

McMillan Messenger

September 2020

Message from Mrs Senior, Principal

Dear Families,

At McMillan, scholars and staff appreciate each other throughout the week. This is where we make sure to thank someone for something they have done so that they know how much they are valued. I feel it is only right to start this edition by appreciating you, our families. This continues to be a challenging and uncertain time for us all. I continue to be inspired by the support and positivity that you have shown, particularly by what you are doing on a daily basis to support your child to ensure they have a successful day with us at the academy. I have spoken with many of you at the starts and ends of the day who are having to juggle different arrangements across different schools; I hope you know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. I know that this may be made even more challenging with the greater local restrictions on Bradford announced today. It is a credit to you that our children have come back so settled, ready to learn and ready to adapt to the new ways of studying; through these efforts, our scholars will continue to climb their mountains.

I am incredibly proud of our children. They have adapted well to our increased hygiene measures, their year-group zones, as well as the staggered starts of the day, breaks, lunches and dismissals. Routine is so important for our children's wellbeing, and it has been great to see our scholars smart, smiling, and back together with their friends. It has also been wonderful to welcome our new Year 7, our Class of 2027.

It is also right that I appreciate my colleagues. We continue to adapt and change how we operate, and this has not only impacted on teaching staff, but the cleaning team, catering team, site team, first aiders including our new academy nurse, our support staff and the administration team who have worked incredibly hard to adapt to new ways of working to help keep us all safe.

We continue to monitor all changes in government guidance and will keep on adapting our ways of working throughout the year accordingly. You may be aware that from Tuesday further restrictions have been put in place for the whole of Bradford which means that households should not be mixing at all with anyone outside of their household or support bubble. As well as ensuring your child is receiving high-quality lessons, our priority is firmly on scholar, staff and family safety. For this reason, our default method of communication with families is through text messages, letters on our website under 'Recent News' and telephone calls, and your first point of contact is your child's Advisor via email. Later in this edition you will hear about a new information system, Bromcom, which will be a new way of communicating with families, as we are always looking for ways to improve our communication, particularly when we have to minimise contact onsite at the academy. A separate letter will be sent to families with individual login details; the letter will also tell you where to access guidance about how to use the system.

As we navigate this year together, we will be providing more information about forthcoming events such as how we are going to manage parents' evenings this year and how we are providing remote learning for those children who need to self-isolate. For now, I would like to start the McMillan messages below with some safety messages to ensure we make our whole community as safe as possible inside and outside of school.

As a final thank-you from me, I would like to say that I have seen our Academy values of excellence, positivity and respect evident in our whole community more than ever in these past few weeks. I hope you and your family remains safe as we continue to take care of one another.



Mrs Senior, Principal

Safety messages from the Principal:

Public transport: message from Bradford Transport

"It is more important than ever that we all do what we can to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Huge efforts have gone in to making school as safe as possible and we need students to play their part as they travel to and from school by wearing a face-covering whether they are on a regular service or a dedicated school bus and avoid congregating in large groups at bus stops. Information on school travel, and the rules on face-coverings, can be found at www.wymetro.com/schools."

Greater restrictions for Bradford

The government has issued an update on coronavirus lockdown measures and said all areas of Kirklees, Bradford and Calderdale will be banned from socialising with anyone outside their household or bubble from Tuesday 22nd September. Please can you speak to your child about this which will affect before and after school as well as weekends. It is really important that you talk to your child about this and ensure they are making their way straight home after the academy day has finished.

Rules about testing and self-isolating

If your child displays COVID symptoms, it is really important they do not come into the academy. They must self-isolate and book a test for them. If someone in your household or support bubble displays symptoms, they must isolate for 10 days from when they displayed symptoms and others in the household, such as siblings and other family members or the support bubble, must isolate for 14 days. Only book a test if you have symptoms. If you are unsure, please see the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Drop off and collection safety

Although we have staggered drop off and dismissal times coupled with different entrances and exit points, 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. Please can I also remind families to observe social distancing rules.

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. A reminder too that our permitted items list this year has been extended to include: named water bottles, clean plain dark-coloured cloth or disposable face coverings and small bottles of hand sanitiser.

Key Updates from staff:

Parental engagement remote sessions: Ms Zenonos-Walker, Assistant Vice Principal

Due to Covid-19 and current government guidelines, we have not been able to welcome parents and carers into the building for parental engagement sessions. We have been looking forward to further developing relationships with our scholars' families, and our plans, of course, will now be adapted. We believe that these relationships are an important aspect of their learning journey for scholars to successfully climb their mountain. As an academy, we will do whatever it takes to ensure that your child is ready for their next step forward and with this in mind we have planned how these sessions will take place. Until further notice, our parental engagement sessions will be accessed via the school website. Staff have spent time putting together videos to enable you to fully support your child this year. Each video will have a survey attached; this will need completing in order for us to make amendments to any sessions moving forward. A text message will be sent to all parents/carers on the day sessions are live, and will be given a two-week window to complete the survey. Some scholars will receive letters if they have been identified as needing further support. Should you receive a letter, we would expect these videos to be viewed.

A reminder that the safeguarding session is currently available. This can be viewed here: <https://www.dixonsma.com/calendar/parental-engagement-sessions> The survey to be completed afterwards can also be found here: [Survey](#) We look forward to one day soon welcoming you back through the doors of Dixons McMillan at a time that is safe for all.

Homework, Mr Alker, Assistant Vice Principal, Teaching

On-line homework is being set as a default for the majority of homework tasks. This is to help scholars with getting used to accessing work on-line in case they need to self-isolate at some point. It is also helping to minimise the number of resources taken home and back into the academy and therefore it is helping to minimise risk for us all. If your child is having difficulty accessing on-line work, please email info@dixonsma.com to let us know.

Cycle 1 assessments and Y11 mock exams

Cycle 1 assessments will commence w/c 5th October for many year groups, continuing after the October break. Please make sure you are supporting your child to revise at home by creating a quiet place for them to study and ask them about how they are using their 100% sheets (revision sheets). This is particularly important for Y11 mock examinations and a separate letter will be sent from Mr Dolby and Ms Sanderson in regards to the mock exams about how to support your child.

Bromcom – our new management information system, Areyauna Goodrum, Vice Principal, Curriculum and data

Bromcom is the new Management Information System (MIS) for Dixons. Bromcom is cloud-based. You will be able to login into your account to update your personal details to make sure they are accurate and view behaviour events and teacher appreciations. We hope this new system will build even stronger relationships with scholars, families and our staff team. Please read the separate Bromcom letter which you will receive to ensure that you are accessing Bromcom from home.

Unused uniform scheme, Mrs Senior, Principal

If you have any uniform, including academy jackets and PE kit, which is no longer needed for your child/ren, we would like to encourage your child to bring this into the academy in a carrier bag for us to have as a supply to re-gift to families who need it. We will then wash the uniform, in line with safety guidance, and be able to hand this to a families at their request. We understand that this is a challenging time, so if you do need help with providing uniform we hope that this would be a way that we can support you further. As this scheme is setup, we will provide more information on how this will scheme will work.

Free School Meal entitlement: Mr Greenwood, School Business Manager

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

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 £2.25 per day which equates to £11.25 per week. If you have any queries please contact Mr Greenwood jgreenwood@dixonsma.com

Useful numbers and links to support families: Mrs Sanderson, Senior Vice Principal

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.thepark.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>