

Anti-Racism Focus Groups – Thursday 27 March

Dear Families,

As you know, the mission of our trust is to challenge educational and social disadvantage in the North. We do this by establishing high-performing, non-faith academies which maximise attainment, value diversity, develop character, and build cultural capital. Over the last academic year, there has been significant progress in creating a wider understanding across the organisation of our broader equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) agenda. Student experience is central to this.

To support us in developing our understanding of student experience, we will be conducting student focus groups on Thursday 27 March. The focus groups will be designed to provide us with a deep understanding of student experience linked to race and racism within school. National data indicates that student experience in this area can vary according to ethnicity. For this reason, the focus groups will be organised via ethnicity, across a range of year groups.

The focus groups will be run by our Trust Assistant Principal for Research & Development into Anti-Racism. This staff member works across all Dixons Academies, is DSL trained and has conducted several focus groups within our trust. Her knowledge of anti-racist practice and safeguarding will allow her to ensure that students are made to feel as comfortable as possible, with no pressure to answer specific questions if they choose not to.

Each focus group will include a maximum of 7 students, and your child may be selected to participate. The groups will take no longer than 30 minutes during lesson time and will provide an opportunity for students to express their views and experiences in an informal and non-judgemental environment.

Findings from discussions will be used to support us in continuing to develop our equality, diversity and inclusion strategy at Dixons.

Thank you in advance for supporting our trust improvement. Please inform us by 25.3.25 if you do not consent to your child being involved in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Vessey
Assistant Principal