



DIXONS  
SIXTH FORM  
ACADEMY

# PARENTS' & CARERS' GUIDE

INTEGRITY | CURIOSITY | RESPECT

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# WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**We are delighted that your young adult has decided to enrol with us. We hope the following information will enable you to support them in thriving right from the start of their time at Dixons Sixth Form (D6A).**

We provide students opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and be curious about the possibilities ahead. All Year 1 (YR1) students go on a compulsory trip in their first term with us, helping them to try new things, see new sights and learn more about themselves as well as others. With our broad enrichment programme, students can opt to learn new things from sign language to rock climbing and songwriting to ancient Greek. We pride ourselves on providing a curriculum which develops students as individuals. We have a bespoke lecture programme, which equips students with the cultural capital and powerful knowledge for 21st-century life.

The overwhelming majority of our students leave us to pursue university-level study, and we provide an environment that allows students to develop from a school to a university mentality. Our students are supported to apply to prestigious universities, with many of our students studying at the University of Leeds and the University of Manchester.

This D6A Parents' & Carers' Guide also contains key information to support your young adult as they transition to D6A. Consenting to our YR1 Big Trip and consent for all other trips will be on Improve.

Dixons Sixth Form genuinely prepares young adults to thrive in their next steps. We expect our students to respect this adult environment and do not tolerate serious misconduct (such as physical violence, homophobic abuse or possessing or using illegal drugs). As a 16-19 academy, we reserve the right to permanently remove the place of students involved in serious misconduct in line with our discipline policy, and we expect our students to conduct themselves maturely.

We look forward to your young adults studying with us and sharing their successes.

**CARLY TEALE**

*C Teale*

# KEY DATES FOR 2025-2026



## HALF TERM 1

**Tuesday 2nd September to Friday 17th October 2025**

YR1/YR2 Induction	2nd September 2025
Staff only day	14th October 2024
Holiday	Saturday 18th October - Sunday 2nd November 2025

## HALF TERM 2

**Monday 3rd November to Friday 19th December 2025**

Staff only day	24th November 2025
Staff only day	15th December 2025
Holiday	Saturday 20th December 2025 - Sunday 4th January 2026

## TERM 3

**Monday 5th January to 13th February 2026**

BTEC exams start	7th January 2026
Staff only day	13th February 2026
Holiday	Saturday 14th February - Sunday 22nd February 2026

## TERM 4

**Monday 23rd February to Thursday 26th March 2026**

Staff only day	27th March 2026
Holiday	Saturday 28th March - Sunday 12th April 2026

## TERM 5

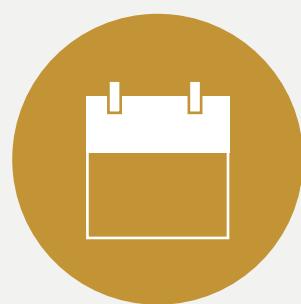
**Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May 2026**

BTEC exams start	1st May 2026
Bank Holiday	4th May 2026
Holiday	Saturday 23rd May - Sunday 31st May 2026

