

19 July 2024

Dear Families,

2024 has been an interesting year to say the least. While there are obvious disappointments and areas for improvement in our pursuit of success and excellence, I also want to recognise the many achievements and enjoyable moments we have been fortunate to experience this academic year.

Our Iftar celebration was a particular highlight of the year for me – and something that we will be holding again next year. As will be our culture days, bringing more of a focus on the varied background and diversity of our school and our community. I really want our school to feel like home from home, and to be somewhere which represents the lives of the students within our walls. We recognise that we must continue to work together with students and families to ensure that Dixons Allerton is a welcoming and safe place for all people, regardless of culture, lifestyle or background, and we are determined to do this together with you.

Our school culture around behaviour and teaching and learning will also be the focus of much work in the coming months. We know we have more to do to ensure behaviour improves, that teachers continue to develop their craft, and that students are supported to learn, and teachers are free to teach. Your contribution to this is essential and I ask for your support of school in everything we do, especially in helping all students to come to school and learn, and for teachers to be able to teach, with a shared value for responsibility and respect being fostered across all our school community.

To stabilise the school and continue our progress in realising our ambitions for all our students, I will be stepping back into day-to-day running of the school alongside the wider leadership team. I know my knowledge and relationships within the school and our community will support Dixons Allerton to continue our journey and ensure we drive forward all aspects of our school improvement strategy. I will continue to be relentless in my pursuit of our mission to achieve exceptional outcomes, and to provide all our students with the opportunity to make ambitious life choices, and to make a long-lasting positive contribution to our community.

Alongside this, Mr Sanderson has taken the decision to step back from being Head of School to a new role of Senior Vice Principal, with overall responsibility for Behaviour, Attendance and Safeguarding. I know he will continue to do everything he can to drive improvements in these areas across the entire school, while maintaining his determination to ensure all children at the academy receive the education they deserve. I want to thank him for the tireless work he has done for the school this year.

I would also like to welcome our new Year 7 families to Dixons Allerton Academy, I am looking forward to working together in the future. We will be growing a special culture from year 7 throughout the school, and I am going to be taking a very active involvement in this. However, I am excited for the new year ahead and hope that everyone returns with a renewed determination to be the best we can be, and to contribute to our shared mission and ensure all children leave DAA saying, *“At DAA, I developed good moral principles and achieved exceptional outcomes that allowed me to have ambitious life choices.”*

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to the success of our students. I want to remind all families that educational success depends on your child attending school. I thank you for ensuring that your child attends school every day. In September, we will be launching new attendance initiatives, aimed at supporting students who struggle to attend school regularly, as well as celebrating those who do, and those who manage to demonstrate improved attendance.

Our Ofsted report noted that students who attend school regularly perform very well in their examinations and can go on to fulfil their ambitions; however, it also highlighted the need for us to continue to work with families to ensure all children attend school more regularly. We are determined to do this in partnership with you all.



Returning in September

Students will begin returning to the academy from Monday 2 September. **On this day, only Year 11 students will attend the academy for their induction.**

- On Tuesday 3 September, **Year 11, Year 7 and Year 12** students will be in the academy.
- On Wednesday 4 September, **Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13** students will be in the academy.
- From Thursday 5 September, **all students** (apart from Year 12) will be in the academy.
- Year 12 lessons will commence on Monday 9 September.

Date	Year groups
Monday 2 September 2024	Year 11 Induction Day *School is closed to all other year groups
Tuesday 3 September 2024	Year 7 and Year 12** Induction Day Year 11 will be in lessons as normal *School closed to years 8, 9 and 10 **Year 12 will start lessons on Monday 4 September
Wednesday 4 September 2024	Year 8 and 10 Induction Day Year 7, year 11 and year 13 students in lessons *School closed to Year 9 students
Thursday 5 September 2024	Year 9 Induction Day *All year groups (7-11 and Year 13) will be in school
Friday 6 September	All students (except Year 12) expected to be in school – lessons as normal for all year groups

Equipment and Uniform

All our Year 7 students will be provided with a brand-new school bag, and a pencil case with all the required equipment when they start with us in August. Parents are not required to provide a school bag, and only our Dixons Allerton school bags will be permitted. Students will also be given a tie, planner, knowledge organiser, lanyard and ID card.

Students in Year 8 to 11 will be expected to continue to use their bag and equipment from the previous year. If this bag needs replacing due to damage or graffiti, new bags are available for a price of £5. This will be charged to parents via MCAS. All students will be issued with a new planner. Equipment items can be bought at cost price from school in August when students return. Students will be expected to replace their ID cards – these will be issued and charged to families' MCAS.

Graffiti is not permitted on any equipment, including school exercise books, and students will be expected to pay to replace any items which have graffiti on them.

All equipment will be on sale every morning, and break and lunch in line up spaces and in the canteen.

Please see our uniform expectations on our website. You can buy our uniform items from Natasha's school wear in Bradford. **The only items which must be school branded are ties and blazers.** Appropriate white shirts, black school trousers, shoes, etc. can be bought from any supplier or supermarket.

