

# McMillan Message

**December 2019**

**Head of Academy: Mrs Laura Senior**

Dear Families

We have had a very successful Cycle one: our scholars and staff have been working hard to ensure that scholars have completed the first Cycle with great success. Scholars have received their results from Cycle one assessments and have had much to celebrate with many scholars attending our Cycle Reward Event. I would like to thank families for your continued support in ensuring that your child is in the correct uniform, is ready to learn and is completing their homework on time.

Following on from family feedback, you will notice that alongside your child's data, you have received new Attitude to Learning grades for your child from each of their subject teachers. This helps you to see how much effort your child is putting into their subjects across the board and helps you to talk about your child's successes and next steps with your child at home. We hope you will agree that this gives you even more information about how well your child is doing at school.

I would like to thank Year 7 and Year 11 scholars who represented the academy very well on their residential's to Ullswater and Kingswood, respectively. They learnt new skills, made new friends and created memories which, I am sure, will stay with them forever. For Year 11, it was another opportunity to prepare them for their next Mock exams which will start in January. Thank you to those staff who attended with our scholars and thank you to families for ensuring your child was fully equipped to enjoy this experience.

I would like to remind families that all scholars need to have with them an academy jacket. There are two options available, a thicker winter jacket for the colder months, which was an addition this year in response to scholar feedback, and the standard academy jacket. Scholars do need to have this on them and this needs to be the outer jacket which is worn; one of the reasons for this is for safety reasons so that we are able to quickly identify DMA scholars when needed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank families who have booked routine appointments outside of academy hours and where, on the rare occasion, appointments are needed, that the Leave of Absence paperwork is completed and submitted to the scholar support desk 48 hours in advance, along with any supporting information, so that we have plenty of notice and your child knows how to catch up on work missed.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all our scholars a lovely break and fantastic start to 2020. A reminder that we have a staff training day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, so we will welcome scholars back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Warmest regards,



**Laura Senior**  
Head of Academy

### **English updates from Ms Gayle:**

As part of their study of War Horse, some Year 7 scholars enjoyed a visit to the Peace Museum where they enhanced their understanding of World War One, taking part in some creative writing. (CJo has some photos I think)

The Debating elective have been working hard to prepare for the first round of a national debating competition, the ESU Schools' Mace. Our first motion will be: "This house believes that individuals should be limited to one return flight per year."

Scholars have been working extremely hard to complete weekly timed practice in KS4; they have shown grit, determination and a strong growth mind-set to help maximize their progress.

### **Year 13 updates from Ms Goodrum:**

Year 13 have been working hard this cycle to prepare for their next destinations. Many scholars have already sent off their UCAS applications and of those, most have already secured offers at top universities. Some scholars have been invited to interviews for Oxbridge, Dentistry and Medicine and we wish them the best of luck in securing their futures over the coming weeks.

Alongside their academic studies, the sixth form have been learning about and practicing how to administer first aid. This experience will allow scholars to help those who might need first aid in the community and in future workplaces.

We are also very proud of our sixth form scholars' philanthropic work this cycle. They have raised awareness of and campaigned for World Mental Health Day, Breast Cancer Awareness and Samaritan's Purse. We hope that over the next two cycles we will be able to share this work with the lower school and the wider community.

### **Elective news from Ms Wellbrook:**

Electives are underway and scholars are demonstrating real commitment to their choices. With the Winter Festival coming soon on the evening of Thursday 19th December, electives groups are working hard to put together contributions for the exhibition and showcase their developing talents. Japanese electives have recently completed their first assessment and are now working on number words and symbols, debating have already started practising mock debates, chess club tournaments are in full swing and textiles are working hard to create costumes for the Winter Festival showcase. It is sure to be a fantastic event.

### **Shoebox Success from Mr Wilson:**



During November scholars and Assistant Ambassadors at DMA have worked really hard. They have managed to collect gifts including toys, school items and toiletries to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Their tireless efforts have enabled 43 shoeboxes to be filled, with £185 also raised to support the shipping costs.

The shoeboxes are already on their way to many different countries around the world to bring joy to children who deal with extremely difficult circumstances, such as, war, poverty, natural disasters. DMA, through working together and demonstrating a growth mind-set we have made this effort a great success. All scholars, staff, and parents should be incredibly proud of this achievement.

## **SAM Learning from Mr Handley:**

At school we are always looking for ways to extend our students' learning. Part of our improvement programme involves the use of SAM Learning, a unique online service that offers multiple subjects. Studies show that students achieve 2 GCSE grades on average better than expected with as little as 10 hours or more use of SAM Learning.

Students are able to access the service at anytime and anywhere. Whether students are at school, but also at home, in the library and community centre. All they need to do is visit the website and enter their unique login details. We are very proud of our Year 7 scholars who have completed 955 hours of SAM Learning tasks already this year!

## **School of Arts from Ms Edwards**

As the new 'School of Arts' we have united Art, DT and Music with PE and Drama to create one creative faculty. Since September, we have been striving towards our sentence: *'They enabled me to be my most creative self.'* We have done this through our fixtures in PE, through our Samba and choir performance at the DMA conference and in our everyday teaching. We have had a fantastic Cycle 1 and we are now looking ahead to our contribution at the Winter Festival and to our Stop the Clock week where we will have more creative opportunities and guest speakers. Thank you to all everyone who has encouraged our scholars to work creatively at home and at school.

## **Permitted items: reminder from the PE team**

Just a polite reminder to all that scholars should not be bringing in spray aerosols or perfume to the academy; scholars are able to bring in roll-on deodorant. This is to support scholars who may suffer from asthma or other medical conditions; thank you for your support.

## **Key Dates**

19 <sup>th</sup> December	Winter Festival
<b>2020</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff training day
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Subject evening - Year 8
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Subject evening - Year 10
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Results and Parents evening - Year's 11 & 13
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Subject & Results evening - Year 9
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 8 Options and results evening
4 <sup>th</sup> May	New Year 7 Intake evening
wc 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Literature event - Year 6
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Parental induction evening - Year 6
29 <sup>th</sup> June – 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Residential trip - Year 8
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Results and information evening - Year 10