

McMillan Messenger

February 2020

Head of Academy: Mrs Laura Senior

Dear Families

I hope that you have all had a happy and healthy start to 2020. Our Cycle 2 started with our Winter Festival which was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our DMA talent and the hard work our scholars have been putting into their Thursday electives. It is really important to us that scholars work hard to achieve well in their academic subjects but that they also have the experiences in the Arts and activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh award, Thai Chi and Coding. Having these broader experiences will help to create lasting memories for our scholars and they also give them the opportunity to learn in different contexts. Our Show Cases are an important way to celebrate scholars' diverse talents.

We have had several trips go out this Cycle from Rock Climbing to watching *An Inspector Calls* at the Alhambra theatre. I am always extremely proud of our scholars when they represent us on trips; I would like to thank staff who take them in their own time giving up time away from their own families and to scholars' families who support us with making them happen.

I also have to mention Y11 and Y13 in particular, who have been extremely focused during their Mock examinations; this is a credit to their maturity and it has been a pleasure to watch their dedication throughout this period. The final examination period is 11th May – 26th June; please ensure there are no appointments or missed learning during this period. Individual timetables will be sent out during the Easter holidays.

As part of listening to and acting on family feedback, you may have noticed that we have been texting you when your child has received staff appreciations. Our staff nominate scholars each week who have demonstrated our values of Excellence, Positivity and Respect inside and outside of lessons. I hope you value this change, and please do ask your child when you are notified about an appreciation to reinforce our positive messages.

This week, scholars received a letter from me to give to you about how we support attendance and punctuality at the academy and the introduction of some new systems to support all scholars to be punctual to the academy. A reminder that the start of the school day is when all Advisors complete uniform and equipment checks to ensure scholars are set up for the day ahead. Please ensure your child is in the academy by 08.00 at the latest. I also gave a reminder about the Leave of Absence process to ensure scholars are not missing vital learning time.

I would also like to remind families about parking with due consideration to the immediate community when collecting your child at the end of the day; this is to ensure the safety of our community.

Finally, here are some ways you can support your child this half term: ask them about their SAM Learning tasks, ensure they are completing their Heggarty maths tasks and are reading for 20-30 minutes each night to improve their literacy. I do also hope that scholars have a well-deserved rest and come back recharged ready to make the end of Cycle 2 a positive and joyful one. As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,



Laura Senior
Head of Academy

Year 11 GCSE PE Rock Climbing visits

Year 11 scholars have completed their penultimate session at 'The Big Depot' (Leeds) which involves them completing difficult climbs to secure a strong grade at GCSE. These sessions have been tough but the scholars have shown true grit and determination to succeed and boost their attainment score even more than what it was previously. As their PE teacher, I would like to say well done and keep up the good work, from Mr Dolby.

Parental Engagement Session - Internet Safety

At Dixons McMillan we will do whatever it takes to ensure our whole community is highly employable and fully ready to lead happy and successful lives. With our Academy vision in mind, it is our pleasure to invite you to attend the next Dixons McMillan Academy Parental Engagement Session, which will take place at Dixons McMillan Academy on **Thursday 27th February 2020 (16:00 – 17:00)**. Scholar safety is of utmost importance to us at Dixons McMillan Academy, this is why the main aim of the session is to help you gain a deeper understanding of exactly what it is that you can do to help ensure that your child is safe when using social media and other internet sites at home. Secondly, it will help you to gather valuable information around our 'School of Computing' at DMA, which will aid you in providing the best support possible at home. The scholar, school and parent partnership outlined above is vital when trying to provide a safe and secure environment for all children as they continue to climb their own individual mountain to university or real life alternative.

Assistant Ambassador Cycle Two Update

Throughout cycle two so far, our Assistant Ambassadors have provided a vast amount of professional tours and scholar panels, to ensure that visitors gain a true reflection of DMA throughout their time at the academy. During each tour/ scholar panel, the Assistant Ambassadors have demonstrated our core values of Excellence, Positivity, and Respect in abundance. The focus for cycle two for the Assistant Ambassador team is around Comic Relief. The scholars are currently working incredibly hard, using their innovative skills in attempt to raise as much money as possible for Comic Relief. It is truly one to look forward to, with Comic Relief taking place on Friday 13th March.

Mr J Wilson

Winter Festival

Cycle 2 began with the Winter Festival which comprised of an exhibition from glass workshop and GCSE art, DofE showing off their plans and each elective demonstrating the successes they have had in cycle 1. The debating elective hosted an external competition and came a close third against last year's national semi-finalists Heckmondwike Grammar. Congratulations to Hiba Efhil, Mulaykah Aziz and Reeha Safeer who argued very well. Duke of Edinburgh are beginning their practice walks, putting their navigation skills in to practice ready for their real hike. External basketball and chess tournaments are to feature in the DMA Spring Festivals so make sure you put the date in your diary. DMA Spring Festival: Thursday 23rd April

Y9 Just Give

Scholars in Year 9 at our school have recently started a programme called First Give, where scholars choose and support a charity of their choice in a year-wide competition to win grant money. Over the coming weeks, Year 9 will be conducting fundraising and awareness activities for their chosen charities. At the School Final the judges will watch each presentation and decide which class will be awarded a £1,000 First Give grant for their charity. Not only is the programme an excellent opportunity for local charities to win a £1,000 grant, it is also a great way for the school community to develop a greater understanding of what charities do and how they can support us all. We also look forward to supporting our winning class at the First Give Dixons Cup final in July, where a charity could have the opportunity to win a further £1,000. If you would like to get involved or make a donation to one of our charities, please look out for some of our fundraising opportunities or contact Ms Goodrum for more ways to help.

Stretch

We have been delighted to celebrate the hard work of every scholars' Stretch project in Cycle 1. In Cycle 1, Year 7 have been developing their research skills in their very first project about 'physical'. In the meantime Year 8 have moved on and have started to develop their research into representations, through the creation of an artefact. Year 8 have been researching different cultures and Year 9 have been looking into the theme of 'creative'. The creative projects in Year 9 have been presented through a performance, whilst Year 10 have been learning how to prepare their research into a formal research paper. All scholars have been working incredibly hard on their projects, but unfortunately only one project from each year group can win the final. We would like to congratulate our winners and we are pleased to announce that our Cycle 1 Stretch winners are:

Year 7: Adam Tahir

Year 8: Sumaiyah Abdul –Ghani

Year 9: Venus Chaudhry

Year 10: Joseph Whowell

Key Dates

27 th February	Parental Engagement sessions
12 th March	Results evening - 11 & 13 and Y10 parent's evening
26 th March	Year 8 Options and results evening
3 rd April	Subject & Results evening - Year 9
23 rd April	Spring Fest
4 th May	New Year 7 Intake evening
wc 8 th June	Literature event - Year 6
24 th June	Parental induction evening - Year 6
29 th June – 2 nd July	Residential trip - Year 8
9 th July	Results and information evening - Year 10