## TERM 6

**Monday 1st June to 17th July 2026**

Final Day for Students	15th July 2026
Holiday	Saturday 18th July 2026 onwards



## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### KEY ASSESSMENTS

**YR1 Monitoring Assessment Week**  
22nd September - 26th September 2025

**YR1/YR2 Key Assessment**  
17th - 21st November 2025

**YR2 Key Assessment**  
4th March - 6th March 2026

**YR1 Key Assessment**  
22 - 24th June 2026

### COMPULSORY YR1 TRIP

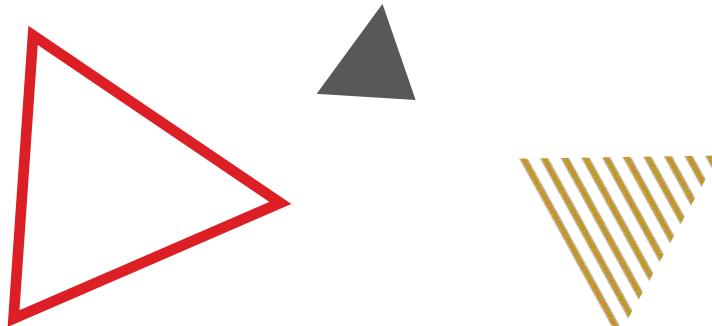
16th - 17th October

### PARENT/CARER EVENTS

**New Parents'/Carers' Information Evening**  
4th September 2025

**YR1 Subject Parental Consultation Evening**  
5th February 2026

**UCAS Fair**  
9th March 2026



# THE D6A LEARNER AGREEMENT



**All students sign the Learner Agreement when they enrol at Dixons Sixth Form (D6A). The agreement details what you (the student) can expect from D6A and what we (D6A) expect from you.**

At D6A our values are Integrity, Curiosity and Respect and we expect you to demonstrate them throughout their time at college.

**INTEGRITY:** The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

**CURIOSITY:** The desire to learn, to explore and explain the world we live in.

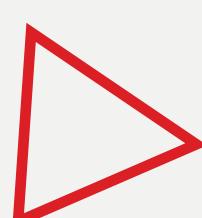
**RESPECT:** We forge a community of student, staff and wider stakeholders that demonstrates genuine respect for all.

To support students, we expect that they also use our Principles of Effective Studentship 'OTIS' to achieve strong outcomes.

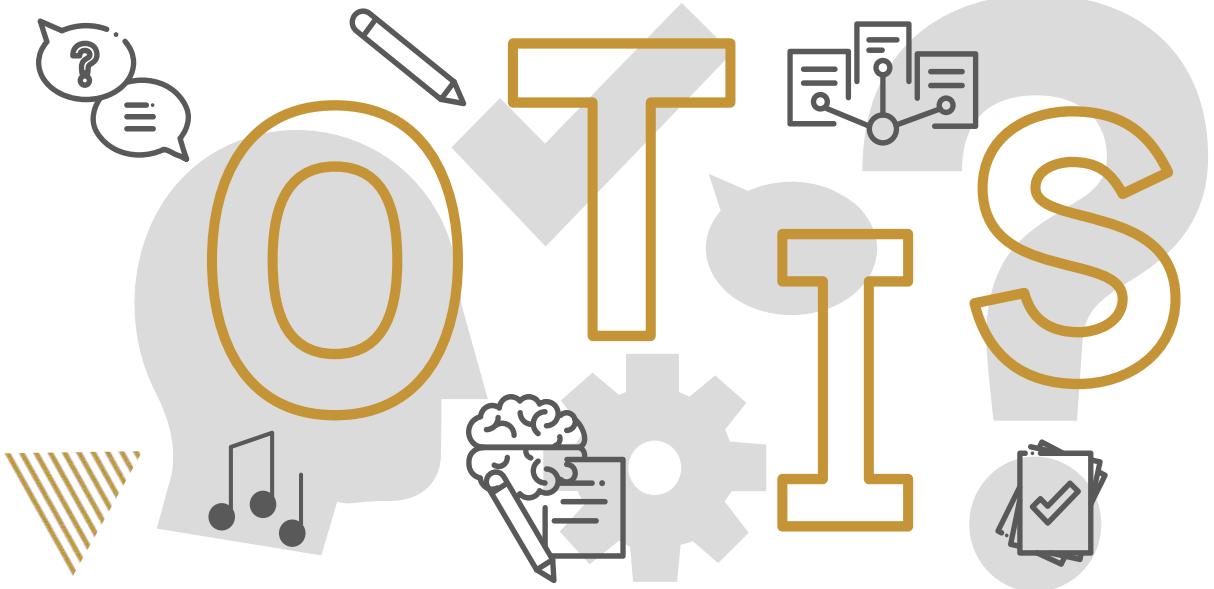
- I understand that I am representative of the college when on and outside of the college campus.
- To keep the college site secure, I commit to wearing my ID badge (with photo side visible) and lanyard at all times around the college site.
- I accept the terms of the policies of the College as applicable to students and will comply with those policies at all times including the Discipline Policy.
- I understand that my place is dependent upon making progress and my programme of study may be changed should I not make sufficient progress in my courses.
- I understand that while I am a student at D6A my parents/carers will be contacted if necessary.
- I commit to actively seeking out MEE (Meaningful Employer Engagement) including work experience / talks from prospective employers / other relevant engagement such as volunteering opportunities.
- I will take an active part in the college life including enrichments, clubs, teams, trips and residential visits, in particular the compulsory year group trip. I understand

that enrichment and lecture are a compulsory aspect of my study programme.

