

3rd January 2022

Dear families,

I am writing to you ahead of the new term and following the latest guidance to schools from the Department for Education yesterday. However, firstly I want to wish you and your child a successful and fulfilling 2022 as we begin the New Year.

Return to School

I look forward to seeing your child return to school on Thursday 6th January 2022 and, in order to ensure a successful return to school, students should be here and through the relevant gates by 8.30am. As well as ensuring they are in perfect uniform which includes an A4 sized plain black rucksack and plain black shoes, please ensure your child is not wearing any jewellery, fake nails or nail varnish and that their hair colour is natural. If we work together to ensure that your child is ready to learn, it will help them enjoy a smooth transition back into learning on Thursday morning.

Testing

To keep all members of our community safe, students are invited to have a Covid LFD test before their return to school. This will be offered on Wednesday 5th January from 9am to 4pm.

For those students for whom we already have consent, they should come to school for testing on the above date wearing appropriate face covering.

In light of the rising cases nationally, I would encourage all students to be tested before their return and therefore we will look to run further testing onsite on Thursday 6th January.

If you would like your child to be tested, please give your consent via the link below:

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/covid-19-testing>

This form must be completed by Tuesday 4th January. Please remember, in order for us to be able to test your child, we need this consent first.

Face Coverings

The latest Government guidance has made it clear that face coverings should now be worn in classrooms as well as shared spaces in secondary schools moving forwards. Unless medically exempt, all staff and students will be expected to wear face coverings inside the school building at all times. If you haven't done so already, please notify us if your child qualifies as "medically exempt" from wearing a face covering.

Remote Learning

If your child is away from school and at home due to a positive Covid test result and they are well enough to work, please find the link to our remote learning provision below:

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/remote-learning>

Students should follow their normal timetable as closely as possible and keep all completed work which should be handed to their class teacher on their return to school.



Staffing Absence

As you will have seen, the Government is expecting every part of society to plan for staffing absences of up to 25% and this is accompanied with an expectation of widespread disruption when we return to school.

My hope and plans are that we will manage staffing absence internally through a mixture of cover supervisors, collapsing groups and big teaches in communal spaces – all of which are suggested by the Government in their latest guidance and have been implemented effectively before Christmas when cases and absence were beginning to rise.

As a last resort, we will look at asking whole year groups to work at home remotely if we cannot open and run the school safely but I would write to you separately regarding this. I hope we will not need this last resort but I also want you to be reassured that we have plans in place to mitigate the effect on our students if it is needed.

Finally, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well and that you have had a restful Christmas although I appreciate for many it may well have been disrupted by the pandemic and/or by the work I know many of our families do in roles that mean even at Christmas you continue to work and to serve our wider community. Thank you for your support and let's work together to manage the situation we are facing in the short term and then to make our school brilliant for your child and their peers in the medium to longer term.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

