

20 December 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to my final letter of 2024. I have enjoyed almost every second of being back in Dixons Allerton day-to-day, and I am incredibly grateful for the support of our community in helping us to drive standards of behaviour and learning further forward so far this year. We have seen many successes. With a big reduction in suspensions, more students attending more of the time, far fewer behaviour points and over 50,000 more achievement points being awarded to students than at this time last year. So, a very positive start! However, we still have much to do, and I will remain committed to continuing our school improvement journey into 2025. I hope you manage to have a break and time to rest. Happy Christmas to our families who celebrate, and a Happy New Year to every single family when 2025 arrives – may it be a year of happiness and prosperity for you all.

Christmas Showcase

It was wonderful to see our students performing in the Christmas showcase. We had students in Year 7 through to Year 11 demonstrating their talents as singers and musicians. We had a theatre full of enthralled and amazed parents who celebrated and clapped along to a range of hits. Thank you to all the staff involved, especially the Ms McCormick and our wonderful bunch of peripatetic music tutors!

Parental Engagement meetings

In the new year, we will be organising a series of events where parents can visit the academy to meet staff, including the Senior Leadership team and the principal. Despite my previous letter about this, no one booked to attend the first event on Monday 16 December. I will be holding another meeting on Thursday 19 January at 2:45pm. Please email admin@dixonsaa.com to book a place.

The importance of good attendance

At DAA, we expect exceptional attendance from all students. The correlation between attendance and academic performance is clear; students with good attendance are much more likely to meet their targets and make positive progress than students whose attendance is poor. Please help us to help your child by making sure that they attend school every day. If your child is ill, please contact the attendance team, and please ensure that you share the reason for your child's absence. Where you have evidence of medical appointments that cannot be made outside of the school day, please provide this to the attendance team. This avoids us having to record the absence as unauthorised. Please remember, it is Trust policy to never approve any term time leave.

Key Dates

- **Academy closes to all students for Christmas** – Friday 20 December 2024 at 12:40pm
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Monday 6 January 2025
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening** – Thursday 9 January 2025
- **Year 13 Parents' Evening** – Thursday 16 January 2025
- **Academy closes for February half term** – Thursday 13 February 2025
- **Dixons Academies Trust Conference (school closed to students)** – Friday 14 February 2025
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Monday 24 February 2025
- **All dates are on our website – select 'Calendar' at www.dixonsaa.com**

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
School Trust Leader and Principal