- I understand that I will need to activate a Parent Pay account linked to D6A and unless I am in receipt of a bursary make a payment each year for the compulsory Big Meal Events and YR1 Big Trip.
- I agree to treat everyone in our college community with respect, behave responsibly, with courtesy and kindness to all, regardless of background or opinion.
- I will respect the college buildings and equipment and will pay for the replacement of any college equipment or books lost or damaged.



# STUDENTSHIP EXPECTATIONS:



## Organisation

- I am aware that I must have an organisation system that involves a day folder and individual subject folders at home.
- I will check all required online systems regularly to receive notices and monitor my performance. This includes reading and responding to Teams messages, emails and checking Improve daily.

## Time Management

- I will attend all timetabled and teacher directed sessions and arrive punctually. I will inform the college before 8:20am if I am unable to attend due to illness and I am aware that the college does not authorise routine medical appointments and does not allow any holidays and/or religious pilgrimages during term time.
- I am aware that I must be available from 9:00am-5:00pm Monday to Friday.

## LOSS OF PLACE

I accept that my place may be withdrawn should I fail to meet college expectations as set out in this agreement or should I become involved in a serious incident. Pending investigation, I may be asked to remain off site and my lanyard will be removed to prevent access to the site. More information on this can be found in the Discipline policy on the college website.

## DIXONS SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### WILL:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment for students to enjoy learning and develop high aspirations for their future careers.
- Provide academic challenge and set regular independent study work to ensure progress is made.

## Independent Study

- I understand I must complete a minimum of 1 hour of independent study throughout the week for each hour of lesson time.
- I understand that I am not fully enrolled as a student at D6A until I have completed all the Summer Work in the subjects I have chosen to study.

## Strategy

- I understand at D6A I will be held accountable for my independent study by teachers in lessons through regular testing and verbal questioning.

- Set achievable targets, review them regularly and provide parents/carers with regular updates and opportunity for discussion about students' progress.
- Give access to Improve to students and parents/carers so that they can monitor student attendance and progress.
- Provide a wide variety of enrichment activities, relevant work experience, trips and residential visits.
- Run events that celebrate our college and community such as Culture Day and the Big Iftar event.

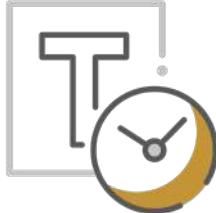
**By signing the Learner Agreement I expressly accept the terms and conditions as set out above. Where the Learner Agreement is unsigned the student is deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions of this policy where the student has presented themselves for attendance at D6A.**



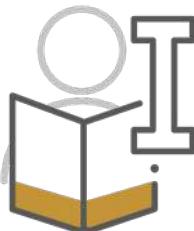
# STUDENTSHIP AT D6A



ORGANISATION



TIME MANAGEMENT



INDEPENDENT STUDY



STRATEGY

## WHAT IS STUDENTSHIP?

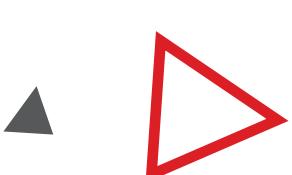
At D6A we define studentship as...

1. **Working hard** – high levels of effort both in and out of the classroom
2. **Working well** – effective use of time to maximise learning
3. **Being present & present** – high attendance to all timetabled sessions and full engagement with these sessions

To be successful in A Level and vocational qualifications students must consistently demonstrate outstanding studentship.

## STUDENTSHIP RUBRICS

To further support students at a subject level, each department has created a Studentship Rubric which describes subject-specific expectations around studentship and explains in a step-by-step manner the best way to conduct independent study in that subject.



