

# McMillan Message

**September 2019**

**Head of Academy: Mrs Laura Senior**

Dear Families

I would like to welcome you to our new academic year and hope that you all enjoyed the summer. Our new year started very well with our fantastic set of examination results. We are very proud of our Y13 scholars (class of 2019) who achieved the results they needed to go to a range of universities from Leeds to Oxford. The class of 2021 achieved an outstanding set of GCSE results; we are extremely proud of them, particularly as they are our first set of GCSE results. Our results are likely to put us in the top 3% schools nationally. I would like to thank staff and families who supported last year's Y13 and Y11. We are also pleased that so many of our scholars have chosen to go onto attend the new Dixons Sixth Form. Our first set of results demonstrates that living by our core values, expectations and routines means that scholars succeed far better at Dixons McMillan than if they were to attend elsewhere. The defining factor for success is attendance. When scholars are in school every day learning they are making, on average, 1.5 grades more progress than a scholar who misses days from school. It is clear from our results that if scholars want the best chance of gaining outstanding results, they need to be in lessons learning every day. I would like to ask families to support us by ensuring your child is attending each day. A reminder also that on the rare occasion where a child has an appointment during the day, families need to complete the Leave of Absence form, giving the academy at least 48 hours' notice.

Over the summer we have made some changes to our systems, as we are always acting on feedback and striving to get better at what we do, in line with our driver of Growth Mind set. Following feedback from families, all scholars now take their elective on a Thursday afternoon and finish at 15.20 to try to minimise different pick up times, as we recognise we have many siblings who attend the academy. We have also revised the behaviour and sanction system to ensure we strike the right balance between challenging scholars when they get something wrong and supporting them back into lessons. Staff will be communicating changes as the need arises with families. You may have noticed, also, that the reception has been redesigned to make the site even safer for our scholars at the starts and ends of days.

To help scholars get into the routine of revising and preparing for Cycle Assessments, we have introduced more quizzing for homework tasks and during collective learning at the start of the day. We are fully supporting scholars to achieve well in these quizzes and give them practice time; please ask your child about their 100% sheets and the quizzes they have been set and test them on an evening so that they are completing their homework to a high standard.

I would like to remind families that we have an Advisory evening on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October; a letter is being sent home and your child will be booking their appointment time soon. We also have Y7 and Y11 residential presentations repeated throughout this evening and a session on Assessment.

Finally, I would like to thank you for supporting the academy to make sure your child has a positive start to this academic year; the support you show by ensuring that your child is punctual to school, equipped with only permitted items and ready to learn is appreciated by all staff.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Advisory evening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Warmest regards,

**Laura Senior**  
Head of Academy

## **Y13 Results**

We are very proud of the Class of 2020 who have shown grit, determination and resilience in achieving the grades that they needed to go on to university or a real alternative. 100% of scholars are now in education, employment or training and 96% of scholars have gone on to their first choice destination. Many scholars have chosen to go on to university, we are pleased that some of our scholars have decided to take up university locally at Bradford or Leeds, but we are equally very pleased that some of our scholars have decided to study at universities in other areas of the country, such as Oxford and London. We wish them all best as they begin climbing their next mountain, living a happy and successful life. **(Mrs Goodrum, Vice Principal 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Literacy)**

## **Class of 2022 (Year 11)**

The Class of 2022 have made an excellent start to Year 11. We began our induction week by laughing at old photographs and by reliving memories of Ullswater and Oxford, reminding us of just how far we have come and how we have grown into the young adults that we are today.

Presentations from Dixons Sixth Form and New College Bradford focussed our minds on life after Dixons McMillan. We have discussed the courses that interest us and the grades we will need by the end of this year. Our teachers have commented on our hard work, determination and grit in lessons whilst more and more of us choose to work in the Heart Space after school, role modelling to others what it is to be a true DMA scholar.

Important changes to this year have been commensurate with our leadership of the lower school. We now have an extended business lunch, highly tailored DEAR sessions, PDS study on mental health and Thursday activities, all of which will contribute to our happiness and success this year.

We know that there will be challenges ahead but we know that our greatest strength lies in our unity as a year group. Every challenge we face we will face together. We will look out for each other and be the very best versions of ourselves. Please wish us luck! **Mr Ashcroft (Head of the Class of 2022).**

## **Class of 2026 (Year 7)**

The scholars in the class of 2026 have settled in brilliantly since they have started; they have developed so much in such a small space of time and have shown huge amounts of progress already. Our attendance is excellent – close to 97%. This is a great achievement and one which will make us one of the best year groups in the whole country! Scholars need to continue to make sure that they attend school every day in order to make the most progress possible and climb their mountain. Their positivity towards school is exceptional; their excellence in lessons is outstanding, and above all, their respect towards every other scholar in the academy epitomises what Dixons McMillan Academy is all about. Well done, and keep it up!

