

22 May 2022

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.

Equipment and Uniform Shop

Our equipment and uniform shops open from 8am. All individual items are free of charge. 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. All uniform can be borrowed. 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

Daily attendance to school is vitally important and a big area of focus for us as an academy. Every student must attend every day to give them every opportunity of success. Please encourage your child to arrive on time. Punctuality is a very important part of holding down a job in adult life. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please use the following email: attendance@dixonsba.com to contact our attendance team. We have medically trained staff in school, if you are not sure if your child is well enough, we are happy to make that judgement in school after a visit to the medical room. We would always contact you if we thought your child needed to be at home or see a doctor.

GCSE's continue

The Y11 students have made such a strong start to their GCSE exams. Please continue to support them at home by encouraging them to revise. It is such a short time in their lives with a huge impact on their future yet we are confident that they have had a much better deal with our curriculum and systems in school for their final GCSE year. We have sessions planned before the core and EBacc exams to support revision and exam technique as we collapse the Y11 timetable where we need to. We have asked students to leave their coats at home (weather permitting) for an easier transition to the exam hall, get some rest and eat well during what can be a stressful time for them. Unless you have been contacted directly by us, your child is expected to attend daily until the final core exam on 24 June for these support sessions to help plug all knowledge gaps.

Parking on Heliers Road

I ask parents and carers not to park on Heliers Road, it is making access for residents and staff very difficult, and it is also hazardous for our students with so many moving cars. Please park on Broadgreen Road. Your child can walk the short distance to school from there to the academy gates.

Meetings are by appointment only

All meetings with parents, carers and other organisations are by appointment only as with any other professional organisation. If you leave a message with reception, the appropriate person will contact you in good time.

LCWC Homework Reset continues

We know the highest of expectations delivers the best outcomes and improves the lives of young people, so we are relentless in our work with students and work hard to provide them with the necessary information to meet and uphold our standards. Occasionally, this requires us to reset the expectations around a habit which has already been introduced by restating the purpose behind it and provide additional training to clarify the required expectations that result in outstanding academic performance. This is especially important as new habits are being introduced.

For this week, we felt it was appropriate to suspend corrections for students whose homework had been submitted yet did not meet the criteria while we worked with them to help them to get it right. Students were shown the purpose behind our homework as well as the cognitive science behind why the Look, Cover, Write, Check process helps them to learn. The staff who assess whether the homework has met the criteria also received training to ensure that there is a consistent approach across all year groups moving forward.

We analysed the quality of the homework submitted this week against the success criteria and were able to identify that for the majority of students who would have received a correction, there was one particular part of the Look, Cover, Write, Check process which was proving difficult to achieve.

In view of this, we feel that it is appropriate to continue to work with students and extend the suspension to corrections for those whose homework has been submitted. Corrections for homework and deadlines will re-commence on Tuesday 7th June following students' orientation on 6th June, when students will receive further in-depth training on this aspect of the LCWC process. To be clear, corrections will still be issued to students who do not submit any homework during this period.

We believe the homework habit encourages self-development and self-discipline. Research shows students who complete regular homework don't just perform better at school and during exams, they learn broader life skills and associate hard work with long term rewards.



As always, we thank you for your continued support. If you would like further information on the Look, Cover, Write, Check process, please go to the 'about' section of our website where you will find an example of what we will be expecting students to produce from Tuesday 7th June. Alternatively, you can contact Mr Gee, the Assistant Principal with responsibility for homework.

May Half Term

Friday 27 May sees the end of this half term. We finish at normal time and return to school on Monday 6 June with gates opening at 8am as usual. Free breakfast is still available for all students on a first come first served basis.

We are very proud of your children. There are so many of them who are getting it right every day, working hard, acting with integrity and being fair. Since we have appeared in the White Paper, we have been approached by numerous teachers who wish to visit the academy and last week those who visited remarked on the 'sea of calm' in lessons and on corridors. Thank you for your ongoing messages of support as we transform the school on our journey to outstanding. We work hard for our students and families because you deserve better.

Enjoy your week.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Fidler

Principal

Dixons Academies Trust

