



# Family Handbook 2025/26



A student with a backpack walking in front of a modern building with large windows. The entire image has a purple tint.

## AT DIXONS UNITY ACADEMY WE HAVE MANY MINDS BUT ONE MISSION:

To ensure that all students are successful at university or a real alternative and live happy and purposeful lives.

We want every single one of our students to have the knowledge, skills and qualifications to be able to make informed choices about their future at the age of 16 and 18.



From the moment a student arrives at Dixons Unity Academy, we ask them to not just unite behind, but live by our values.

There are three values at Dixons Unity Academy:

**Resilience, Integrity and Respect.** We expect and support students and staff to live these values day in, day out.

**Resilience:**

We work hard, overcome obstacles and never give up.

**Integrity:**

We are honest and do the right thing even when nobody is watching.

**Respect:**

We are polite, value others and treat everyone fairly.

As well as our values we teach students about the three drivers of intrinsic motivation which help to keep us on track and working towards our goals.

They are:

**Mastery:**

The drive to get better at something that matters.

**Autonomy:**

The drive to direct our own lives.

**Purpose:**

The drive to contribute to something larger than ourselves





Resilience  
Integrity  
Respect



# Key staff

## Senior leadership team

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Ash Jacobs

Principal

### Behaviour and attitudes

Pip Parmar

Vice Principal

James Higgins

Assistant Vice Principal

Jamie McCormack

Assistant Vice Principal

### Connect

Stephen Fowkes

Assistant Vice Principal

### Personal development

Sarah Clynes

Vice Principal

Jen Smith

Assistant Vice Principal

Amy Titorenko

Assistant Vice Principal

### Quality of education

Kate Paddy

Vice Principal

Phil Grayson

Assistant Vice Principal

Dave Spencer

Assistant Vice Principal

## Pastoral leadership team

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### Year 6 and Year 7

Becky Crabtree

Head of Phase

Corbin Carrington

Head of Phase

Donna Miller

Deputy Head of Phase

### Year 8 and Year 9

Julie Rankin

Head of Phase

Andy Stevens

Deputy Head of Phase

Tia Kennedy

Assistant Head of Year 8

Sue Roper

Assistant Head of Year 9

### Year 10 and Year 11

Rob Ryan

Head of Phase

Donna Miller

Deputy Head of Phase

Nicky Hurley

Assistant Head of Year 10

Jo Warner

Assistant Head of Year 11

## Special educational needs

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Will Jackson

Associate Assistant Vice Principal & SENCO

# OUR ACADEMY DAY

The academy opens to students at 7.50am and a free breakfast is available.

	Start	End
Morning Meeting	08.20	08.40
P1	08.40	09.35
P2	09.35	10.30
Break	10.30	10.50
P3	10.50	11.45
P4*	11.45	12.40
Lunch	12.40	13.10
P5	13.10	14.05
P6	14.05	15.00

\* Y7 and Y8 begin lunch at 12.30



# THE CURRICULUM

1. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 take part in: English, maths, science, Spanish, geography, history, RE, PE, music, drama, art, ICT, PSHE, food and nutrition and textiles.
2. In Year 9 students begin to specialise but continue to study a full suite of subjects.
3. In Year 10 and Year 11 all students study English, maths, science, RE, Spanish and PSHE. They have a choice between history or geography and two choices from sport, music, drama, art, photography, health and social care, business and ICT.



*We value each other.  
We promote the hopes, qualities and  
achievements of every member of  
our community.*







## LEARNING HABITS

Completing work outside of lessons is important to consolidate and master learning. It helps students to develop their organisational skills and it shows that they are hard working

Students who wish to succeed always bring the right equipment to our academy, for the right lessons, each day.

Our students show pride in their appearance and in being a member of the Dixons Unity community.

