

7 October 2022

Dear families

Another busy week here at Dixons Fazakerley with a record number of appreciations this week – 291 individual pieces of recognition shared in Morning Meeting today which is testament to the hard work and commitment of our students so well done to all concerned.

Attendance

I will, unapologetically, be talking about attendance in every letter moving forwards as it remains a crucial target area for us. As a rapidly improving school we continue to be limited by the fact too many students are not in school on too many days. I wanted to remind everyone that our academy target is 97% and that anything below this is not an acceptable level of attendance. 95% of attendance means that two whole weeks of learning have been lost in a year and if this is replicated across all five years of education nearly a whole term of learning has been lost. The simple truth is that if students have attendance below 97% their life chances are hampered and they have a much reduced likelihood of gaining the GCSEs they deserve. Please support your child by ensuring they are in school every day without fail – only in the most serious case of illness should time off school be considered. Finally, a big request for every family to ensure your child is in school on a Friday as we see a significant drop on the last day before the weekend – children have got two whole days off ahead of them and so they need to be in school every Friday.

Punctuality

I wanted to make it clear that following changes to Government guidance any student arriving after 9am in the morning is no longer late they are classed as an unauthorised absence and therefore their overall attendance suffers. Furthermore, any family where their child is late for 10 days is at risk of fixed penalty notices and no-one wants to see that happen because a child is repeatedly late to school. You can address this and support this by ensuring the morning routine is a consistent one and that your child arrives promptly for 8.30am. Thank you for your support with this.

Black History Month

Over the coming weeks we will be celebrating Black History Month which is an opportunity to learn about and the often unheralded and hidden achievements Black Britons throughout history in every area of endeavour. Please see below for more information.

[Black History Month 2022 - Time for Change: Action Not Words](#)

We will be running assemblies, studying the contribution of Black individuals across our subject areas and looking at some of the emerging hidden histories in this area.

Year 6 Drop In Events

We were delighted with the feedback regarding our Open Event and therefore wanted to offer families the opportunity to gather any further information or advice you might require before applying to Dixons Fazakerley. As a result, we are offering three Drop-In sessions for prospective families over the coming weeks so please take advantage of these if they would be of use:

Tuesday 11 October 5pm - 6pm

Wednesday 17 October 9am - 10am

Thursday 18 October 3pm - 4pm



Extra-Curricular Programme

With over 150 sign ups to our extra-curricular programme it is clear that we have so many students willing to go the extra mile to enhance their school experience. We are looking forward to adding more clubs in the future so please do support your child to join one of the brilliant activities at the link below:

<https://www.dixonsfa.com/about/extra-curricular-electives>

Class of 2025 Football Tournament

A brilliant performance by our Year 9 boy's football team as they held their own against teams from across the city. Although no silverware was brought home on this occasion the students showed our core values of determination, integrity and respect throughout the afternoon with their coach describing them as, 'an absolute delight to coach and the fairest and hardest working competitors I have worked with.' Well done team DFA!

Yours faithfully

Chris Wilson
Principal
Dixons Fazakerley Academy