

12 December 2022

Dear families

As we come to the Christmas break I write to you with a real mixture of emotions. Firstly, I write with profound sadness as we continue to mourn the death of Harry and I recognise how difficult a Christmas this will be for his family and friends as they continue to grieve. I had the privilege of visiting Harry's mum recently and she spoke warmly of how supportive the whole community has been at the time of tragedy and I thank you for your kindness over recent weeks.

I also write with great pride, not only of how well the students have come together to support each other in the face of recent events but also of how successful a term it has been here at DFA. Our students are incredible and they have demonstrated that time and time again this term – I hope your child is able to reflect on the past term with pride regarding the choices they have made and work they have undertaken.

Community Events

It has been a wonderful time of year here at DFA with several community events and initiatives helping students, staff and families alike give something back to the terrific community we serve. I was lucky enough to meet some local pensioners on Friday who enjoyed a Christmas lunch, festive bingo and performances from our students. As always, the talent of our students blew me away and I look forward to seeing them blossom in the future as we look to host more events. Our foodbank appeal has been very successful as well and I thank all families and staff who have contributed to that in order to help our community during challenging times. You are never alone and if you do need additional help please contact us so we can signpost to the most relevant support available.

Visitors at DFA

I am proud to say we have had numerous visitors over recent weeks who have travelled from across the country to see the work we are doing at Dixons Fazakerley. We were recently visited by other Multi-Academy Trust leaders including 9 fellow Principals and two CEOs and I am delighted to share with you that the feedback regarding our students and the improvement journey we are on was brilliant. One visitor stated, having seen the starting point of our journey, 'the school has transformed with students working hard and focused in lessons now' and another praising 'polite and respectful students being supported by hardworking staff'. This echoes the feedback from family surveys completed at our recent family evenings and whilst we are excited by what is to come in 2023 I hope that everyone can take some pride in what has been achieved in 2022.

Staying Safe

I know you have received a letter from Mrs Kokosalakis regarding how to help your child keep safe over the festive period. Please do take time to read this through ahead of the holidays so that you are aware of new risks and the links to external support available at this time.

New Year's Resolution

As the New Year is a time for consciously choosing better habits I wanted to ask everyone to look at punctuality and attendance again. We have improved so much about our school and you can see a real change in the way our school runs and operates each and every day. However, our improvement is being stifled by the low attendance of too many students and by those who choose to arrive late every day. Your child will only gain the knowledge they need for the future by being here each and every day and that is a cultural expectation that is



set at home. Please take the time this Christmas holiday to review your child's attendance in the Bromcom App and discuss what you can do as a family to ensure next term's attendance is above that crucial 97%.

Finally, I wish all of our families a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday with students returning to school on Thursday 5 January. Thank you for your continued support as we help our children to climb mountains to a rewarding career and a happy and purposeful life.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy