

April 2024

Dear Families

We are a school where everyone feels welcome, and everyone succeeds

When I joined Dixons McMillan as Principal (nearly two and a half years ago, now) this was my mantra for our school.

I believe that as a Principal, I am the custodian of the school for the community, and this mantra was at the core of what the school and wider community needed. I am exceptionally proud of how we have embedded this into our daily life, ensuring that children are safe, happy and achieving when they attend our school. This is demonstrated by the feedback we get from visitors, who describe us as a wonderfully warm and welcoming environment. It is further compounded by the fact that Year 11 are on track to receive some of the best outcomes the school has ever achieved.

I am writing to you today to inform you, as our parents, of some of the behaviour we have had in our Academy in the last week. I am doing so because I need your support.

Over the last week, we have had a number of fights and aggressive incidents in school. Two of these have been very serious. This is unlike any behaviour I have ever witnessed at DMA, or even in my school career. Firstly, I wish for you to be reassured. I have issued two permanent exclusions in the last week to the two perpetrators of these incidents. This is the most serious sanction that I, as Principal, can issue. This means that these students have lost their place and will not return to the school. I have also reported both incidents to the police, with a view to pursuing prosecution.

I will not tolerate any student or staff member being hurt or afraid in our building. A building that should be a safe space. So secondly, I wish to be very clear. If your child assaults another child, or indeed a member of staff in our building, our safe space, please expect that your child will lose their place at Dixons McMillan. I will **not** allow or accept behaviour of this nature. It is **never** excusable.

You chose a Dixons school, indeed Dixons McMillan, knowing that we have high expectations, and a very calm, focused, successful learning environment. Please can I ask that you talk to your child at home and reinforce our joint expectations? At DMA, we behave with courtesy and integrity. If there is an issue, they should talk to a trusted adult. If they see an incident or are worried that there might be something about to happen, they should report this immediately.

It is essential that you support us in upholding these expectations and strengthen our culture through showing our children that we are united against any behaviour of this kind. There is a zero-tolerance approach to any kind of violent behaviour at Dixons McMillan, and it will be dealt with using the most serious of consequences.

I do hope you understand the seriousness of the situation.

If you do have any worries or concerns about the content of this letter, I am, as always, happy to discuss with parents and families.

Yours faithfully



Kat Lang
Principal

