



Dixons City Academy

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Dates for the diary

Key dates

GCSE / BTEC Results (from Summer Season 2026) - Thursday 20 August 2026

Tuesday 1 September - Year 7 students only

Wednesday 2 September - All students Year 7 to 11

Staff Training Day Thursday 12 November 2026

Staff Training Day Friday 13 November 2026

Consultation Evenings

Year 11 - Thursday 18 December (3:45-6:45pm) , Thu 2 Oct

Year 10 - Thursday 8 January (3:45-6:45pm)

Year 9 - Thursday 16 April (3:45-6:45pm)

Year 8 - Thursday 5 February (3:45-6:45pm)

Year 7 - Thursday 2nd October (3:45-6:45pm)

Holidays

October - Saturday 17 October to Sunday 1 November 2026

Christmas - Saturday 19 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027

Principal's Message

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to thank our students, families and staff for their continued support, commitment and hard work.

This newsletter highlights just some of the many achievements, opportunities and experiences that have taken place across the academy this term. Whether in the classroom, on educational visits, through sporting competitions or enrichment activities, our students have demonstrated the determination, resilience and enthusiasm that make Dixons City Academy such a special place. We are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved.

The final week of term brings several of the highlights of the DCA calendar. Dream Team and Sports Day provide valuable opportunities for students to reflect on their progress, celebrate their successes and showcase the values of Respect, Integrity and Determination. On Thursday, we will also be holding a range of recognition events to celebrate the exceptional effort, attendance, progress and contribution of students throughout the year. Thursday is the final day of term and students will finish at the normal time of 2:45pm.

This edition also contains important information to help families prepare for the new academic year, including details about our Family Handbook, Early Help services, online safety,

mental health support and MyChildAtSchool (MCAS). The Family Handbook remains the key reference guide for academy routines and expectations, including uniform and equipment requirements. I would encourage all families to review it carefully and ensure they are familiar with the uniform changes that have previously been communicated ahead of September.

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to wish all of our students, families and staff a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students on Tuesday 1 September, before all students return on Wednesday 2 September for the start of another exciting year at Dixons City Academy.

Raouf Mohammed

Principal

Family Guide 2026/27

The Dixons City Academy Family Guide is your go-to guide for everything you need to know about life at DCA. It contains important information about academy routines, expectations and the support available throughout the year.

Inside you'll find:

- Uniform and equipment expectations
- Attendance and punctuality guidance
- Homework and learning habits
- Behaviour and recognition systems
- Safeguarding information
- Key contacts and academy procedures

We encourage all families and students to read the handbook together before the start of term and refer to it throughout the year.

Read the Family Handbook here:

<https://www.dixonsca.com/admissions/family-guides>

Packaging Project Brings Maths to Life

Our Year 7 mathematicians have successfully completed their exciting Packaging Project, where they were challenged to design and construct packaging capable of holding eight Jaffa Cakes.

Using their knowledge of 3D shapes and nets, students carefully measured, designed and built their own packaging. Whilst many chose cuboids, others challenged themselves by creating cylinders, triangular prisms and even hexagonal prisms. The project showcased excellent mathematical accuracy, creativity and problem-solving, whilst highlighting how mathematics is used in real-world design and manufacturing.

To round off the year, Year 7 also took part in a whole-year Mathematical Challenge in the

theatre. Working in teams, students competed against the clock across three exciting rounds: mathematical problem solving, cross numbers and an energetic maths relay. Carefully differentiated challenges ensured every team could participate and succeed, creating a fun, inclusive and highly competitive event to celebrate a fantastic first year of mathematics at DCA.

Year 10 Geography Students Explore the Yorkshire Coast



Year 10 Geography students recently enjoyed a fantastic two-day fieldwork visit to the Yorkshire coast as part of their GCSE Geography course.

Based in Bridlington, students carried out a range of practical investigations to develop the fieldwork skills needed for their GCSE examinations. They measured groynes along the beach to investigate how coastal management affects longshore drift and collected questionnaire data to explore whether the beach is the main reason visitors choose to visit Bridlington.

