

May 2024

Dear families

Term 5

It has been another successful term at Dixons City. Our Year 11 have completed more than half of their GCSE exams, and these have gone well so far. We are very proud of the resilience and determination our students have shown. Their exams will continue in term 6. Thank you for your support in ensuring that they are revising at home and on time for their exams.

Academy trips are essential to support social interactions and communication skills as well as gaining life skills for as much independence as possible. They can help build relationships, confidence, and engagement. Even just from a purely academic point of view, academy trips are crucial – they give students practical memories and experiences of the subject.

During term 5, students in Year 10 took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expedition. They developed many invaluable skills in such a short period – teamwork, resilience, navigation, cooking, independence, to name just a few. Year 10 students also visited Fountains Abbey, as part of their GCSE history course. This trip made it easier to remember key points and deepen their understanding of a topic to help them in their assessments and in accessing the higher grades.

We also had some Year 7 students visit the science department at Cambridge University. The visit provided insights into university life and opportunities for further education. Students had a tour of Homerton College and took part in a practical physics session at the Cavendish Laboratory.

Student Council

This term we are delighted to launch the Dixons City Academy Student Council. The enthusiasm and interest shown by our students has been remarkable, making the selection process highly competitive. The process to join the student council involved students in Years 7 to 10 putting themselves forward for nomination, leading presentations in their forms and undertaking in-form voting. Shortlisted students submitted detailed applications reviewed by the Heads of Year, narrowing down the candidates to six per year group. The final stage was an interview evening, where candidates showcased their communication skills and leadership potential to a panel of teachers and current student ambassadors.

We are proud to announce that three students from each year group, along with four from Year 10 (including two Lead Students and two Deputy Lead Students), have been selected for our inaugural Student Council. Council meetings will be held twice each term to discuss key issues and drive whole academy and community initiatives.

Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to the positive impact of our new Student Council.

Fund raising at DCA

This year has been a testament to the incredible spirit and generosity of our academy community. Students across all year groups participated in the Walk for Unity, supporting the Save the Children Gaza Appeal. Our goal was to collectively walk 2,365 miles, symbolizing the distance from Bradford to the area of conflict. Through determination and teamwork, we not only achieved our goal but also raised an impressive £1,483 for the appeal.

More recently, we hosted Culture Day, a vibrant event dedicated to raising funds for the Bradford Central Foodbank and contributing to our Year 11 leavers' prom. Culture Day is a special occasion at Dixons City, where students and staff proudly showcase their cultural heritage through their attire, celebrating diversity and fostering cultural understanding and respect. The event was a great success, raising £334.37 in total.

These fundraising efforts highlight the unity and compassion of our academy community. We are incredibly proud of the contributions made by our students and staff, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of supporting important causes in the future.



Water bottles

As we continue in our mission to make the world a better place, we must consider our environmental impact, both as individuals and as a community. As an academy, we sell hundreds of plastic water bottles a week. Plastic can take thousands of years to biodegrade. It takes up valuable space in landfill sites and is polluting the natural environment, having a significant impact on our oceans. Once the bottles have been used by students, they have to be sorted and taken away for recycling. This is an additional cost to the academy and this money could be better spent on educational resources.

We are committed to ensure that our environmental footprint is as green and sustainable as possible, and the government has urged all schools to eliminate their use of single use plastics. Therefore, I am delighted to be able to inform you that from the week commencing Monday 10 June 2024 we will be providing each of our students with a permanent re-usable Dixons City Academy water bottle.

To support this initiative, we have invested in having further water fountains placed around our academy site so that students can re-fill their bottles at the start of the day, at break and lunchtimes. We will also be providing students with waterproof identification labels for their bottles to ensure that the bottles remain hygienic and are personalised for each student. When your child is provided with a bottle, it will come with a printed piece of paper with guidance about how to clean the bottle before initial use.

Students will be given their bottle on the week commencing Monday 10 June. As of Wednesday 12 June, the academy will no longer stock or provide plastic bottles for sale. There is no charge to families for the initial permanent water bottle provided, however, replacement bottles will be provided to students at a charge of £1. This charge will be placed on ParentPay and the bottle will be provided to the student when the payment has been made on Parent Pay. If a student doesn't have their bottle, cups will be available to use for drinking water. From Wednesday 12 June, the only water bottles that students are allowed to carry and use in academy will be the permanent DCA branded bottles that they have been provided with.

Attendance and punctuality

Consistent attendance is crucial for academic success, and your support in ensuring your child's regular attendance is greatly appreciated. Thank you for partnering with us in fostering a positive learning environment for your child.

Students arriving late to the academy miss out on valuable learning and key messages. Furthermore, their late arrival is disruptive to Morning Meetings. Thank you for continuing to support us with ensuring your child is on time. The academy is accessible from 7:30am and students should arrive before 8:15am. If students arrive after this time they will be issued with a lunchtime correction. Should they fail to attend the lunchtime correction, they must sit a 60-minute correction on the same day, at the end of the academy day.

Medical appointments should be made outside of academy hours; where this is unavoidable due to an emergency, please ensure the academy is informed and an absence request form is completed. Other leaves of absence during term time are 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. In order to avoid personal opinion and to ensure complete fairness for all, we refer all leaves of absence to the authority.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns with your child's attendance.

Cycle 3 assessments

At the beginning of term 6, students will be sitting their end of year assessments. Most of the assessments will take place in the Sports Hall and will be sat under exam conditions.

Your child's assessment timetable has already been shared with you (<https://www.dixonsca.com/about/examination-information>). Below is the schedule for when students will sit their assessments in the Sports Hall:

- Year 10: Monday 3 until Friday 21 June
- Year 9: Wednesday 5 until Friday 21 June
- Year 8: Monday 24 until Friday 28 June
- Year 7: Monday 24 until Friday 28 June

Your child will sit additional assessments that will take place in classrooms. These will take place before, during or just after the week(s) indicated above.



Your child will have been directed by their subject teacher as to what to revise; however, BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>) and Dixons Revision (<https://www.dixonsrevision.com>) are two highly recommended websites to support revision.

I have no doubt that your child has been working hard and will continue to do so over the May holiday, in preparation for their end of year exams.

Uniform donations

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we understand that some of our families may struggle to provide uniform for students throughout the year, and to replace items which have been lost, damaged or no longer fit.

To support the families of Dixons City Academy, we are setting up a uniform donation system. Families can donate unwanted items of uniform and PE kit, which we will then redistribute to students needing replacement items.

If you have any items of academy uniform or PE kit which are no longer needed, please bring these items to our reception. Donations can be made from 10 June and they will be washed and prepared in preparation for the new academic year. Families will have access to these items from the start of the 24/25 academic year.

Local academy board

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our local academy board as an ambassador. You'll have the opportunity to shape the future of our academy and positively impact the lives of our students, parents, and staff.

If you're ready to contribute your skills and expertise to support academic excellence and community engagement, we'd love to hear from you. If you are interested, please see the link below for further information:

<https://www.dixonsca.com/uploads/files/dixonsca/Local-Academy-Board-recruitment-advert.pdf?v=1714548249>

Yours sincerely

Mr R Mohammed

Principal