



Message from the Principal



Mr James Haseldine
Executive Principal

It has been a week of warm weather and I have been pleased with how students have conducted themselves.

We are keen to make more opportunities this year for parents to engage with School life. Whilst we know you are busy, you can book appointments to join us for our parent forum, which this term will be covering a variety of topics including Meet the Year Team, Homework, Careers, Reading and Safeguarding. You will receive an invitation via the parent app, advising dates and times. We also offer Parent Tours, which again will be issued via the parent app. After booking your place on the school app, you would simply arrive at the main school reception. Typically I give a short talk at 8.15 am and have a question and answer session, as well as informal conversation. We then have some time to sample the start of our school day for students.

Our first event of the academic year for families is our Meet the Advisor Evening on Thursday 14 September 2023. Booking arrangements will be sent to you via the parent app, and, in addition to meeting with your child's Advisor, you will also have the opportunity to meet with our SEND team and other pastoral staff to discuss the support your child receives in school. For Year 11 students, colleges and training providers have been invited to attend, to give you the opportunity to ask questions and pick up course information.

May I remind those of you who travel to School by car that it school is inevitably busy at the start and end of the day and so there is an area of risk around School at drop off and pick up. To mitigate that risk we have many colleagues on the perimeter of School at these times. I ask that their instructions to drivers on our premises are followed to keep us all safe. We have also installed some fencing to reduce the risk of student injury or accident, this is expected to better manage the flow of students on pavement areas, and to prevent them from walking in front of cars. We insist that students only cross at designated crossing areas on our premises and on Moor Road and Altrincham Road. When dropping off/picking up please park safely and without blocking other drivers on our premises. Also please do not pick up or drop off on the restricted areas of Moor Road or in the entrance area to the school gates where the Tram crosses to avoid accidents and collisions. Additionally, I must insist that drivers respect the traffic lights which control the entrance and exit to our premises. There have been some near misses recently when drivers have become impatient and driven out on red lights. We all have hurried and stressful school run mornings/afternoons from time to time, but if you are driving I ask you to take time, drive slowly, park carefully and be mindful of young people who, despite all we say, may not be mindful of you. Finally, as a good neighbour, please do not block neighbours' drives.

For those students who travel by Tram I would draw your attention to the Transport for Greater Manchester Usage policy (<https://tfgm.com/travelsafe/what-do-we-expect>). We know that the pupils like to relax on the Trams but there are some important rules to keep them safe. Members of the public use the Tram network and we want our students to ensure they represent themselves and the Academy in the best manner. I would ask you to reinforce that message at home. Additionally, we ask that Students respect the tramway, stick to pavements and do not walk on the tracks outside school when waiting for Trams.

We were able to celebrate some pleasing examination results in recent weeks and have the joy of sending a new generation of alumni off to their next steps beyond School and to enjoy the GCSE results from Year 11.

As ever, we will aim for School life to be happy and fulfilling for students, whilst we address the challenges of growing up, and that is exactly how a productive and aspirational childhood should be.

It is our mission to provide a first-class education to enable all students to live a fulfilling life and make a difference in their community.

Staff and students at Dixons are committed to three core values that underpin everything we do.

Work Hard

We never give up; we do what it takes for as long as it takes. We are industrious and curious.

Have Integrity

We always do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

Be Kind

We play by the rules. We are polite, considerate and kind.

New Staff at the Academy

We have a number of new staff who have joined the academy. As a regular feature of the newsletter, we'd like to introduce them to you. This week, it's the turn of Ms MacGruer in Science and Ms Raven in Art. We've asked them 5 questions to find out a little bit more about them.

Ms MacGruer – Science

What is one of your hidden talents?

I do a mean bunny hop on my gravel bike!

What are some traditions or superstitions you have for the first day of school?

New shoes are a must!

What's the best thing about being a teacher?

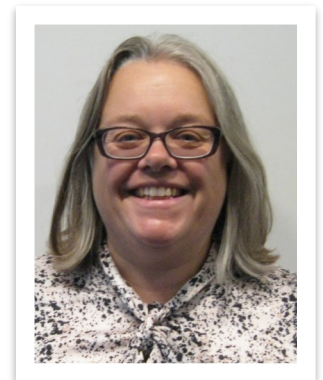
Meeting so many inspirational young people who are wonderful human beings.

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

CERN, to visit the Large Hadron Collider.

