

22 December 2023

Dear families

A busy term comes to an end at Dixons Fazakerley with much to celebrate and inform you about. We have had a wonderful few weeks with students enjoying cultural visits, reward celebrations, our new library and so much more! Our school is an exciting place to be right now and I am really proud of our students and staff who are continuing to improve the education our children receive.

We break up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 22 December** with students heading off for the holidays at **12.15pm**.

Cultural Visits

One of the key aims of any Dixons school is to ensure children get to access opportunities and experiences regardless of their economic background. As such, we were delighted that students have had the opportunity to see the world leading production of Macbeth recently and an opportunity to see A Christmas Carol this week as well. With transport and tickets paid for by our Trust our Year 11 students were able to see two great performances and, as always, behaviour was impeccable from all – well done Year 11.

Celebrations

All year groups have enjoyed celebration assemblies this week which have highlighted just how many children are successfully climbing their mountain to university or a real alternative. Students who have demonstrated our core values of determination, integrity and respect throughout cycle one have been celebrated and rewarded. Attendance awards have recognised great attendance but as always have allowed us to support families at a challenging time of year with vouchers hopefully helping during this expensive time of year. Our students are brilliant and I hope your child has been recognised for the things they do well.

The Gift of Reading

We were delighted to officially open the library at Dixons Fazakerley on Friday 15 December. Local councillors, CEOs and Governors joined students in opening the library on Friday and feedback about Dixons Fazakerley was glowing with visitors commenting on the maturity and enthusiasm of our students and how wonderful the new library is. One of the key ambitions I hold dear is that your child will leave DFA able to read and with a passion for reading and as such we are delighted to have bought every student in Year 7 and Year 8 a book for Christmas which they will receive before breaking up. Please ask your child about the one they chose and about the story, characters and what they enjoyed – reading is such a powerful piece of knowledge and we hope all families are able to support reading at home.

Making a Difference at Christmas

We strive to serve our community with compassion and kindness and nowhere is that more obvious than at this festive period. We have collected extensively for the local foodbank and are proud to make a significant donation of hundreds of pounds of food to the community, we have supported vulnerable families with presents for all and we have hosted a party and Christmas meal for pensioners in the local area. Our work is possible because of the support and dedication of students and staff alike and I am so proud of Team DFA.

I realise, in a cost of living crisis, Christmas can be both a time of joy and pressure and I wish every family a peaceful, restful and enjoyable festive season. However, I have included links to and the numbers for support services at the end of this letter. Thank you for all of your support in 2023 and I look forward to seeing students return on **Tuesday 9 January 2024**.

Yours faithfully

Mr Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy



Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some people and this can manifest as mental health issues. Dark nights can also mean children are at additional risk in the community. You can help your child to stay safe during the holidays by making sure they stay in contact with you and let you know where they are at all times. Monitor social media use and ensure your child only uses the platforms that they are allowed to access in line with age limits. Inappropriate use of social media causes the largest amount of safeguarding concerns for young people. Listen to your child and report any concerns raised using the contacts below.

Services:

Emergencies – In an emergency call 999. If the incident is not an emergency call 101 for police or 111 for NHS help.

Careline – Liverpool Careline child services manages all child social care enquiries and referrals. You can contact them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report a safeguarding concern about a child.

Call: 0151 233 3700

Childline - A reporting and counselling service for children and young people. It is a Freephone line. Call: 0800 1111

CAMHS - The Liverpool CAHMS Partnership offers emotional and mental health support for children and young people in Liverpool. In the case of a mental health crisis call CAMHS Crisis Line – 0151 293 3577 or CAMHS Crisis Care Freephone: 0808 196 3550

YPAS – Mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. YPAS offer drop in sessions across Liverpool. Call 0151 707 1025 for further information. Email: support@ypas.org.uk

Kooth – An anonymous site which helps children and young people feel safe and confident in exploring their concerns and seeking professional support. Sign up online for text support. <https://www.Kooth.com>

