

August 2020

Dear Applicants and Families

This email gives lots of updates and information about enrolment and life at Dixons Sixth Form, as with so many things at the moment it is only correct at the time of going to press and things are subject to constant review.

All applicants confirming summer work to secure an enrolment appointment

Recently we sent all applicants an email with a link that must be clicked to confirm the summer work arrangements. Summer work is to be completed ready for enrolment – as per the instructions it should be handwritten on A4 paper. If you have any problems activating the link from the email you were sent please email enrolment@dixons6a.com

Frequently asked questions including Kit/Bursaries/FSM/Changes due to COVID etc

We have set up (and will be populating further) a series of video messages and key documents to support students with their transition - all within the admissions section of our website <https://www.dixons6a.com/admissions>. We also run a number of social media channels and you may wish to connect with the life of the College on these platforms by searching for dixonssixth.

COVID considerations during enrolment and the start of term

As you will expect we are operating enhanced cleaning, zoned teaching spaces, a streamlined timetable and systems for circulating round our site. We are also separating groups of students within year groups and limiting contact between these different groups (i.e. forming bubbles and sub-bubbles). One significant effect this will have for us is that all student enrolment interviews will be conducted by telephone in order to ensure we are not mixing different groups of students.

Enrolment arrangements for students from Dixons Schools

For students attending Dixons schools we are obtaining GCSE results from schools directly and do not need to collect GCSE results from students. Our specialist teaching staff will be conducting individual telephone enrolment interviews and we will send you an email on the morning of Thursday 20th August informing you of the day that we will be contacting you (between the 20th and 25th August). Once you have enrolled we will send you full details of arrangements for the start of term on Tuesday the 1st September.

Enrolment arrangements for students from all other schools

For students from all other schools we will be sending detailed information shortly. You will come onsite, ideally on Thursday 20th August (we'll also be able to accommodate people on Friday 21st August) and we will maintain strict social distancing whilst we confirm your GCSE results, obtain proof of residency, take your student photograph and also give you some free materials to take away. Once your GCSE results have been processed we will email you to let you know what day we will be contacting you to complete your enrolment interview (between the 20th and 25th August). Once you have enrolled we will send you full details of arrangements for the start of term on Tuesday the 1st September.

How to prepare for telephone enrolment interviews

1. Check your GCSE results against the course entry criteria available on our website <https://www.dixons6a.com/admissions/entry-criteria>
2. If you do not have the grades for the courses your offer of a place was based on then research potential alternatives (enrolment is subject to availability) <https://www.dixons6a.com/why/our-courses>
3. Make sure your phone is charged!



4. During the day when we will ring you arrange to be in your home or a quiet space
5. If possible arrange for your parents to be around so they can be involved in your enrolment discussion.
6. Don't worry – we are here to help you and guide your choices – this is not a pass fail event.

What term will look like

For the first term we will be operating a temporary COVID recovery timetable – our priority will be to ensure all students have their subject lessons with our specialist teachers and that students have the normal weekly amount of face to face teaching time in their subjects. Some of our wider curriculum such as sporting enrichment will be delayed in starting – but we hope, as restrictions ease and cases drop this will rapidly change.

The compulsory year group residential

There is still a residential that is a vital and compulsory part of being a student a Dixons Sixth Form – usually it runs in October and is brilliant in terms of making and solidifying new friendships – however this academic year it will run at the end of the year in June 2021.

In all our arrangements it goes without saying that any student displaying COVID symptoms or being in a household with others displaying symptoms (or returning positive tests) must isolate and must not come onto our site at any time in that period. As I know you are doing - we all need to continue to work together to develop these 'new normal' ways of operating that avoid returning to more stringent conditions.

Stay safe – and in all your interactions consider the most vulnerable in our society.

Many thanks

Mark Rothery
Principal

