

26 August 2021

Dear families

I hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to the academy this term.

Return to school

All students in Years 1-6 will return to the academy on **Tuesday 31 August 2021**. New to Reception students return on Monday 6 September but have been allocated a morning / afternoon settling-in session next week.

Drop-off arrangements

There will be a relaxed arrival window which means your child can be dropped at any time from 8am until 8:30am. We are continuing to ask parents to line up along the dotted lines in the academy carpark and will open the gates at 7:59am. It is important that **all children** are accompanied by an adult / secondary sibling to the appropriate entrance points:

Year	Entrance Door
Reception (from Monday 6 September)	Reception classroom doors (around the canopy, up the steps on far side of playground and at the back of the building)
1 and 2	DMP Main Hall door (around the canopy, up the steps on far side of playground)
3, 4, 5 and 6	Door under canopy

Collection arrangements

Year	Entrance Door
Reception (from Monday 6 September)	Reception classroom doors (around the canopy, up the steps on far side of playground and at the back of the building)
1 and 2	Own classroom doors
3	First automatic door beyond canopy
4	DMP Main Office (parents/carers to wait in DMP carpark)
5	DMP Main Hall door (around the canopy, up the steps on far side of playground)
6	Fire exit next to DMP Main Hall door (parents/carers to wait in DMP carpark)

Uniform and equipment

Please refer to the academy's uniform expectations [here](#) which form part of the home/academy agreement. It is important that expectations are followed in relation to uniform which is one of the academy's learning habits. Please also note that pencil cases are continuing to be provided by the academy to all students in Years 3-6 so please ensure pencil cases are not brought in from home. Pencil cases are not used in Years R, 1 and 2. Academy book bags should be



purchased from approved uniform suppliers and rucksacks continue to not be permitted due to storage restrictions in the academy.

Communication with families – MyChildAtSchool app

All parents and carers must download and have access to the MCAS application. Over next year we will be using this system more to communicate and without this application you could miss out on vital information you need to support your child whilst they are at DMP. If you do not have this app please see <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> . If you require login credentials (Years 1-6 parents), please email admin@dixonsmp.com.

New Reception parents will be sent their login details by Friday 3 September.

Early Breakfast Club – Paid

We are continuing to offer a paid breakfast club from 7:40am until 8am each day. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis with a limited number for each year group. Please complete [this form](#) by **12pm tomorrow (Friday 27 August)**. You will receive a text by 4pm tomorrow if your child has been allocated a place. Once you have confirmed a place, a charge of £1.50 per day will be added to your ParentPay account and must be paid within 7 days of being added.

After School Clubs

We are working with providers to finalise an offer for after school clubs. We hope for this to be in place before the half term break. Further information will follow.

PE Kit Days

Class	Day/s
Salford	Monday
Sheffield	Monday
Lincoln	Wednesday/ Thursday
Leeds	Tuesday
Huddersfield	Monday/Wednesday
Leeds Beckett	Thursday
Trinity	Thursday/Friday
Nottingham	Thursday
Teesside	Monday/Wednesday
Durham	Wednesday
York	Tuesday
Manchester	Monday/Wednesday
Oxford	Tuesday
Cambridge	Tuesday/Wednesday

Family Dining

Family Dining is a key part of the academy day. Due to the lifting of restrictions, we are delighted to be able to return to Family Dining in the Heartspace of the school. During Family Dining, children learn to serve themselves and each other (as opposed to having to queue at a counter to collect their food). We all sit down as a school and eat together; adults eat the same school lunch with the children in order to encourage and model good conversations. We serve each other food and help tidy away together. We value this time and see it as a key learning opportunity.

All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to school meals free of charge. We aim to be a healthy school and see eating as a way to reinforce our values and commitment to a high-quality education. We know that the climb to university is long and hard, so we provide our students with nourishing freshly prepared meals to keep them going. All



students also receive an afternoon snack. We have devoted significant additional funding to our catering (beyond what the government allocates to us) in order to provide quality school meals for our students.

From Tuesday 31 August, we will be introducing a new 2-week rolling menu ([here](#)).

A key change from last year (due to restrictions and disruptions) will be that we expect all students to be **fully** committed to the **full** menu. We have kept our new menu simple and each dish will have separate elements to ensure that, if a student does not like one aspect, they are able to eat, at least, one of the other components.

I am sure you will understand that, due to logistics, time constraints and financial costs, we are not able to provide alternatives (e.g. a sandwich) if your child does not like a particular meal on the menu. As always, dietary requirements (intolerances / vegetarian etc) will be catered for. Parents / carers can provide an additional snack / sandwich from home if you think your child will not eat the full offering on a particular day.

The meals are very simple and there is always a vegetarian option available. Therefore, your child will either participate in the whole new 2-week menu (every day) or move on to packed lunches provided from home (every day). We are very hopeful that as many students as possible will be able to stay on Family Dining.

If you would like your child to only be on packed lunches then we would ask you to email admin@dixonsmp.com with the subject Family Dining Opt-Out by 2pm tomorrow (Friday 27 August) to allow us to cater for numbers. However, our ultimate goal is for 100% of students to eat the same food together at the same time.

Three-way partnership with families

We will be re-launching Friends of DMP this year to further cement our three-way partnership with parents. In addition to this, clarity about phonecalls home, parent consultation events, coffee mornings and workshops we hope to begin from Term 2. Further information will be communicated in due course.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you and your child/ren on Tuesday 31 August (or Monday 6 September for new to reception students).

Yours sincerely



Mr Robbins-Ross
Principal

