

21st April 2020

Dear Families,

At Dixons McMillan Academy, one of our core drivers is growth mindset. This means maximising our abilities and talents through dedication and hard work. One of our core values is positivity – approaching every day with a can-do attitude. As a valued member of the DMA family, we know that scholars and their families will be doing everything they can to uphold these values and drivers whilst school is closed. However, we recognise that these are new circumstances and challenging times so I am writing to emphasise the importance of continuing to give 100%.

This is especially important for the Class of 2023 who will miss a significant amount of their penultimate year at Dixons McMillan Academy. Any work not completed this academic year by our scholars will leave significant gaps in their learning. This could mean a rise in exam stress next year and it could ultimately lead to your child not getting the grades that they deserve. Showing true resilience, grit and determination now, will free up time in Year 11 and enable us to maximise our learning capacity next year.

As you are already aware, one great opportunity during Year 10 at Dixons McMillan Academy is to participate in work experience. This will not be taking place due to Covid-19. We as a school are thinking creatively about how best to prepare our scholars for the world of work in light of these unprecedented times. However, this time does give our scholars a great opportunity to develop independent skills which employers will be looking for in the future.

Despite the current challenging circumstances, the school closure does provide scholars with an opportunity to both practise and develop their ability to work independently - a vital employability skill. By working hard every day, scholars are gaining powerful knowledge which they need to understand and interpret the world, and to think in new and unexpected ways. At DMA, we firmly believe that scholars with powerful knowledge and shared common values can understand, cooperate and shape the world together.

During this time of closure, scholars are being sent work each morning to their school email address. Staff will be continuing to make calls home to check scholars are safe and well and to keep in touch with you, our families. If you have any concerns about your child, as always please email the Head of Year in the first instance and follow the Year 10 twitter feeds for a daily morning message: @dma_classof2023

I do fully appreciate the challenges of our current situation, but I know that with a can-do attitude and your continuing support at home, we can all get through this successfully together.

Below are some useful websites which can provide support on a range of challenges you may be facing whilst supporting DMA scholars working at home:

- Keeping scholars safe whilst working online: www.internetmatters.org & www.net-aware.org.uk
- Parenting top tips including empathy, making family rules, problem solving and dealing with poor sleeping patterns. Go to parent zone and click on free downloads for parents: www.familylinks.org.uk
- Worries about the virus and how to discuss this with your child: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>
- Scholar needing support staying calm when out of routine: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Through the power of positivity we will succeed (Class of 2023).

Yours sincerely



Ms B Wellbrook
Associate Vice Principal



Mr S Dolby
Head of Class of 2023

