

24 August 2023

Dear families

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and that you and your child are looking forward to the start of the new academic year. I am writing to ensure we enjoy a smooth and positive start to the year with every student able to focus on their academic work as a result of getting all of the basics right from minute one on day one. Your child's enjoyment of and success within school is heavily influenced by the degree to which we work in genuine partnership so hopefully the clarity and frequency of our communications regarding the priorities below will help us continue to strengthen our work in this area.

### **SLT Drop In – Friday – 3pm – 4pm**

One of the pieces of feedback we were given last year was a desire to see us continue to improve our communication and an opportunity to see people face to face without an appointment; obviously, we cannot simply accommodate families who arrive at reception without an appointment as a functioning school already sees colleagues busy teaching or supporting students. However, we want to provide a weekly opportunity for families to come and see us and let us know of any concerns or queries as they arise so we can work together to address them. As a result, we will be hosting an **SLT Drop In every Friday from 3pm – 4pm** (starting from Friday 1 September) where no appointment will be necessary; if we can resolve the query immediately we will and if not we will take it away and get back to you the following week with next steps and actions.

### **Uniform**

We have been very clear about uniform expectations ahead of the new term so that we can avoid conflict between home and school and I wanted to reiterate those by posting the relevant letters below; please take time to read this:

[Year 8 and 9 uniform](#)

[Year 10 uniform](#)

[Year 11 uniform](#)

The most common challenges we experience on day one around uniform relate to the following so let's all work together to avoid them. Please ensure your child's uniform includes the following:

- Plain black shoes (examples of which are given in the letter above – Vivienne Westwoods are not acceptable)
- No fake eyelashes or fake nails – please ensure these have been removed following any wearing over the summer holiday
- No piercings (including no plastic retainers) and no jewellery – we have always been very clear about this and it will not be acceptable to say a piercing has been acquired over the summer and therefore students need to wear a retainer or piece of jewellery

If you are struggling with any items of uniform please let us know as we do have some nearly new items of second hand uniform in school which have been kindly donated by fellow families for others in the community. Please get in touch with Mrs Kokosalakis, Vice Principal, at the email address below:

[Skokosalakis@dixonsfa.com](mailto:Skokosalakis@dixonsfa.com)

I wanted to remind families of the purpose behind our clear uniform rules which is to ensure all students are safe in lessons (including practical lessons), equipped for their studies and focused on learning not fashion. Working together, we can ensure every student is able to go straight to lessons on day one looking smart and professional so I thank you in advance for your support with this.



## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Children who attend school more regularly get better grades, enjoy higher earnings as an adult and report higher levels of emotional wellbeing and resilience as adults so all students been in school from day one is essential; your action in ensuring your child is in school on the first day of term will send a really important message to them about the importance of them being in school every single day. Students return to school from the dates below:

**Year 7 and Year 11 return on Tuesday 29 August 2023**

**Years 8, 9 and 10 return on Wednesday 30 August 2023**

School starts at 8.30am and students need to be in their morning meeting space at this time so please ensure they are through the gates before 8.30am which is when the gates will close and students will be late and receive a correction. A correction is easily avoided by setting off with enough time to spare and to allow for traffic or roadworks – this preparation and commitment to being punctual will help your child be successful in school and increase their employability when they enter the workforce in the coming years.

Finally, I also want to recognise the immense challenges many of you will be facing currently. Price rises, a shortage of support services and the energy crisis are just some of the things I know will be putting extra pressure on families in our community. I cannot claim to have a solution to these challenges but I would encourage you to talk to your child's Head of Year if things have are especially challenging for you or your child at the moment and we will always look to support however we can. You can find the relevant email address below (year groups refer to the year group your child will be in from the end of August):

Class of 2028 (Year 7) – Mr Walshaw – [jwalshaw@dixonsfa.com](mailto:jwalshaw@dixonsfa.com)

Class of 2027 (Year 8) – Ms Rangel – [lrangel@dixonsfa.com](mailto:lrangel@dixonsfa.com)

Class of 2026 (Year 9) – Miss Sandland – [esandland@dixonsfa.com](mailto:esandland@dixonsfa.com)

Class of 2025 (Year 10) – Mr Gallagher – [agallagher@dixonsfa.com](mailto:agallagher@dixonsfa.com)

Class of 2024 (Year 11) – Mrs Zeqaj – [hzeqaj@dixonsfa.com](mailto:hzeqaj@dixonsfa.com)

I look forward to seeing you and your child in the near future as the new term begins and I wish you well for the remainder of the holiday.

Yours faithfully

Mr Wilson  
Principal  
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

