

20 December 2023

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 during the festive period. I have a couple of updates and some news items to go through with you all for clarity and communication as we approach the end of term.

End of term arrangements

The final day of term is Friday 22 December. Students will have lunch, spend some time with their Advisors who have requested to say goodbye to them before the Christmas break, and be dismissed from 1:30 onwards. Corrections will continue to take place.

Friday 22 December arrangements

Gates open at 8am

Students can wear their own clothing, they have been told this during DEAR time

Christmas Showcase - students will get the opportunity to see their peers performing in the Christmas Showcase that was put on in the community last week. Due to restricted tickets in the loaned space, we have opened this up in school.

Lunch and dismissal from 13:30

New term arrangements

The academy re-opens on Monday 8 January at 8am. If your child is participating in the trip, please send them to school in their PE kit. If not, full uniform must be worn. The uniform and equipment shop will open as normal at 8am to support any child who needs it and free breakfast will be available in the canteen from 8am onwards.

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 open

Applications to the 6th form are now 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. Letters for the ski trip that will be running in February 2025 have gone out and places are available for current Y12 and Y11 students. 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. Monday January 8 will see an attendance recognition event taking place, parents have been emailed letters and invited students have been given a copy to take home.

Please follow our news updates on our Twitter site @dixons_ba

You will see all the photos and events updates including trips to the Orchestra, Greek Myths at the museum, Shiverpool, MacBeth live performance and workshop with Ralph Fiennes which took place here at the academy, LFC project work, PE match updates, Timetable rockstar winners and much more.



New school coach route

We have made some amendments to the school coach route so that more of our students can be included. Mr Lamb is issuing bus coach passes for this route and sending letters out to parents. Students on the school coach will no longer require a weekly bus pass.

I would like to finish by saying how proud I am of our students, they are working hard every day, showing integrity inside and outside school and being fair and respectful to each other. Our recent student survey showed us that our students are happy and feel safe. They also commented that they like the high expectations in lesson because it means that everyone can learn.

I am also tremendously proud of our staff who work hard every day for our community. Many of us this year have taken the decision to buy vouchers for our families rather than swap Christmas gifts which is a testament to the ongoing commitment to our community and our mission. They will be delivered over the course of the next two days along with the hampers that we have had donated from local businesses including LFC. We do our best every day to look after our community, if you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or telephone.

Thank you for your ongoing support with our expectations, particularly the homework we set which we know is making a huge difference to mastery knowledge. 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. Thank you.

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 an enjoyable winter break.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Fidler
Principal
Dixons Academies Trust