If a child arrives at school in incorrect uniform, they will be loaned items of uniform so that they can continue to access learning throughout the rest of the day - and until they are able to replace the item.

If you want to know more about the academy uniform expectations, please follow this link to the family handbook. The handbook also includes important information about the academy:

<https://www.dixonsaa.com/admissions/family-handbook>

A Level Results Day

A Level results day is on Thursday 15 August 2024. We will write to all students involved with details of the day.



GCSE Results Day

GCSE students will receive their results on Thursday 22 August 2024. We have sent a separate letter to all Year 11 families with additional details around this.

Summer information

Bradford Local Authority have sent communication which is detailed on the following page to support families over the summer holidays when there is not always the access to services that school can offer, including ideas, resources and venues to help you keep children entertained over the summer.

School Day and Term Dates 2024-25

Our term dates for 2023-2024 are already on our website. One key change to our calendar is that we will not be closing the school for EID. Instead, families will be able to take up to three days of religious observance across the year to celebrate, without their attendance being affected. All bank holidays and Data and Planning Days have now been confirmed for the 2024-25 academic year.

Please see the end of this letter for confirmation of the school day.

We will continue to start school at 8:15am, asking that all students arrive by 8:10am to ensure they remain punctual. School finishes at 3:30pm Monday to Thursday and at 2:35pm on Fridays.

Key Dates

- **A Level Results Day** – Thursday 15 August 2024
- **GCSE Results Day** – Thursday 22 August 2024
- **Academy Data and Planning Days (school closed to students)** – Tuesday 27 August to Friday 30 August 2024
- **Academy reopens to Year 11** – Monday 2 August 2024
- **Academy reopens to Year 7 and 12** – Tuesday 3 August 2024
- **Academy reopens to Year 8 and 10 students** – Wednesday 4 September 2024
- **Academy reopens to all students** – Thursday 5 September 2024
- **Academy closes for October half term** – Friday 18 October 2024
- **All dates are on our website** – select 'Calendar' at www.dixonsaa.com

Thank you

Finally, I want to recognise the support that so many families give us, and the recognition that we are in a partnership where we all need to work together to support the children of our community. We are at our best when we are working together, and there are lots of opportunities next year for us to develop our community focus. Our new community hub will open, and we will be hosting more meetings in school where we invite families and community representatives into school to work with us. More than ever, I am looking forward to next academic year, and all the things I know we can achieve. Thank you for your continued support in helping me realise my ambitions of our school and our community.

Best wishes, and I hope you have a good holiday if you are managing to get away.

I wish you all a fantastic summer.

Yours sincerely



Danny Carr
Dixons Trust Leader



The School Day 2024-25

All students are welcome to come and enjoy a **free breakfast** from 7:45am in the canteen

Students must arrive by 8:10am for an 8:15am start.

	Year 9, 11 and Post-16	Year 7, 8 and 10
7.45am	Breakfast Club / Morning Mastery	Breakfast Club / Morning Mastery
8.15am	Collective Learning	Collective Learning
8.40am	P1	P1
9.35am	P2	P2
10.30am	Break	P3a
10.50am	P3b	
11.25am		Break
11.45am	P4	P4
12.40pm	Lunch	Advisory
1.10pm	Advisory	Lunch
1.40pm	P5	P5
2.35pm	P6	P6
3.30pm	End of school day (2.35pm Friday)	End of school day (2.35pm Friday)
3.30 – 4.30pm	Enrichment / Masterclasses / Homework Club (2.35 – 3.35pm on Fridays)	Enrichment / Masterclasses / Homework Club (2.35 – 3.35pm on Fridays)

Communications from Bradford Local Authority Children's Services

Summer holidays can be a difficult time – the pressure to keep children entertained can actually cause additional stress for families. So as the summer holidays approach, we would like to let you know about some of the exciting FREE or low cost events happening, and other activities and support available across our district over the summer.

The fyi.bradford.gov.uk website has information and advice pages, a service directory and a What's On calendar of free and low cost events. Just enter your post code and how far you can travel to find out what's happening! One of this summer highlights will be 70 free fun day events in parks across the district. All the details are at [What's On Search Page - Bradford FYI](#)

If you have a child or children with Special Educational Needs you can visit the www.localoffer.bradford.gov.uk website to find information pages and a service directory. Here you can also find the [Parents Forum Summer Newsletter](#) and the [AWARE summer activities guide](#).



Our Family Hubs continue to support families over the summer period. There is lots on offer including free sensory room sessions, school nurse drop-ins, school uniform swap shops, benefits advice, SEND support drop-ins , as well as coffee mornings and fun days...it's all going on! To find out more go to the [family hub timetables](#) on the FYI website.

As well as events and activities, the Family Hubs, which are welcoming centres located across the Bradford District, offer family support and advice, which can be a welcome lifeline especially when school is closed. You can email them any time or give them a call or drop in on a weekday for a friendly chat. For all their contact details, visit the [family hubs](#) pages on the fyi website.

