

2 September 2022

Dear families

Open Evening and My Child At School

I hope you have had a good summer break and I would like to take this opportunity to share how proud we are of all our students and how they have returned from the summer break.

Open Evening

I would like to take this opportunity to share that we will be holding our **Year 6 Open Evening** for families that have children joining secondary school in September 2023 on **Wednesday 14 September** between **4.15pm and 7.00pm**. Over the evening there will be presentations delivered by the Principal at **4.30pm, 5.15pm and 6.00pm**, which will provide families with an opportunity to find out more about our school and what we have to offer. In addition, families will be able to have a tour of the school and speak to staff from each subject area.

We welcome all families with primary aged children to attend and we would ask you share this information with your family and friends, if they also have children looking to start secondary school next year.

My Child At School (MCAS)

We value the feedback we have received from families over the last year. We are now looking to launch 'My Child At School' over the coming weeks. This platform will allow you to access key information regarding your child at home via the website (<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>) or by downloading the 'My Child At School' app available from Google and Apple store, to access your child's record on your mobile device.

'My Child At School' will allow families to see your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour record and also positive points record, alongside being able to receive messages and letters direct to your phone or email. Over the coming weeks we will be migrating to this platform. We will also be sending communication and text messages via this platform rather than through the post and through SMS, to reduce costs to the academy, allowing us to invest more money in student's education.

In order for us to send you the link to activate your child's account, you will receive a Microsoft Form via text message from the academy asking you to complete some key information. This will allow us to verify your email address on our system and send your invitation code once we have checked and updated our records. It's important that we update this information to ensure you receive this link correctly. I would like to thank you in advance for your support and ask that you do complete the online form when you receive the link.

If you would like to find out more information regarding 'My Child At School', please visit our website. <https://www.dixonsco.com/why/my-child-at-school>. We will also send out an instruction guide to your email once we have confirmed your most up to date details.

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.

Free School Meals

Many families' circumstances may have recently changed and with the current economic climate it's appropriate at this time to remind families of the eligibility criteria below for free school meals. Many families may find that in the past they were not eligible but due to a change in circumstances recently they are now eligible to claim. I would strongly advise parents to apply for this if you are eligible. To apply, check the criteria below and visit please visit the following website below.

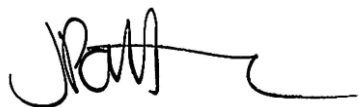


Free School Meal Eligibility Criteria

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190, provided they are not receiving Working Tax Credit
- the 'Guaranteed' element of the State Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (you will need to apply directly to the school or call the Education Service on 01274 439393)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income threshold of less than £7,400

If you have any questions regarding anything in this letter please do not hesitate to contact the academy.

Kind regards



Jason Patterson
Principal

