

2 April 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds you all in good health and that you are managing to cope in these unprecedented times. Please let us know if this is not the case. We have access to a range of services, from food parcels to mental health and counselling services, and we will continue to be a point of contact for you throughout the lockdown and beyond. If there is anything my team or I can do to support you, please let us know and we will do everything we can to help.

### **Easter Holiday plans and Student Work**

The academy will continue to be open throughout the Easter holidays, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Monday. This means that 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](mailto: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.

Our IT services are continuing to set up the online SharePoint portal and we will notify you when your child can access this. In the meantime, there are other online services such as *Hegarty Maths* and *BBC Bitesize*. We have also registered for some other services, which we will be rolling out soon. We will text these out as soon as they are ready.

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

### **Critical Worker and Vulnerable Child Provision**

If you have a vulnerable child or you are a Critical Worker and you are looking to send your child to school in the coming weeks, you must contact us to ensure that we can discuss this with you and are able to put the relevant staffing and provision in place.

### **Free School Meals**

The Government has informed us that Free School Meal provision will not be in place over the Easter holidays. As an academy, we will work to support any families who will need help with feeding their family over the two-week period. If you need any support with this, please contact the academy. We can arrange food parcels from the academy, or we can refer you for support to other organisations who are supporting us with food provision.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, the Government voucher scheme will run via parental email. If you believe that we do not have your email, or that the email is incorrect, you **MUST** contact us to let us know. The easiest way of doing this is to email [info@dixonsua.com](mailto:info@dixonsua.com) with your name, your child's name, their year group and your current and correct email address. The deadline for this will be Friday 10 April – a week on Friday. From the following Monday, we will be setting up the scheme so that you will be emailed £15 of vouchers per week per child. You should receive the vouchers on a weekly basis from Monday 20 April.

### **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

Safeguarding your child: [House Party APP](#):

The Local Authority Education Safeguarding Team have had numerous queries and safeguarding concerns raised about an APP called *House Party* in respect to live streaming.

The house party is taking social media by storm. It is from the same company that created Fortnite. Over the last 48 hours, there has been lots of misinformation over social media about it. As with all live-streaming platforms, screenshots, unsolicited messages and self-generated sexualised imagery can put young people at risk. There is also information relating to personal details and banking information being stolen via the App.

If you have any concern regarding your child and their safety online please do not hesitate to contact Dixons Unity Academy on: [info@dixonsua.com](mailto:info@dixonsua.com) or call 0113-2630110 and these concerns will be addressed on a daily basis.

## Health and Well Being

I realise that this may be a difficult time for some of you; especially when you are unable to leave the house, or are unable to speak to other adults on a daily basis. If you have any concerns about yourself, or someone you know, please contact the academy or use one of the emails below to contact me, or a member of my team, directly. We may be able to help. We also may be able to refer you to organisations who can give you the support and guidance you need.

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact us immediately.

## Contact with the Academy

As always at Unity, we are here for you! We will continue to contact you regularly. The most efficient form of contact 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. Outside of office hours, please use the following emails to communicate with our teams:

For general enquiries: [info@dixonsua.com](mailto:info@dixonsua.com)

Child Protection / Safeguarding issues: Ms Rothenburg - [grothenburg@dixonsua.com](mailto:grothenburg@dixonsua.com)

Curriculum: Ms Burmo-Rothenburg – [KBurmo-Rothenburg@dixonsua.com](mailto:KBurmo-Rothenburg@dixonsua.com)

Serious concerns: Mr Carr – [dcarr@dixonsua.com](mailto:dcarr@dixonsua.com)

Please continue to look out for each other and take care of your family.

As much as possible, please stay home and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr  
Principal

