

20 April 2020

Dear Families,

Following the news of the three-week lockdown extension, I wanted to get in touch again to remind you all that, while we are only open to vulnerable children and those of key workers, we are here to help and support you. We understand that many of you are absolutely fine and have settled in to life under lockdown; however, if there is anything we can do for you - from our continued efforts to provide some form of education, to supplying food parcels, or just being on the end of the phone if you want to talk – we are here.

If you are a key worker, your child is classed as vulnerable, you can send your child to school. Please contact the academy in advance of this so that we can make the necessary arrangements. We are following all Government protocol in relation to social distancing and hygiene to ensure we protect our staff and students.

Year 11 Results

The Government have confirmed that GCSE results day will go ahead as planned on 20 August 2020. We are also hoping that we will be able to run our Prom – even if this is later than planned. In terms of results, we are working as a Trust to establish a plan that will ensure our students' work and effort is rewarded. I am particularly passionate about ensuring that our Year 11's commitment over the course of the last 18 months is reflected in the final grades that we award them. However, I must also ensure that the results have integrity. To this end, we will be finalising our plans and I will write personally to all Year 11 families to let you know more about the process. I expect to send this letter this week. In the meantime, please contact the academy if you need any advice or support.

Students Working from Home

We will continue to email work to your child to enable them to work from home. If your child is yet to access work because they cannot get on their email, please phone the academy or email info@dixonsua.com. We will reissue their email address and arrange for their password to be reset. We understand that some students are struggling to complete some of the work if they are using mobile devices. In these cases, we are happy for students to complete work on paper. They can then photograph and email the work, or bring the physical copies to school when we re-open.

The Government have also launched an 'Online Academy' – **Oaks National Academy**. Dixons staff are heavily involved in creating content for this. This resource will provide lessons, resources and support to teachers, ensuring that your child, regardless of age, can continue to access their education. Our teachers will begin using this from today. You can access the resources by visiting the website www.thenational.academy/. **BBC Bitesize** have also launched a renewed website today for all parents and schoolchildren to support working from home.

If your child needs more work, please contact the academy.

Free School Meals

We are aware of issues with the Government-issued Free School Meal vouchers. Please rest assured that we have completed our obligation and have ordered the vouchers. There have been delays and, while it is out of our control, I apologise for this. If you need any support in feeding your family, please contact the academy. We have delivered a number of food parcels to families and are continuing to work with a range of organisations to ensure that those of you who need support get it as soon as possible.

We are aware that there were issues with redeeming these via Morrisons; however, we have been told by the Government that this issue is now resolved. Please keep checking your email for the vouchers. If you do not have an email, we will be sending out the vouchers as and when we get the codes from Edenred.



We have already organised an order for the next four weeks and are hoping that Edenred will be able to fulfil this much more efficiently and effectively. As always, please contact us for any support around the voucher scheme.

What to do if you are a key worker / have a vulnerable child and you are currently self-isolating

If you are a key worker, or you think your child meets the requirements for a vulnerable learner but you are currently in self-isolation, we will accept your child at school as soon as your self-isolation period is complete. Please contact the school if you fall in to this group.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We text you regarding an update to our policy. Please visit this link or go to the policy section of the Dixons Academies Trust website. Members of our safeguarding team have been making phone calls and undertaking home visits (as long as social distancing protocol is able to be maintained) to support a number of our families. If you would like a call or visit, please let us know. If you have any concerns, or would like to speak to someone, please use the emails for Ms Rothenburg and Mr Grayson below. If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please call the school directly, Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 3pm. Outside of these hours, please use one of the contacts at the end of this letter.

Health and Well Being

As we face the prospect of another three weeks of lockdown, I understand that you may feel some anxiety and concern. This is absolutely normal. However, you can always get in touch with us to help. If we can directly solve your issue, we will know someone who can. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are concerned about yourself, or a member of your family.

Contact with the Academy

The most efficient form of contact from us is likely to be text message and through messages on our website; however, please also be aware that you may receive calls from academy staff on 'no caller ID' numbers and, if you need to speak to someone, you can call reception during office hours on 0113 2630110. Please use the following emails to communicate with our teams at any time:

For general enquiries: info@dixonsua.com

Child Protection / Safeguarding issues: Ms Rothenburg - grothenburg@dixonsua.com / Mr Grayson - pgrayson@dixonsua.com

Leeds Safeguarding Guidance: If you are a member of the public and have concerns about a child call **Children's Social Work Services on 0113-2224403 between 9-5pm**

If a child is in immediate danger call police on 999 out of hours and evening.

Curriculum: Ms Burmo-Rothenburg – KBurmo-Rothenburg@dixonsua.com

Serious concerns / support: Mr Carr – dcarr@dixonsua.com

Finally, I wanted to offer my sincere condolences to those of you who have lost a family member or loved one. This virus does not discriminate, and we are aware of several families who have been affected by heart-breaking loss. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to you all and I would like to send love and best wishes from me and everyone at Dixons Unity.

Stay safe and take care of each other.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