# TOP 10 STRATEGIES



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS



EFFECTIVE NOTE TAKING



SUMMARISING FROM MEMORY



LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK



QUIZZING



FLASHCARDS



BRAIN DUMP



VERBALISING



RHYMES AND MNEMONICS



EXAM QUESTION PRACTICE

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR YOUNG ADULT FROM HOME

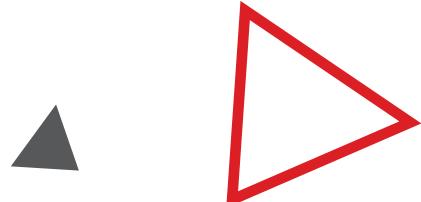


## To help support your young adult throughout their time at college you can:

- Encourage and monitor the amount of independent study they complete each day.
- Promote the importance of full attendance and ensure any medical appointments are made outside of the college day.
- Use Improve to track and monitor their attendance and punctuality.
- Ensure your young adult is getting the required amount of sleep to maximise effective learning the following day.
- Promote the uptake of meaningful employer engagement.
- Ensure they are familiar with the local bus routes should public transport be used.

Teachers and progress tutors at D6A look forward to supporting your young adult with excellent levels of studentship so that they can achieve a high level of success and leave college to pursue further study and have a rewarding career.

In addition to this, we recognise that support from parents and carers is a vital part of a student's academic journey. By encouraging your young adult to adhere to our Studentship expectations you are preparing them for success in their qualifications and beyond.



# IMPROVE

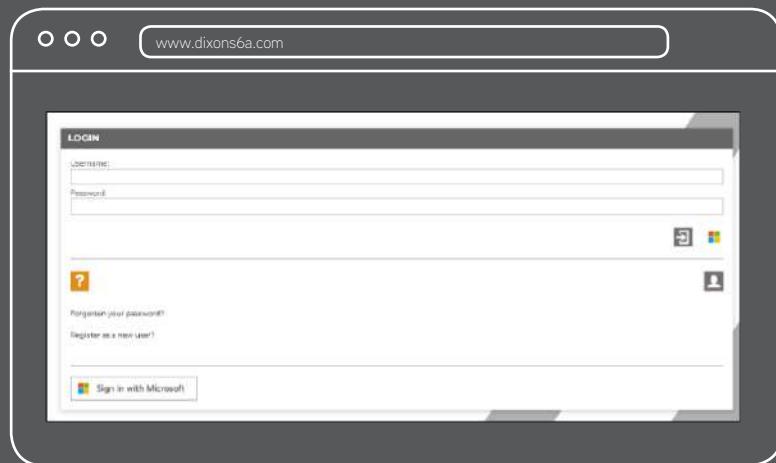
We encourage all parents and carers to access our online platform known as Improve. This houses key information about every student, including their attendance, punctuality, and academic progress. It also contains a log of pastoral support and intervention for every student. As mentioned

previously, the students who do the best are those who have support from home and college, so your use of Improve will really help to keep your young adult on track. Details on how to access Improve are set out below:

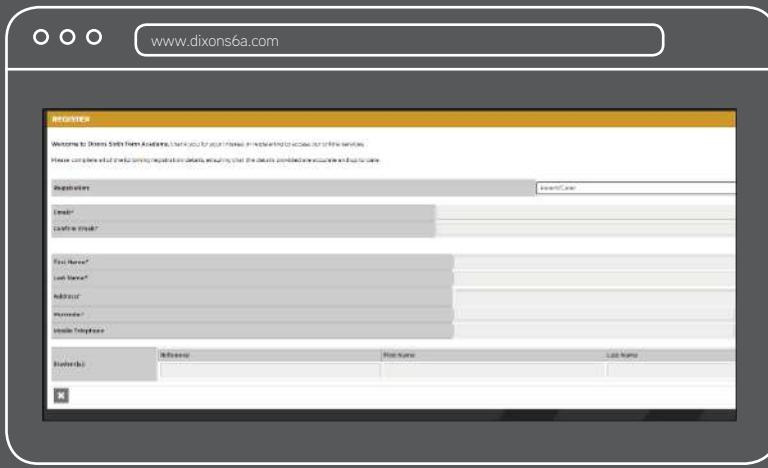
1

**You can access Improve through the college website homepage  
[www.dixons6a.com](http://www.dixons6a.com)**

**When logging in for the first time you will need to register a new user.**  
**tax credits**



2



**You will then need to input your personal details and those of your young adult including their D6A number (found on their ID card). This needs to be added to the reference box.**

