

26 August 2020

Dear families,

### School Year 2020 - 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to Dixons Marchbank on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Over the summer break, our school has undergone a full deep clean and some work has been done to improve our environment. We have some exciting changes including refurbished classrooms and a beautiful new nursery garden. Staff have also undergone full health and safety training.

We understand that your children may not have been in school for some time, and that both you and they may be anxious about returning. In order to keep our school as safe as possible, we are unable to welcome visitors into school as we would usually. Therefore, we have had to put some necessary changes in place to keep everyone safe. All our schools will be following government guidelines when students return regarding:

- minimising contact with those who are unwell
- cleaning hands thoroughly and more often
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning
- minimising contact between individuals

Although we will need to make adjustments to how the school days will run, we are fully committed to ensuring each of our students will still experience the full range of curriculum subjects which underpin a Dixons education.

Students from years 1 to 6 will be welcomed back to school on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. We have decided to maintain our successful drop off and collection systems that were in place in July. This means that students can be dropped off any time between 8.25am – 8.55am and there will be a one way system in place around the outside of school. Students can be collected between 2.45pm and 3.15pm. This may mean that some parents have a longer walk around school to get to classrooms so please allow a little extra time. We hope that you understand that this is to protect you and your children where we have narrow areas around the pathways. All adults are expected to follow government guidance and remain at least a metre apart from other adults. **We will be unable to offer breakfast club or our full range of after school clubs for the first half term, but if your family requires some extended hours due to work commitments, please contact school and we will discuss each individual case.** Separate information will be sent for those children starting Nursery and Reception.

Once in school, your children will be in a class 'bubble' in order to keep all our students safe. It is important that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If any member of your household shows symptoms of Covid-19, they should get tested straight away and your child should not come to school until a negative result is received. If your child is at home for any reason, it is expected that they will continue to learn during the hours they would have been at school. Resources will be provided for this and their class teacher will maintain contact to offer support with this.

### Student expectations

We look forward to seeing students in their full academy uniform on their first day back: purple jumper with logo, grey long trousers, skirt, pinafore dress or shalwar kameez, white shirt, purple or grey hijab - elasticated and plain, **plain black shoes**. On PE days, students can wear their PE kit to school with a school jumper or cardigan over the top: white t-shirt, black or grey shorts, black or grey tracksuit bottoms, **plain black trainers**. Shaved patterns in hair are not permitted. Jewellery must not be worn to school. If your child has pierced ears, small studs are permitted, however these must be removed or covered by the child for PE. Children who wear watches must take full responsibility for them.



We know that some children will be anxious about their return. You can support them with this by ensuring they are back into good quality sleeping routines and by talking about their worries and concerns. We will, of course, support them in school. We did find that almost all the children who returned prior to the summer holidays were really glad to be back in school with their friends and settled really well – children are often very resilient in different situations so please try not to worry too much. Those children needing additional support will receive it.

**If you have any questions or queries, please do contact school on our new telephone number 01274 089920 and speak to a member of the pastoral team.**

We are very excited about the students returning and very much looking forward to seeing them. We know that school will be slightly different, with different routines, but the basics remain the same and we can't wait to start providing excellent care and learning with all our children back in school. See you soon!



**Mrs H Haunch  
Principal**

