

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 the end of our academic year.

End of year arrangements

The final day of the new academic year will be Tuesday 18 July. Students will have lunch, spend some time with their Advisors who have requested to say goodbye to them before the summer break, and be dismissed from 1:30 onwards. Corrections will continue to take place. Any students missing corrections will be invited in before the start of the new academic year to sit them.

New Academic Year arrangements

17 August - Y13 Results Day
24 August - Y11 Results Day and 6th Form Sign up Day
29 August - Y7 and Y12 Onboarding Sessions - 8am arrival for 8:17 start
30 August - Full school Return - 8am arrival for 8:17 start

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 are issued via the app. Support can be given to set it up by contacting the academy. All reports will continue to be sent out this way in the next academic year together with any free school meal vouchers.

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.

Changes to the school day - Academic Year 2023 - 24

There is change to the finish time of the school day in the academic year 2023 - 24. Monday - Thursday lessons will finish at 3:05 and Friday at 2.15. This is to incorporate Personal Development Studies and Careers into a fixed slot on a Thursday p1. We are excited about the opportunity to book visiting speakers and events for our students. The DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Session will be moved to the advisory slot at lunch time where that year group is not on lunch break. This will give us the opportunity to deliver more focused intervention sessions.

Respecting our local residents

We need all parents and carers to respect our local residents. This means using the one-way system when dropping off students in a morning and picking up. If you are driving up Heliers Road go through the car park, collect your child and go out through the exit gate. Do not park and wait in Heliers Road. The residents are struggling to park outside their own houses which is not in line with our value of Be Fair. If you are parked on Heliers Road, staff on duty will ask you to move your car. Parking is for residents only.

Student Leadership

Congratulations to Vishesh Gurnani who was voted into the role of Head Student. He will now build a leadership team with a focus on school improvement awarding key roles to the five candidates in the leadership race. We are excited about their assistance in transforming our academy.

Please follow our news updates on our Twitter site @dixons_ba

Thank you for your ongoing support. We continue in our endeavour to get better every day and to enjoy every moment of it. Wishing you and your families an enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Fidler
Principal
Dixons Academies Trust

