

28th September 2020

Dear students and families

As we approach the end of the first month of our Autumn term I am writing to give you all an update on how our approaches are progressing and to outline what we need to work together on as we go forwards in these difficult times.

In these most unusual times most letters such as this start with a reference to covid-19 and letter is no exception.

In the week 16-22 September there were 832 cases in Bradford and as of the 25th September we have had 8 379 cases in our city. After initially being one of the least affected areas Nationally we are now very much on the frontline and my thoughts go out to all those who have been most severely affected.

How we are operating

Before the summer we operated a highly successful period of remote learning with the resumption of some face to face contact through June and July. Starting on the 1st September we have committed to being fully open for face to face teaching and learning (for YR1 and YR2 students) operating Covid secure protocols. Each week all our students receive

- 2 long face to face lessons per subject
- Regular homework tasks in each subject
- Friday remote learning task for each subject
- Daily check-in notices
- A group tutorial session
- Remote support and/or enrichment
- A lecture-lunch experience

In addition to this there are, of course, all the other opportunities we are renown for such as entry for national subject competitions, remote University access programmes, our Strava group etc.

For any students isolating subject teachers send home work by email covering the same material the lessons have dealt with – we encourage all students to keep in regular contact via email with their teachers and inform them directly when they are isolating and need work sending. **When it comes to assessments any students isolating will be able to complete those assessments on their return to College.**

In terms of being Covid secure we follow the Government guidance for Schools and Colleges which for us means when students are in transient contact with each other in circulation spaces we mitigate contact by ensuring

- Students sanitise hands before and after entering circulation spaces
- Student wear masks in circulation spaces
- Staircases are one way and corridors are keep left
- Students do not touch each other



For breaks between lessons to be Covid secure students can either remain in their classrooms in recorded seating position or enjoy an outside break (potentially buying some take away food from our Mill Café).

In classrooms – whether a lesson or study period - students remain in a recorded seating position.

We encourage student to arrive at our site no more than 10 minutes before their first session starts to minimise contact and also after students' finish for the day we expect them to leave and disperse from the site.

Ensuring we remain safe going forwards

I must stress the majority of our student are coping incredibly well with the restrictions we are working with and must be commended.

We do have some students that have not yet managed to stop shaking hands and our protocol is for zero physical contact – I know these are lapses of concentration rather than deliberate risk increasing choices. But as you will appreciate with the incidence of covid-19 increasing we need to address this now. **From the start of October, we will issue 48-hour site bans to any students that are making skin to skin physical contact with each other or any other similar infringement of our covid-secure routines.** This strict measure is to help us all have maintain distance uppermost in our minds.

Traffic – picking up and dropping off

When students are finished for the day we do ask them to disperse which is a mitigation against virus spread – with the new rule of six it is even more important student disperse rapidly. One way parents could support with this is to agree pick up points that are 2-3 street away from our main building.

For dropping off we encourage parents to drive through our stone arches car park to drop off students.



Free School Meals

Any students that were entitled to a free school meal in secondary school are eligible for these to continue in Sixth Form – however you need to reapply for this using the following link (this link also support new applications):

https://online.bradford.gov.uk/ufs/FREE_SCHOOL_MEALS.eb or by calling 01274 432772

16-19 Discretionary bursary

Sixth Form student in full time education in Schools and Colleges may be eligible to a Government provided bursary fund. All information about this fund and how to apply are on our website. I would encourage all student in household where the total income is less than £25 000 to look into this – this is support from the Government specifically to support studying at Sixth Form level.

<https://www.dixons6a.com/admissions/key-information>

Year group residential for YR1 students

Part of being a student at Dixons Sixth Form is a commitment to taking part in our values residential. Usually this takes place in October and clearly that is not an option this year. We do still plan to run this residential in June – however we will have to adopt a wait and see approach in relation to the public health situation nearer the time.

Further information

Should you have a specific query about an area of operation, our email address for information queries is info@dixons6a.com

I would like to end by saying despite the challenge we are all dealing with the start of term has been excellent – students are settled in lessons and working hard – their aspiration is our inspiration. I'm delighted that 35 YR2 students will be completing their early applications to UCAS for Oxbridge entry and Medicine courses – and I look forwards to lots more of our second year students making UCAS applications throughout this term

Kind regards



Mark Rothery
Principal