### **Learning habit 1: Homework and deadlines**

Demonstrating our learning habit for homework and deadlines at Dixons Unity Academy means:

1. Returning all letters and reply slips within 48 hours.
2. Completing all homework on time. Almost all homework is online and is set and due weekly in line with the schedule. Other homework will be set regularly by class teachers.

### **Learning habit 2: On task**

Being on task at Dixons Unity Academy means:

1. Following the learning mode of the classroom or learning space.
2. Following instructions first time, every time.
3. Completing all work and asking for help when needed.
4. Transitioning quickly and quietly between lessons.
5. Falling silent when staff raise their hands.

### **Learning habit 3: Equipment**

Being fully equipped at Dixons Unity Academy means bringing:

1. 2 x black pens
2. 2 x green pens
3. Pencil
4. Ruler
5. Black whiteboard pen
6. Highlighter
7. Reading book
8. Student planner
9. Pencil case
10. Academy bag (graffiti free)
11. Scientific calculator (optional)

Mobile phones should not be seen or heard in the academy. They should be switched off prior to entering the school and placed in your bag.



## Learning habit 4: Punctuality

Punctuality at Dixons Unity Academy means:

1. Arriving to school by 8.18am and being in Morning Meeting by 8.20am.
2. Taking no longer than four minutes to transition between lessons. Music will play during transition to help students keep time.
3. Being on time to line up after break and lunch.

The learning modes referred to above are as follows:

1. Respectful whole class – in silence tracking (looking at) the teacher.
2. Independent silent study – in silence working on your own.
3. Quiet partners – using two-foot voices to work with the person next to you.
4. Polite table groups – collaborating as a group (this is most often used in practical subjects).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English	Science	Spanish	Maths	History
BTEC Sport	RE	IT	Enterprise	Geography
BTEC Performing art	GCSE Photography	BTEC Art and design		BTEC Health and Social

*We never give up.  
No matter how challenging things get,  
we persevere to succeed.*





## Learning habit 5: Uniform

Perfect uniform at Dixons Unity Academy means:

1. Black trousers (not jeans, leggings or tracksuit bottoms).
2. White buttoned shirt.
3. DUA branded grey / black / blue blazer and / or jumper.
4. Black polishable shoes or boots (not trainers or pumps).
5. No jewellery except a plain watch (smart watches are not allowed). A Sikh Kara may also be worn.
6. No unnatural hair colours. No false nails. No false eyelashes.
7. Students can opt to wear plain black salwar kameez or tunic with a white blouse / shirt with the academy blazer over the top.
8. Hijabs, scarves, turbans, crowns, and top knots worn for religious reasons, must be plain black and well secured.
9. Academy bag in the correct colour for their year group (graffiti free) – provided by Dixons Unity Academy in the first instance.

PE kit at Dixons Unity Academy is as follows:

1. Academy navy polo shirt.
2. Navy shorts, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings (branded or unbranded).
3. Trainers (indoor and outdoor).
4. Optional items: academy navy quarter zip top.

## Learning habit 6: Positive response

Positive response at Dixons Unity Academy means:

1. Treating other students and staff with respect.
2. Not using offensive or poor language around the building.
3. Accepting responsibility when a mistake is made. Adults' decisions should be respected.



## WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED HELP?

Your first port of call is your form tutor, you can always speak to them about any questions or concerns you may have!

If they're not available then you can speak to anyone in your year team. This includes your assistant head of year, deputy head of phase, head of phase or SLT link.

