

July 2023

Dear families

As we come to the end of a very positive and successful year, I would like to thank you for your support during my first term as Principal at Dixons City Academy. Students, staff and families have been very welcoming, and I am incredibly proud of having the privilege of serving at such a vibrant, diverse and caring academy. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of all our students and staff over the last year. Additionally, I want to confirm arrangements for the end of term and share important information with you regarding the start of next academic year.

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Our Year 10 geography students took part in their GCSE geography field trip on 6-7 July. The engagement students showed whilst completing their fieldwork was outstanding. Part of their fieldwork included asking the public questionnaires and it was amazing to see not only our students doing this so confidently, but also receiving comments from the public about how polite they were. It was particularly powerful seeing the awe and wonder in the students when they saw the erosional landforms at Flamborough Head and to see how powerful it was for student learning and understanding, especially for those who have never been to the coast.

Duke of Edinburgh

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the exceptional achievements of our students here at DCA. One particular highlight worth celebrating is the remarkable Duke of Edinburgh award expedition undertaken by 71 students from year 9 and 10 on 12-14 July 2023.

During this expedition, our students showcased their resilience, teamwork, and self-reliance as they pursued their bronze and silver awards. Their unwavering commitment and outstanding conduct were recognised by members of the public who encountered them along the way, applauding their maturity and dedication to the expedition's objectives.

These students took charge of their own expedition, demonstrating impressive navigation skills through unfamiliar terrain, successfully setting up campsites and preparing their own meals. There was a great sense of pride and accomplishment felt by staff and students upon crossing the finish line as they discovered their true potential and acquired skills that will serve them well into the future.

Careers Day

Dixons City Academy organised career days for Year 10 students, where they engaged in various activities aimed at exploring future career options. The sessions focused on researching different career paths, crafting impressive CVs, and featured talks by successful former students who shared their journeys beyond DCA. The event concluded with a visit to Dixon's Sixth Form Academy, where students had the chance to participate in taster lessons and receive guidance on applying for their preferred post-16 educational institutions.

Arrangements for the last day of term – Friday 21 July

Students will finish at 12.30 on the final day of the year. During an extended break, students will empty their lockers and grab bags will be available for those eligible for Free School Meals. All lockers will be cleaned and some will be replaced over the summer break. Anything left will be disposed of, so please encourage your child to take everything home. Where possible, they should take items home gradually over the week, so that they don't have too much to carry on the Friday. After break there will be an end of year celebration assembly and then students will be dismissed at 12.30.

GCSE results

Year 11 GCSE Results Day is on Thursday 24 August 2023. Students will be able to collect their results from 8.00 – 10.00.

Further details regarding the arrangements will be available on our school website.



New academic year 2023/24

The key dates for the beginning of the new academic year are below:

- Thursday 24 August 2023 – Staff Training Day
- Friday 24 August 2023 – Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 29 August – Year 7 only. Students must arrive by 8.15.
- Wednesday 30 August – All students Year 7 to 11. Students must arrive by 8.15.

Attendance

Research shows that good attendance at school is linked to positive outcomes. Evidence suggests that even small improvements in attendance can lead to meaningful impacts for attainment. Regular attendance is the key to your child doing well and will set them up with good routines for later life and the working world.

All parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child is educated. School attendance is mandatory during term time with the expectation that attendance will be 100% unless the child is unwell - attendance lower than 90% is of concern and categorised as Persistent Absence.

Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of academy hours. Where this is not possible, a *Request for medical leave of absence* form must be completed and submitted in advance of the appointment.

Students should not be going on family holidays during term time – a leave of absence during term time is not permitted. Any extended absence from the academy will be counted as unauthorised and can lead to a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority and the possible risk of your child losing their place.

Uniform

The Academy has a dress code which all students are expected to follow. There is an emphasis on being clean and tidy and students must appreciate that not all items of clothing are appropriate for a place of work. Our students have always understood this and recognise that conflict over the dress code is inappropriate. Our dress code is practical and allows a choice within very clear boundaries.

The academy dress code can be found in our Family Handbook (<https://www.dixonsca.com/about/family-handbook>).

Equipment

Students are expected to bring the following to school every day:

- Pencil case
- 2 black pens
- 2 green pens
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Glue stick
- Calculator
- Mini white board, white board pen and cloth or rubber

Local Academy Boards

We are excited to announce changes to our local governance structure. Our change ties into the concept of community anchoring, where the academy is at the heart of the community and everyone has shared responsibility to provide a safe, healthy environment for our children to develop.



The name of the local governing body will change to local academy board and members of this board will be called ambassadors. It is essential the children in our care feel that they are represented by role models they can relate to and ambassadors will be representative of the parents, students and staff in the academy. Furthermore, they will work with community groups and leaders to strengthen ties in the area. Through these links, they will be able to raise awareness and lobby local community leadership to highlight the challenges that our families face and work to seek solutions.

In addition to ensuring our students leave our academies equipped for higher education and high-quality jobs, we also want to demonstrate the need for civic responsibility and our ambassadors will provide this.

If you would like to be part of the local academy board and take on this new and exciting role please contact Kathryn Berrill, Head of Governance and Executive Services on kberrill@dixonsat.com.

Summer activities

The FYI website is the new place to go to find out about the great things to do to keep children active and entertained over the summer holiday in the Bradford district – with many of them free of charge. Go to <https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/> and then click on Summer Holiday Activities.

FYI is a free, impartial service offering advice, information and signposting to children, young people and families within the Bradford district. On it, you can find information and advice pages for all aspects of family life, a service directory and a guide to local activities and events.

I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer break with your loved ones, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Raouf Mohammed
Principal

