

25 September 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the start of our fourth 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 now reduced enormously 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. 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 have just ordered new stock to provide free of charge for our students if they need them.

We are aware of 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 or trainers, they all arrive in uniform and get changed for the lesson.

Learning Habit 2- Equipment

You will have received texts and your children have been told that we are starting to implement this learning habit from Monday 27 September. Students need to bring all their equipment in their pencil case from this week. 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. 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.

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 at Broadgreen 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 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.

You are asked to complete the form whether you want your child vaccinating or not.

Consent is being sought from the parent or person with parental responsibility in the same way as for all other school vaccination programmes. The link is here:

<https://forms.merseycare.nhs.uk/immunisation-consent-forms/covid-19-vaccination/>



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>

I would like to thank you all for your messages of support over the last week. We are pleased to hear that the students find that they can complete their work without interruption in lesson and that they feel that the school environment is calmer and more purposeful. For us, it is about purpose not power. There is a reason behind all of it 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.

My sentence

Can I ask you to speak to your child about their sentence if you get a chance? We are 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