The trip also included a visit to the spectacular cliffs at Flamborough Head, where students were able to observe impressive coastal erosion landforms first-hand, bringing classroom learning to life. After a busy day of fieldwork, students also enjoyed a well-earned ice cream while taking in the stunning coastal scenery.

The visit was an excellent opportunity for students to apply their geographical knowledge in a real-world setting, strengthen their investigation skills and prepare for the fieldwork

element of their GCSE Geography course. A huge thank you to the Geography team for organising such a valuable learning experience.

Students Enjoy Memorable Day at the Ilkley Tennis Open



Year 7 and Year 8 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Ilkley Tennis Open, giving them the opportunity to experience professional sport first-hand.

Although the weather brought a few rain delays, students remained positive throughout the day, making the most of the opportunity to explore the venue and soak up the atmosphere before play resumed.

Watching elite tennis players compete live gave students a real appreciation of the skill, athleticism and precision required at the highest level of the sport. For many, it was their first experience of attending a professional tennis event, making the day even more special.

One of the highlights came when Mihail was selected to perform the ceremonial coin toss on Centre Court before the second match. As a lasting reminder of the occasion, he was also presented with the official match coin to keep as a souvenir.

The visit was a fantastic success, combining sport, enrichment and unforgettable experiences that will inspire students for years to come.

DCA Students Shine at the DAT Athletics Championships

Dixons City Academy students proudly represented the academy at the Dixons Academies Trust Athletics Championships in Manchester, competing against some of the strongest athletes from across the Trust.

This year's competition was the biggest yet, with an increased number of schools from the North West taking part. The strength of the competition was clear, with the top six overall schools all coming from the North West. Despite the high standard, our students demonstrated outstanding resilience, determination and team spirit, giving their very best in every event throughout the day.

Each year group's performances contributed towards the overall team scores:

- **Year 7:** 404 points – **11th place**
- **Year 8:** 495 points – **7th place**
- **Year 9:** 462 points – **10th place**
- **Year 10:** 370 points – **6th place**



There were also some fantastic individual performances, with a number of DCA students finishing in the top three of their events and returning home with well-deserved medals.

Throughout the day, our students were outstanding ambassadors for Dixons City Academy. Their positive attitude, encouragement of one another and

determination to compete at the highest level made staff incredibly proud. Congratulations to everyone who took part in what was a fantastic day of athletics and teamwork.

DCA Students Paddle with Pride at the Bradford Dragon Boat Festival



Just one day after competing at the Dixons Academies Trust Athletics Championships, students from Dixons City Academy were back in action, this time taking to the water at the Bradford Dragon Boat Festival in Roberts Park, Saltaire.

The event was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, resilience and community spirit. Away from the racing, students enjoyed the festival atmosphere, exploring a range of activities, food stalls and interactive displays from organisations including the police, fire service and RAF.

On the river, our team competed against schools from across the Dixons Academies Trust in a thrilling 200-metre dragon boat race. Dragon boating demands excellent communication, determination and teamwork, with every paddle stroke needing to be perfectly synchronised to the beat of the drummer.

After two qualifying races, Dixons City Academy finished 10th overall, recording a fastest time of 1:24.780, with the team making excellent progress and improving significantly as confidence grew throughout the day.

More important than the final result was the way our students represented the academy. Their enthusiasm, encouragement of one another and determination to give their very best reflected the values of Respect, Integrity and Determination that define life at DCA.

The Dragon Boat Festival also formed part of the Dixons Cup, earning valuable points for the academy in the Trust-wide competition.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who supported the event and, most importantly, to our students, who were outstanding ambassadors for Dixons City Academy and made us incredibly proud.

Year 10 Make an Excellent Start to Their NEA

Year 10 students have made a fantastic start to their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) in Design Technology, demonstrating creativity, independence and an excellent understanding of the design process.

Students have begun carrying out detailed research to inform their design decisions, including producing comprehensive customer profiles to better understand the needs and preferences of their intended users. This important stage lays the foundations for designing products that are both purposeful and practical.

The majority of students have chosen to design a speaker product, and it has been fantastic to see the originality of their ideas. Many have moved beyond conventional designs, producing imaginative concepts whilst carefully considering how their products could be manufactured using appropriate materials and production methods.

It has been an excellent start to the project, and we look forward to seeing these innovative ideas continue to develop throughout the year.

