

February 2024

Dear Families

I write as we approach our February half term holiday to thank you for your continued support working in partnership with Dixons City Academy to help to ensure that our students are working towards being the best version of themselves and aligning with our core values of determination, integrity and respect. It has been a busy and successful term as we have embedded new routines driven by student feedback.

This is a critical time for all students but particularly for our Year 11 students whose exams are looming on the near horizon and whose next sequence of mock exams is even closer. Determination and integrity will be crucial to the success of our Year 11 cohort in ensuring that they provide themselves with the best possible chance of optimal outcomes and we extend our thoughts to them and a desire that they use the upcoming half term holiday as an excellent opportunity to revisit their learning, deliberately focus on topics they know need improvement, and prepare with purpose for the mocks which will take place after the holidays.

As we continue to strive to enhance the experience of our students at Dixons City Academy, I would like to make you aware of an addition to our expectation around the uniform worn by students at Dixons City Academy. From Monday 5 February, all students will be issued with a lanyard and ID card which they must wear around their necks at all times while in the school building. There will be multiple benefits from providing student with these lanyard and ID cards:

- ID cards will be linked to ParentPay accounts and will speed up the process of students paying for their food in the canteen. By scanning their ID cards to pay for their food and drinks, this will eliminate delays created by errors using the current system where an allocated student PIN was manually entered by staff. Students will, therefore, have more social time at break and lunchtime as queues for payment will move faster.
- Students will be able to attach their locker key to their lanyard, leading to a reduction in lost keys and the associated time and expense associated with lost keys.
- Students will have specific, coloured lanyards linked to their own year group which will support staff and students from a safeguarding and identification perspective. The student will have the same colour lanyard throughout their transition through school until the end of year 11.

We will provide initial lanyards and ID cards to students free of charge. Replacement lanyards and / or ID badges will be provided at a cost of £5. The wearing of the lanyard and ID badge will be monitored and enforced in the same manner as all other aspects of our uniform policy and expectations. There may be extenuating circumstances in which a member of staff may ask students to remove their lanyard for health and safety reasons but these times will be made very explicit by the member of staff at the time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and relaxing half term holiday which begins on Monday 12 February. Please ensure that students remain safe during the holiday – on the roads, online and in whatever activities they participate in. We look forward to welcoming all our students back the academy on Monday 19 February. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that students must be in the building by 8.15am to be on time for school, students who arrive after this time will receive a correction. My final reminder is that school is closed to students on Friday 9 February as this is a staff training day.

Once again, have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing our students fresh and energised on Monday 19 February.

Yours sincerely

**Mr C Bell**  
**Vice Principal**

