

18 September 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the start of our third 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 have more than halved over the week which is good to see. We have collected orders from the uniform retailer on your behalf where possible and given them out to our students to assist you. We know it is sometimes difficult to juggle the requirements of work, family life and other obligations around them so we do what we can to help. 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 are aware of ongoing issues with larger size blazers and the delay with our Academy PE kit. 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, they all arrive in uniform and get changed for the lesson.

When we are ready to start with corrections for our next learning habit of equipment, we will let you know. This learning habit is generally pretty 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. Again, our uniform shop has everything they need and is open from 8am. We will never put a student in a correction who is doing the right thing.

### **Parking on Heliers Drive**

Whilst it is lovely to see you all collecting your children at the end of the day we must ask that you do not park on Heliers Drive. The vast majority of our students exit down that road and as you know it is a dead end aside from the school car park at the top which requires a buzzer. Added to that, one of our neighbours cars was damaged last week and we have an obligation to our local residents. Please park on and around the main road and be careful, it does get busy there. We will help you at the end of the school day by staffing the road and helping our students cross where possible.

### **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 will contact PHE for further advice if we think we have reached a threshold. We have had 5 unrelated cases in Y11, 2 in Y8 and 1 member of staff whose family member tested positive so far.

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 Vaccinations Programme for Children and Young People**

The Academy has a neutral part in the vaccination programme for 12- 15-year-olds and does not arrange or administer any vaccines. All parents or guardians will be contacted by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) in the same way as you would be for any other vaccination programme. Consent will be sought from the parent or person with parental responsibility in the same way as for all other school vaccination programmes. There will be more information to follow on this as it arrives.



## Year 11 Support

For our Year 11 students, this year is absolutely crucial. All families with a student in Year 11 should have received a letter about the mentoring programme and communications about masterclasses. The first masterclass starts on Monday 20 September at 3:30 and is designed to support students with one of the English exam papers. I encourage all of them to attend. There will be more information to follow on these as my colleagues book the most appropriate time slots for their subject area.

If there is any further information you require, please contact the academy and we will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Fidler  
Principal  
Dixons Academies Trust

