

11 March 2022

Dear families

I am writing this at the end of a week which saw our first face to face Parents' Evening for over two years and therefore it is with a real sense of pride, optimism and gratitude that I communicate with you today. It was encouraging to see so many families in school giving positive feedback on our work at Dixons Fazakerley whilst also offering feedback on how we can do better and improve further. This is genuine partnership in action and based upon the knowledge that we all want the same thing, which is for your child to succeed and go to university or a real alternative, have a rewarding career and a happy and purposeful life.

### Appreciations

As always, there is only one place to start with our Friday letter and that is celebrating our brilliant students who are demonstrating determination, integrity and purpose every day:

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

Please discuss the Friday appreciations with your child as a way of celebrating doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

### Attendance

Next week we emphasise the importance of strong attendance with a renewed vigour. Students with consistently high levels of attendance are far more likely to gain the grades and qualifications they need to make the next step in education, such as A Level study.

Without these qualifications however, the doors of opportunity available to students can sadly be closed. The Covid-19 pandemic has not helped. Some students have been less confident in returning to school on a consistent basis. For academic and wellbeing reasons therefore, we want to see our students attend every day and we ask for your support with this.

Please speak to your child about the importance of strong attendance, which would be a figure over 95%. You will receive a text message in the coming days which will inform you of the year to date attendance figure for your child. Even if your child is not feeling at their best, it is important that they are in school and important that appointments are made after school hours.

Please remind them that attendance close to 100% carries with it a 94.8% chance of achieving five good GCSEs graded 9-5. However, as the below table shows, poor attendance can contribute to lost learning, therefore strong attendance is absolutely vital.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Missed Lessons
<b>95%</b>	9 days	18 sessions	2 weeks	54 lessons
<b>90%</b>	19 days	38 sessions	4 weeks	114 lessons
<b>85%</b>	29 days	58 sessions	6 weeks	174 lessons
<b>80%</b>	38 days	72 sessions	8 weeks	228 lessons



## **Careers Week**

It is Careers Week and all of our students have been discussing their aspirations in Morning Meeting, Lessons and with colleagues and peers across the academy. We know that your child has always had big dreams and we want them to fulfil these, which is why we have invested in high quality independent careers advice and have plans for a Careers Fair before Easter. Furthermore, we have targeted support for students in Years 10 and 11 to make sure we are keeping those aspirations on track and ensuring every child has the life chances they deserve. Find our more information and resources below:

[New NCW Homepage - National Careers Week](#)

## **Class of 2026 Parents and Carers Evening**

Our next Parents and Carers Evening will be face to face again and will take place for all families of the Class of 2026. I really hope you are able to attend and would encourage everyone to make appointments using the system below:

<https://fazakerley.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

It is great to see the improvements we have made at Dixons Fazakerley paying dividends for our students and the community as a whole. I feel so humbled that we now have a waiting list for families seeking to get a place here at Dixons Fazakerley for September 2022 and I am very appreciative of the support you all provide to us in ensuring your child is equipped, punctual and ready to learn. I look forward to another great week but first I would like to wish everyone a restful and safe weekend.

Yours faithfully

**Chris Wilson**  
**Principal**  
**Dixons Fazakerley Academy**