

26 April 2024

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and would like to take the opportunity to wish all of our families well as we approach the end of this half term. I have a couple of updates and some news items to go through with you all for clarity and communication for the rest of this half term.

### **Students lead the way**

Our students continue to demonstrate our values of hard work, integrity and being fair by being inclusive role models. From supporting other students during the academy day at a time of need, to handing in lost property and showing the strength of their character by doing the right thing in the community when at times others have forgotten how to behave, we are so proud of them. Greeting them on the gates as they come to school happy each day is a real pleasure and it was very rewarding for our team to hear such positivity from families at the recent Y9 and Y8 parents' evenings. Thank you, parents, and carers.

### **Exam Arrangements - Y11/Y13**

We are rapidly approaching the start of GCSE and A level exam main season. All students are expected to attend daily mastery classes so that they can hone their skills for each paper. Attendance is more important now than ever. A subject specialist has been made available to go through each paper for each exam prior to the start. A prompt arrival is crucial, in for the whistle at 8:17am if not attending a morning mastery session. Late arrival after the exam has meant that the students cannot enter the exam hall.

### **Dixons Broadgreen Community Hub**

We are putting the work in to open a Community Hub on the academy site so that we can support our community more effectively. We appreciate all the uniform donations we have had so far and want to do so much more for our families. This will include a food bank, clothes bank, parental workshops, NHS sessions, asylum support and DWP advice. More information will follow on this soon.

### **MCAS App Reminder**

Please ensure that we have an up-to-date copy of your email address and that you have downloaded the app My Child At School. All correspondence is now done via the app. All reports are issued via the app. Support can be given to set it up by contacting the academy. All reports will continue to be sent out this way in the new year together with any free school meal vouchers.

### **Attendance**

In secondary school, 19 days' absence throughout the school year correlates, on average, to a grade at GCSE in all subjects. 97% attendance is the Academy's expectation, but we are striving for 100% every day. Students under 90% are classed as persistent absentees by the Government and, if all attempts to improve attendance has failed, the case will be sent to the Local Education Authority. They will then investigate the case and potentially prosecute parents for non-attendance at school; this can involve large fines. It is ultimately the parents' responsibility to ensure their child attends school. We know that the students who attend 90%+ of the time outperformed national expectations in their GCSE's last year so we need your children in school every day, in every lesson.

### **6th Form Applications are still open**

Applications to the 6th form are still open, thank you to those of you who have already applied to stay with us in your journey to University or a real life equivalent. We want to keep hold of as many of our students as we can because we care for them and want to push them during their final mountain climb. In the last academic year 96% of our Y13 students got to their destination of choice which is something we are very proud of. We have a variety of different routes to offer every student.

### **Extra Curricular Events and Trips**

There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities taking place at the end of the school day, please speak to your child about attending them. This is an offer that is being constantly developed after feedback from students. We would like all students to participate in after school clubs and are looking at factoring it into the end of the school day for everyone next year.

### **Please follow our news updates on our Twitter site @dixons\_ba**

You will see all the photos and events updates on there.



### Upcoming Events this half term

Year 7 Parents Evening - Thursday 2 May

Bank Holiday - Monday 6 May

DBA6 Leadership Campaign begins - Thursday 9 May

End of Term - Friday 24 May

Start of new term - Monday 3 June

Thank you for your ongoing support with our expectations, particularly the homework which we have paused for some year groups so that we can re-teach it. It is making a huge difference to mastery knowledge and shows in their class work when done correctly. You are sending your children to school fully equipped for the day, with their homework and ready to learn, it makes a huge difference to their progress.

For our part, we will continue in our endeavour to get better every day and to enjoy every moment of it.

Wishing you and your families well.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Fidler

Principal

Dixons Academies Trust