**Mr Evans (Head of Class of 2026)**

## **Electives, Societies and Scholar Leadership**

Electives began in Cycle 1 Week 3 with scholars enjoying lots of new electives on offer. We have introduced a glass workshop group, two new languages (Portuguese and Japanese) and the Young Enterprise group had an introduction to the scheme from their local business advisor. The Gender Action Group and the Eco-school group are both striving to achieve a whole-school award. All electives will be showcasing their work at the DMA festivals this year, the first of which is on Thursday 12th December. Societies also began in Week 3 with new sports on offer such as rugby and gymnastics. The assistant ambassador team will also be meeting after school on a Friday to begin planning the student voice and charity project for this cycle. **Ms Wellbrook (Assistant Vice Principal: Wellbeing)**

## **Inclusion**

The Mountain Support team is committed to developing a truly inclusive school by ensuring all scholars climb their mountain to university or a real alternative. Our aim is to remove barriers to learning by providing highly tailored strategies to teachers and by providing specialised interventions where required. For 2019-2020, the team has expanded to include a keyworker for each area of SEN. We also have an Intervention Teacher who oversees the delivery of Lexia and reading interventions, as well as a Prevention Fellow dedicated to safeguarding and wellbeing.

### **The Mountain Support Team:**

Mrs Sanderson, Vice Principal – Inclusion and Safeguarding

Ms Tizard, SENCO – currently on maternity leave

Mrs Wildman, Assistant SENCO – oversees scholars with EHCPs

Miss Barlow, Health Fellow – Sensory, Physical and Medical

Miss Bell, Prevention Fellow – Cognition and Learning

Mrs Kitson, Intervention Teacher – English and literacy interventions

Mrs King, Prevention Fellow – Safeguarding and Wellbeing; Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Ms Power, Prevention Fellow – Communication and Interaction; Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Do not hesitate to contact the Mountain Support team if you have any questions or concerns. Please make an appointment to see a member of the team at Advisor Evening on the 3rd of October 2019. ***Mrs Sanderson (Vice Principal: Inclusion and safeguarding)***

## **International Day of Peace**

As part of our personal development studies scholars have been learning about the importance of Human Rights and how we all have a responsibility to support this. Scholars have listened to a presentation about the International Day of Peace on the 21 September and how children around the world engage in activities that promote global peace. All Advisory groups have decided on their quote for Peace and have made origami cranes as symbol for Peace. This will be displayed in the Academy as an important reminder for us all. ***Mrs Williams (Associate Vice Principal: Behaviour and attendance)***

## **Key Dates**

### **2019**

3<sup>rd</sup> October                      Advisor evening – all year groups

5<sup>th</sup> December                      Year 7 Subject and Results evening

12<sup>th</sup> December                      Year 11 and 13 Subject and Results evening

### **2020**

23<sup>rd</sup> January                      Subject evening – Year 8

6<sup>th</sup> February                      Subject evening – Year 10

26<sup>th</sup> March                      Year 8 Options and results evening

24<sup>th</sup> June                      Parental induction evening

9<sup>th</sup> July                      Results and information evening – Year 10

## Free School Meal entitlement

Please see below information taken from the Bradford government website regarding free school meal entitlement. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>

### You can apply for school meals if you receive:

- 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

The way to apply is to use our online form. We can tell you straight away if you qualify. Please note, you may not be able to apply via our online form if you fall into these categories:

- if your child attends a school outside the Bradford area - apply to the local authority where the school is
- if your child goes to Appleton Academy, Bradford Academy or a further education college - contact the school to apply
- for new communities people (such as asylum seekers) and for travellers - call the Education Service on 01274 439393

**Please note that previous entitlement does not guarantee current so please check your entitlement.**

## Family Dining Weekly Payment Calendar

After experiencing technical difficulties, ParentPay is now up to date. We will be charging scholars for Family Dining on a Monday each week; if you have any queries please contact Mr Greenwood [jgreenwood@dixonsma.com](mailto:jgreenwood@dixonsma.com)

26.8.19	2.9.2019	9.9.2019	16.9.2019	23.9.19	30.9.19	7.10.19	14.10.19	
£9.00	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£9.00	<b>£85.50</b>
04.11.19	11.11.19	18.11.19	25.11.19	02.12.19	09.12.19	16.12.19		
£11.25	£11.25	£9.00	£11.25	£9.00	£11.25	£11.25		<b>£74.25</b>
06.01.20	13.01.20	20.01.20	27.01.20	03.02.20	10.02.20			
£9.00	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25			<b>£65.25</b>
24.02.20	02.03.20	09.03.20	16.03.20	23.03.20	30.03.20			
£11.25	£11.25	£9.00	£11.25	£11.25	£9.00			<b>£63.00</b>
20.04.20	27.04.20	04.05.20	11.05.20	18.05.20				
£11.25	£11.25	£9.00	£11.25	£11.25				<b>£54.00</b>
01.06.20	08.06.20	15.06.20	22.06.20	29.07.20	06.07.20			
£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25	£11.25			<b>£45.00</b>