

4 February 2022

Dear families

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I wanted to start by addressing what has been a difficult week for many across the country in regards to the increasing cost of living and recent announcements regarding energy prices and inflation. It may seem odd for me to start with this and I certainly am not making political comments in doing so, but for every child to thrive in our academy they need to be well fed, warm and feel secure in regards to housing and welfare and therefore I want to reiterate that as a school we are here to serve you and your child. If, as a family, you are experiencing hardship then please talk to us and we will look to support wherever possible and if we cannot help in the immediate sense of the word we can look to signpost families to relevant services and support in the local area. I grew up in a family where every penny was accounted for and this week's announcements would have been very challenging for us so please do contact us if you have any concerns at all as staff will always do their best to help.

Appreciations

This week has seen students demonstrate our core values of determination, integrity and respect in so many ways and as always our appreciation list is long and varied so please do congratulate your child if they have been recognised below (if they haven't please still discuss our positive learning comments in planners and what behaviours might lead to recognition in this way):

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/appreciations>

Careers and Year 9 Options

We have made significant headway in improving our offer in this area in recent weeks and children in Years 9 and 11 are now able to access independent careers advice through our independent Careers Connect advisors. We have had a number of workshops working with students in Year 10 to begin to explore what future destinations are available and we have also begun to introduce Unifrog, an online portal for students and families to access the relevant advice. If you would like to request some additional support for your child in Years 9-11 regarding future career pathways then please email Mrs Russell (Assistant Headteacher) at russells@fazakerleyhigh.org.

A quick reminder for families of Year 9 students to ensure they have completed the Microsoft Form regarding Year 9 options by Monday 7 February. [Click here for the form](#).

Class of 2022 Mocks and Support

A huge well done to our class of 2022 for their determination this week undertaking their first round of official mocks following the covid disruption of the past two years. Students have done a magnificent job in rising to the challenge and the vast majority have enjoyed experiencing what is to come in the summer. We have revision masterclasses, targeted intervention and personalised support continuing for the class of 2022 so please see the link below:

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/conquering-the-summit>

Family Appointments

I am disappointed to have to return to a theme I felt we had addressed as a community but the last week has forced me to I am afraid. Every member of staff in school has a job they are already doing during the day and therefore we cannot operate an Accident and Emergency style approach to families simply arriving in reception demanding to see someone – appointments must be made otherwise you may well face a long and frustrating wait. I don't want that for you but I can't whisk colleagues away from what they are doing which is focused on supporting all students of the academy. Please be patient, please be respectful and please understand why the need for appointments is so crucial.



Uniform

We have come so far since I first started in May in regards to this and that is down to your hard work and support. However, it is clear that since Christmas some students have found it harder to meet the expectations we clearly set out in regards to no jewellery, no fake nails and smart shoes. Please support your child so that everyone arrives in school in the correct uniform and demonstrates integrity by doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

Finally, I hope you and your family are well and if there is anything we can assist with then please let us know. We are becoming a much kinder, structured and learning focused school and we can only do that with your support so thank you to everyone who gives us positive feedback, supports our high expectations and supports their child's learning – it really does make such a difference.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy