

28 November 2021

Dear families

As promised in my letter on Friday I am writing to update you as we continue to navigate the business of improving our school for you and your child alongside managing the ever changing situation around COVID-19. I hope you have had a safe and restful weekend and please do communicate with us if you and / or your child requires support following the tragic events of last week.

COVID-19

It is clear that we once again face a period of uncertainty in regards to COVID-19 and the new variant which has been described as been of concern by the World Health Organisation. The Government has issued new advice to schools and this is summarised in the letter below from our CEO Sir Nick Weller. Ultimately, we have already returned to mask wearing in Liverpool and I would ask that you make sure your child is wearing a mask unless they are exempt in order to protect them and the whole community. Please continue with the twice weekly testing and we will update you further if Government advice changes.

Appreciations

It didn't feel appropriate to send this link on Friday but I am keen that families get to see what was a record week for appreciations at Dixons Fazakerley. Every appreciation is an individual nomination from staff who have seen students demonstrating our core values of determination, integrity and respect. Well done to everyone who was appreciated.

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/appreciations>

I would like to convey to you a public appreciation for Mrs Foster who left us on Friday to take up a post in a different school. Mrs Foster has served our community for over two decades and has undertaken a number of roles at Fazakerley and has made such a contribution to children and families over the years. We all wish Mrs Foster the very best moving forwards.

On Task Behaviour

Students have responded very well to the new learning habit we have introduced over the last few weeks. It gives me such pride to walk around school seeing your child working hard in their natural state of silence; the focus in classrooms has improved and as an obvious result of this the quality and amount of work completed has taken a leap forward as well. Visiting Headteachers from the south west of England last week commented on how productive and positive the learning environment in Morning Meeting and lessons was and that is testament to the hard work of students and your support as families. We are rebuilding our reputation but more importantly we are building a better school and future for the young people and families we serve and I feel so proud to be a part of this.

Uniform

The only area where I feel we have taken a collective step back is uniform and I need your help with this. I cannot afford to keep replacing uniform at the rate I am because students and families are not taking care of the uniform we have provided. I am therefore making it clear that any student who is not in 100% perfect uniform will be issued with a correction and, if we cannot resolve the issue, will be isolated until it can be sorted. Corrections for less than 100% uniform will begin on Monday 13 December 2021. A final request in regards to uniform is that you don't allow your child to dye their hair or get a piercing as both of these things are very clearly not in line with our uniform expectations – please support us in maintaining clear and consistent uniform standards.



Reports

Student reports following cycle one will come out this week and will give you a good insight into how your child is doing across their subjects. I hope this will prove a useful starting point for conversations about your child's academic progress both at home and in school via our family evenings. A separate letter will accompany the report explaining them more fully but I wanted to make you aware that students will be bringing letters and reports home this week so if it gets to Friday and it appears that it may have been lost then please contact us and we can post one home to you.

Support at Christmas

As the holidays approach I realise it can bring added burdens and pressures and at a time of rising costs this can feel overwhelming. We want to be an Academy that is at the heart of community and I mean that both emotionally as well as physically. As a result we work with a number of charities who look to support families who may face challenges over the festive period and therefore if you are worried or concerned about anything at all please do contact us and we will see what we can do. I know it can feel daunting sometimes to reach out and ask for support but we are here to help every family we work with to enjoy the best Christmas possible so please do let us know if we can help.

As always, thank you for your support and I look forward to another brilliant week working with your fantastic children. Wishing you a safe and healthy week.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy

Sunday 28 November 2021

Dear families

Face coverings at all Dixons academies

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while more information is gathered.

The Department for Education has since written to schools on Sunday 28 November with updated guidance regarding face coverings.

I am writing to inform you that the wearing of face coverings will be compulsory in all communal areas for all Students in Years 7 and above, staff and visitors from Monday 29 November unless exempt.

Primary students

The Department for Education does not recommend the wearing of coverings for primary children because they may find it difficult to use them consistently and hygienically. However, if a parent chooses to send their child to the academy wearing one, this will be permitted, although we will have a conversation about the hygiene aspect if necessary (see below).

Secondary and Post 16 students

Secondary students must wear face coverings in all large shared communal areas: corridors, when inside during break / lunchtime (other than when eating), and on any public transport to and from the academy. Students may choose to wear a disposable paper covering (although there are environmental issues with these) or a cloth cover (washable and re-useable).

Face coverings must be plain coloured, and must not be scarves, balaclavas or bandanas: they must be suitable for a place of work.

The government has not made it compulsory at this stage to wear coverings in classrooms. However, If a student chooses to wear a face covering at all times, they must ensure that they keep it in place and are not putting it on and off because of the increased risk of infection. When not being worn, coverings must be kept in a small plastic bag, and this can be kept in a pocket. The covering must not be left on any desk or table at any time.

It is the responsibility of the student and their family to come to the academy with a face covering and to ensure good hygiene routines in relation to it (see below). Where a student forgets their covering, this will be dealt with in the same way as any other uniform contravention. Academies will have spare face coverings to issue to students.

Hygiene

Face coverings pose the same risk as tissues / cloth handkerchiefs, and not just for COVID-19. It is vital that students understand the importance of keeping their face cover away from others. Students must understand that incessant touching of the mask could lead to the passing on of more infection. Any touching of the mask should be followed by sanitising.

Cloth covers must be washed every day. Alternatively, if a student cannot manage this, they must be kept in a small plastic bag for 72 hours and rotated with clean covers. If students are wearing disposable coverings, they must understand the importance of disposing them in a plastic bag and in a lidded bin. Paper coverings do tend to be dropped on the floor: nobody must touch anybody else's mask without wearing disposable gloves and then thoroughly washing their hands.

Finally

Face coverings are just one further way of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Hand washing and the hygienic disposal of tissues continue to be of paramount importance. We ask that students continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests and staff to do the same.

Vaccinations

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over can take up the vaccination offer including boosters. To book a vaccination, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

Thank you for your continued support. We will continue to communicate as guidance changes.

Yours sincerely

Sir Nick Weller
CEO