

3 October 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the start of our fifth week 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.

Learning Habit 1 – Uniform Update

We are delighted to see so many of our students in full uniform looking very smart. The number of corrections for this are now in single figures which is good to see. Just a few issues around bag sizes that simply won't fit their booklets and knowledge organisers in which are A4 in size. The uniform shop is always open, we have a good stock of bags, shoes, ties and other items for your child to avoid a morning correction. The gate opens at 8:00 and line ups for morning meeting begin at 8:17.

I must draw your attention to the shoe policy, whilst we know that last year students were permitted to wear trainers, in a Dixons Academy however, they must wear a shoe. These rules are not going to change. Examples of those are on the academy website. This is one of our expectations which I am pleased to see 99% of our students meeting. We are happy to provide shoes in any circumstances so that our students can get to 100%. We have just ordered new stock to provide free of charge for our students if they need them. Any students changing into trainers during the school day without authorisation will be issued a correction. The shoes remain on all day (except of course during a PE lesson or a lunchtime session on the MUGA when trainers must be worn).

We are aware of the delay with our Academy PE kit. It is now with retailers and we are waiting for it to be embroidered with our logo. The PE department has communicated to all students what they must wear in the interim. Black, blue or grey t-shirt and shorts or the old Broadgreen Kit. No student arrives to the academy in a PE kit or trainers, they all arrive in uniform and get changed for the lesson.

Learning Habit 2- Equipment

Students need to bring all their equipment in their pencil case every day. We are continuing with our expectations for this from now on. This learning habit is generally straight-forward, we gave all our students a pencil case with everything in it, they just need to continue to bring it daily and replenish any lost or missing items. All items are free of charge in our pupil reception area. The rule is in place to teach them responsibility and personal organisation. It is open from 8am. We will never put a student in a correction who is doing the right thing.

Learning Habit 3 - Punctuality

We will be introducing our learning habit of punctuality soon. Students are expected to arrive on site from 8:00am and in line ups for 8:15. Hands go up at 8:17 for Morning Meeting. More on this to come.

Covid Update

All students are being given a box of lateral flow tests weekly and are encouraged to test at home twice weekly. We do want to keep our school safe and always ask our site team for a deep clean if we are informed of any positive cases. We are monitoring cases and I have spoken with Public Health Liverpool who are satisfied that numbers are falling across the city and the increased ventilation and sanitation measures are sufficient.

The latest advice can be found on <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/02/a-welcome-return-to-school-for-students-in-england/>

The advice in a nutshell is:

- Test twice weekly at home
- Do not attend school or college if you have coronavirus symptoms – arrange a PCR test
- Wear a mask on public transport
- Wear a mask in communal areas if you want to (this will become mandatory again if we reach threshold)
- 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
- All contacts to take a PCR test whilst continuing to attend school or college as normal
- Following a positive case, all contacts will be followed up by NHS Test and Trace

Covid and Flu Vaccinations Programme for Children and Young People Update

The Academy has a neutral part in the vaccination programme for 12- 15-year-olds and does not arrange or administer any vaccines. We have received a link from the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) that we have been asked to share with you.

Link to Flu vaccines: [Flu Vaccine Consent Form](#)

Link to Covid vaccines: [Covid Vaccines Consent Form](#)



As with all vaccines this is a family decision and we respect your right to make that choice. Please communicate that choice with your child so that they understand it.

Guidance for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

Food Bank

As part of the 6th Form curriculum, students complete Service Learning. This involves students planning and delivering a project that meets a community need. The Y12 students have decided to continue to support a local food bank Micah Liverpool, which the school has worked with over the last few years. They are asking for small donations from parents or guardians if possible. Y12 students will collect all donation at a drop off point inside Heliers Road entrance starting on Monday 4 October every morning between 8:00 and 8:15. If you send a donation with your child, please ask them to drop it off as they enter the school gates. Items the food bank urgently requires are: long life milk, nappies, tinned baby food, pasta, cereals, sugar and biscuits. Any additional items are also very much appreciated.

Yr 11 Reward Trip

We have set a date for a Y11 Reward Trip to Alton Towers during the final Saturday in November (covid restrictions permitting). They felt that during their time at the school they had never had the opportunity to go on a trip with their classmates so we would like to offer them this experience. Criteria will apply: 100% attendance and punctuality (medical appointments are sanctioned with parental contact to school), attendance at masterclasses and no negative behaviour incidents. The trip is of course optional and staff have volunteered their Saturday to safeguard them. More on that to come.

Trust Training Day

11 February 2022 is a non-student day for the Trust. You already have this as a staff INSET day on the school calendar.

Holiday Dates 2022- 2023

The holiday dates for 2022 - 2023 are on the academy website: www.dixonsba.com

Support

I would like to thank you all for your continued messages of support over the month. It is lovely to hear such positivity to change and that our students are happy. For us, it is about purpose not power. There is a reason behind all we do and we share those reasons daily with our students because we know that team beats individual every time and we must all work together to make the school the success everyone deserves.

Thank you also for supporting your children with their homework and how the learning habits fit in with learning how to lead a successful adult life. I have also heard some lovely feedback around our values of Work Hard, Have Integrity and Be Fair that students tell me some of you are using at home. This is excellent, it shapes expectation and develops character.

My sentence

Can I remind you to speak to your child about their sentence if you get a chance? We are always discussing the idea of legacy and how we want to be remembered so it is in the past tense. Every child in a Dixons Academy has a sentence. They can change their sentence at any time but it's important for them to start thinking about the impact they want to have on the world. My sentence is 'she worked hard every day to improve the life chances of her students.' That is my promise to you, the students, the staff and myself.

If you wanted to hear some of the sentences from students in another Dixons academy as an example, here is a link:

<https://www.dixonsta.com/why/two-simple-questions>

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

