

15 December 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to my final letter of 2022. Our work in schools continues to be a challenge but we are grateful for the incredible support from our families and partnerships with our entire community which help us ensure our students become good, kind people who can make a positive impact on the world.

Standards in school are improving but we still have much to do and me and my staff will continue to work hard to this end. Our most recent Parents' Evening, for Year 10, was incredibly well attended, and it was wonderful for us to meet families face-to-face. There have been many events and cultural experiences available to students this term, which are enhancing the ever-improving educational offer that students receive in lessons. As we look forward to the new year, we are hopeful that we can continue our journey to provide every child with the first-class education they deserve.

### **Christmas Showcase**

It was wonderful to see our students performing in the Christmas showcase. We had Primary children all the way through to Year 11 demonstrating their talents as singers, musicians, and actors. We had a theatre full of enthralled and amazed parents who celebrated and clapped along to a range of hits, including some special performances by members of staff. Thank you to all the staff involved, especially the music department and our wonderful bunch of peripatetic music tutors!

### **Internet and network issues**

We apologise for the disruption caused from our recent network outage. You will have now received communications from the Trust, detailing recent events. Communications in school, including our phone lines, were affected by this. We are sorry to any families who have been trying to call the school. We continue to focus on safeguarding and attendance for all students, and ensuring all students have access to the canteen facilities at break and lunch. Teachers can continue teaching as normal and, despite the considerable disruption to all systems, I am proud of the way students and staff have adapted to the challenges. As I write, we still do not have full services restored; however, we will keep in touch to let you know when everything is back to normal. Thank you for your patience.

### **Appreciations Bulletin**

Once we have our systems back up and running, we will be sending out a weekly *Appreciations* bulletin, celebrating all the good news stories and wonderful things going on in the academy and across our community. We will send this to you electronically, and it will be posted on our Twitter page every Friday. The *Appreciations* bulletin will also focus on recognising students and staff for their positive contributions to school and community life.

### **Dixons Cup Success**

The Dixons Cup is a series of Sports Events in which all Dixons Schools compete. After Badminton, Dodgeball and Football Tournaments for boys and girls, Dixons Allerton proudly sits at the top of the league, having won every tournament so far. We are incredibly proud of this and I will be welcoming members of the winning teams to future Principal's lunches!

### **Record number of Achievement Points**

We are very proud to report that students have recorded a record number of achievement points this half term. This is a wonderful example of the way students live our values in the academy every day. Recognition certificates will begin to be issued to students from January at 50-point intervals. Parents can track their child's achievement points in the MCAS app.



## **Parental behaviour when visiting or communicating with the academy**

Despite my appeals during previous letters, we are still finding that a small minority of parents find it acceptable to behave in aggressive, abusive, or threatening ways towards our staff, in person, on the phone and via message or email. We became teachers to help young people, and my admin and support staff work in school for the same purpose. I do not believe that we ever deserve to be spoken to or treated in any way other than with courtesy and respect, and I expect that my staff treat you the same. As adults, we all also have a duty to model the behaviour we always expect from our children, especially when within the academy. We aim to ensure we care for, protect, and educate your children, to ensure that they can make ambitious life choices and make a positive contribution to our community. A big part of this is discipline, routines, and high expectations. We need your support with this, including supporting the academy if your child has a correction. Unless we have made an error, I expect that all corrections will be served. Our policies will not change on this, and all families agree to our policies by sending their children to our academy. I realise that most parents do support the school - after all, every day, at least 1400 children do not receive a correction; however, I must ask that every parent supports us to ensure we can continue to improve educational standards across the school.

Should you wish to raise an issue in person, on the phone or via email, I ask that you do so calmly and with respect. Should you feel that you have been unable to resolve this with your initial inquiry, you can use our complaints policy to escalate the issue – you can find this on our website under *policies*.

Any parent, or relative who is deemed to behave aggressively, in a threatening manner or who uses foul or abusive language will be referred to me and could be refused entry to the academy site, and withdrawal of the opportunity to communicate with academy staff. We will also notify our Safe Schools Police Officer. In some cases, we will ask the police to visit you at home to outline expectations around your future behaviour.

Most of our 750 applications for just 250 places are made on the basis that we are part of the Dixons family, with a superb reputation across the entire country for excellence in Education, and I know that most of you recognise and value this. I am sure most of you are incredibly shocked that some people would behave in such a way towards school staff. Thank you to you all for continuing to work together with us and for always supporting us.

## **After school Enrichment**

Our after-school enrichment sessions have continued this half term. We have something to suit all interests, including sport, music, crochet, gardening, board games and media club. Please encourage your child to attend.

## **Sports Headscarves**

A reminder to families that we can provide sporting headscarves for use in PE. This is due to health and safety for some activities in PE throughout the year. If you would like to buy one yourself, please ensure it is plain black. If you would like to buy one from the academy, please ask your child to speak to Mr Foy, Head of PE.

