

29 October 2021

Dear Families,

I hope this letter at the end of our half term 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 have now embedded the learning habits of uniform and equipment. The vast majority of our students come to school in full uniform with the correct bag and footwear with the right equipment. For those that don't the uniform shop is open from 8am where we can lend or give any students shoes, ties, trousers, shirts or the correct bag. Our equipment shop is also open from 8am. 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

Our learning habit of punctuality starts 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. Thank you for your support in advance. We know that this is an essential habit for working life.

Covid and Masks Update

Liverpool City Council have decided to bring back the compulsory wearing of masks for all students in communal areas from Monday 1 November. This means that on corridors and in morning meeting spaces our students and staff will be expected to wear their masks. Health exemptions will still apply and must go through their pastoral lead for the year group. It is true that our numbers are low yet we will support this measure to keep our families and staff body safer.

All students are encouraged to test at home twice weekly.

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, now mandatory in Liverpool.

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

Y11 and Y13 PPE Exams

The PPE Exams for Y11 and Y13 start on 8 November. This is 1 week away. 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.

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.



Y11 Advisory Evening - 9 December 4 - 6pm

The Y11 Advisory Evening is scheduled for Thursday 9 December 4 - 6 pm. If your child is in Y11, please put this date in your diaries. More information on this to come.

Survey Results

We have completed a survey in school and 100% of the respondents felt that school was a calmer environment. 94% felt that students understood our values (we have had some new students recently which may account for that missing 6%). We will continue to frame everything around our values of Hard Work, Have Integrity and Be Fair so that we are all on the same page and our students become responsible and employable citizens.

I will share some of our responses with you:

"Overall, I feel very positive about the first half term, I am regaining pride in where I work and the steps we are taking as a school to improve the life chances of our young people."

"I feel positive, but it's going to be a long journey."

"I feel the pupils are more focused and participating in lessons better, there is a calmer environment which means that the pupils are more able to learn."

"Hearing our students talk about their futures and where they aim to be in everyday conversation, seeing students smiling and showing good manners to each other and staff, small things but big achievements driving our school forward."

I'd like to thank all our parents and families for their positivity towards this change and making the school one that our community deserves. When they leave us and go out into the world, they will do so with the knowledge that they can be the best version of themselves and that anything is possible with hard work and integrity.

My Sentence

We have been talking to students about their sentence, this half term will see us recording them and putting them on our website. Their sentence is their legacy, it is how they want to be remembered and it is their impact on the world around them. They can change and most probably will, but it's so important to have that focus. I have been reflecting on my sentence during this half term break and how I can be better this term than I was last half term. I will be working hard to make sure that happens.

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

