

14 December 2022

Dear families

Thank you for all your support over the past few months. As always, the support of our families and wider community is what makes Dixons Unity Academy such a special place to work.

Newsflash

At the end of each term, we will send a Newsflash that includes many highlights from the term. This can be found by following this link:

<https://sway.office.com/C4fxp3DLajSq60xe?ref=Link>

This term's edition includes details of the staff who are leaving us at the end of this term. We wish them all the best of luck in the next stage of their lives and we thank them for all for their commitment to our community.

Free School Meals

We recognise the current economic picture in the country is quite bleak. Families are finding it difficult to support themselves and this is not looking like it will ease over the coming months.

Many of our families are eligible to get their children access to a free meal in school. Free school meals can save families over £200 per year per child and can lead to other benefits, for example an annual voucher to help towards the cost of school uniform. Furthermore, registering for free school meals will raise extra funding from central government for the academy to fund valuable support for students.

Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below:

- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

The academy works together with Leeds City Council to confirm entitlement to free school meals, and all information provided will be kept confidential. Furthermore, our cashless payment system means that students claiming free school meals cannot be identified by others.

We are keen to ensure all our families are receiving the financial assistance they are entitled to, so we ask that you contact the academy via Reception if you think you are eligible and we will support you in completing the online application for free school meals. Alternatively, you can complete the form yourself by following this link:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

Safeguarding

If there are any concerns relating to welfare and safeguarding over the Christmas break, please email safeguardingteam@dixonsua.com

Reopening

A reminder that we will reopen the academy on Wednesday 4 January for all students.

Finally, can I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Neil Miley
Deputy CEO

