

17 July 2020

Dear parents of Year 7,

What a strange year this year has been. As a teacher it has been very sad not to see all our students see out this year, especially our year 11's. The challenges that lock down have presented both at school and at home have been difficult for all of us. I would like to express my deepest condolences for anyone who has experienced a loss over this time. In the darkest of times there are always opportunities to reach and support each other. In school we have been overwhelmed by the good will of staff and families to provide food parcels for our most needy. I know that parents have welcomed the weekly calls from the staff team to keep updated on how families have been coping.

The next academic year is going to be the next challenge, as a school we have had to make some significant alterations to the way we operate our school day to make sure we provide the same provision for all years. I am happy to announce that we will still be able to offer the same curriculum to all years with minimal disruption. We will all need to work closely together to make sure that we can operate safely both inside and outside of school to protect each other.

In order to offer this curriculum we have had to restructure the day so that we have a staggered start for all year groups. I understand that this can cause an issue for families with siblings but this is something which is a necessary precaution to have all students back in the building safely.

Our new Year 7 students will have the opportunity to have a delayed transition event in school in August and we are very much looking forward to having them join us. This will allow them some time to readjust and settle into the new routines we have here at Dixons Kings.

Year 7 students will be expected to be in school from **Tuesday 25 August**. They need to arrive ready for **8:00am**. It is very important that this drop off is no earlier than 5 minutes before the expected start time. Students will come up the main path, then follow the path around school to line up in the rear yard in tutor groups. Your tutor group is at the top of this letter and you need to know which group you are in. To ensure safe social distancing between year groups is maintained dropping off early is not permitted. The temporary normal finish time for year 7 Monday to Wednesday will be 3.35pm. The temporary normal finish time for year 7 on Thursday and Friday will be 2.35pm.

Attendance

100% attendance is expected for all students, they should arrive on time and be present every day. If your child is absent you should alert the academy before 9am as to the reason why.

Uniform

Students need to be in full school uniform. Students are allowed to have a coat to carry with them but it is not allowed to be worn in school. This rule is temporary.

PE

As a temporary measure students will be allowed to wear their PE kit on the day that they have PE. This is to minimise the close contact in the changing rooms. This does not include the first day back at school. All students should wear their uniform until they have received their timetable.



Equipment

All students should have their own equipment as per our equipment list. All students will be allocated an ID card which will be part of their equipment and needed for dining purposes. The addition of tissues has been included. Students will not be able to use their lockers and as such they will be allowed to carry a bag with them. (The bag rule is temporary)

After school

Detentions after school will still be in place but only on dedicated days, the end time for detention will change depending on the staggered start time for year groups. We will be offering after school Homework clubs but only for those who have let us know in advance. This will be organised once we return in autumn.

Extracurricular clubs will be on pause for the foreseeable future.

Intervention classes will be operating as normal and we will alert you to these compulsory sessions per student in September.

Unless you have been notified about your child staying behind for any of the reasons above there will not be an opportunity to stay in school. This will mean children will need to be collected or make their own way home as soon as their school day finishes. Students will not be allowed to congregate in any space on the school site including reception areas.

Enrichment

This year we planned to offer compulsory enrichment to both year 7 and year 8. In the current climate this has been paused. We will update you regarding this in the future.

Dining options

All students will be issued with a card to show for catering purposes. This card will form part of their equipment and they will need to keep it in their lanyard at all times. Due to the changing dining options we will be running a smaller menu to offer flexibility.

Year 7 will have family dining as normal.

Assessments

Year 7 students will sit a common base line assessment early in September. This is nothing to worry about but will allow us to capture some performance data as we only have limited information from primary schools. Further communication will be sent out about this nearer the time.

Covid 19 reporting

It is imperative that all parents adhere to the national rules regarding social distancing, the measures we have taken in school minimise the potential for the spread of this virus. All students and families need to ensure that they follow them at all times for the safety of all of our families and staff team. The following are key aspects:

- Hand washing and hand sanitising at every opportunity and minimising the touching of your face
- If you have any symptoms you should not attend school and self-isolate for 7 days
- If other family members have symptoms you should self-isolate for 14 days
- Organise a test through the local test centres to confirm positive / negative results

If any of the above is happening school **must be** informed in the first instance – this allows us to take the necessary precautions if needed.



Expectations

Now more than ever it is expected that students will follow all our expectations. We have very high standards and these will still be in place for all students. We are expecting students to understand the gravity of the situation we are in and do their best to follow all instructions and to behave in a mature manner. Any issues relating to a student deliberately breaking the Covid 19 safety rules will be taken very seriously and dealt with in the most severe manner.

Returning to school will be an anxious time for both families and our team at school, as such we have set up a new email address where parents can contact if they have a Covid 19 related enquiry. If you are worried about the return and have further concerns then please email us at covid19@dixonska.com

As you can see there is a considerable amount of changes to the normal way of operation, I hope you understand the precaution and necessary steps to protect our families and the staff team at Dixons Kings.

Thank you for all your continued support and I look forward to welcoming all our students back and seeing you at the start of our autumn term.

I wish you a safe and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely



Richard Wilson
Principal

