

09 January 2022

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and you have had a good start to the New Year. I have a couple of updates and some news items to go through with you all for clarity and communication.

We are currently running the school with skeleton staff and supply teachers due to the Omicron variant and have had to ask a year group to study remotely via MSTeams with live lessons following their timetable. We need all year groups in school so making that decision is a difficult one. If there is no second wave, we should have all staff back in the building and be able to teach all year groups face to face from the end of next week. All staff members and students must test twice per week to keep our community safe. I will keep you up to date with staffing.

Learning Habits – Update

We have now embedded the learning habits of uniform, equipment and punctuality. The vast majority of our students come to school in full uniform with the correct bag and footwear with the right equipment on time. 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. We have placed an order for PE Kit so that we can support with that as part of our academy uniform. 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. All students should be in line up areas by 8:15 ready for a prompt start at 8:17.

Learning Habit 4- Homework and Deadlines

Our learning habit of homework and deadlines is rolled out this week as part of the practice and warning period. Students are expected to complete all homework assigned to them as a Look Cover Write Check exercise every night based on the information in their knowledge organisers. They have all been trained how to complete this in a session with their teachers and have been given the paper in a pad to complete it on. Their homework is issued and handed in daily in Morning Meeting and students have two days' notice to complete it. Learning powerful knowledge in this way means that they are well set up to recall it in lessons and in any tests or exams. We know that students in other academies and schools tell us that they don't know how to revise. Teaching this early on gives them the technique to succeed. Corrections will be issued from Monday 17 January for not meeting homework and deadlines. I know we can all agree that in the world of work we are expected to get things done on time. This habit helps prepare them for the adult world. If you would like to support your child at home with their homework, here is a guide to Look Cover Write Check: <https://youtu.be/LLZvCymL4rU>

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 again from the charity due to the high number of students arriving for breakfast in the morning.

Y10 and Y12 Mid-Year Exams

Y10 and Y12 start their mid-year exams this week which will give teachers and students the opportunity so reshape teaching so that powerful knowledge can be embedded. Please speak to your child at home about their subjects. It is nothing to stress about, simply an opportunity to see where they are up to and how they can get better.

Y12 and Y9 Advisory Evening

The Y12 and Y9 Advisory Evenings are scheduled for Thursday 12 February and Thursday 17 February. If your child is in these year groups, please put this date in your diaries. Due to rising COVID numbers and the new variant, this event will be held remotely via SchoolCloud. More information on this to come.

Covid Guidance

The advice in a nutshell is:

- Test twice weekly at home with the LFT's being sent home with students
- Do not attend school or college if you have coronavirus symptoms or a positive LFT
- Wear a mask on public transport
- Wear a mask in communal areas and classrooms
- 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
- Following a positive case, all contacts will be followed up by NHS Test and Trace



GCSE Grade 9 Conference - D6A 30 March 2022

There is a GCSE Grade 9 Conference in our Dixons 6th Form in Bradford on 30 March 2022. We will be taking our Year 11 highest performing students in English, Maths and Science to participate in the conference. More information on this to come.

Free School Meals

We are aware that the effects of the COVID-19 virus may have reduced some household's income and we are keen to work with our families to ensure they access any additional help available to them.

Free school meals can save families over £200 per year per child and can lead to other benefits, for example an annual voucher to help towards the cost of school uniform. Furthermore, registering for free school meals will raise extra funding from central government for the academy to fund valuable support for students.

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below:

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

The academy works together with Liverpool Council to confirm entitlement to free school meals and all information provided will be kept confidential. Furthermore, our cashless payment system means that students claiming free school meals cannot be identified by others. Please click on this link to apply: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/benefits/free-school-meals/>

I know it is a turbulent time yet we strive to do our best every day and continue to support our students to achieve our mission that every student succeeded at university or a real life equivalent, thrived in a top job and lived their best life. We reinforce our values of hard work, have integrity and be fair in every interaction and we keep looking to the future.

We have to be consistent, insistent and persistent with our learning habits and our standards every day. Dixons Broadgreen Academy will, like all other academies in our Trust, be outstanding and oversubscribed. We take one more step on our journey every day. Thank you for your support at home.

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

