

McMillan Messenger

September 2021

Message from Mrs Senior, Principal

Dear Families,

I want to start by thanking you for supporting your child with the start of this academic year. What a great start it has been. We have really enjoyed seeing children coming in before 08.00am to use the library and to enjoy free toast; it has been lovely to see scholars socialising and some choosing to read or complete work before school. The school day has returned to more normal routines, such as family dining routines and collective learning in a morning where children learn together at the start of the day. Children are also welcome to stay after school in the library to complete work or reading until 17.30 Monday – Thursday and 17.00 on a Friday. We recognise that as well as getting back to our routines, we need to ensure we are taking care of children's wellbeing. Our co-curricular offer is key to ensuring that scholars have opportunities in areas such as the Arts subjects after school. Scholars will shortly be signing up for these clubs and we will be reviewing them throughout the year as we take on board scholar feedback. We are also really excited with the return of Thursday's electives. We have broadened the activities available to include sessions such as yoga and swimming in addition to our usual offer of things like the Duke of Edinburgh award.

In the key dates section in this newsletter you will also find that there are a series of parent events. We recognise that families have not had the chance to come in and speak with Advisors or subject teachers, so we have made this a priority this term.

Of course, with all the changes this year, I will be keeping a close eye on COVID safety measures. We have asked that at family events face coverings are worn and that we limit attendance to one family member per scholar to ensure we are making our events as safe as possible for all. We have also maintained hand hygiene and increased cleaning measures at the academy throughout the academy day.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Advisor in the first instance. A reminder that teachers do teach throughout the school day, so we endeavour to respond within 48 hours to queries. Our default communication with more general academy queries is still via email: info@dixonsma.com. If families are coming into speak to our admin team at reception, I do need to reinforce that our scholars and staff have a right to a safe environment and therefore we need to show respect to one another.

We cannot wait to welcome you into the academy at our family events this term.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Senior, Principal

Key Dates:

Y7 Advisory evening: Monday 27th September

Y8 Advisory evening: Tuesday 28th September

Y9 Advisory evening: Wednesday 29th September

Y10 Advisory evening: Thursday 30th September

Y11 Advisory evening: Friday 1st October

Drop off and collection safety

Trinity Road and the surrounding roads remain very busy. Please can I ask that families do not park on double yellow lines or stop part way on the road or at the entrance to the drop off zone by the playground, as this is dangerous for our children. We all have a responsibility to ensure our children are safe as they are travelling to and from the academy. I appreciate your support with this matter.

Homework

Scholars are set homework tasks which they will write in their planner. They are given 48 hours' notice prior to when homework is due. Scholars might be asked to post their homework into a tray in the main school before 08.00am ensuring their name is on it. The homework hand in days are below:

Monday: science

Tuesday: Humanities

Wednesday: Science

Thursday: English

Friday: MFL

There is also an expectation that scholars read for 20 minutes each night and complete their Stretch project homework. Subjects not listed above will also set homework – particularly for KS4 options. Homework tasks set will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. Some homework online platforms are also used. Please support us with checking your child's planner and signing for each Monday.

Electives on a Thursday afternoon

Electives begin for scholars this week and we have an exciting array of activities that scholars can take part in on a Thursday afternoon. We have some great electives returning such as British Sign Language, KS3 STEM and Debating. New electives this year include Yoga with Miss Woodbridge, the Performing Shakespeare Competition and working towards the Driving Theory qualification. We are also very excited to be offering swimming at the Bradford University pool starting after October half term.

Uniform and equipment reminders

A reminder that all scholars need their academy jacket with them each day – particularly as they are spending more time outside and the colder and wetter weather will soon be upon us. The academy jackets also have reflective strips which are designed to support with road safety; this is important as the afternoons will become darker.

After school co-curricular clubs

We have some exciting news, co-curricular will be starting Cycle 1 Week 5. This is a fantastic opportunity for scholars to build positive relationships and develop some of the key skills that they will need to lead a happy and successful life. Scholars will have the opportunity to choose their co-curricular. If a scholar has a correction, they will need to serve that correction rather than attend co-curricular. It is important that scholars are in the right place at the right time.

Parental engagement sessions at the academy:

Thank you to Year 7 families who attended the Parental Engagement Session on safeguarding which had a focus on how we keep children safe at the academy and how you can support at home. It was great to welcome families in again. Future events will be published here on our website:

<https://www.dixonsma.com/calendar/parental-engagement-sessions>

My Child At School (MCAS) FAQ

I am setting up the app for the first time, how do I do it?

- It will ask for a pin – use either 12077 or a 5 digit pin of your own (e.g. 12345,11110)
- Click on REDEEM INVITATION CODE (near the log in button)
- It will then ask you to put in school ID, Username and Invitation code – These will be given to you by school
- Enter an email address you want linking to the account

- Chose a password which is over 8 characters, has a number, Capital and Special Character (!£\$&>?)
- This will now let you on, and you can see your child/ren attendance, corrections, appreciations and also School reports and their timetable.

I have more than one scholar at DMA, how can I see both children on the same log in?

- Simply click on the student picture, or the little arrow at the side of the photo and it will show all students linked to the account
- If a student doesn't appear, contact school or email dma_data@dixonsma.com where someone from the data team will help you out.

Free School Meal entitlement: Mr Greenwood, School Business Manager

Please see 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/>

Family Dining Weekly Payment: Mr Greenwood, School Business Manager

We will be charging scholars for Family Dining on a Monday each week; the cost of family dining is £2.35 per day which equates to £11.75 per week. If you have any queries please contact Mr Greenwood info@dixonsma.com

Useful numbers and links to support families

Parenting	<p>Supporting daily routines and home learning: https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/support-resources-to-share-with-parents/</p> <p>Parenting advice: https://familylinks.org.uk/parents#free-downloads-for-parents https://www.handinhandparenting.org/free-downloads/ https://www.thespark.org.uk/relationship-support-parents-families/free-parenting-resources/</p>
Debt and money worries	<p>Citizens Advice - Support with issues around Benefits, Work, Debt and Money, Housing, Law and Courts, Family, Immigration and Health Argus Chambers, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 1HX www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/bradford-airedale/contact-us Email - debtadvice@bradfordcab.com Tel: 03442 451282</p>
Wellbeing and other support services	<p>Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk Kooth www.kooth.com Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people (12pm – 10pm Monday to Friday; 6pm – 10pm Saturday to Sunday) Sharing Voices 01274 731166 www.sharingvoices.net Sharing Voices delivers a range of range of services for individuals from black and ethnic minority communities dealing with mental distress First Response 01274 221181 First Response crisis service offers support 24/7 to people of all ages living in Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale or Craven experiencing a mental health crisis.</p>