

20 January 2023

Dear families

A brilliant week at Dixons Fazakerley with the event of our very first Climbing High celebration for some of our hardest working and highest attaining students in Key Stage 3. We have begun to introduce these events in recognition of the feedback provided by yourselves and your children about the desire to see more public recognition of the students who go above and beyond every single day. We have the Key Stage 4 event this coming Tuesday with invites already in the post.

Positive Start

Thank you for supporting your child to make a very positive start to the new calendar year with lessons remaining focused, behaviour improving every day and a warm and purposeful focus across the academy. We have also seen significant improvements in regards to uniform although I would ask that the array of new and fancy trainers our students got for Christmas remain at home and that all students wear their normal and appropriate school shoes. I visit a huge number of lessons every single day and it is becoming clear that our students are now demonstrating greater academic resilience in lessons by working hard to understand complex material and working through the challenge of learning new material.

Options Evening

On Thursday 26 January we have our Class of 2025 (Year 9) Options Evening with all students attending the academy to find out more about the options they can study at GCSE and the process for choosing these. We look forward to seeing you from 4pm with the evening finishing at 6pm.

Attendance

Promoting positive attendance is going to be a constant message of my letters moving forwards as it remains our biggest challenge as a rapidly improving school; the truth is that for some children their lack of attendance is the biggest threat to their future success and it should not be if we all work together to address this. There is no reason for children who attend Fazakerley to attend less than their peers at other schools in the city and the country. Your child will compete against these other students to gain the best GCSEs possible and the surest way you can undermine your own child's success is to allow them to take time off. Our students can come to school with minor ailments – indeed it is good practice for the working world to attend to your daily routine despite not feeling 100% - it is just part of life. Let us sort this together and get our children attending school as they should be.

Homework

All students in the Class of 2023 and the Class of 2024 are now completing homework on a daily basis so if you have a child in these year groups please ensure they are accessing Carousel and Sparx Maths online to complete revision and quizzing. We can already see the positive impact this homework is having on our students and their long term memory. We will continue to roll homework out to other year groups over the coming months and we appreciate your support with this.

Finally, I wanted to share the positive feedback we got as a whole community from members of the public during our recent Year 11 Geography trip. Our students were praised for being kind, polite and respectful with members of the public taking the time to comment on how well they represented our community as both students and family members. Well done Team DFA!

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

