

16 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.

All year groups return to the academy this week. Unless there is a second wave we will remain open to all year groups on site with face to face sessions. 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**

Because fairness is one of our values, we have decided to delay the start of corrections for one more week for homework and deadlines so that Year 9 can be fully trained to meet expectations. Students will continue to receive 45 minutes of homework daily with a two-day notice period. This method helps students embed the powerful knowledge they will need to apply in a lessons and examinations.

All information can be found on our website under the homework section here: <https://www.dixonsba.com/about/homework>

### **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 continue 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

### **Year 11 Revision Retreat**

There is a Year 11 revision retreat taking place during the Easter Holidays. The revision will focus on English, Maths and Science and there will also be some sessions for health and wellbeing and team building. Letters have gone to around 80 students already who have applied for a place. 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 continually strive to be better tomorrow than we are today.

Because we want the best for our students, 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 ongoing support at home, it is fantastic to hear so many positive messages about how our values are being spoken about at home and how much your children want to succeed.

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