3

**Once you register as a new user on Improve, your account will be verified within 48 hours, and you will then be able to access your young adult's information.**



# STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT



**At Dixons Sixth Form, we offer a range of support for students to help them during their learning and development while studying with us.**

## FREE COLLEGE MEALS

Free meals up to the value of £5.75 per day will automatically be awarded if the student or parent/carer receives income support, child tax credits, working tax credits, universal credit (to be income assessed), or support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

## CASHLESS COLLEGE

We run a cashless college, where all payments for student trips, meals, study books, etc., are made via an online secure system called Parent Pay. Login details will be issued shortly after student enrolment, and it is very important to activate your account as we expect prompt payment for all items, including Big Meal Events, Iftar Events, and trips.

## BURSARY FUNDS

The Government has given colleges a Bursary Fund to support 16–19-year-olds with the cost of full-time education. The post-16 bursary is based on annual household incomes and is means-tested. To be considered eligible for the bursary payments at Dixons Sixth Form, the total household income (employment and government assistance income included) must be below £36,000. Students who wish to apply will need to provide evidence of:

- Their household income in the form of a Final Tax Credit Award Notice and
- P60, Self-Assessment Tax Calculation Form or other benefits received such as universal credit.

There is also a further bursary available up to £1200 per year for students who may be living in care, are a care leaver, receive income support or universal credit in their own name or any student in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance.

To apply for the free college meals and bursaries, students must be enrolled on a full-time programme of study at Dixons Sixth Form, achieve an excellent standard of conduct and attendance, satisfy residency criteria and have their own current bank account (not savings). Application guidelines and information are included with this pack and are open. We urge families to complete this application as soon as possible to allow us to have the bursary in place for students at the start of the academic year.

# THE COLLEGE DAY



## THE COLLEGE DAY

The college opens its doors to all students at 8:20am. We suggest that this is the perfect arrival time for students, who can eat breakfast in the Mill Café before getting ready for their first lesson at 9:00am. Most lessons finish at 4:00pm with a small minority finishing at 5:00pm. Many students choose to continue their studies with us by using the college library which is open until 4:45pm Monday-Thursday and 4:15pm on Friday.

## STUDY PERIODS

Almost all students will have some study periods on their timetables. We want to develop students' independence to prepare them for the world of work or further academic study. With this in mind, we provide students with the freedom to choose where they wish to study. They may decide to go home to study, or they can do so on our college site. Importantly, students should use this dedicated time to complete their work and get ahead of their revision for their exams.

## FOOD

Students can buy food in the Mill Café or Generator Café. As mentioned above, we want to create an adult atmosphere and with this in mind, students are permitted to leave the site as they wish and can purchase food off site.

## DRESS CODE

We do not follow a dress code. We only ask that students come to college ready and willing to learn and not wear anything that would be offensive to others. We do however ask that students do not wear hats inside of the building or anything that covers their faces, as we strongly believe in communicating face-to-face.

## PASTORAL CARE

Our specialist Progress Tutor Team provides all the support and guidance students need to succeed. This includes academic intervention where required and challenging punctuality and attendance. It also means praising students for winning competitions, being rewarded by their subject teams and representing the college at events and sports fixtures. Every student has a dedicated tutorial slot once a week, during which sex, relationship, health and wellbeing education is also delivered.

## LOCAL TRIPS AND VISITS

Students at Dixons Sixth Form may be involved in travelling across the city to offsite locations for enrichment or course activities. The compulsory trip and local visit consent form is requested to be completed in August by all parents and carers. Events that take place further afield are always subject to individual risk assessments and for students under 18 require parental consent.

## IMPROVE

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**DIXONS SIXTH FORM ACADEMY**

**DOUGLAS MILL,  
BOWLING OLD LN,  
BRADFORD  
BD5 7JR**



**@DIXONSSIXTH**