## **Homework and Knowledge Organisers**

Our homework timetable for every subject, and every year group is on our website. Details of additional homework tasks using Knowledge Organisers (a booklet containing the essential knowledge needed in each subject) are also on the website. A copy of each Knowledge Organiser is also on the website. You can find these resources in the 'Home Learning' section of the website.

## **Parental Engagement meetings**

In the new year, we will be organising a series of events where parents can visit the academy to meet staff, including the Senior Leadership team and the Principal. We want to continue to build stronger relationships with our community and understand that this is often better face-to-face. We intend to have refreshments available and to create a forum for collaboration with parents and stakeholders. We have also been working closely with our local Mosques, and we will be inviting representatives to these meetings. We are hopeful that this will be the foundation of something that will impact positively on our community as well as the academy – please look out for more details in future letters and communications in 2023.

## **The importance of good attendance**

At DAA, we expect exceptional attendance from all students. The correlation between attendance and academic performance is clear; students with good attendance are much more likely to meet their targets and make positive progress than students whose attendance is below 90%. Please help us to help your child by making sure that they attend school every day. If your child is ill, please contact the attendance team, and please ensure that you share



the reason for your child's absence. Where you have evidence of medical appointments that cannot be made outside of the school day, please provide this to the attendance team. This avoids us having to record the absence as unauthorised. Please remember, it is Trust policy to never approve any term time leave.

### **Bradford Prevent Team**

Please see more information at the end of my letter about the work the Bradford Council Prevent Team are doing to support our community.

### **School Day and Term Dates 2023-24**

Our term dates for 2023-2024 are now on our website: (select *Calendar* from the menu): [www.dixonsaa.com](http://www.dixonsaa.com)

### **Key Dates**

- **Academy closes to all students for Christmas** – Friday 16 December 2022
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Tuesday 3 January 2023
- **Post-16 Applications Open to Year 11 Students** – Tuesday 3 January 2023
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening** – Thursday 5 January
- **Post-16 Open Evening** – Thursday 26 January
- **Academy closes for February half term** – Friday 10 February 2023
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Monday 20 February 2023
- **All dates are on our website – select 'Calendar' at [www.dixonsaa.com](http://www.dixonsaa.com)**

### **Thank you**

As always, I feel incredibly lucky to work in such a wonderful school, with so many fantastic children and families. I am incredibly grateful for your support and partnership in our journey towards ensuring all children receive a first-class education here at DAA. I hope that you all have some time together with families and friends during the Christmas period and would like to wish a 'Merry Christmas' to all families celebrating over the next fortnight. I also want to wish you all a Happy New Year and offer my best wishes to you all for a peaceful and happy 2023.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr  
Principal

### **Bradford Prevent Team**

Please see below for information relating to the Bradford Prevent Initiative from Bradford Council:

Within Bradford Local Authority we have a Prevent team which supports schools and the local community, with understanding and implementing the key requirements of the Prevent Duty. We are writing to you today to raise awareness regarding online dangers, firstly surrounding the themes of the Prevent agenda but also more generally about online safety.

Recently more and more young people have been occupying themselves online than ever before and whilst the online space can be fun and educational it can also pose risks to young and impressionable people. Keeping young people safe online is just as important these days as keeping them safe from "stranger danger" so taking time to read and understand how to keep them safe is important if we are all to work together to reduce the risks.

Below are some useful resources and guidance to support you in keeping your young people safe.

Best Wishes,

The Prevent Team

### **Internet Matters**



Want to increase your young person's resilience against the risk of radicalisation online but not sure how to start? Click on the link to get yourself skilled up Protect children from radicalisation - [Protect children from radicalisation - Internet Matters](#)

Critical thinking skills can help keep young people safe from fake news, misinformation and scams. To learn more - [Fake news and misinformation advice hub - Internet Matters](#)

Parents...Do you know all about the age appropriateness of games you are buying? if not click here to learn more - [Video games age ratings explained - Internet Matters](#)

### **Parent Zone**

In chat gaming can be fun but there can be risks. Parents/carers increase your awareness with @TheParentsZone on how you can keep your young person safe in their in-chat gaming - [In-game chat | Parent Zone](#)

### **Childnet**

To help develop your awareness around the online gaming safety aspects Childnet have produced a useful resource leaflet available here - [Online Gaming: An introduction for parents and carers | Childnet](#) You may also want to consider looking at their resource hot topics around gaming which you can access here - <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/supporting-young-people-with-send-online/gaming-and-social-media/>

### **UK Safer Internet Centre**

Is your child getting tech for a birthday or other special occasion? Make sure the security settings are set and you help keep young people safe learn more here - [Parental controls offered by your home internet provider - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

### **Think You Know**

For further general advice about keeping young people safe online or to report a concern you can visit - [Parents and carers | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

### **For further information about the Prevent Duty please contact:**

Assia Hussain  
Prevent Education Officer

Email: [Assia.Hussain@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Assia.Hussain@bradford.gov.uk)

Website: Register or login at [Welcome to the PREVENT Team | Skills 4 Bradford](#) to access a range of FREE

Prevent resources for parents and schools.