Finally you can always talk to one of our safeguarding team:

Mr Higgins, Ms Clynes, Ms Fox, Ms Poole or Ms Germain







## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

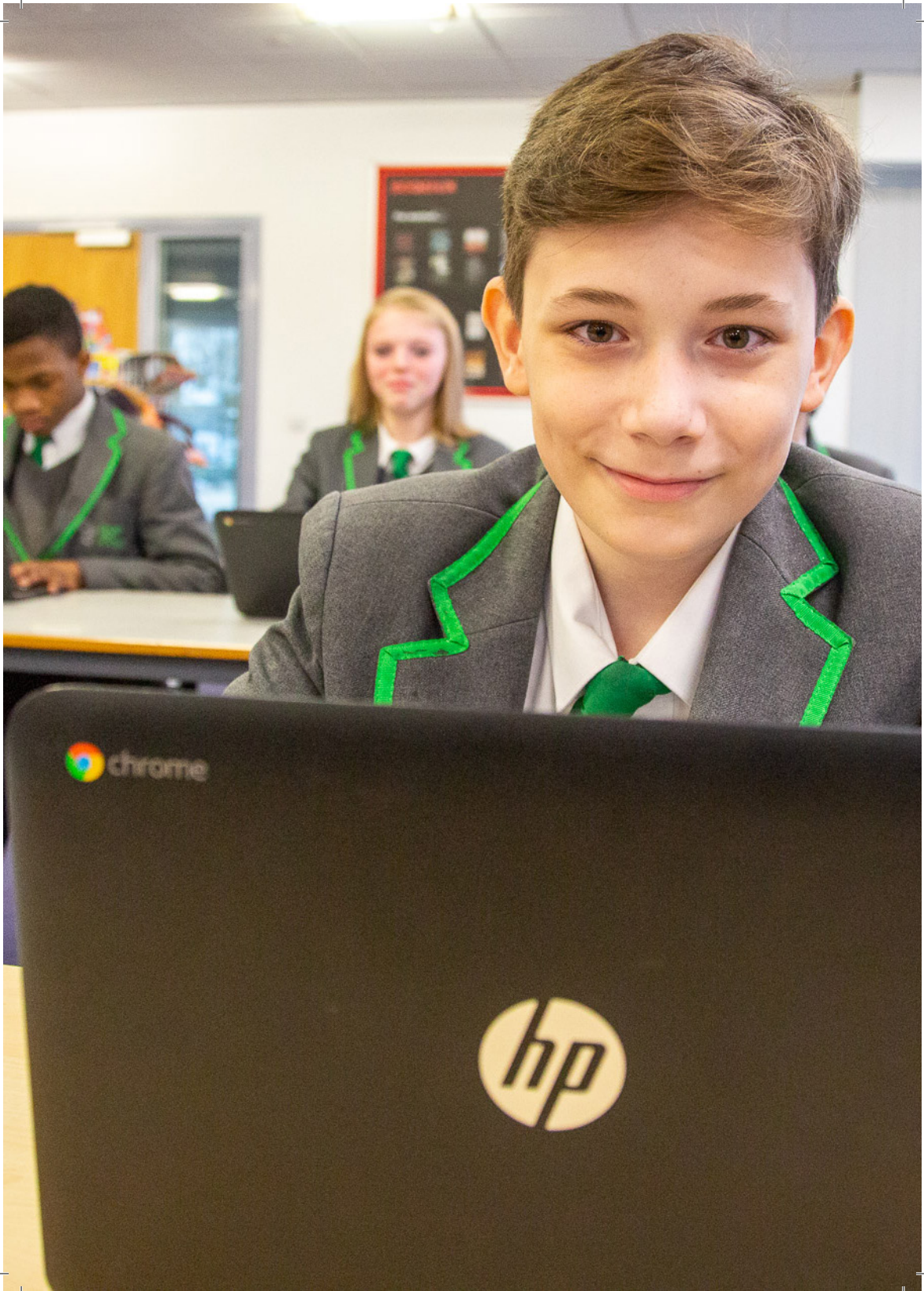
There are many clubs and activities you can take part in, these include sports clubs, arts clubs, games clubs, language clubs and more.

There is something for everyone!

We offer wider experiences too like the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We offer a range of trips including theatre visits and recognition trips to the cinema and theme parks.

Finally there are residential trips such as the outdoor adventure trip for Year 7 and Year 8 and the Year 10 trip to France!







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✉@DixonsUnity



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ACADEMY