

July 2024

Dear families

At Dixons City, we are committed to empowering every student to make a difference in the community and change our world for the better. Staff do whatever it takes to provide an exceptional education so that every student achieves academic outcomes that unlock the doors to success, regardless of their background or starting points. As we approach the summer holidays, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of all our students and staff over the last year. Additionally, I want to confirm arrangements for the end of term and share important information with you regarding the start of next academic year.

Term 6

We've had a very busy term with Year 11 showing real determination as they completed their GCSE exams. We said goodbye to them at the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Prom. We welcomed Year 6 students during their two transition days and had a chance to induct them into our values and routines. We look forward to them joining City as Year 7 in September.

Students from Year 9 and 10 went on expeditions as they took part in the Duke of Edinburgh award. They will have developed many invaluable skills in such a short period – teamwork, resilience, navigation, cooking, independence, to name just a few. We also had students taking part in the Year 10 Geography field trip, giving them the opportunity to investigate the coastline.

Several productions have taken place, our students excelled in their roles in The Shakespeare Show. As well as starring in the roles, students played a huge part in writing and directing the event. Our Gala Concert, that took place at the start of July was an amazing show which showcased the musical talent of our students. The concert was well attended by families and our students performed brilliantly and looked like they enjoyed every minute of it. Our Trust Collaboration Concert took place last week involving 360 students representing over a dozen Dixons academies from Bradford, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. We were well represented with 57 of our students there, and a number of our staff were involved in organising the event.

A group of our Year 9 students took part in the Greenpower challenge. They had to design, build and race a single seat race car. Despite giving up a six lap lead due to battery failure, our students had the four fastest laps and made us proud by finishing 3rd.

Vision, values and drivers

Our vision: At Dixons City Academy our purpose is excellence. We focus on being the best version of ourselves to change our world for the better. We will consistently be in the top 1% of schools nationally.

We have streamlined our values so that we now have three core values that are easy to remember. Our values of respect, integrity and determination permeate everything that we do. From the moment a student arrives at Dixons City, we ask them to live these values:

Respect: We treat others in our diverse community as we wish to be treated. We always follow instructions: first time, every time. We are kind to everyone.

Integrity: We do the right thing because it is the right thing to do (especially when no one is watching). We always follow instructions: first time, every time.

Determination: Mistakes are learning opportunities. We never give up on our learning because when we work hard, we achieve amazing results.

From next year, we will also focus on three key drivers which help our students to build intrinsic motivation:

Mastery: The drive to get better at something that matters.

Autonomy: The drive to direct our own lives.

Purpose: The drive to contribute to something larger than ourselves.



Arrangements for the last day of term – Thursday 18 July

Students will finish at 12:30pm on the final day of the year. During break on the last day, students will empty their lockers and grab bags will be available for those eligible for Free School Meals. We upgraded all the lockers at the start of the year, and to maintain their quality they will be cleaned over the summer break. Anything left will be disposed of, so please encourage your child to take everything home. After break there will be an end of year celebration assembly and then students will be dismissed at 12:30pm.

Lanyards and locker keys

Please support your child in keeping their lanyards and locker key safe over the summer. They will need both on their first day back and will be keeping the same lanyard and locker. Where students lose either, they will have to pay for a replacement. The cost of replacing a lanyard is £1.50 and the cost for the student ID card is £3.50.

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 22 August

Results will be available to collect from 8:30am until 10:00am on Thursday 22 August. Careers advisors and senior staff will be available to support students where necessary. If students are unable to collect their own results, they need to email Mrs Orton, jorton@dixonsca.com to make other arrangements.

New academic year 2024/25

The key dates for the beginning of the new academic year are below:

- Staff Training Days – Tuesday 27 August 2024 to Friday 30 August 2024
- Monday 2 September – Year 7 students only
- Tuesday 3 September – All students, Year 7 to 11

New Academy phone number

The academy phone number has changed. From Monday 15 July please ring 01274 089850 to contact the academy.

Changes to the finish time on Thursdays

Following consultation with parents, from 2 September 2024, we plan to deliver PDS lessons at different times for different year groups. This will allow for each year group to be in the theatre, where the Head of Year, a member of SLT and the Head of Careers will deliver the sessions. As the PDS sessions will be at different times for different year groups, it will make it a lot easier to also arrange for external speakers to come and talk to our students. In addition to this, our students will not have nearly two hours in form rooms, every Thursday afternoon. Students will still have a fortnightly PDS session in form time, so that there is still opportunity for small group discussion and debate.

As the Thursday lesson after lunch will no longer be PDS but a subject lesson, this will now be the same duration as all the subject lessons, 55 minutes, for timetabling reasons. This means that the academy day on Thursday will finish at 2:45pm from the start of the next academic year.

Attendance

Research shows that good attendance at school is linked to positive outcomes. Evidence suggests that even small improvements in attendance can lead to meaningful impacts for attainment. Regular attendance is the key to your child doing well and will set them up with good routines for later life and the working world.

All parents and carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child is educated. School attendance is mandatory during term time with the expectation that attendance will be 100% unless the child is unwell - attendance lower than 90% is of concern and categorised as Persistent Absence.



Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of academy hours. Where this is not possible, a *Request for medical leave of absence* form must be completed and submitted in advance of the appointment.

Students should not be going on family holidays during term time – a leave of absence during term time is not permitted. Any extended absence from the academy will be counted as unauthorised and can lead to a fine from the Local Authority and the possible risk of your child losing their place. The government has announced that fines for children missing school will increase from this August.

Local Academy Board

Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our local academy board as an ambassador. You'll have the opportunity to shape the future of our academy and positively impact the lives of our students, parents, and staff.

If you're ready to contribute your skills and expertise to support academic excellence and community engagement, we'd love to hear from you. If you are interested, please see the link below for further information:

<https://www.dixonsca.com/uploads/files/dixonsca/Local-Academy-Board-recruitment-advert.pdf?v=1714548249>

Summer activities

The FYI website is the new place to go to find out about the great things to do to keep children active and entertained over the summer holiday in the Bradford district – with many of them free of charge. Go to <https://fyi.bradford.gov.uk/> and then click on What's on.

FYI is a free, impartial service offering advice, information and signposting to children, young people and families within the Bradford district. On it, you can find information and advice pages for all aspects of family life, a service directory and a guide to local activities and events.

In the scroll bar at the bottom, there is a link to the Holidays Activity Fund (HAF). Children on benefits-related free school meals are eligible for a free place at a HAF holiday club during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays. HAF clubs provide free fun activities and a healthy meal for eligible children, including children with SEND or additional needs.

I hope you have a wonderful and relaxing summer break with your loved ones, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Raouf Mohammed
Principal

