

27 May 2022

Dear Families,

It is a time of great importance for many of our students and I want to thank all families and students for your support of our Year 11 and Post-16 students during the exam period. It is vital that they are able to focus and concentrate – both at school and at home! We continue to work hard in school to ensure that final lesson time is as effective and valuable as possible. I have been incredibly impressed with the maturity and concentration of students in their exams, and I hope that this bodes well for the final results – our first external exams since 2019. I am especially hoping our Year 11 and Year 13 students get the results they need to make that next leap onward in their educational careers.

### **Consultation on proposed changes to the school day**

Please see my letter sent last week in relation to the new school day <https://www.dixonsaa.com/news-events/news/proposed-change-to-the-academy-day>. I will be giving further information around this, and other information about our return for the 2022-23 academic year in my letter to parents next half term.

### **Cycle 3 Assessments Y7 - Y10 and Y12**

Cycle 3 Assessments begin after the break with Y10 starting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. These assessments are important for the students as they provide a strong indicator of progress made throughout the academic year and allow staff to plan teaching and curriculum to support students accordingly. The assessments also provide students with the experience of taking exam papers in a controlled environment which builds success for future public examinations and increases their independent learning skills. Please encourage your child to access their year group Microsoft Teams page to support their revision. Here, they can access a revision list for each subject, the assessment timetable and a copy of the Knowledge Organiser; a key resource to support mastery of their learning.

### **Year 11 to Post-16 Transition Week**

Year 11 transition week into Post-16 begins on Monday 11th July. We have a range of activities and taster sessions planned for prospective students. If your child has not registered for this, please ensure that they fill in the form on Microsoft Teams. Further information is available from the Post-16 team in school.

### **Mobile phones in examinations**

We need to issue a clear reminder to all students that mobile phones are not permitted in the exam rooms. Year 11 and Post-16 students need to use the lockers for their bags and mobile phones - staff will be there to support. Any student who takes a mobile phone into their examination risks being disqualified from their examinations.

### **Late to lesson**

Our next Learning Habit focus is to ensure that all students arrive on time to every lesson. Being late to lesson leads to disruption to the teaching and learning to all other students in the class. In order to ensure that all students are encouraged to be on time, we are implementing a tariff for students who are regularly late to lesson. Late to lesson will trigger an automatic 1-hour correction, and regular latecomers will face spending time in RESET and removal of social times. We ask for families' support with this to enable us to ensure that all lessons start promptly and any disruption to learning is minimised for all students.

### **Claiming Free School Meals**

We are aware that there are some families who are currently entitled to Free School Meals that have yet to complete claim forms. If you think that your child will qualify for this, please could you visit [https://onlineforms.bradford.gov.uk/ufs/FREE\\_SCHOOL\\_MEALS.eb?ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=1\\_1653631712654](https://onlineforms.bradford.gov.uk/ufs/FREE_SCHOOL_MEALS.eb?ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=1_1653631712654) to



complete the claim form and ensure you receive this entitlement. If you need help to complete the form or would like to enquire about qualifying for Free School Meals, please contact reception.

### **MCAS App – not sending text messages unless of an emergency such a school closure**

From the beginning of the new academic year, we will not be sending text messages to families and will be almost exclusively using the MCAS (My Child At School) app to communicate with families. If you have yet to do so, please could you ensure that you download the app and register, if you need assistance with this please contact [admin@dixonsaa.com](mailto:admin@dixonsaa.com). We will be setting up video guides on our website to support you with this. We will send out links to the videos once they are available. We will still send text messages to all parents in event of emergencies such as a school closure.

### **Equipment and Uniform**

We have taken the decision to change our school bags to backpacks in every year group in the next academic year. After listening to student feedback, we believe that backpacks will be easier to carry and more comfortable for all students, and students have overwhelmingly told us that this is a change that they would like to see. In order 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 bags and planners at the beginning of the new academic year. New Year 7 students will also receive a fully stocked pencil case. We will issue further guidance and details of how to access support to buy uniform in my letter to families next term.

### **Social Media**

We are continuing to have to deal with incidents in school as a result of children's social media use outside of the academy. Please support us by remaining vigilant to your child's phone use and report concerns to the academy. You can also report abusive social media activity to the police by ringing 101.

### **Contact Details**

We often send text messages and communications to families through the MCAS app. It is important that we have the correct contact details on file. If you have changed yours recently, please email [admindaa@dixonsaa.com](mailto:admindaa@dixonsaa.com) or update your details in the MCAS app.

### **Working in partnership**

It is vital that we work together in partnership for the benefit of your child. Please support the academy to be a safe and effective learning environment by working with us to address your child's behaviour when they make a mistake. We will also aim to ensure that we continue to do more to recognise the efforts and achievements of the vast majority of students who behave brilliantly and focus on ensuring they get an exceptional education.

We aim to reduce disruption, unwanted negative behaviours and be a welcoming environment for all staff and students, regardless of their background, culture or identity, and your support is vital with this. A big part of this is ensuring that our staff are not subjected to abuse or aggression from visitors and families. Anyone found to behave in a threatening, abusive or aggressive manner will have their permission to access the academy site withdrawn and may be reported to the police.

Thank you to all families who already value the work we are doing and who work together empathetically with us to tackle issues when they arise.

### **School Day and Term Dates 2022-23**

Our term dates for 2022-2023 are already on our website (select *Calendar* from the menu): [www.dixonsaa.com](http://www.dixonsaa.com)

### **Key Dates**

- **Academy closes for May half term** – Friday 27 May 2022 at 3.30pm
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Monday 6 June 2022
- **Academy closes for summer to all students** – Wednesday 20 July at 12.30pm
- **All dates are on our website** – select 'Calendar' at [www.dixonsaa.com](http://www.dixonsaa.com)



## Thank you

I want to end my letter by thanking the wonderful students who come to school every day and give everything to be the best they can be. I have met some fantastic students by hosting Principal's lunch every Tuesday and through this, and other recognition initiatives, we aim to keep celebrating the great work that we see every day from these students. To all students, I hope you have a great week off and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the summer term.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr  
Principal

