

17 August 2020

Dear Families,

Re: Year 7, Class of 2027, information about 2020-2021

I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful summer and along with all staff at DAA, are looking forward with excitement to a new academic year. In order to prioritise the health and safety of the whole school community, we have had to make some changes to how we run the school day. Please read the following information carefully to ensure that you are aware of these changes before we reopen fully on Tuesday 1 September.

Tuesday 1st September Year 7 full time return: important information

Times of the day, uniform and equipment

In order to reduce the number of scholars and parents on site at the start of the school day we will be amending the arrival and finish times slightly to allow year group bubbles to enter and exit the building safely.

- Each day, please arrive between **08.15 – 08.25am** through the **main academy entrance**. Scholars will not be able to come on site before this time and all Year 7 scholars will be expected to be on site by 08.25am
- Year 7 will depart through the **main academy entrance** at **15:20**; scholars will not be able to stay on site after this time; the library will not be open before or after school; therefore, scholars will need to make their way home immediately
- A clear daily plan should be in place for how your child is getting home; the scholar support desk will not be open and therefore scholars should know how they are getting home before they set off for the day
- Scholars should bring with them permitted items only; it is important that scholars bring the correct equipment into the academy so that they are not sharing equipment. Please see this link to the family handbook: <https://www.dixonsaa.com/admissions/familyhandbook>
- Scholars should wear their full academy uniform, including a jacket, as they will be spending more time outside; again, please see the family handbook for details about uniform.
- Scholars should bring with them their PE kit during their first week until they receive their timetable and then only bring PE kit on the day of PE.
- Scholars should bring their academy bag (if already purchased) and a reading book with them.

We would ask for your patience and understanding whilst waiting for siblings to be released - it will not be possible to collect scholars from different classes and release together due to 'bubbling' restrictions. School leaders will be present again during this time to ensure that families keep to a safe distance whilst scholars are leaving the building.

Classrooms and curriculum

We have zoned the academy so that each year group has their own designated area of the school. This means that scholars will have dedicated rooms in their Y7 area. They will still have access to the full curriculum and be able to go to specialist areas such as the theatre, DT, computer rooms and PE areas. Some amendments to collective times like collective learning will be amended to follow government guidance. No before or after school clubs will be operating at this time.

Homework

Scholars will be set homework; however, instead of posting homework in communal trays, scholars will hand work directly into their class teacher and some homework will continue to be on-line. A reminder to scholars to complete their summer homework set by their class teachers. All this will be explained to scholars on return.

Lunch and break times

We are amending our practices to ensure the safety of staff and scholars. This includes staggered break and lunch times and utilising more of our larger spaces at lunch time to accommodate less children eating together and new seating arrangements. Water and free bagels will now be served at break time; no other items will be able to be purchased. We will also be amending how we operate lunchtimes as well as operating an amended menu.



Support

It is very important that scholars follow staff instructions first time every time to ensure we keep our whole community safe. Please speak to your child about the importance of listening and following instructions. We will support your child through our full induction and making expectations clear; however, the academy will take very seriously any refusal to follow instructions, particularly where scholar and staff safety is jeopardised. Our usual behaviour systems of appreciations, corrections and red lines will continue to operate as usual. Again, all of this will be covered in induction.

Hygiene

A significant amount of time will be given to supporting scholars to maintain good hygiene. Handwashing and sanitising will be an integral part of the day. Cleaners have been allocated to areas to ensure that rooms and equipment are sanitised regularly throughout the day.

Travel to and from School

It is advised that families walk to and from school as much as possible. Not only is this the healthiest option, but it will ensure that the demand for parking and close contact between families is reduced further.

Communication with the academy

It will not be possible for families to come into the academy without an agreed appointment day and time. Appointments should be made by calling the academy reception or by emailing the relevant member of staff to arrange a meeting. The expected communication will be by phone and email, as we will not be able to accommodate a great number of face-to-face meetings, particularly where rooms will have to be cleaned after each meeting. It is very important that we have up-to-date contact details – if you need to update your details, please email admin@dixonsaa.com

Over the next few days to help your child get ready for their fulltime return, please encourage them to:

- Read as much as possible
- Complete their summer homework set
- Revise their notes
- Establish a routine of getting up in the mornings
- Read through the family handbook to remind themselves about academy expectations

I realise that this letter contains a huge amount of information and there are many aspects of school that will be significantly different. I would like to thank you in advance for your patience, understanding and support and know that we will continue to work together to ensure that our scholars have the outstanding education that they deserve.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we will see you all on 1 September.

Yours sincerely

C Skelding
Executive Principal

