

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 2024 who as Year 9, have only just begun upon their journey toward their GCSE exams. Work which is not done now, despite the circumstances, will leave gaps in their knowledge and skills which will need to be caught up with later during their time at DMA. Likewise, as we move through the end of Year 9 and into Year 10, we will be starting to think about our next steps in terms of what we would like to do after GCSEs. Each qualification gained by your child will be a key which opens doors of opportunity and so it is vital that they have as many keys – and thus as many excellent GCSEs – as possible so that they can achieve their sentence and reach the summit of their mountain.

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 2024 feed for a daily morning message from Mr Conlon at: www.twitter.com/dixonsma_2024.

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 A Conlon
Head of Class of 2024

