way—turning every session into a fun, hands-on cultural adventure!

Students began with something sweet: galletas de canela (cinnamon cookies). These aromatic treats filled the room with warm spices and gave learners the chance to practise key Spanish baking terms such as harina (flour) and azúcar (sugar). Next came the beautifully light and zesty Spanish lemon cake, or bizcocho de limón, which helped pupils develop precision in measuring and whisking techniques.

The club also moved into savoury territory with two iconic Spanish dishes. First up was patatas bravas, Spain's beloved crispy potatoes served with a smoky, tangy tomato sauce. Students mastered knife skills and seasoning while learning about the dish's origins in Madrid. Finally, they tackled the classic tortilla española—a traditional Spanish omelette made with eggs, potatoes, and onions. This dish encouraged teamwork, careful timing, and a bit of valor when flipping the pan!



Homework

Our students continue to work hard completing homework, knowing how important this will be to them succeeding in their Cycle 2 assessments starting Monday 2 February. Along with our weekly Homework Heroes, and Sparx Superheroes, we have also launched a Sparx Maths Reward Card. Each week when students complete the Sparx Maths homework they get a star signed by their advisor. If they have all 5 stars signed by February half term they will receive a special recognition!!



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
Wednesday 04/02	All Years	Manchester City vs Newcastle
Thursday 05/02	Year 8	(Home) vs Dixons Trinity
Friday 06/02	Year 9	Option form deadline
Wednesday 11/02	Year 9	Catch up for DTP/ACWY Vaccine Y9 students