

17 September 2021

Dear families

It is a pleasure to write to you again following a positive week for our community here at Dixons Fazakerley Academy. We have enjoyed continuing to put changes in place and students have responded really well to heightened expectations and standards. We have a long way to go to ensure the academy enjoys the same culture as the most effective schools in our Trust but we are taking positive steps in the right direction and I thank you all for your support with this.

### **Appreciations**

Every Friday we dedicate our morning meeting to personal development information and our appreciations. Students are nominated by staff for having demonstrated our core values of determination, integrity and respect and we share these as a year group to publicly recognise students who are consistently doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Please find a link to this week's appreciation list:

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

### **Homework**

Feedback from families in our 'Family Forum' before the summer was very clear about the desire to see regular, meaningful and structured homework for students. Mrs Russell, in a separate letter, has outlined our approach to homework which is based on retrieval of subject information, reading and revision of key knowledge such as spellings and timetables. I am looking forward to seeing the impact of this in the coming weeks – we will eventually be introducing a correction for non-completion but our focus initially is on working together to ensure that students can complete the work successfully every evening.

### **Morning Meeting**

Every morning your child experiences 25 minutes of additional teaching input and, as you would expect, in the first two weeks we have focused on culture, practise of key routines and important messages. We are now moving to a more academic focus with this additional time being used for teaching, retrieving and practising key concepts from a range of subjects. Our morning meetings are a calm, purposeful and really positive start to the day and I look forward to seeing this next step.

### **Communication**

I recognise that an area that requires much work is communication with families and that there is long standing frustration with how we have, or indeed have not, worked together in the past. I would like to reiterate to families that we are working on this via texts, our website and regular updates via letters. We also had our first SLT drop in last week and we will look to offer alternative time slots in the coming weeks once we have established a clearer after school routine. In regards to telephone messages and meetings, we are able to take those and distribute to the relevant staff member, but as I have explained before the colleague you require may not be able to assist you at that time due to other commitments such as teaching. Please be patient and I would ask that all families refrain from the unacceptable verbal abuse some colleagues in reception have received in recent weeks. We can only do the best for your child by working together and that is about genuine mutual respect – I will always be polite to you even when we initially disagree about something and I would expect the same courtesy to be shown to all colleagues at Dixons Fazakerley. I really do appreciate everyone's support with this.



**Time out of lessons**

We want to support our students to maximise learning time; every second of every lesson counts and time out of the classroom equals lost learning time. However, it is clear that some misinformation around our approach to the use of toilets has emerged so I hope this clarifies the situation. In order to support learning and to safeguard all our students, toilets are locked outside of break and lunchtimes but can be accessed in an emergency/due to a medical need. If a student needs to visit the toilet, their teacher will write a pass in their planner and they will go to the Mountain Rescue office to collect the toilet key. If your child has a medical condition that requires frequent toilet visits please do let us know and provide the relevant medical information so that we can work on a plan to support your child.

We continue to work on improving our school and I do hope your child feels they have made a positive start to the year. We are proud of their achievements so far and look forward to that drive, purpose and focus helping us transform the educational opportunities our children have moving forwards. As always, thank you for your support and please continue to work with us to achieve this shared aim.

Yours faithfully

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

