

**July 2023**

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to express our gratitude to each one of you for your invaluable support and engagement with our first ever transition process at Dixons Newall Green Academy. It has been an incredible journey so far, and we are excited to continue working with you.

We are pleased to announce that the very first Year 7 (Class of 2028) students will be returning on **Wednesday, 6 September 2023**, marking the beginning of their induction process. It is an important day for our new students, and we kindly request that they **arrive promptly at 8am**. Upon arrival, they will be directed to their designated Morning Meeting location for their very first lesson.

I would like to update families regarding our readiness to open. As you may have seen, work on our temporary building is now underway and will continue through July and August. We are currently awaiting 'sign-off' from the Secretary of State for Education, therefore all offers of a place at our academy from the Local Authority remain conditional at this point, as explained in your offer letters. We are, however, on track for a smooth handover and start to the academic year.

We would like to invite parents to a special drop-in event on **Friday, 8 September 2023, at 2:30pm**. This gathering provides a fantastic opportunity for you to join us, have a cup of tea, and explore our new temporary school building. We believe that seeing the physical space where your child will be learning is an essential part of fostering a strong partnership between home and school. Additionally, this event serves as a chance to meet your child's advisor, who will be your primary point of contact throughout the year. They will play a crucial role in supporting your child's academic and personal development.

Furthermore, we want to assure you that your child's academic progress will continue to be a priority at Dixons Newall Green Academy. We are committed to keeping you informed about your child's achievements and areas for growth. Parent-teacher meetings will be scheduled during designated parents' evenings, providing an opportunity for meaningful conversations about your child's progress. Additionally, we will provide twice-yearly academic reports that highlight your child's strengths and areas of development.

As we reflect on the past few months, and eagerly anticipate the year to come, we are grateful for your support in the opening of our new Free School. Together, we can create an exceptional educational experience for your child, nurturing their talents, guiding their growth, and celebrating their successes.

Please read the rest of this letter carefully, as it contains useful information to help you and your child get ready for the start of their first ever term at Dixons Newall Green Academy.

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable summer break.

Warmest regards,



Stephen Garvey  
**Principal**



## The Academy Week – 2023 / 24

As you are aware, at Dixons Newall Green we operate a longer working day. With an extended academy day, students have more time in the classroom to acquire skills, knowledge and understanding, as well as more opportunities to participate in a wide range of co-curricular electives.

Since we first published our school day on our website, and in our Family Handbook, we have taken feedback from families, and have made a slight amendment to the start of the day. You will notice the start of the school day has moved to start 10 minutes later.

**The Year 7 school day will now run as follows:**

Period	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	7.40 – 8.10	Breakfast / Morning Mastery	Breakfast / Morning Mastery	Breakfast / Morning Mastery	Breakfast / Morning Mastery	Breakfast / Morning Mastery
<b>MM</b>	8.10 – 8.35	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
<b>1</b>	8.35 – 9.25	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
<b>2</b>	9.25 – 10.15	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
<b>3</b>	10.15 – 11.05	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
<b>Break</b>	<b>11.05 – 11.20</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4</b>	11.20 – 12.10	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
<b>5</b>	12.10 – 13.00	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons
<b>Robust Reading</b>	<b>13.00 – 13.35</b>	<b>Family Dining</b>	<b>Family Dining</b>	<b>Family Dining</b>	<b>Family Dining</b>	<b>Family Dining</b>
<b>Family Dining</b>	<b>13.35 – 14.10</b>	<b>Robust Reading</b>	<b>Robust Reading</b>	<b>Robust Reading</b>	<b>Robust Reading</b>	<b>Robust Reading</b>
<b>6</b>	14.10 – 15.00	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Afternoon Meeting (finish 14.20)
<b>7</b>	15.00 – 15.50	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Lessons	Extra-curricular / Homework Club
<b>AM</b>	15.50 – 16.05	Afternoon Meeting	Afternoon Meeting	Afternoon Meeting	Afternoon Meeting	
	16.05 – 17.05	Extra-curricular / Homework Club	Extra-curricular / Homework Club	Extra-curricular / Homework Club	Extra-curricular / Homework Club	

- All students must arrive at the academy by **8.05am** at the very latest (go to their locker and hand in homework); some students (only those invited) will be expected to arrive at the academy as early as 7.40am for catch-up in Literacy and Numeracy. Breakfast is served from 7.40am in the school canteen.
- Year 7 finish at 16.05 (4.05pm) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Year 7 finish at 14.20 (2.20pm) on Friday.

## Term Dates 2023 / 24

	Term Dates	Holiday Dates
<b>Term 1 2023</b>	Wednesday 6 September 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023	Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 3 November 2023
<b>Term 2 2023</b>	Monday 6 November 2023 to Friday 22 December 2023	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2023
<b>Term 3 2024</b>	Monday 8 January 2024 to Thursday 9 February 2024	Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024
<b>Term 4 2024</b>	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 22 March 2024	Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024
<b>Term 5 2024</b>	Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 24 May 2024	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024
<b>Term 6 2024</b>	Monday 3 June 2024 to Friday 19 July 2024	Monday 22 July 2024

The academy will be closed to students on the following dates:

### **Staff data and planning days**

Friday 17 November 2023

Friday 8 March 2024

Friday 28 June 2024

### **Other dates when the academy is closed:**

Friday 29 March 2024: Bank Holiday (Good Friday)

Monday 6 May 2024: Bank Holiday

## **Equipment**

There are several items that students must bring to school every day:

### **Daily:**

- A clear plastic pencil case, containing:
- 2 black pens
- 2 green pens
- Black whiteboard pen
- 2 pencils
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Reading book (from the library)
- Protractor
- Calculator – a Casio FX83GT X

**Calculator update:** we have noticed that the academy preferred calculator 'Casio FX83GT X' is currently out of stock at many suppliers, and those that do supply are charging at an inflated price. We would therefore request that families purchase the calculator from school, through ParentPay once students have started back in September.