Year 8 Explore Global Encounters Through History

The History Department was delighted to welcome BeUNIQ, an outreach organisation from the University of Oxford, to deliver a fascinating workshop exploring Britain's colonial history in South Asia and contemporary Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi perspectives.



Students in 8C examined a range of authentic historical artefacts and primary sources, including photographs taken by British colonists, a powder flask from the musket of an Indian rebel, and artwork by modern South Asian artists. Working as historians, students analysed the evidence, debated differing perspectives and formed thoughtful conclusions about the nature of British colonialism.

Students' reflections from the session will now be considered for inclusion in a new museum exhibition at the University of Oxford—an incredible opportunity to contribute to an academic project.

A particular highlight was the opportunity to handle genuine nineteenth-century artefacts,

including Victorian stereoscopes, which allowed photographs to be viewed in 3D, and a beautifully decorated modern Kashmiri shawl featuring the iconic *Buta* motif, later known across Europe as the paisley pattern.

The workshop encouraged students to think critically, communicate confidently and experience the work of professional historians. It was an inspiring session, and we look forward to developing our partnership with BeUNIQ and supporting future visits to the museum exhibition.

Dream Team 2026 – Celebrating Progress and Success

On Tuesday 14 July 2026, students and families at Dixons City Academy will once again take part in one of the highlights of the school year – Dream Team.

Dream Team provides every student with the opportunity to reflect on their achievements, personal development and progress across the academic year. During the event, students will deliver a presentation to their family and form tutor, speaking confidently about what they have learnt, how they have demonstrated the academy values and the ways they have developed their learning habits throughout the year.

The presentations are entirely student-led, with students speaking for five minutes without notes. Students have been working hard in preparation for this important moment, developing their confidence, communication skills and ability to reflect on their own progress.

Dream Team is an important opportunity for families and staff to celebrate successes together, whilst also identifying clear next steps and targets for the next academic year. Families will also receive Cycle 3 assessment reports and other key end-of-year information during their appointment.

Students will attend school only for their allocated Dream Team appointment on the day, accompanied by their family. Attendance at the appointment will count as the student's attendance mark for the day.

We look forward to welcoming all families into school for this special event and celebrating another successful year together at Dixons City Academy.

Sports Day 2026

We are excited to announce that Sports Day 2026 will take place on Wednesday 15 July. This is always one of the highlights of the school year and promises to be another fantastic day full of energy, teamwork and competition.

Students will represent their forms in a wide range of athletic and team events throughout the day, competing for valuable points towards the overall Sports Day standings and the coveted Form of the Year title. As always, the event is about far more than winning medals. Sports Day is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the values of determination, integrity and respect while supporting one another and taking pride in representing their form.

Alongside the competitive events, the day creates a brilliant atmosphere across the academy, with students cheering on their peers and celebrating success together. Whether competing on the track, taking part in field events or encouraging teammates from the sidelines, every student has an important role to play in making the day special.

Families are encouraged to ensure students arrive prepared for the weather conditions with appropriate PE kit, a water bottle and sun cream if needed. We are looking forward to another memorable Sports Day and to seeing students give their very best effort throughout the day.

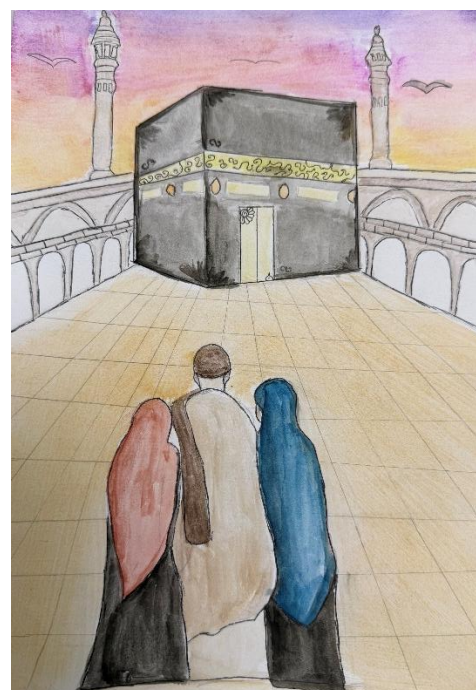
Inspiring Creativity in RE

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students have showcased their creativity and thoughtful reflections by taking part in the NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) Spirited Arts Competition, a national project celebrating the links between faith, spirituality and the arts.

