

**23 November 2022**

Dear families

### **Uniform**

Thank you for all your support since the start of the term, there is a very positive atmosphere in the academy and students and staff are working hard to make sure we keep expectations high and focus on everyone making great progress.

There are a few areas I want to bring to your attention so you can support the academy with maintaining expectations. Firstly, the academy is open from 7am and we provide a free breakfast for any student who wishes to attend. From 7.40am we open the main building so students can prepare themselves for an 8am start.

When students enter our main building at 7.40am we want them to be ready to learn and in full uniform. Unfortunately, we have too many students turning up to the academy not in the correct uniform. This includes not wearing their tie, incorrect footwear and no blazer.

We have spent the past two weeks reminding students of the expectation to wear full uniform when entering the building. This has included stopping students at the door and asking them to correct their uniform before entering the building. From Monday 28 November, any student not wearing the correct uniform when entering the building will be given a correction. We would appreciate your support with making this expectation clear at home.

### **PE Kit**

Our expectations within the Dixons Unity Academy PE department are very high and we would like to thank the vast majority of our students who maintain these high standards during every lesson. Unfortunately, we are noticing a growing number of students that are not meeting our basic expectations and I wanted to use this opportunity to just clarify what we expect.

- Your child/ren must attend every PE lesson with full Dixons Unity Academy PE kit. This includes their navy blue and green academy polo shirt with logo, navy blue academy shorts or tracksuit bottoms with logo and trainers or football boots, depending on the activity being undertaken.
- If your child forgets their PE kit, they will be given a 30 minute correction. They will also be given some clean spare kit that they will have to put on. If they refuse to borrow this kit they will be removed from the lesson by an on call member of staff and the sanction will grow to a one hour correction.
- If your child is ill or injured and cannot take part in the PE lesson, they must bring a note from yourself identifying the reason. This note will only apply for that specific lesson. If a longer absence from PE is likely then a note from a doctor or physiotherapist would be useful to clarify the full situation. Your child must still bring their PE kit, unless they are unable to get changed without support, or they will face the sanctions outlined above. This is crucial as they will still be asked by their teacher to take part in the lesson in a non-practical manner, such as officiating or coaching. Your child may also be required to go outside with their group and if the weather is poor we do not want their uniform to get wet.
- If your child is involved in gymnastics or dance, they will be required to take part in bare feet for safety reasons. If there is a health reason preventing your child from removing their shoes and socks then again we will need a note confirming the reason why your child can not take part.
- If your child has long hair then they will need to tie their hair back before starting the lesson for health and safety reasons.

I hope you will support us in ensuring that your child/ren adhere to our rules every lesson so that they can have a brilliant time taking part in physical education that is safe, inclusive and beneficial.

### **Corrections**

We believe in a fresh start each day, so are slightly moving the time of the correction text. Currently, corrections are sent on a day for any break of learning habit from lesson 1 to 3 and then lesson 4 to 6 from the previous day. We do not feel this is the best way to ensure students receive a fresh start. Therefore, we will send the correction text before 1pm and it will include lessons 1 to 4 on a day and the afternoon (tutor time to lesson 6) from the previous day. This will still give ample time for any arrangements to be made for students to get home, it will also ensure students receive a fresh start the following day.

Can I thank all parents for their support with maintaining our behaviour expectations this term. We have high expectations of our students because we want them to be successful. Lowering our standards or expectations would not be fair or create the conditions for our students to build the skills needed to lead successful and purposeful lives.

Our behaviour policy can be found on the website and outlines the expectations and rationale for our learning habits. It also clarifies the escalation system for students not meeting our expectations. Please can you reinforce these expectations with your child at home.



## **E-Safety**

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe online. We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard students from any potential dangers. E-Safety is taught to all students, explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.

Sadly, we have had a number of recent incidents whereby online interactions have had a negative impact on the wellbeing of some of our learners.

We want to support all our students, but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online.

If you would like further support, you can talk to any of the safeguarding team at school or use the following link for more information and guidance:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

## **Year 11 Results and Revision Evening**

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 11 students have conducted themselves during their recent mock examinations.

To support our vision; all students were successful at university or real alternative, they lived happy and purposeful lives, we have ensured that these examinations were taken under the conditions in which they will sit their GCSE's. With this in mind we would like to continue this further, and provide our students with a Year 11 Results and Revision Evening. This will take place on Monday 12 December from 5pm until 6pm. Students and families are invited to come to school to collect their mock examination results and take the opportunity to receive some additional revision support.

## **Last day of term**

We will close at 12:20pm on Friday 16 December. Students will be able to get a lunch before they leave for the Christmas break. We will re-open on Tuesday 3 January.

Yours faithfully



**Neil Miley**  
Deputy CEO

