15th October 2019

Dear Families,

As we approach the half-term break, once again, I can say with huge pride, that our children and the whole academy staff community have responded so magnificently to the challenges, both academic and pastoral, that they have faced.

For the 5th year in succession, our children at the Academy have achieved a Positive GCSE Progress 8 Score (The Department of Education’s measure for gauging School success) placing us in the top 20% of schools nationally.

In addition, although not yet published, our A-Level students will achieve a top 10% national progress score.

This is a tremendous achievement and reflects well on all of us.

Some important issues are clarified below:

1. A safe and orderly exit for all students at the end of the academy day.
2. Consumption and sale of food and beverages on the academy campus.
3. High standards of academy uniform every day.
4. Severe weather procedures.
5. Mobile phones.

A safe and orderly exit for all students at the end of the academy day

We remain concerned about the safety of students at the Academy gates with the volume of traffic combined with the volume of students arriving & leaving at the start/end of the day. I urge you, once more, not to park on the yellow lines directly in front of the Academy.

I have also spoken to all students about how they cross the road safely at the designated traffic lights. Please reinforce this message and ensure, when possible, that they wear clothing that be seen on dark nights.
Consumption and sale of food and beverages on the academy campus

We have found students bringing in food and beverages to sell. Apart from the obvious Health & Safety concerns that arise, students with sums of money upon their person can be more vulnerable. Should we catch any student selling food or drink, their goods will be immediately confiscated and thrown away. Additionally, families will be informed.

High standards of academy uniform everyday

If you wish your child to wear a jumper or cardigan under their blazer in the colder weather, please ensure it is the Academy’s official grey knitwear from Gogna Sports on Rookery Road. No other knitwear is allowed. If you are replacing items of uniform please make yourself familiar with our requirements for leather or leather effect shoes (not boots or trainers) and tailored trousers and skirts. Please remember that students who arrive without appropriate footwear are provided with a black pump shoe alternative.

November RETURN

The Academy will close to all students at **1330 on Friday 25th October** and re-open on **Monday 4th November** at **08:40**.

Severe weather procedures

In the event of severe weather which would cause the academy to be closed, the quickest way to find out will be through the Academy Website: [www.georgedixonacademy.com](http://www.georgedixonacademy.com)

All local radio stations are also informed, and they then broadcast any school closures (usually early morning). We will, as usual, make every attempt to keep the Academy open and running as normal.

Mobile Phones

**REMINDER:** Students are not allowed to use or receive calls/messages/emails in or around the learning zones within the Academy. Any student who uses their phone in lessons or around the main building will have them confiscated for two weeks. No exceptions will be made.

Thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very happy half-term break.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Hamilton
Headmaster