

31 August 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome back to all our students and families. I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer! I, and the entire academy staff, are incredibly excited for the forthcoming academic year. We are continuing to ensure we have high expectations and exceptional teaching in the classroom while doing more to build relationships, develop better pastoral care and provide enriching extra-curricular and cultural experiences to all students. We will also be doing more to celebrate excellence and recognise our many students who get things right day-in-day-out!

I have written this short letter so that you are reminded of some of the arrangements and our expectations in advance of students returning. Should you require further information, please contact reception or your child's year team.

The new school day

This is a final reminder to all families that we now have new operating hours. School starts at 8.15am every morning. Students need to be here in time to be in their collective learning space at 8.15am. School will be open to secondary students for breakfast club at 7.45am every day. School will finish at 3.30pm Monday to Thursday and at 2.35pm on Fridays.

Returning to school

Students in Year 7 and Year 12 returned to the academy today. All students are expected to return to the academy from tomorrow (Thursday 1 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 5 September
Friday 2 September	All year groups in school *Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 5 September

Equipment and Uniform

All students will be issued with new backpacks when they return to the academy. They will also receive a planner, knowledge organiser and replacement lanyard and ID card (should they require a new one). To help with subsidising the cost of the equipment, we will be asking for a £10 contribution from all families. Returning students in Year 8 to 11 must bring their pencil case and equipment and will need to buy replacement equipment from the equipment shop should they require it. New Year 7 students will receive a fully stocked pencil case.

Uniform expectations

Please remember that we expect all students to be in correct uniform every day. Expectations also include students not wearing any jewellery (apart from a wristwatch), not wearing trainers, or denim and not having lines or unnatural colours in hair. We can provide items of uniform on rare occasions that students forget something. You can see our full list of uniform and behaviour expectations, as well much more, here:

<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

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, students who are on called and removed from class for continually disrupting learning, and students who spend a day in RESET (e.g. Truancy or internal suspension) will receive an hour and a half (90-minute) correction, finishing at 5pm on Monday to Thursday and 4.05pm on a Friday.

The vast majority of 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.

Advisory Time

This year, your child will have an advisor who will see them every day for a half-hour advisory session. This will allow us to ensure you have a consistent point of contact and that your child has a consistent member of staff who they can rely on and get to know. We will also deliver our pastoral curriculum through these sessions. Please do ask your child who their advisor is a please look out for communication from them and your child's year team.

Key Dates

- **Academy reopens to Year 7 and Year 12** – Wednesday 31 August 2022
- **Academy reopens to all year groups** – Thursday 1 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

I look forward to the academic year ahead and hope that we can all continue to work together to ensure we deliver an exceptional education to all students that supports them in making ambitious life choices and becoming values-driven members of our community.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

