

7 November 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the end of our first week back after half term finds you and your families well. I have a couple of updates and some news items to go through with you all for clarity and communication.

Learning Habits – Update

We have now embedded the learning habits of uniform and equipment. The vast majority of our students come to school in full uniform with the correct bag and footwear with the right equipment. For those that don't, the uniform shop is open from 8am where we can lend or give any students shoes, ties, trousers, shirts or the correct bag. Our equipment shop is also open from 8am. All individual items are free of charge in our pupil reception area. If students have lost two or three full pencil cases by now, there will be a small charge to replenish stock. If they have no money to purchase a full pencil case, we will provide it and take their name for later payment. The rule is in place to teach them responsibility and personal organisation. The shop is open from 8am. We will never put a student in a correction who is doing the right thing.

PE Kit Update

All PE Kits are in with the uniform retailer and ready for collection. They look fantastic. It is a bespoke kit that the students asked for. It will be included in the uniform correction from Monday 8 November. I have had a few messages from parents and carers regarding financial difficulties in purchasing the kit. Please don't worry, we will support our parents, please write a note in your child's planner if support is required with the PE kit and send them with what they have been wearing so far. We will order some stock from retailers to have in school.

Learning Habit 3 - Punctuality

Our learning habit of punctuality continues this week. Students are expected to arrive on site from 8:00am and in line ups for 8:15. Hands go up at 8:17 for Morning Meeting. Corrections will be given for lateness. Thank you for your support in advance. We know that this is an essential habit for working life.

Free Breakfast

Our free breakfast offer in the Bistro from 8am continues. Students can have bagels or cereal and a drink. We have upped the order from the charity due to the high number of students arriving for breakfast in the morning.

Covid and Masks Update

Liverpool City Council have decided to bring back the compulsory wearing of masks for all students in communal areas from Monday 1 November. This means that on corridors and in morning meeting spaces our students and staff will be expected to wear their masks. Health exemptions will still apply and must go through their pastoral lead for the year group. It is true that our numbers are low yet we will support this measure to keep our families and staff body safer.

All students are encouraged to test at home twice weekly.

The latest advice can be found on <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/02/a-welcome-return-to-school-for-students-in-england/>

The advice in a nutshell is:

Test twice weekly at home

Do not attend school or college if you have coronavirus symptoms or a positive LFT– arrange a PCR test

Wear a mask on public transport

Wear a mask in communal areas, now mandatory in Liverpool.

Keep up good hygiene habits, including washing hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into a tissue or your elbow

Ask a member of staff to go to the medical room if you feel unwell

No need for self-isolation if fully vaccinated or under 18 years of age

All contacts to take a PCR test whilst continuing to attend school or college as normal

Following a positive case, all contacts will be followed up by NHS Test and Trace



Y11 and Y13 PPE Exams

The PPE Exams for Y11 and Y13 start this week. These exams will be used to reshape teaching to fill gaps in learning. Students are expected to revise for them and try their best. Parents and Carers will receive the grades for them in a report. It is worth noting that the DfE have said that exams will take place for this year group but if for any reason they are cancelled then this set and the next set could be used to inform teacher assessed grades. They are important. Please ensure that your child is revising. All students have their own revision timetable now and know how to revise.

6th form Expressions of Interest

I want as many of our students to stay with us so that we can help them climb their mountain to university or a real life equivalent as possible. It is also no surprise to learn that students who stay at their 11-19 providers have more support nationally. Our staff at DBA know your children and genuinely care for them. That was the unanimous response when asked what they liked about the school - 100% of them said, the students.

We are asking our students to complete an expression of interest for the courses that they want to study in 6th form. This will help us structure our offer and allocate teachers to it for the next academic year. This will be followed by a formal application process. More information on this to come from Mrs McKendrick, the Head of KS5.

Y11 Advisory Evening - 9 December 4 - 6pm

The Y11 Advisory Evening is scheduled for Thursday 9 December 4 - 6 pm. If your child is in Y11, please put this date in your diaries. More information on this to come.

My Sentence

We have been talking to students about their sentence, this half term will see us recording them and putting them on our website. Their sentence is their legacy, it is how they want to be remembered and it is their impact on the world around them. They can change and most probably will, but it's so important to have that focus. I have been reflecting on my sentence during this half term break and how I can be better this term than I was last half term. I will be working hard to make sure that happens.

We will continue to have these formative conversations with all our students as we support them to climb their mountain to university or a real life equivalent, thrive in a top job and live their best life.

If there is any further information you require, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Fidler
Principal
Dixons Academies Trust

