

June 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

The 2020-21 Academic year somehow is nearly at an end. I'm really pleased that we've managed, not only to focus on our own operations this year – but have also being able to run all three charity days and it looks like our third charity day in aid of Palestinian International Medical Aid will reach or be very close to our ambitious student led target of £5 000.

Despite COVID restrictions and lockdowns our first year students (your sons and daughters) have been able to receive uninterrupted subject lessons. Enrichment unfortunately has been more affected and we look forwards to next year when each week all students will be involved in at least one enrichment course. I know many University open events are still online as are summer schools – while this is not quite the full experience it will still help inform choices for students as they put their applications together next term.

I'm writing to inform you of two changes that will be in place for the next academic year.

### **Timetable**

We plan to revert to our normal timetable in September. This means students will have four 70 minute lessons in each of their subjects. These lessons will be timetabled across all five days of the week – so all students will be on site each day including Friday. The site will be accessible to students from 8:15AM in the morning and the first period will start at 8:50AM. Second year students are required to be on site for all timetabled and teacher directed sessions and have flexibility to eat off site and go home to study at other times. Though many students will prefer to both eat and continue studying on site using our Mill Café and library. Students will be able to remain onsite until 5:00PM

### **Student Dress Code (Uniform)**

When we opened in September 2019 we wanted to quickly establish ourselves as a Dixons Trust 16-19 institution with a clear focus on academic excellence combined with superlative opportunities for student self-development. We're proud that our first cohort of students have excelled - and from this smaller than usual year group (for Higher Education) we have 10 Medicine places, 3 Dentistry, 3 Oxbridge and so many more equally impressive Russell group University places to study Architecture, English Literature, PPE, History, Music etc.

When we opened we wanted to make the difference between a dedicated academic 16-19 academy and a more general College. We always refer to ourselves as a Sixth Form College – or even just as a Sixth Form to help make this distinction.

Initially we also required very smart clothing from our students, which we changed this year moving away from jackets and suits. We are changing again and our new dress code can be found on our website here <https://www.dixons6a.com/uploads/files/D6A-Student-Dress-Code.pdf>. Our students know Dixons Sixth Form is a place you come to in order to work hard and to perform at the highest level.

This change is for the next academic year – however please don't spend money on items from this point forwards we understand the last half term will have a degree of transition as some students no longer replace some items of smarter clothing.



Finally, we are expecting to be able to invite parents and carers onsite properly for the first time in September so will be hosting an information evening for parents and carers of second year students on the 15<sup>th</sup> September – it would be great to see you there.

Many thanks  
Mark Rothery

