

03 July 2026

Dear families,

As we prepare for the start of a new academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are committed to providing the very best opportunities for our young people.

At Dixons Ashton, we want to embrace the Dixons values of hard work, kindness and intrinsic motivation and accelerate our school improvement journey. We want our young people to achieve outstanding exam results, enabling them to progress to university or a high-quality alternative pathway. The first step in this direction is our new extended school day, which will commence in September.

There will be a longer tutor period in the morning, rather than having tutor time split between the morning and afternoon. This will reduce movement around the school and maximise learning time for students. It will also provide a longer period of time for tutors to support literacy through dedicated reading time and at Key Stage 4, allow additional time for additional English and Maths teaching time.

The current optional sunset sessions we offer will become compulsory for Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This will provide teaching staff with valuable additional curriculum time to deliver content and develop exam technique, supporting our drive to raise standards.

We also aim to provide a comprehensive enrichment programme for students in Key stage 3 (years 7, 8 and 9) on those days.

The attendance expectation for the 2026/27 academic year is 97%. Maintaining excellent attendance is one of the most significant factors in supporting students to achieve their full potential. Evidence consistently shows a strong link between high levels of attendance and positive academic outcomes, as well as students' overall wellbeing and engagement in school life.

To support this expectation, the authorised absence allowance will remain at five days throughout the academic year. We encourage families to prioritise attendance wherever possible, ensuring that students benefit from every learning opportunity available to them.

Please be aware that where a student's absence exceeds the authorised allowance without appropriate justification, parents/carers may be at risk of receiving a fixed penalty notice in line with current attendance regulations. In addition, in accordance with school policy, holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and will result in a fixed penalty notice being issued through Tameside Local Authority. We greatly appreciate your continued support in ensuring that students attend school regularly, enabling them to make the most of their educational opportunities and achieve the very best outcomes.

Year 7 / 8 / 9		Year 10 / 11			
Monday - Friday		Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday		Thursday, Friday	
Breakfast Club (optional)	8.00am - 8.25am	Breakfast Club (optional)	8.00am - 8.25am	Breakfast Club (optional)	8.00am - 8.25am
Morning gathering	8.30am - 8.32am	Morning gathering	8.30am - 8.32am	Morning gathering	8.30am - 8.32am
Morning mood	8.32am - 8.35am	Morning mood	8.32am - 8.35am	Morning mood	8.32am - 8.35am
Reg and Read	8.35am - 9.05am	Reg and Read	8.35am - 9.05am	Reg and Read	8.35am - 9.05am
Period 1	9.05am - 10.05am	Period 1	9.05am - 10.05am	Period 1	9.05am - 10.05am
Period 2	10.05am - 11.05am	Period 2	10.05am - 11.05am	Period 2	10.05am - 11.05am
Break	11.05am - 11.25am	Break	11.05am - 11.25am	Break	11.05am - 11.25am
Period 3	11.25am - 12.25pm	Period 3	11.25am - 12.25pm	Period 3	11.25am - 12.25pm
Period 4	12.25pm - 1.25pm	Period 4	12.25pm - 1.25pm	Period 4	12.25pm - 1.25pm
Lunch	1.25pm - 2.00pm	Lunch	1.25pm - 2.00pm	Lunch	1.25pm - 2.00pm



Period 5	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Period 5	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Period 5	2.00pm - 3.00pm
		Period 6	3.00pm - 3.45pm		

One other key date to draw your attention before we close for the summer is our school production of The Wizard of Oz showing on Wednesday 8th July at 6.30 pm and at the same time on Thursday 9th July. Doors will be open from 6pm and tickets are now on sale at school at £4 per person.

School will close to students after period 3 on Friday 17th July at 12.10pm. Student with free school meals will have access to our grab bag lunches should they wish to take these. We are currently making arrangements with the school bus service and will communicate this to parents in due course.

Our uniform policy has been shared with parents but can also be found via the following link; [Uniform.pdf](#).

Parents will also receive our Safeguarding Newsletter shortly.

September Return

Dixons Ashton Academy will have an additional INSET day on Thursday 3rd September. As we join the Trust, this extra training day will provide staff with valuable opportunities to engage with new policies, procedures and systems, ensuring the very best start for our students.

We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students into school on Friday 4th September at 08:30am. Having the school to themselves for the day will help them settle in, build confidence and become familiar with their new surroundings before the full school community returns.

We will then welcome all students, all years, back to school on Monday 7th September for morning gathering at 08:30am.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our families a restful, peaceful, enjoyable summer break!

Yours faithfully



Matthew Little

Principal