Students explored one of three inspiring themes: Faith in Our Future, Searching for God, or Sacred Spaces, producing a wide range of impressive work including artwork, posters, models and poetry. Their entries demonstrated not only creativity but also deep reflection and a mature understanding of the themes they had chosen.

The standard of work has been exceptional, and the top 10 entries will now be submitted to the national Spirited Arts Competition. In recognition of the fantastic effort shown across the project, 20 students from Years 7 and 8 will also receive a certificate and prize from the RE Department.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and look forward to seeing how our entries perform in the national competition.





Different petals. One beautiful garden.

The Poet Laureates, (Ameera Amir, Ahmed Khalifa and Ruqayya Majeed) have written a poem on celebrating diversity and our unique identities to mark Pride month. They wrote their poems based on their reflections that they wanted to encourage our school community to be kind and inclusive of all. They wanted to focus on what we share, but also celebrating what makes us different and unique. They decided to go with the metaphor of a garden, and all of us flowers.

Acceptance and Growth

— Ameerah Amir ♥ —

constantly fighting for recognition,
being forced into resignation.
living a life in which i'm ashamed,
a society that leaves me unnamed.

wishing that it could change,
leave and cause me no pain.
A place where i'm accepted,
Where understanding allows me to flourish.

i'm not different from them,
if they could only understand that.
i wouldn't wake up with fear,
i wouldn't beg for them to hear.

what makes me so different,
they don't want to accept.
they're blinded by their views,
unable to see others.

the soil we grow in,
nurturing us each individually.
the space we share,
where we should allow others to grow independently.

the petals we blossom into,
blooming with the results of our upbringing.
a garden lush with what makes us unique.

The Garden

— Ruqayya Majeed ♥ —

Beneath one vast and indiscriminate sky
Ten thousand varied forms were born to rise
The manicured rose pursued perfection's art
While lawless ivy climbed with reckless heart

The lilies bent in reverence to the rain
The cedar stood unmoved through loss and pain
Some roots, when intertwined, would slowly decay
For not all blooms were nourished by one way

The thornbush guarded every inch of ground
While fragile orchids flourished, frail yet proud
The ivy's hunger strangled tender stems
Yet still the garden did not silence them

The daisy could not fathom poisoned yew,
Nor praise the crimson poppies soaked in dew.
Acceptance is not blindness towards wrong,
But knowing different groups may still belong

And when the winter tightened, cold and bare
No bloom escaped the violence housed there
The strongest branches cracked beneath the frost
Revealing all things living carry loss

So let the garden harbour weed and rose
For harmony need not mean hearts oppose
None were severed from the garden wall
For earth was meant to shelter one and all

Preparing for September





SCHOOL BAG – ESSENTIAL EVERY DAY

Every student is expected to bring a suitable school bag to and from school every day.

A school bag is an essential part of being ready to learn and must be brought to school every morning and taken home each evening.

YOUR BAG SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CARRY:

 Planner
  Exercise books
  100% books
  Homework & independent study
  Reading book
  Full equipment

! Students without a suitable school bag may not have everything they need to succeed in lessons.



LEARNING EQUIPMENT

Every student should arrive fully equipped every day.

- ✓ Black pens (at least 2)
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Purple pen
- ✓ Green pen
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Scientific calculator
- ✓ Eraser
- ✓ Pencil sharpener
- ✓ Highlighter

 Being fully equipped helps you make the most of every lesson.



UNIFORM

Our updated uniform policy provides greater flexibility for families while maintaining high standards.

EVERYDAY UNIFORM

- Branded academy black V-neck jumper
- Branded academy polo shirt (choice of academy colours)
- Plain black tailored school trousers (branded trousers are no longer required)
- Appropriate plain black school shoes

PE KIT

- Dixons City Academy PE hoodie (only compulsory branded item)
- Plain white polo shirt
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms
- Suitable trainers

 Students who already own branded items (including trousers, PE polo shirts or tracksuit bottoms) may continue to wear them. There is no expectation for families to replace items they already have.



REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

Bring a refillable water bottle every day.

-  Water refill stations are available throughout the academy.
-  Help us reduce plastic waste and protect our environment.
-  Staying hydrated helps you stay focused, energised and ready to learn.

 **Single-use plastic bottles are not permitted in school.**

KEY DATES



**TUESDAY
1 SEPTEMBER**

YEAR 7 STUDENTS ONLY

A chance to settle in, meet staff and begin your Dixons journey.



**WEDNESDAY
2 SEPTEMBER**

YEAR 7-11

STUDENT INDUCTION DAY



FAMILY HANDBOOK

Please take time to read the Dixons City Academy Family Handbook before the start of term.

It contains everything families need to know about:

- ✓ Equipment expectations
- ✓ Attendance
- ✓ Behaviour and routines

- ✓ Uniform
- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Academy life

The handbook is your essential guide to help you and your child have a successful and positive experience at Dixons City Academy.



Families and Young Persons Information (FYI) are a free, impartial service offering advice, information and signposting to children, young people and families within the Bradford district. You can find information and advice pages for all aspects of family life, a service directory and a guide to local activities and events.

Early Help is a voluntary, preventative support service designed to support children, young people and families as soon as difficulties begin to emerge. The aim is to provide support early, helping to prevent concerns from becoming bigger challenges that may require more specialist intervention later on.

At Dixons City Academy, we believe that working closely with families and offering support at the right time can make a significant difference to a young person's wellbeing, attendance and success in school.

What support can Early Help provide?

Early Help can support families with a wide range of needs, including:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Attendance and routines
- Parenting and family support
- Behaviour and relationships
- Signposting to specialist services
- Support during difficult periods or changes at home

Schools often identify concerns early through conversations with students, families, teachers or pastoral staff. An Early Help assessment can then be completed in partnership with families to identify strengths, areas of support and the best next steps.

The school and Early Help Coordinator may then work together with a network of professionals to provide tailored support for the young person and their family.

Early Help Drop-In Session

Our Early Help Coordinator, **Uzma Awan**, will be holding a drop-in clinic for families who would like more information or advice about Early Help support.

Date: Thursday 18 June

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Please contact the academy if you would like further information or would like to attend.

Programmes Available Through Early Help

Early Help offers a range of supportive programmes for families, including:

- Family Links Nurturing Programme
- Talking Teens
- Cygnet
- Time Out for Dads
- DICE

For more information about Early Help services in Bradford, please visit:

<https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/>

Supporting Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

At Dixons City Academy, we know that looking after mental health is just as important as looking after physical health. Young people can sometimes experience worries, stress, anxiety, low mood or other emotional challenges, and it is important that families know where support is available.

There are a range of free services across Bradford that offer advice, guidance and professional support for children, young people and families.

Where to Find Support

NHS Mental Health Support

The NHS provides advice and support through the NHS website for a wide range of issues including:

- Anxiety and panic
- Low mood and depression
- Anger and emotional regulation
- Bereavement
- Exam stress
- Talking about feelings

YoungMinds (<https://www.youngminds.org.uk>)

YoungMinds offers trusted advice and support for young people and parents. Their website includes information about managing emotions, supporting friends, and understanding mental health services. Parents can also access a free helpline for advice and reassurance.

Kooth (<https://www.kooth.com>)

Kooth provides free, safe and anonymous online counselling and mental wellbeing support for young people aged 11–18 across Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven. Young people can speak to trained professionals, access self-help resources and connect with others in a supportive online environment.

In a Crisis

If a young person needs urgent mental health support:

- Call **111** and select the mental health option
- Contact **First Response** on **0800 952 1181**
- In an emergency or if someone is at immediate risk, call **999** or attend A&E.

Helping Your Child Stay Safe on Social Media

Social media is a big part of young people's lives, offering opportunities to connect, learn and be creative. However, it also comes with risks, including unwanted contact, exposure to inappropriate content and pressure around appearance and popularity. Parents and carers play a crucial role in guiding children to use these platforms safely and responsibly.

Practical tips for parents

1. Talk early and talk often

Regular conversations help children feel confident sharing concerns. Healthy, open discussions in a safe space promote ongoing, supportive dialogue about what children encounter online.

