

18 February 2022

Dear families

Firstly, as always, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. It has been a brilliant half term here at Dixons Fazakerley and I have reflected on some of the positive steps we have made as a whole Academy community below. I think students are becoming increasingly used to the environment of academic focus and high expectations in our academy and I am delighted to see the positive impact this is having upon learning and life chances here at Fazakerley.

### **Appreciations**

As always, we begin with a public recognition of the students who choose to do the right thing each and every day. As evidenced below, so many students demonstrate determination, integrity and respect on a daily basis and I hope you are able to discuss these successes with your child:

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

### **Whole academy assessments**

I have been very impressed with the determination and integrity of all students in all year groups who have been completing whole academy assessments this week. Please remind your child that assessments are diagnostic in nature and should not be treated or viewed as something to worry about. Hard work in lessons, completion of homework and responding to teacher instruction are all rewarded in these assessments and where gaps in knowledge do exist it is our job to close them. Please discuss assessment week(s) with your child and reassure them about the need for assessments and the outcomes they produce.

### **Mountain Rescue**

A really positive half term for Mountain Rescue has seen us develop our support for students who have additional needs. Our recent Mountain Rescue drop in was really positive and students and families alike are enjoying the range of support now provided which includes Lexonik, Talk About, Lego Therapy and mental health and wellbeing programmes. Ensuring every child can achieve is our primary focus at Dixons Fazakerley and I look forward to continuing to improve our work in this area in the coming half term.

### **Year group update**

Year 7 are settling really well into academy life and I really love being a part of their lunchtime experience; polite conversations and a overly warm atmosphere characterise this part of the day. Year 8 have gone from strength to strength and during this week's 'Meet the Employer' sessions with major employers in the North West they excelled in regards to their impeccable behaviour and their well thought out questions. Year 9 are maturing into a very strong year group with a clear focus provided by their recent options process and a realisation that GCSEs lie around the corner. Year 10 are a determined year group and their engagement in lessons is proof of their commitment to excellence as is their integrity in Morning Meetings every morning. Year 11 have hit a new gear following mock exams and we have a programme of support ready to launch after half term that will help them conquer the summit in style in this final run up to the exams – I cannot wait to see them succeed this summer.



## **Priorities for next half term**

We have three clear whole academy priorities for next half term and they are:

- 1. Attendance** – every child needs to attend all of the time. It is the greatest challenge we face as a school and has a profound impact for us as a community in regards to educational achievement and safeguarding. We will be launching new initiatives and approaches in the coming half term and I would ask every family to support this.
- 2. Recognising the determination, integrity and respect shown by students** – we want students to be caught doing the right thing, making the right choices and we know we have more to do to publically celebrate the students who get it right, which is the vast majority of our students. Please reassure your child we certainly have plans in this area.
- 3. Anti-bullying campaign** – we are proud of the start the whole academy community has made in regards to this area and our student leaders will be continuing their work in this area to address this. Dixons Fazakerley should be a school where everyone feels they belong, and their individual brilliance is celebrated, and whilst we have made positive steps forward we need to continue to be vigilant and to improve in this regard.

As always we can only address these priorities in partnership with you and your child and I am pleased by the strengthening ties between home and academy. We continue to have much to do but ahead of continuing with that I wish you a restful and enjoyable half term holiday. The Academy office will close at 3pm on Friday 18 February and re-open at 8am on Monday 28 February when we look forward to welcoming our students back with perfect uniform and 100% focus.

Yours faithfully

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