

24 February 2023

Dear families

It has been wonderful to welcome students back to Dixons Fazakerley this week. Students have returned ready to learn, in impeccable uniform and displaying our core values of integrity, determination and respect. It has been a positive first week and I look forward to this continuing.

Attendance

As you are aware, the biggest challenge we face in order to improve outcomes for young people at DFA is ensuring every child has excellent attendance. I have written to you before about this but I am pleased to say that with shared commitment from colleagues in school and yourselves as families we are seeing the beginnings of an upward trend. Please keep supporting your child to ensure they are in school every day and arrive promptly ahead of 8.30am. Ensuring your child is in school and that they know you value education and the life chances it gives really are the two best things you can do to help your child succeed in the longer term so thank you for your continued support.

Class of 2023

Our Year 11 students continue to work exceptionally hard this week during their second set of mock examinations. These are designed to help students gain a sense of what the final exams will look like in the summer and our students have risen to the challenge, showing real grit and determination. To help your child, please quiz them on their knowledge navigators and encourage them to do their very best. We wish them the absolute best for the final week.

Class of 2024

Our Year 10 students have been receiving their results from their Cycle 2 assessments this week and are becoming more and more familiar with the demands of a GCSE course. Our teachers have been providing highly tailored feedback to our students, highlighting their many successes and incremental next steps. Through effective directed improvement and reflection time activities, students are able to close knowledge gaps and develop their exam technique. It has been a pleasure to see them develop the academic self-confidence needed for future success.

Class of 2026 Parents Evening

We are delighted to welcome families to our Year 8 Parents Evening on Thursday 9 March 4-6pm. The evening provides an opportunity for families to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers and to learn more about which humanities subject they would like to do in more depth next year, Geography or History. Students who attend regularly, work hard and give their best in lessons are most likely to achieve their potential and so we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss their many successes and relative next steps with you. At Dixons our mission is to ensure that every child can succeed at university, or a real alternative such as a high level apprenticeship, thrive in a rewarding a career, and have a purposeful and happy life. We know that a strong three-way partnership with our families is absolutely crucial and so we very much look forward to discussing how we can all work together to make this vision become a reality.

National Careers Week

We are looking forward to celebrating National Careers Week (Monday 6 - Friday 10 March) with a variety of activities in and out of lessons as we encourage all students to think carefully about their future aspirations and what they need to do to get there. As students climb their mountain to outstanding futures it is important for them to focus on what they would like to do when they leave Dixons Fazakerley Academy and our careers programme will support them in getting there. There will be opportunities for students to explore different avenues that are open to them during National Careers Week and our staff will also be sharing jobs they worked in before joining the education sector.



On Thursday 2 March we will be celebrating World Book Day and there will be activities to help students develop a love of reading. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success. We want to see more students develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. As well as book-related activities, staff members will be dressing up as their favourite book characters as a way of showing their appreciation for the literary arts.

Thank you as always for your support and I wish you all a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