2. Review privacy and safety settings together

Simple actions such as turning off location sharing, setting accounts to private and helping children understand how to block or report harmful content.

3. Understand the risks and benefits

Children often use social media to build friendships, explore interests and express themselves creatively. However, they may also encounter harmful content, unrealistic body image expectations or unsolicited contact. Discuss these risks openly with your child and without judgement.

4. Work through safety tools on the apps they use

Many platforms include parental controls or content-limiting tools. The UK Safer Internet Centre provides clear guides to the safety features available on popular social networks.

5. Set family expectations together

Establish clear rules around screen time, sharing images and respectful online behaviour such as a time to turn phones off and hand them over for the night, a way of checking posts before they are uploaded and regularly checking the content of social media use.

Supporting responsible social media use

Helping young people build positive digital habits is just as important as preventing harm.

Encourage thoughtful sharing

Remind your child that what they post creates a lasting digital footprint. Help your child to understand who can see their posts and the impact of oversharing personal information.

Promote kindness and respect online

Online interactions can sometimes feel less “real”, which may lead to unkind behaviour. Talk openly about respectful communication and what is acceptable to share or say online.

Help them balance screen time

As well as establishing family agreements around device use, make a point to hold regular check-ins about how certain apps/content might make children feel. These conversations support digital wellbeing as well as safety.

If your child is the victim of online abuse

It's vital children know they can always speak to a trusted adult if something online upsets them. Here's how parents/carers can respond:

Stay calm, listen and reassure them

Children need to know they are not to blame. The NSPCC provides guidance on recognising signs of cyberbullying and online abuse.

Save evidence and report the abuse

Take screenshots of messages or posts. Most social media platforms have reporting tools. Support your child to use blocking and reporting features to stop unwanted contact.

Seek further help if needed

If you're worried about your child's safety, organisations such as CEOP offer help with reporting harmful online behaviour, and Childline provides confidential support 24/7. These resources are signposted through the NSPCC's online safety hub.

Parents should contact the police immediately if the abuse includes threats of violence, evidence of exploitation, blackmail, or persistent harassment.

If someone is sharing or threatening to share indecent images of a child – this is illegal, and reporting to the police ensures action can be taken swiftly.

Recommended resources

NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

NSPCC – Social Media Safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

UK Safer Internet Centre – Parents & Carers

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Internet Matters – Advice & App Guides

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Children's Commissioner – Online Safety Guide (2026)

<https://nasen.org.uk/news/childrens-commissioner-publishes-guide-parents-support-online-safety>

Childline – Online Safety

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

Work with the school

If the issue involves peers in school and you are concerned of an incident escalating at school, please contact us. We will work with you and your child to ensure they feel safe, supported and protected.

Who to contact at school

Mr J Sparks – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr J Yale – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mr J Sandhu – Deputy Safeguarding Lead

MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) – Staying connected with your child's school life

At Dixons City Academy, we are committed to keeping families informed and involved in their child's education. **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** is our online platform that allows parents and carers to access key information about their child's school life **anytime, anywhere**.

MCAS can be accessed through any modern web browser (such as Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari) and is also available as a **free app** for both **Apple (iOS)** and **Android** devices.

What can you see on MCAS?

Through MCAS, families can view:

- Attendance information in real time
- Behaviour and appreciation points
- Assessment data and cycle reports
- Student timetables and the school calendar
- Exam timetables and results (including GCSEs and Cycle 3 assessments)
- Important letters and school documents

All school communications are now sent via the **MCAS app**, including announcements and push notifications, rather than by text message. Parents can also use MCAS to message the school directly.

How do I get started?

If you haven't signed up yet:

1. Download **MyChildAtSchool** from the **App Store** (Apple) or **Google Play Store** (Android).
2. Once downloaded, select **"Request a password reset"**.
3. Follow the instructions to access your account and begin viewing your child's information.

Need support?

If you need any help accessing or using MCAS, please email info@dixonsca.com with **"MCAS"** in the subject line. A member of the team will be happy to support you.

We strongly encourage all families to use MCAS as the main way of staying informed and engaged with life at Dixons City Academy.

