

17 July 2024

Dear Families

Thank you for all your continued support over the past year. It has been a fantastic year, our visit from Ofsted confirming we are still outstanding has been one of the many highlights. Over 300 students had over 98% attendance and visited Flamingo land, and we held our first ever sports days.

As we approach the end of the year, I am writing to provide you with some key dates and information ready for the next academic year.

The academy will close for students on **Friday 19 July at the slightly earlier time of 12.30pm**, please make sure you make the necessary arrangements to have your child collected at this time.

The Academy will re-open on Monday 2 September 2024 to Year 7 only.

Years 8 to 11 will start on Tuesday 3 September 2024.

Students will be expected to be in the academy at the latest 7.50am ready to start at 8am.

Uniform expectations

Please note that **Year 10 students** need to purchase a new blazer and tie. Should you have any blazers or ties that you would like to donate to the academy we do recycle old uniform.

All boys' and girls' trousers should be black, full-length and tailored; jeans / tracksuits / leggings / very flared trousers / knee length trousers / trousers which gather at the ankle are not considered appropriate wear. Jeans are defined as trousers with patch pockets and rivets. Trousers should not trail on the floor.

Years 7, 8 and 9

Grey blazer
White shirt
Copper tie
Grey jumper (optional)
Black shoes

Years 10 and 11

Navy blazer
White shirt
Blue tie
Blue or Grey jumper (Optional)
Black shoes

Our uniform policy is clearly outlined on our website under the 'About' section. Can you please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the details. Increasingly we have students turning up with inappropriate footwear. Please be mindful that shops will advertise trainers as school shoes, to clarify the shoe must be polishable and not have a trainer style sole. Please check if you are unsure.

Attendance

Attendance is vital to enable your child to maximise their opportunity to make progress. Only 35% of students will achieve 5 good passes at GCSE if they miss 10% of learning. Our target for next year is 98%. Attendance since Covid has been an area of concern and we urge all parents to make sure their child attends school every day. The start of term is especially important, please ensure your child returns on the correct date. This year we fell quite short of this target. Appointments during academy hours affect your child's learning and should therefore be made outside of academy hours. Should there be an emergency appointment required proof of this is expected with at least 24hours prior notice. If your child is ill and is unable to make it to the academy, then please ensure you follow our attendance procedures in reporting absence.

Holiday dates and data days

The Dixons Academy Trust feels it is extremely important that all the staff in the Dixons academies are well prepared and able to provide the best teaching possible. With this in mind, we have allocated **4 additional training days** for the next academic year on which staff will be concentrating on the new curriculum and schemes of work. Please see enclosed holiday and training dates; this information is also available on our website.



Exam results

Well done to all the Year 11 students for the exams taken this term; they have all worked very hard. The GCSE results can be collected from the academy on Thursday 22 August 2024 between 09.00am – 12.00 noon. If students are unable to collect their results in person, we MUST have received notification from the child as to who will be collecting on their behalf. After this date, any results that are uncollected will be posted out.

Dropping off and picking up students

With our new Year 7 students arriving in September, now is a good time to remind you all of the risks associated with dropping off and picking up your children. Northside Road does become congested at peak times especially before and after school. We ask that you consider other users by parking and manoeuvring in a safe appropriate manner and not blocking the flow of traffic, also noting that outside the academy there are parking restrictions and sets of yellow zig-zag lines which indicate NO WAITING, STOPPING or PARKING. There is also no access to the academy grounds for parking other than for those parents who have pre-arranged meetings, I urge all parents to please ensure that this is adhered to for the safety of your children and those of others.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are a huge safeguarding risk, bullying concern and distraction to our students. Students must lock their phone in their locker once they get to school and only take it out at the end of the day. Any phone seen in school will be confiscated and only returned to parents at the end of the week.

Parent Pay Debts

It is important to remind everyone that all Years do not have an overdraft facility on their Parent Pay accounts, if an account falls into arrears, then students will not be given access to break or lunch facilities and it will be the responsibility of parents to provide packed lunches / snacks. It is also worth noting that if you use pay point rather than online payments there is the likelihood that any payments could take up to 48 hours to show on your account, this will again be the responsibility of parents to ensure accounts are topped up in good time.

Next year we do have some students with particular allergies, and this includes someone with an airborne nut allergy. Therefore, can I ask that students do not bring in any items that contain nuts as this could cause a serious allergic reaction.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at the academy we hope you have an enjoyable summer break.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Richard Wilson
Principal



Term dates 2024 – 25

2024 Term 1 - Monday 2 September to Friday 18 October 2024

Holiday - Saturday 19 October to Sunday 3 November 2024

2024 Term 2 - Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December 2024

Planning and Data Days - Thursday 14 November and Friday 15 November 2024

Holiday - Saturday 21 December to Sunday 5 January 2025

2025 Term 3 - Monday 6 January to Thursday 13 February 2025

DAT Conference Friday 14 February 2025 - SCHOOL IS CLOSED

Holiday - Friday 14 February to Sunday 23 February 2025

2025 Term 4 - Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April 2025

Planning and Data Days Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March 2025

Holiday - Saturday 5 April to Sunday 20 April 2025

Monday 21 April - Bank holiday

2025 Term 5 - Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May 2025

Monday 5 May - Bank Holiday

Holiday - Saturday 24 May to Sunday 1 June 2025

2025 Term 6 - Monday 2 June to Friday 18 July 2025

Holiday - Saturday 19 July onwards

Training Days

Tuesday 27 August 2024

Wednesday 28 August 2024

Thursday 29 August 2024

Friday 30 August 2024

Data & Planning Days

Thursday 14 November 2024

Friday 15 November 2024

Thursday 6 March 2025

Friday 7 March 2025

DAT Conference Friday 14 February 2025 - SCHOOL IS CLOSED

