

17 October 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the start of our final week of this half term 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. PE Kits have arrived and some students are now wearing the academy kit. We ask that all parents and carers collect the PE kit for their child after the 30 October ready for after half term. We can give a grace period to ensure all stock is in and expect all students to have full PE kit by Monday 8 November. In the interim all students must bring in a PE Kit. They can wear solid dark colours, black, grey or navy. The Learning Habit for equipment is still 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 after half term with a one-week reminder period this week. 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. Corrections will be given for lateness after half term. Thank you for your support in advance. We know that this is an essential habit for working life.

### **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 are not in a position to offer advice or guidance to families or students. 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. 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](#)**

**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. Students are there 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 was a great success. It was so nice to speak to all of our students and offer that support in school. 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 3 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. Please ensure that your child is revising. All students have their own revision timetable now and know how to revise.

### **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](mailto:ecartwright@bgis.co.uk)

### **6th form Information Afternoon- Thursday 4 November**

We have reviewed the 6th Form curriculum and will be offering a mixture of academic A levels and Level 2 and Level 3 vocational subjects together with an enrichment offer. 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. We have an information afternoon on Thursday 4 November and would like to encourage all of our students to stay with us. We have the support of the super successful Dixons 6th Form in Bradford. Y11 students will remain in school from 2:30 until 3:30 to allow them to tour the subject offer and gather information. Please discuss this with your child when they get home.

### **Positive Messages**

I would like to thank you all for your positive messages of support during our first half term. We all want the very best for our students and it is so good to know that we all understand it is a three-way partnership, school, parents and students. 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 have had some staff absence and our routines make it easier for supply staff to cover lessons so our pupils have consistency. Our curriculum booklets support their learning. We will continue to work hard for our families.

Thank you also for supporting your children with their homework. This is a key learning habit for us which we will be tackling later on next half term. A reminder that all Maths homework is on Hegarty Maths and live for all year groups. English homework is set weekly as is Science. 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.

### **Values and Drivers**

We have been talking to students this half term about our values of Work Hard, Have Integrity and Be Fair. Behind our values sit our drivers of Mastery, Autonomy and Purpose. We teach our students that mastery is the drive to get better at something that matters, that there are no overnight successes, it takes hard work. We talk to them about purpose, the drive to connect to a cause greater than ourselves and how we must all work together as a team to make our academy the best in Liverpool, to start with. And we have told them that autonomy, the drive to direct their own lives is really important. We have said that we have to accept responsibility for the decisions that we make in our lives, good and bad, and if we want our lives to be amazing then we must drive that ourselves. We will continue to have these formative conversations with all our students as we support them to climb their mountain to university or a real life equivalent, thrive in a top job and live their best life.

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



