

10 September 2021

Dear families

Our first full week comes to an end and it has been a busy and productive one. I wanted to write to thank you for your support in ensuring students have enjoyed a positive return to learning and I also want to outline some of our next steps. I know the warm weather has been the subject of much debate and students have worked really hard to ensure that learning has continued with as little disturbance as possible. I would say I hope everyone enjoys some of the warm weather this weekend however things seem to have changed on that front sadly. I do wish everyone a restful break though and look forward to seeing the students back bright and early on Monday morning.

Before I discuss anything else I wanted to share how proud I am of the polite and respectful way in which students are speaking to and working with staff at Dixons Fazakerley. We talk a lot about purpose not power and the Fazakerley Full Stop; we all end our sentences with either Sir/Miss/Student or adult name and it is helping to build a culture of genuine mutual respect. I look at our students in their uniform, hear their manners and respectfulness and observe their improved attitude to learning and believe every child has a bright future ahead of them if we keep improving together. As always, thank you for your support and I realise we still have much to do and change so I appreciate you working constructively with us as we do that.

Appreciations

We recognise that students have worked hard upon their return and during Morning Meeting today several students were specifically appreciated by staff for their efforts and commitment. We are working on a safe and GDPR compliant way of sharing the appreciations with families but for now please discuss them with your child – it is one of the most special parts of the week and speaks about our core values of respect and valuing everyone in our community.

End of the School Day

I have received a handful of emails regarding the end of the school day and I wanted to publicly share that I do share your frustrations about the congestions on the roads. We have a very busy road at the front leading into very small roads around the side so I would ask parents to consider parking slightly further away if at all possible. We also have a large number of students coming through the gates so will be re-opening the alternative gate (situated at the front of the school) for students in Years 10 and 11 to exit the school to help with the congestion. We are listening and continue to work on this to help students leave promptly and safely.

Uniform

It has been amazing to see our students in their new uniforms this week and the commitment of the whole community to get our students looking smart, professional and ready to succeed has been really encouraging. A huge thank you to everyone who worked to ensure their child is in 100% perfect uniform – we have really moved forwards in this regard and I hope everyone is proud of how the students hold themselves in our new uniform.

Curriculum

We have begun using new booklets to support our teaching in English, Maths, Science and some other subjects. Designed centrally by the Dixons Academies Trust curriculum experts, these booklets combine a mixture of extended reading, activities and retrieval activities. Your child is now using the same materials as those supporting students across academies within Dixons and I know many have explained how much they like the structure the booklets provide. Please do discuss them with your child and I look forward to seeing how they support our students to fulfil their potential in the weeks and months ahead.



Open Evening

As we continue to improve our school Dixons Fazakerley will have our first Year 6 Open Evening as a brand new school. If you or any of your family or friends have children in Year 6 please do come to our Open Evening to find out more about what we offer students and how we intend to keep on getting better. Details can be found below:

Thursday 30th September 4.30pm – 6.30pm - Presentations at 4.45pm and 5.45pm

Same Day Corrections

We have very high expectations at Dixons Fazakerley and as we embed new routines and structures the same day corrections give students the opportunity to reflect, plan for the next day and to, ultimately, improve their choices the following day. We will issue texts letting families know regarding same day corrections by 2pm each day and the expectation is that your child attends their same day correction if they have one – we do not cancel corrections and will not defer them except in the most exceptional of circumstances. Families of all students should feel confident in supporting these as they will help us embed a much more focused, purposeful and academic culture here at Dixons Fazakerley.

As of Monday 13th September, we will be introducing same day corrections for any student who chooses to disrupt morning meeting by talking when not invited to. We have been practising morning meeting all week and students have been brilliant in terms of focus and commitment so I would expect same day corrections to be relatively low for this but please do talk to your child about the expectations and why we have them. It's always straightforward at Dixons Fazakerley, every second counts and everyone matters therefore we need to ensure learning is disruption free.

Thank you for all of your support with everything I have explained above. I am hoping to keep the letters a little shorter moving forwards but we do have so much happening at the moment that I want every family to have a clear picture of the developments across the board. Wishing you and your family well.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

