

26 March 2023

Dear Families,

I hope this letter 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 as we approach our Easter break.

We have many successes to celebrate, our sports teams have represented us with pride this term across the city. The Grade 9 Conference was widely enjoyed by our Y11 students. The Rowing Teams in Y8 and Y9 are breaking down barriers with the widening participation scheme and our colleagues have worked hard to run multiple trips this term and plan more for next term to enrich the curriculum for our students.

In KS5 news, Rachel O'Shea has been offered a place at the prestigious Rambert School of Dance. Rachel is the third student in the last three years who has managed to secure a place at Rambert and it is a real reflection of the hard work and expertise of RARE Studio our 6th form partner.

Equipment and Uniform Shop

The equipment and uniform shop is open from 8am to 8:15. All items are available for purchase or loan. Please contact us if you need support with anything. We have PE kit and all equipment.

Free Breakfast 8am in the Bistro

Bagels, cereal and toast are available for free at 8am every morning.

Important Dates for your diary

Friday 31 March - end of term

Monday 17 April - Start of term. 8am opening

Thursday 20 April - Y8 Parents Evening 5-7pm

Monday 24 April - Y11 GCSE Speaking Exams - final.

Thursday 4 May- Y11 Mentoring Session 2:25 - 3:30; Y7 Parents Evening 5-7pm

Tuesday 9 May - IB Exams begin

Tuesday 16 May - GCSE Exams begin

Thursday 18 May - Y10 Parents Evening

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 will be issued via the app. Support can be given to set it up by contacting the academy.

Changes to Uniform on PE Days

Because essential learning time is being lost while students are changing, we have taken the decision to allow students to come to school in their PE Kit on the day(s) that they have PE. They must wear the following:

Full grey DBA PE Kit

Black base layers when it is cold underneath the PE Kit or branded DBA leggings, jogging bottoms and/or top (available in the uniform shops). Some sizes available for loan or purchase in the Mountain Rescue shop from Helen.

Blazer

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.

Y11 Tutoring English and Maths

If your child is in receipt of additional tutoring for English and Maths outside the school day please ensure that they are online promptly to start the session.

Visit from our CEO Luke Sparkes

Luke Sparkes visited DBA this week to do a tour and student voice. The students were asked what they liked about school, they said the following:



The environment is calmer, clearer with a lot less disruption; their teachers want what is best for them; they are better supported; they keep getting better; natural state in corridors helps them a lot due to the split school day; Look cover write check helps them with morning meeting; improved grades and that school is better now.

When asked what they wanted to improve about school, they said the following:

They would like revision booklets for all subjects; the toilets need to be opened earlier so that they are not waiting at break and lunch; PE classes should be mixed (for some sports); corrections should be given for non-completion of Educake and that they would like more dining space.

As always, we appreciate their feedback. We will do what we can.

Extra-Curricular Provision

The following clubs are running after school. Please encourage your child to attend.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths GCSE Revision	English GCSE Revision	Maths TT Rockstars	Staff CPD	English GCSE Revision
Music KS4 Support	History GCSE Revision	Science GCSE Revision		Bugsy Malone Band
Art KS4 Drop in	Geog GCSE Revision	History GCSE Revision		Italian Club
Homework Club	French GCSE Revision	Spanish GCSE Revision		Y10/Y11 Art Drop in
	Art GCSE Revision	KS4 Music Support		Tech GCSE Revision
	Business GCSE Revision	KS3 Art Club		
	Homework Club	Art Y10		
		Philosophy Club		
		R.E GCSE Revision		
		Homework Club		
Dodgeball KS3/4	Y8 Football	Girls Football	Y9 Football	Y11 Football
Y7 Football	Dance KS3/4	Table Tennis		
Y7 Badminton	Y8 Rowing Club			

Thank you for your ongoing support. We continue in our endeavour to get better every day.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Fidler

Principal

Dixons Academies Trust

