

20th 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 2026 who may have just started their secondary journey but they have gained so much knowledge so far this year, they have gone above and beyond at every hurdle that they have faced, and they cannot stop now. As a year group we must stay future focused and think about options in the future, we have to close any gaps that we may have in our learning because we are DMA and we are 100%. The learning we gain now will be of paramount importance not only because it is knowledge for the future, but it is learning that is gained individually, through work that is completed independently, thus building foundations to University or a real alternative.

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 Class of 2026 twitter feeds for a daily morning message: @dixonsma_2026


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/>

As ever, if you have any concerns or questions please contact your child's head of year or a member of the senior leadership team and we will do our very best to support.

Yours sincerely,



Ms B Wellbrook
Associate Vice Principal



Mr N Evans
Head of Class of 2026

