

5 November 2021

Dear families

Firstly, a huge thank you to all families who ensured their child was in school with the right equipment, in perfect uniform and raring to go upon our return this week. Students have quickly settled into the routines and the consistent expectations of the learning habits has helped ensure a smooth transition back into school. I hope the bonfire weekend is an enjoyable and safe one – please ensure students know the dangers and know the correct behaviours when it comes to fireworks; it is always an anxious weekend as a Principal as you hope everything passes without injury or suffering so please do reiterate the messages we have given in school.

### **Appreciations**

As always, Friday means a chance to celebrate students who are getting it right and demonstrating our values of respect, integrity and determination. We are proud of the achievements and recognition below and appreciate all families discussing our Friday appreciations with their child:

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

### **Attendance**

Historically, one of the major things that has hampered Fazakerley's progress as a school is the poor attendance of too many students. Reflecting on half term this remains the case for us and therefore I am asking for everyone's support in ensuring your child recognises the importance of good attendance and attends every single day. We are second bottom in the city for attendance – this is not a Liverpool specific challenge it is a Fazakerley specific challenge. Please help us by doing the following:

- Talking to your child about the importance of attendance and recognising positive attendance (97% or above) by appreciating this at home
- Explain the link between better outcomes for young people (academically and socially) and higher school attendance
- Encouraging your child to school every day and not accepting excuses for non-attendance

We need to work in partnership on this and if there are barriers to overcome I will ensure we do all we can to remove them or help your child overcome them. However I need the support and commitment of every family in helping to address this or we will continue to see young people miss out on their entitlement. We can change our culture to one where children do attend well and we can overcome the history of poor attendance that has plagued our school for too long but only if we work together.

### **On Task Behaviour**

A reminder that next week we begin our trial of supporting students to be On Task 100% of the time in 100% of the lessons. If you receive a text informing you that your child has been placed in the Red Line Room then please address this with your child that evening and discuss what On Task means and looks like. We are trialling next week so that students can get used to the system and expectations. On Task behaviour is the biggest level with which any school can improve culture and results; if students are focused and On Task then everything improves in and out of lessons. However, if your child chooses to stop others from learning on several occasions and is removed to the Red Line Room then they have undermined their own education and that of others and no school can tolerate this. I expect this will be supported by 100% of families and look forward to seeing the impact of this next development in our improvement journey.



## **Student Council**

As in every inadequate school, we have introduced change at pace and this can lead to students feeling they do not always have the opportunity to make their voices known or to help shape the future direction of travel. We are, however, recruiting our first comprehensive student council over the coming weeks and have a mixture of roles including advisory ambassadors, student leaders and head students. The student council will meet twice a cycle to discuss priorities and suggestions and will then meet with myself and other leaders to discuss their proposals. Please do encourage your child to take part in this brilliant opportunity.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful weekend and I look forward to a really positive week ahead as we continue to improve our academy together.

Yours faithfully

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

