

21 October 2022

Dear families,

### End of Term Letter

I would like to express my thanks to all our students, families and staff for your support over the first half term this year. All of our students have returned to school and have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. It has been fantastic to see the launch of the co-curricular programme for Year 7 and 8, a key part of our extension to the school day, with students now engaging in opportunities for additional enrichment within our curriculum; which includes baking, rowing, art and many more opportunities. We have seen over 150 students across all year groups attending our after school extracurricular provision, which includes, Dance, Football and Boxing. We have also recently launched our first Dixons Cottingley Performance, which will be taking place later this year and auditions for students will take place after the half term break. Finally, we have had over 130 students take up free instrumental lessons this year which is exciting to see students accessing our growing curriculum offer.

I also want to take this opportunity to share the provisional GCSE results from this summer, which were published by the Department for Education yesterday.

The data released shows that we have seen one of the **largest rises for Progress and Attainment across Bradford** since the last performance tables were released in 2019. Our academy **progress 8 score is +0.13**, this represents a significant shift (an increase of +0.63) from the previous score of -0.50 in 2019 and also means that our students are now **achieving above national for progress** when compared to their peers. In addition, our **English and Mathematics 4+ has risen to 62% (a 25% increase since 2019)** and our **English and Mathematics 5+ measures have risen by 26% since 2019**. This is a fantastic achievement and is testament to the hard work of all our students and staff over the last few years. To access the most recent data from the Department for Education you can visit <https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/146198/dixons-cottingley-academy>

### Online Safety

During the half term your child will be using technology more frequently than normal. To ensure online safety whilst your child is using technology and accessing the internet more often, there is additional support and guidance available to you as parents. Please use the following links to access support and services available to families.

<https://www.dixonsco.com/about/online-support-for-parents>

### Cost of Living Support

We appreciate the current economic climate is challenging for many families. Bradford council have produced the following resource which families may find useful to find advice and support regarding the cost of living crisis. This can be accessed by visiting the following site. <https://bit.ly/3TDZy9P>

### Training Days

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that we have two training days on **Thursday 17 November** and **Friday 18 November**. The academy will be closed for students on these dates.

### Attendance

It is important for parents to be aware there is a clear link between attendance and student attainment at GCSE. The academy expectation is that students attend 100% of the time. If for any reason your child cannot attend the academy please can you ring the academy on **01274 567281** and **select Option 1**. You should expect to receive contact from the academy if your child is persistently absent and we will also conduct home visits. I would like to remind parents again that we do not authorise any term time holiday and we will seek to issue penalty notices to families where attendance falls below the expected standard due to absence.

I wish all our families a restful break and we look forward to our students returning after the half term on **Monday 7 November**.

Yours faithfully



Jason Patterson  
Principal

