

10 October 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the start of our sixth 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 Habits – Update

We continue to embed our uniform and equipment learning habits. We have seen some students not bringing in a PE kit which has resulted in a same day correction. They can wear solid dark colours, black, grey or navy until the Academy PE Kit has been embroidered. It is with the uniform retailers now. The Learning Habit for equipment is going well, 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 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.

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 up 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 still 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 or a positive LFT– 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 are collecting all donations 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.

Y11 Mentoring

The Y11 Mentoring programme starts on 14 October at 2:30. All Y11 students have a mentor and must attend this session. It is to help provide careers and exam guidance and support them to climb their mountain to university or a real life equivalent. Parents and Carers will get a call or email from their child's mentor to update them on the session.

Y11 and Y13 PPE Exams

The PPE Exams for Y11 and Y13 start on 8 November. This is 4 weeks away including half term. These exams will be used to reshape teaching to fill gaps in learning. Students are expected to revise for them and try their best. Parents and Carers will receive the grades for them in a report. It is worth noting that the DfE have said that exams will take place for this year group but if for any reason they are cancelled then this set and the next set could be used to inform teacher assessed grades. They are important.

Be Her Lead- Volunteers required

One of our English teachers is looking for female volunteers with leadership roles to support a programme being run in with a small group of our students. It is for a Q&A session to help our students with their aspirations and confidence. If you can spare the time, please email directly to: ecartwright@bgis.co.uk

Open Evening

It was great to see so many excited families attend our Open Evening. I am excited about the 7 year journey this new intake of students will have with us. They can expect to take advantage of a knowledge rich curriculum and all the opportunities that it brings. Please ensure that your application is in on time.

Positive Messages

I would like to thank you all for your continued messages of support since September. 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. We had a supply teacher covering an absence on Friday who had worked at the school before and she said that it had been transformed and the students are really learning now. So nice to hear for our families.

Thank you also for supporting your children with their homework. A reminder that all Maths homework is on Hegarty Maths and live for all year groups. Other subjects are using their knowledge organisers for retrieval practice in lesson. Students can use look, cover, write, check to learn the subject matter. They have been taught how to do that in their orientation week. If they need support, any teacher can show them.

My sentence

Can I remind you to keep speaking 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. 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. We heard some fantastic sentences at Open Evening from our Y13 Head Boy and Girl and some of our Y11 students. We felt very proud of them all.

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