## **Uniform**

As with all schools, the academy has a dress code that all students are expected to follow. We place an emphasis on being clean, tidy, and presentable. Our dress code is simple and practical.

The academy offers financial support to purchase the compulsory aspects of the uniform. We have issued families with a £100 voucher as part of your welcome pack.

For all academy issued uniform items (jacket, polo shirt and PE (Physical Education) kit), you can purchase them directly from:

### **Debonair Schoolwear**

**2b Hale Top,  
Civic Centre,  
Wythenshawe,  
M22 5RN, UK**

For other items of uniform, that do not include the academy branding, parents may choose to purchase these items from Debonair, or other locations, as necessary.

For a full list of the most up-to-date uniform advice, please visit <https://www.dixonsng.com/about/school-uniform>.

## **Parent Pay**

Dixons Newall Green will use ParentPay, which is an online payment system for schools. It allows parents to pay quickly and securely for school meals, trips and activities, uniform, equipment, and any other fees. You simply top-up your ParentPay

account online, by debit or credit card, or in cash through PayPoint stores. Your ParentPay balance can be used immediately to pay for any of your children’s items at any school using ParentPay.

We will shortly be sending you a welcome letter with your account activation username and password. Once you receive these you will need to do the following:

- Visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)
- Enter your Activation username and password in the Account Login section of the homepage. Please note, these are for one-time use only; you will choose your own username and password for future access during the activation process.
- Provide all the necessary information and choose your new username and password for your account – registering your email address will enable us to send you receipts and reminders.
- Once activation is complete, you can go straight to items for payment, select which item(s) you want to add to your basket and proceed to complete your payment.

## My Child at School

Bromcom is the market leader for cloud-based management information systems.

Bromcom has a parent portal called, **My Child at School (MCAS)**. This portal allows you to log in and access details about your child within school. This includes their attendance, behaviour information and class reports. Bromcom also allows for faster communication between the academy and parents.

MCAS can be accessed via a web browser but is also an App that can be downloaded on to a smartphone.

We will be sending out further information about how to access this tool to families in September.

## PDS (Personal Development Studies) / RSHE (Relationships, Health and Sex Education)

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is delivered to all students during their PDS sessions throughout the academic year and are thematically linked to Relationships, Physical Health, and Mental Wellbeing. The Department of Education (DfE) outline the aim of RSHE is: **“to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships.”**

The RSHE sessions are delivered by advisors, SLT (Senior Leadership Team) or guest speakers. Assemblies also support the key RSHE themes and are delivered to whole year groups by advisors, a guest speaker or an SLT member. The curriculum is planned both vertically and horizontally with the end in mind and all resources are quality assured.

Our curriculum is planned to ensure that it is compliant with all aspects of the new DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance.

**Please see more information at this link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

If you would like to discuss this or if you would like more information about our RSHE Curriculum, please email us at [info@dixonsng.com](mailto:info@dixonsng.com).

### PDS Overview:

		Knowledge, skills and understanding to be gained at each stage*		
		Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
YEAR 7	Know and remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion, anti-discrimination</li> <li>• Health and changing bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal safety</li> <li>• Relationships and sex education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money and the world of work</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> </ul>
	Vertical and horizontal interleaving	<b>RS: What are my beliefs and values?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do religious beliefs influence people?</li> </ul>	<b>Science:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puberty, menstrual cycle, and menopause</li> </ul>	<b>Science:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science of teeth brushing (acidity/neutralisation)</li> </ul>

Knowledge, skills and understanding to be gained at each stage*			
	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do religious beliefs influence people?</li> <li>• How do religious beliefs and values link to our Academy values and drivers?</li> </ul> <p><b>Science:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household chemical safety</li> <li>• Working effectively in a team for science investigations</li> </ul> <p><b>Computing / IT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-Safety including phishing</li> <li>• Fake news</li> <li>• Digital footprint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual intercourse</li> <li>• Pregnancy and childbirth</li> </ul>	

Dixons Academies Trust is committed to ensuring that all students should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of relationships and sex education. Dixons believes that high-quality relationship and sex education is an essential part of schooling that supports young people’s development and prepares them for adult life, enabling students to make responsible and well-informed decisions in their lives.

To view our Relationships and Sex Education policy please visit:

<https://www.dixonsat.com/uploads/files/dixonsat/Relationships-and-Sex-Education-Policy-2023.pdf?v=1686050578>

### **MCRactive Holiday Activity Fund in Manchester**

The DfE has provided local authorities with a Holiday Activity Funding (HAF) to develop a free activity and food programme during the holidays. This means MCRactive work with clubs and organisations across the city to develop an activity programme that we know will make a positive impact on the children and young people of Manchester.

Please look at the drop-down tab on the website below for information concerning the Holiday Activity Fund application process and to see a breakdown of activity sessions you can book your child on over the summer holidays:

<https://www.mcractive.com/activity/Manchester-holiday-activity-fund-2022>

### **How to contact us:**

Over the summer, you can contact us by visiting our website and clicking ‘contact’ or email us directly using the information provided below. Unfortunately, since work is still commencing on our site, we do not yet have a direct telephone line yet. We will update families and inform you once we have this set-up.

**Academy website:** [www.dixonsng.com](http://www.dixonsng.com)

**Email:** [info@dixonsng.com](mailto:info@dixonsng.com)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/DixonsNGA>