

13 October 2023

Dear families

I hope everyone is well and safe as we progress towards the half term holiday. As always, a number of updates below which I hope you find useful.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 continue to work really hard in lessons and their attendance at after-school mock prep sessions each day has been really pleasing. Today, students have been given their mock timetables and a digital copy will also be sent home. The mock exams start with MFL speaking assessments on November 8 and written exams in the exam hall will run from 13-24 November.

In terms of preparation, students have had our revision evening; a successful 'drop everything and revise' week where we explicitly taught and practised revision strategies and mock preparation sessions.

Next week, you will receive a letter outlining our half term mock preparation sessions. All of these sessions will take place from 10:00-13:00 and be led by subject specialists. These are always well attended and are an opportunity for students to revise in a focused environment. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 in over half term for final preparation and to see them excel in the upcoming mocks.

Homework

The re-launch of homework this term has been really positive: students are accessing their Carousel and Sparx homework online and we are seeing excellent rates of completion. This homework supports students in retrieving the powerful knowledge covered in their lessons, taking into account the research around how we learn and how we interrupt the forgetting curve. Homework links for Carousel can be found on our school website each week whilst Sparx logins have been provided to all students for their Maths. Sparx is always set on a Monday and other subjects are set throughout the week. We will be introducing a system after half term where we praise students for their completion of homework in Morning Meeting and recognise those who have demonstrated great progress and great scores too.

Attendance

In exciting attendance news: from Tuesday this week, we launched our Attendance Challenge. In order to qualify for the prize draw that will take place on Friday 20 October, students must attend every day and be on time until the end of term to have the chance to win one of five £50 Liverpool One vouchers! Don't forget: great attendance can lead to great outcomes. Last year, the impact of attendance was really clear when it came to Y11 outcomes – students who achieved national average attendance achieved above national average outcomes. If your child attends every day they will get results which allow them access to very best opportunities available but you have to ensure they attend.

Extra Curricular Offer

Our extra-curricular offer continues to be a great success with more students joining than ever before! Highlights have been our ever popular Chess Club, Board Games, Dance, Drama and Badminton. After half term we are looking forward to the first round of sporting fixtures and competitions. To top it off, we have some new clubs starting after half term, including Cooking and Debate Mate! Please make sure you encourage your child to sign up when this opportunity comes around!



Staying Safe

October half term can be a worrying time for parents as evenings get darker and our streets fill with fireworks and bonfires. In order to keep your child safe, always make sure you know where your child is and what they are doing. Remind them of the dangers of buying and handling fireworks. Attend organised community events as a family rather than holding your own event or letting children play in the street. Please remember that antisocial behaviour is very harmful for members of our community, and we would ask you to discuss this with your child as they can easily be drawn into antisocial behaviour at this time of year. The October Half Term 'Eat 2 Meet programme' starts on the 30 October and there are lots of events available over half term break. Children from reception to age 16 who are eligible for free school meals can attend hundreds of activities throughout the holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs at no cost. Please visit <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the October Half Term Eat 2 Meet link.

Community Hub

Last Friday, we had our first Community Hub event at Dixons Fazakerley during which we invited families in for a coffee and to hear from Laura from the ADHD Foundation. Families had an opportunity to learn about their work and to ask questions in an informal setting. We will hold our next even on Friday 20 October when we will have representation from the Inclusive Hub.

The Hub started back in 2016 helping small groups of Autistic children around Kirkdale take part in non-contact boxing and fitness sessions. As its popularity grew around Liverpool, so did the numbers and range of abilities of people taking part like Downs Syndrome, ADHD, amputees, wheelchair users, behavioural needs and ladies involved in domestic violence just to name a few. The Inclusive Hub empowers people of all ages and abilities through exercise and education. Please feel free to drop by from 9.00 -10.30am for a coffee, a biscuit and a chat.

As always, we finish our half term with a half day to allow for staff CPD so students will finish at 11.55am on Friday 20 October. We then look forward to welcoming students back at 8.30am on Monday 6 November.

I wish you a restful weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully

Mr Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

