

21 July 2022

Dear Families,

As I write my final letter of this academic year, I have a great deal to reflect on from my first year as Principal of Dixons Allerton Academy. While it has been challenging, relentless and tiring, it has also been wonderful, joyful and rewarding. We have made some big leaps forward and have begun to see students respond to consistent and simple routines with a focus on learning and progress. We are establishing a strong culture which is based around our values and we have begun to build stronger relationships with students, families, and our community. However, our job is far from over; our journey has only just begun. We will do more and more to ensure we can continue climbing the mountain to success and will not stop until we are an exceptional school in every way, day in, day out! It is essential that we do this in partnership with you, our families! I want to thank you all for your support over the past year and ask for your continued support when we return to ensure we provide an exceptional education to all our young people that allows them to make ambitious life choices in future!

The new school day

I have covered this in previous letters; however, I do want to remind all families that will have new operating hours when we return in September. School will start at 8.15am every morning. School will be open to secondary students for breakfast club at 7.45am every day. School will finish at 3.30pm Monday – Thursday and at 2.35pm on Fridays.

Returning in September

Students will begin returning to the academy from Wednesday 1 September. On the first 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 2 September.

Date	Year groups
Wednesday 31 August	Year 7 and Year 12 (Induction Day) *School is closed to all other year groups
Thursday 1 September	All year groups in school (Year 7-11 and Year 13) *Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 6 September
Friday 2 September	All year groups in school *Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 6 September

Equipment and Uniform

I just wanted to remind families that we are changing our school bags to backpacks in every year group next academic year. To help with subsidising the cost of the replacement bags, we will be asking for a £10 contribution from all families. This will also cover the cost of a new 2022-23 planner and a replacement lanyard and ID card. Students will receive school bags and planners at the beginning of the new academic year. New Year 7 students will also receive a fully stocked pencil case. 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/familyhandbook>



School Day and Term Dates 2022-23

Our term dates for 2022-2023 are already on our website. This includes updates to Data and Planning Days which have now been confirmed for the academic year (select *Calendar* from the menu): www.dixonsaa.com

GCSE Results Day

GCSE students will receive their results on Thursday 25 August. 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 18 August. We will write to all students involved with details of the day.

Amendment to the behaviour policy

We aim to ensure that our students experience is as consistent and fair as possible and, as such, we will not be making any major changes to our behaviour policy; however, one change is the addition of 90-minute corrections. From September, students who are removed from class due to persistent disruption, students who miss or fail a one-hour detention and students who spend a day in RESET (e.g. Truancy or internal suspension) will receive an hour and a half correction, finishing at 5pm on Monday to Thursday and 4.05pm on a Friday. Most students will be unaffected by this and I urge these students not to become concerned with this. All changes will be reflected in our behaviour WTD on our website in September.

Schools Out – Series of activities and support for the summer holidays

We have gathered information relating to activities, advice and support for families in our community over the summer holidays. Please follow this link to find out what is available near you:

<https://www.dixonsaa.com/news-events/news/schools-out>

Key Dates

- **A Level Results Day** – Thursday 18 August 2022
- **GCSE Results Day** – Thursday 25 August 2022
- **Academy Data and Planning Days (Training Days)** – Thursday 25 August, Friday 26 August and Tuesday 30 August 2022
- **Academy reopens to Year 7 and Year 12** – Wednesday 1 September 2022
- **Academy reopens to all year groups** – Thursday 2 September 2022
- **Academy closes for October half term** – Friday 21 October 2022
- **All dates are on our website** – select 'Calendar' at www.dixonsaa.com

Thank you

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support this year. I know it has been a very challenging year – as a school we have gone through some extremely challenging times – I know some of our families have too. However, what I have seen this year is the power of all of us working together as a community. I hope that you can all see how driven me and my team are to ensure we work with our young people and families to form a partnership that enhances our community and helps everyone to grow. Ultimately, I see schools and education as the pathway to continuing development of civilisation, and I hope we can continue to make progress on this journey in the new academic year.

I wish you all good health and a lovely summer.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

