

21 July 2023

Dear Families,

As we move into our final few days, I have been reflecting on what has been a very challenging year. Despite the challenges, it has also been an incredibly successful year, especially in relation to building a stronger culture of learning and teaching. We still have a long way to go on our journey to being an exceptional school which provides a world class education to all students; however, I am very proud of the steps we have taken towards this goal over the last 12 months. Going forward, we know we need to keep working to involve more families and truly reach out to grow our partnership with our entire community. We are determined to do this and will be looking for more opportunities in the coming weeks and months. We will also be looking for our community to come through our doors and see the many great things that are happening here at Dixons Allerton Academy. We are also exploring how we can plan more opportunities for trips, visits, and enriching experiences to add to the opportunities we already offer.

I would also like to welcome our new Year 7 families to Dixons Allerton Academy, I am looking forward to working together in the future.

On a different note, I have been successful in securing a promotion to Executive Principal for Dixons Trust. This means that I will remain as Principal of Dixons Allerton Academy, as well as supporting Dixons Cottingley Academy, and the new Principal there. In order to ensure I have capacity to do this, and to ensure I am supported in achieving my vision for Dixons Allerton Academy, I am incredibly happy to announce that I have appointed a new Head of Secondary school, Mr Matthew Sanderson. Mr Sanderson has spent the last 7 years as Vice Principal at the Ofsted Outstanding-rated Dixons City Academy and will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be essential in driving improvement at Dixons Allerton.

As such, this will be my final letter to all secondary parents as Mr Sanderson will take up formal communication from September. However, I look forward to continuing to work with all families and ensuring that Dixons Allerton continues to grow and improve in the coming years.

A message from Mr Sanderson

Dear families,

My decision to leave Dixons City Academy was not an easy one, however the choice to join Dixons Allerton was perhaps the easiest decision I have made in my career. During my first conversation with Mr Carr, he explained that the community of Dixons Allerton Academy is made up of people who care, who are motivated to be successful, who are respectful and most importantly are kind.

I have seen all these values from the first day I visited the school, prior to my appointment as Head of Secondary school, and I feel so privileged to now work alongside staff, families and most importantly students who display these values every day.

Myself and all the staff are committed to providing every one of our students with the education, both in and out of the classroom that they deserve. I am driven by the desire to ensure that none of our students will be disadvantaged when it comes to moving onto their ambitious life choice, and I will be relentless in my expectation that staff, families,



and students give 100% every day to ensure that every student has the keys to open up the doors to the future they choose.

Attendance is crucial to the success of our students. I will take this opportunity to thank you for ensuring that your child attends school every day. We have a school nurse who can provide medical support if needed and we can provide families with support wound uniform if needed.

As a school we will be looking at ways to further recognise the hard work and excellent attendance of our students, as well as providing cultural experiences that get our students excited about the world around them. I am excited about working with our wider community and looking at ways to make our school a beacon for the local area. As a school we will be looking at ways to further involve families and hear their voice so we can continue to improve our school. I look forward to meeting you all at school events, consultation evenings, at the school gates and at any other opportunity that presents itself.

We will achieve our vision of becoming a truly exceptional school through purpose and not power, by everyone consistently upholding our high standards, and most importantly through warmth and positive relationships. I consider Dixons Allerton Academy, and everyone associated with our school community to be my new family. I believe we must be there to pick each other up when we need support as well as be there to cheer every success we have as individuals and as a school family.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and families a happy and safe summer and I look forward to welcoming every student back on the first day of the new academic year.

Returning in September

Students will begin returning to the academy from Wednesday 30 August. On this day, only Year 7 students and Year 12 students will attend the academy for their induction. All students in all year groups will then be expected to attend the academy from Thursday 31 August.

On Wednesday 30 August, all Year 7s must wear their PE kit as we will be having an afternoon of team building activities. From Thursday 31 August, we would expect all students to be in full uniform and to bring their PE kit in their PE bag on days they have PE - as normal.

Date	Year groups
Wednesday 30 August	Year 7 and Year 12 (Induction Day) *School is closed to all other year groups
Thursday 31 August	All year groups in school (Year 7-11 and Year 13) *Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 4 September
Friday 1 September	All year groups in school *Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 4 September

Equipment and Uniform

All our Year 7 students will be provided with a brand-new school bag, and a pencil case - with all of the required equipment when they start with us in August. Parents are not required to provide a school bag, and only our Dixons Allerton school bags will be permitted. Students will also be given a planner, knowledge organiser, lanyard, and ID card.

Students in Year 8 to 11 will be expected to continue to use their bag and equipment from the previous year. If this bag needs replacing due to damage or graffiti, new bags are available for a price of £5. This will be charged to parents via MCAS. All students will be issued with a new planner. Equipment items can be bought at cost price from school in August when students return.



Please see our uniform expectations on our website. You can buy our uniform items from Natasha's school wear in Bradford. If you want to know more about the academy uniform expectations, please follow this link to the family handbook. The handbook also includes important information about the academy:

<https://www.dixonsaa.com/admissions/family-handbook>

School Day and Term Dates 2022-23

Our term dates for 2023-2024 are already on our website. We will potentially plan in EID days; however, we will probably have to communicate these days nearer the time. All bank holidays and Data and Planning Days have now been confirmed for the 2022-23 academic year.

GCSE Results Day

GCSE students will receive their results on Thursday 24 August 2023. We have sent a separate letter to all Year 11 families with additional details around this.

A Level Results Day

A Level results day is on Thursday 17 August 2023. We will write to all students involved with details of the day.

Key Dates

- **A Level Results Day** – Thursday 17 August 2023
- **GCSE Results Day** – Thursday 24 August 2023
- **Academy Data and Planning Days (No students in school)** – Thursday 24 August, Friday 25 August and Tuesday 29 August 2023
- **Academy reopens to Year 7 and Year 12** – Wednesday 30 August 2023
- **Academy reopens to all year groups** – Thursday 31 August 2022
- **Academy closes for October half term** – Friday 20 October 2022
- **All dates are on our website** – select 'Calendar' at www.dixonsaa.com

Thank you

As always, I feel incredibly grateful to lead Dixons Allerton Academy, and to serve our community. Our students and families have given me many happy memories over the course of this year, and I look forward to many more in the year ahead. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement as we strive to ensure our students can go on to make ambitious life choices and develop good moral principles that allow them to make a positive contribution to our community.

I wish you all a fantastic summer and offer my best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

