

5 June 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds you all in good health. I have been amazed by the resilience, kindness, generosity and community spirit that has been shown across our area. I have heard a number of heart-warming stories and I feel lucky to lead an academy that is associated with so many inspirational individuals and families within our community. I wanted to write to you today to give you a brief update, as I am conscious that I have not written to you in a while. I apologise in advance that I am not yet able to give you too many details about how we move forward with supporting a return to the face-to-face education of your children. Dixons are focused on ensuring that safety of students, staff and our families is paramount. We will not open to more students until we feel it is safe to do so.

I am currently planning alongside my colleagues and Executive leaders within the Trust to ensure that we can provide some face-to-face contact with Year 10 students and I will send details of these plans to all Year 10 families.

It is not expected that any other year groups will return to the academy until after the summer holidays at the earliest. They will continue to work remotely from home.

I will be writing to you in the future about arrangements for September as we may have to return at different times to the published dates on our website in response to the COVID crisis.

Year 11 Grades

We are now at the stage where we are submitting grades to the exam boards. Once this is complete, we will be waiting to hear from the exam boards about next steps and how they will be using the data to award grades. We will also begin planning for results day and will be in touch about this with all Year 11 families. Please remember that we cannot discuss the grades with you and that any contact from families relating to grade submission must be reported to the exam board under their malpractice policies. I understand that this must be a very daunting and frustrating time for you all; however, I want you to know that we are all doing all we can to ensure that students receive grades that reflect the effort and commitment they have shown in all of their subjects this year.

Year 10 Returning to School

It is our intention that we begin to invite Year 10 students in to the academy **FROM 15 JUNE**. This means that we will only consider opening from this date if we have safety measures in place that reduce the risk associated with COVID. We already have social distancing measures in place, in addition to high-tech temperature scanners, wipes, sanitizer and PPE being available. Deep cleaning has also been carried out across the academy and a rota of further cleaning is in place for any areas of the building used after 15 June.

Our intention is that every Year 10 student will be invited in to the academy for some face-to-face teaching, and to give guidance and support for improved working from home. Our aim is to begin bridging the gap in teaching and learning for all of Year 10. We are already planning a recovery curriculum, in every subject, to ensure that Year 10 are ready for next summer's GCSE examinations.

I will write to you all next week with further details; however, I do need to ask for all Year 10 families to respond to us to let us know if you are not willing to send your child in to school between 15 June and the end of the summer term. **Year 10 parents should have already received a text message with a link to an online form.** Please could I ask you to complete this form so that we are aware of who will be intending to attend the academy? This will support me with planning and will ensure that we are able to form small groups that can attend the building safely.

In the meantime, **if your child is in any year group and they are struggling to complete their work**, please ask them to email their subject teacher. For technical issues or problems accessing the work, please call the academy.



Year 6 Induction

Firstly, I would like to welcome all future families to *Dixons Unity Academy*. You should have received my previous communication regarding Transition, along with Data Collection documentation. Please ensure that you return this as soon as you can.

If you, or someone you know, have not received this, please contact the academy immediately.

In the absence of our usual induction evening, we will be sending information out to families via email and post. As part of this, we will have an information pack, containing details around uniform, routines and expectations for your child when they join us in September.

I am also in the middle of preparing a short film to share with you which will also welcome you to our academy community. Filming will take place as soon as we are able to undertake this safely.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you need anything, or if you have any questions for us. You can contact reception, using the number below, or you can email our Year 6 Transition Leader, Mr Grayson: pgrayson@dixonsua.com

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are still operating our safeguarding and child protection provision.

If you have a concern or issue, please contact the academy safeguarding team, using the details below, ring the academy or contact me directly. We will address serious issues immediately. You can also call Social Services if you have concerns about a child on 0113 2224403 (between 9-5pm).

If you need to report a crime, or have an emergency situation, please contact the Police on 101 (or dial 999 if there is a threat of immediate harm).

Contacting the academy

We have contacted and spoken to every single one of our families over recent weeks. We will continue to do this in the run up to the summer holidays. However, if you need us, we are here to support you. We have supplied well over 150 food parcels and other provisions such as toiletries and baby items. We have worked together with families who needed support with wellbeing. We will continue to do all of this. If you need our support, please let us know.

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

Child Protection / Safeguarding / Wellbeing issues:

Ms Rothenburg / Mr Grayson - grothenburg@dixonsua.com / pgrayson@dixonsua.com

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

Serious concerns: Mr Carr – dcarr@dixonsua.com

As always, I offer you all my best wishes and I hope that we are able to work together to continue our efforts in improving the educational opportunities for all young people in our community. Be safe and take care.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Principal

