

20 December 2021

Dear families

This is the final letter of the calendar year and I hope it finds you well and safe as we all face an uncertain and challenging Christmas period ahead in regards to Omicron and the subsequent disruption this will inevitably cause. However, I also hope you and your child are able to reflect on the many successes of a really positive first term here at Dixons Fazakerley. Everything we have achieved in regards to an improved culture within our school is the result of the hard work of students, families and staff all coming together in an effective partnership so I wanted to say a huge thank you for your support.

### **End of term**

As I wrote in my letter last week, we will be breaking up on Tuesday 21 December with students leaving from 1.40pm. We will ensure all students get the opportunity to have a Christmas dinner before we break up with turkey and all the trimmings being our lunch offering on Tuesday. You can rest assured we will be working hard until the end of term and it has been great to see the focus and determination of our students as we approach the holidays – students are showing integrity and respect as they work really hard to keep on getting better every day and it has been brilliant to see and be a part of.

### **Appreciations and Recognition Awards**

As you know we have introduced clear routines, expectations and the associated corrections since September and in a recent conversation with a parent I was asked about how students are praised when they get it right. We have our weekly appreciations but also every Cycle we will be rewarding students with recognition awards and the first of those ceremonies will happen in all year groups this week. It is such a proud moment to see students awarded with their certificates and the recognition of staff and peers. I am so proud of our students here at Dixons Fazakerley and I hope all families can see that whilst our expectations are high this is based on the belief that every single student can succeed if they demonstrate the values and behaviours we teach. Well done to everyone who receives a recognition award and, as always, thank you to families who have supported them to achieve this in the first Cycle.

### **Student Leaders**

Last week we interviewed our Year 11 candidates for the roles of Head Student and Student Leaders and what an absolute privilege it was. Our candidates were articulate, visionary and absolutely committed to the improvement journey here at Dixons Fazakerley. I was so proud to hear them say that 'lessons are so much better now' and 'behaviour has transformed so we can now learn' and 'we just want everyone to be as proud of Dixons Fazakerley as we are'. We have much to do in the future to ensure we are a school every family can be proud of but these comments from multiple students represent the unanimous agreement that we are on the right track and it is making a difference and I hope that is reassuring for you to hear.

### **Ski trip 2023**

A quick note to say we are planning to reinstate the Ski trip at Easter 2023 as we know this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for some students and families and student voice has been keen to see it return. The total cost is £940 and further details will be available in the New Year with a deposit of £100 required before February half term so I just wanted to let you know in case families wanted to start budgeting.

### **Covid-19**

Sadly, I do need to address the growing infection rates of Covid-19 in the country currently. We are experiencing severe disruption already as increased cases amongst staff and students inevitably affects our ability to staff and run the full curriculum. I fear this will continue in the New Year and I need every single student and family to support the



school in addressing this – please ensure your child has a face covering to wear, is testing at home and if you have given consent, attends their test on Wednesday 5 January 2022 ahead of returning to lessons on Thursday 6 January 2022. I am hoping we will not face further disruption as a school or society but please rest assured we have contingency plans should we need them for remote learning, reduced staffing and / or a return to bubbles. If required I will communicate further over the Christmas holidays.

Finally, I want to end by returning to one of our core mantras here at Dixons Fazakerley and that is the attitude of gratitude we expect staff and students to display on a daily basis. We have much to be thankful for in our lives and, despite challenges we may face, it is important for students to get into the habit of appreciating what they do have in their lives that is positive. I therefore want to end by saying a huge thank you to the students and families of Dixons Fazakerley who have been a pleasure to work with this term; I feel incredibly grateful to be your Principal and I look forward to the New Year in the belief we will continue to improve together. I also want to thank all of the staff who work tirelessly here in school on behalf of your child and I know we will all wish them a restful holiday after a very busy first term.

All that is left is to wish every family a very Merry Christmas, a prosperous 2022 and I look forward to seeing your child when students return on Thursday 6 January.

Yours faithfully

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