

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Re: Correction and Communication Updates**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We spent the last half term reflecting on feedback from our students and parents as much as possible. We, in particular, have been listening on the topic of corrections and the communication between home and school. We recognise the importance of the home-school partnership in supporting our students and so seek to strengthen that relationship with some exciting updates we will be introducing in this half term.

**Corrections**

At Dixons Fazakerley Academy, we want all to succeed at university, or a real alternative, to thrive in a rewarding career and have a purposeful and happy life. However, we also understand that not all students will be able to achieve this without making mistakes along the way. Our learning habits are in place to allow teachers to teach and students to learn. Where students don't meet our learning habits, corrections are issued as a consequence for poor choices, to reflect the expectations of society. Corrections are an opportunity for students to reflect on their mistakes and understand how they can be a little bit better each day. Corrections also allow the staff body to support in addressing any barriers that lead to an issue before the next day - we use this time to try and correct any issues.

We have listened to feedback from students and recognise the frustration that some have that the system does not reflect society by issuing different consequences to those making more poor choices, which students feel is unfair. We want to balance that desire against safe travel home where students make their own way home, which in the winter could be after sunset. Therefore, beginning February 26<sup>th</sup> 2024, the length of corrections issued will change to 20, 40 or 60 minutes, as well as utilising social time corrections. The length issued, will depend on the number of issues in a day. We may also need to use more serious consequences, like isolation from the main school community, where serious poor choices are made.

We ask for your continued support in making sure your child makes the right choices and avoids corrections entirely, but also to attend corrections when issued, to resolve any issues and learn from their mistakes and have that fresh start before the next day.

**Communication**

At Dixons Fazakerley we recognise that parents with busy lives need up to date, accurate, high-quality information from school as quickly as you can get it. We know that we have not always been able to offer you this. We also recognise that in modern world we all access most communications from our phones, making the limitations of traditional text messages (with character limits and no attachments) unhelpful to how we all communicate.

We also seek the support to be as efficient with our limited budget as possible. Text messages cost the school, which is money we could spend on your child's education directly. Email and app notifications are all free. It is our aim to remove all text message use by the school during this half term, shifting to 100% email and app use for all families. We need your support to be ready for this shift.

We previously introduced our MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app to parents. A number of you have moved to using the app and are already getting the benefits of access to things like: attendance and absence information, behaviour updates – including correction notifications, academic reports, and student timetables – so you know what lessons your child has each day. Moving forwards, we are aiming to develop the app further by adding things like dinner money uploads, pupil personal details updates, and clubs or trips information. Excitingly, the MCAS app has been updated to remove the need for complicated codes or preset usernames to be collected from school. Simply download the app to any Apple or Android device (search for 'MyChildAtSchool' in your app store) or go to the browser version ([www.mychildatschool.com](http://www.mychildatschool.com)) on any web-enabled device. All you need are an email address and parental responsibility, both of which must be saved in your contact details with school already. If you have not provided these details to school, please contact the main office urgently to avoid missing communications.

If you have any questions or are struggling to use the software, a guide for the App and the software can be found on our school website in the 'About' section, under the 'MyChildAtSchool App' tab.

As mentioned, we would like all families to be using this platform for communication. We aim to communicate 100% with parents via the app by the end of March 2024. I am confident this change will improve the standard of communication and consequently improve the three-way partnership between parent, student, and teacher that we value so highly at Dixons Fazakerley Academy.

Yours sincerely

Chris Wilson  
Principal