What would you like students to remember about you and your class?

That I hated it when anyone told me they are not clever. Science is for everyone!



Ms Raven – Art

What is one of your hidden talents?

I design beautiful tattoos

What are some traditions or superstitions you have for the first day of school?

I get up super-early and eat breakfast and prepare myself for the day

What's the best thing about being a teacher?

Building relationships and inspiring young people.

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

The Moco Museum in Barcelona

What would you like students to remember about you and your class?

For being caring, inspiring and going the extra mile for our students.



Year 11 Careers and Progression Support

Students in Year 11 should now start thinking about their post-16 options. Young people are required to be in education or training until they are 18 so there is a wide range of support in school to help students to make decisions about what they would like to do next.

College Open Days

We rely on families taking their children to college open days, so please check the list below of all the local ones taking place this term and make plans to attend at least two. Even if your child is planning to progress to an apprenticeship after Year 11, we strongly advise applying to college too as a backup plan in case they do not secure an apprenticeship before September as they can be very competitive.

Provider	Date	Time
Trafford College (courses and apprenticeships)	Thursday 21st September 2023	4.30pm-7.00pm
Stockport College	Thursday 28th September 2023	4.30pm-7.00pm
Cheadle College	Thursday 28th September 2023 Saturday 11th November 2023	4.30pm-7.00pm 10.30am-1.00pm
Xaverian Sixth Form College	Saturday 7th October 2023 Sunday 15th October 2023	10.30am-2.00pm 10.30am-2.00pm
Loreto Sixth Form College	Saturday 7th October 2023 Sunday 15th October 2023	10.00am-12.00 & 1.00-3.00pm 10.00am-12.00 & 1.00-3.00pm
The Manchester College (all campuses)	Thursday 12th October 2023	5.00pm-7.00pm
Ashton on Mersey Sixth Form	Thursday 2nd November 2023	6.00pm
Access Creative College	Saturday 4th November 2023	11.00am-2.00pm

Support in school

As well as all the usual academic and pastoral support from teachers, there are additional specialist provision for Year 11s to help them to succeed this year and move on to positive destinations next September.

Futures Fair

On Friday 22nd September we have a mixture of colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeship providers and employers bringing information and hands-on activities to inspire our students! Please ensure they are in school that day, the event will take place during the school day.

1:1 Careers Meetings

Our academy Careers Lead and Advisor, Victoria Geary, has a 1:1 meeting scheduled before Christmas with every Year 11 student. Students will be informed in Morning Meetings who has appointments that week, they should make a note of their appointment date and time but must go to their usual lesson to get their register mark and Ms Geary will collect them from their classroom.

The purpose of meetings is to explore all of their next-step options, consider their own strengths and interests and think about what the future could look like for them. There's no pressure for them to know 'what they want to do' prior to the meeting but any conversations at home about their ideas for the future will help!

Year 11 Careers and Progression Support

Personal Development Curriculum

During Advisory sessions, assemblies and Personal Development lessons students will learn about:

- The difference between college and sixth form
- Apprenticeships
- How to write a personal statement
- What is a career?

Lunchtime Drop In

Throughout October and November, colleges and apprenticeship providers will be invited into school to set up a stand in the canteen so that students can ask questions about the opportunities available.

We understand that this can be a challenging time for families, a lot may have changed since you were in education so we are here to support you to feel that you can have positive, well-informed conversations about the future with your child. Please access the Careers Education section on the school website for up to date information about post-16 options: <https://www.dixonsbk.com/why/careers-education>

Please do get in touch with us if we can support in any way.

Extra Curricular Sports Activities

Our Subject Lead for PE, Ms Riches, would love students to join in with the after school, extra-curricular activities this term. In addition to the practice sessions, fixtures are also arranged, usually weekly. There are lots of opportunities available for students; last year our girls football team competed in an overseas tournament in Barcelona!

Our extra-curricular sports programme begins on Monday 11th September 2023.

Extra-Curriculum

Monday

Netball
Boys' Football

Tuesday

Girls' Rugby

Thursday

Girls' Football
Basketball
KS3 Dance

Friday

Cross-country

Dates for your Diary: September 2023

Thursday 14th September 3.45-6.00pm: Meet the Advisor event (all years)

Monday 18th September School photographs

Friday 22nd September Futures Fair: Post-16 advice to students

Thursday 28th September 4.30-7.30pm: Open Evening