

## McMillan Messenger

July 2023

### Message from Mrs Lang, the Principal

Dear Families,

What an amazing year at DMA! This has been a year of so many exciting things for us. I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of our families for their support over the last academic year.

On Tuesday, the top 50 students for behaviour and achievement will be going on a rewards trip to the cinema for a morning of a film and popcorn as a recognition from us for their hard work over the academic year. If your child is included, you should be very proud.

Secondly, we decided last academic year to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh Award into the curriculum for Year 9. We are so pleased with how the cohort have worked to achieve their goals. I am delighted to announce that 83 students in Year 9 have successfully completed their Bronze Award. This is a first for DMA, and we are amazed with the resilience, integrity and courtesy shown by all. The development of their cultural capital and wider experience will be invaluable – and it makes a great addition to a CV! I'd also personally like to take the time to recognise the hard work from Mr Hellewell and Miss Jordon, who have led all of the expeditions for us and allowed our students this wonderful experience. Thank you.

We are making some changes to our pastoral system next year to proactively adapt to our post-pandemic environment. Mr Mahmood (HOY Year 11) and Mr Evans (HOY Year 10) have taken the decision to step down as Heads of Year. They will remain with us, focusing on curriculum in their respective areas (Computing and Maths). Next academic year, we will have the following structure:

Mrs Swain – Head of Year 7 & 8  
Miss Griffin – Head of Year 9 & 10  
Miss Jordon – Head of Year 11

The Head of Year team will be supported by three non-teaching pastoral staff. This shift should give us more time to support you – our families and community – in getting the best for your children. The pastoral team will comprise of:

Mrs Sharif – Senior Associate Pastoral Lead (SLT overseeing Behaviour and Attendance)  
Miss Cahill – Pastoral Lead (joining 24 August 2023, working with Year 9 & 10)  
Assistant Pastoral Lead (to be appointed, starting 24 August 2023, working with Year 7 and 8)

If you have any questions regarding the structure or your child's support, please do reach out to their Head of Year or any member of SLT.

We are also really proud of the amount of money we have raised for charity this year. Year 9 have partaken in the 'First Give' project through stretch, with the winning team getting the prize of an extra £1000 for their chosen charity (Al-Ajar). In total, the students have raised over £1500 over the year which has been split across a number of charities: Islamic Relief; Ummah Welfare Trust; Lives not Knives; Family Action and Macmillan Cancer Support. It's great to see our core value of courtesy being demonstrated and students understanding their moral purpose and giving back to the community.

Thank you, again for all of your support in supporting us in making Dixons McMillan a place where everyone feels welcome, and everyone succeeds.



Finally, I do hope that you have a restful break when it comes, and a lovely summer.

Yours faithfully



Kat Lang  
**Principal**

### **End of term plans**

We will have a staggered end to the day on Wednesday 19 July to allow the end of term to be safe and settled. All students will have a final celebratory assembly with their current Head of Year in Advisory Time, and lunch at school. We will then follow the plan below:

**14:10** Year 7: empty lockers, leave keys in lockers and line up and leave

**14:15** Year 8: empty lockers, leave keys in lockers and line up and leave

**14:20** Year 9: empty lockers, leave keys in lockers and line up and leave

**14:25** Year 10: empty lockers, leave keys in lockers and line up and leave

All lockers will be checked and cleaned over the holidays. Anything left in lockers will be disposed of, so please do ensure that your child knows to take anything home that they still want / need.

No one will be remaining on site after 14:30 – please ensure you have plans for your child for the afternoon of 19 July, as they will not be able to stay in school.

### **Back to School**

- Thursday 24 August 2023 – Staff Training Day and Year 11 GCSE Results Day
- Friday 25 August 2023 – Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 29 August 2023 – Staff Training Day
- Wednesday 30 August 2023: Year 11 Only - return as normal ready to start the academy day at 7.55am
- Thursday 31 August 2023: Year 7 (along with Year 11) - return as normal ready to start the academy day at 7.55am
- Friday 01 September 2023: Year 8, 9 and 10 (along with Year 11 and Year 7) - return as normal ready to start the academy day at 7.55am

### **Settling in Evenings**

We will be taking on board parent feedback and having some earlier parents' evenings for all year groups when we return to school. The dates of these will be advised upon our return to school.

### **Family Handbook 2023**

Please find our 2023-24 Family Handbook here: <https://www.dixonsma.com/admissions/family-handbook>

This includes any information you might need in regard to our rules, learning habits, expectations, sanctions and uniform. Please do ensure you have checked this carefully. KS4 Business Dress is compulsory, as are clear pencil cases.

### **Website and Twitter**

We post regular updates about life at the academy on both our website: [www.dixonsma.com](http://www.dixonsma.com) and our Twitter account: @DixonsMA

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

Please see the Bradford government website regarding free school meal entitlement. Further information can be found at: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/free-school-meals/>



### **Uniform Support – in school**

We are always in short supply of spare uniform, business dress and PE kit at the academy, particularly in larger sizes. If you have any spare uniform (including PE kit), or clothes suitable for business dress (for boys or girls) we will gladly accept your donations. Please just drop them in at main reception.

If you need support with purchasing any uniform, please do reach out and ask. Your child's Head of Year can support, or just call main reception who will put you in touch with someone who can help.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

- As a parent / carer, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child is educated
- We have an on-site Academy Nurse to support with any medical needs or sickness
- If your child has a medical appointment, you need to fill in a Leave of Absence form at least one week in advance. Miss Sohail (Attendance and Behaviour Officer) will give your child an Off-Site Slip to excuse them from the lesson
- Your child should not take extended family trips or holidays during term-time
- Students who have less than 90% attendance are considered to be in the Persistent Absence category
- Any child who ends the 2022-23 academic year on less than 90% attendance will be placed in a monitoring period from September 2023 to support their attendance at school. If this affects your child, you will be made aware of this early in the autumn term

It is vitally important that children are in school all day, every day, in order to maximise their learning time and potential. A reminder of our cumulative system for lateness corrections:

- 1<sup>st</sup> late in a week – 30 minutes correction
- 2<sup>nd</sup> late in a week – 60 minutes correction
- 3<sup>rd</sup> late in a week – 90 minutes correction
- 4<sup>th</sup> late in a week – 90 minutes correction
- 5<sup>th</sup> late in a week – 90 minutes correction

Any questions please email [info@dixonsma.com](mailto:info@dixonsma.com)

### **Civica**

When we return after the summer break, we will have a new till system in place in the academy. This will mean we are returning to a paid break service for students to buy snack at break each day. Students will have an ID card each which they will scan to pay for any break time snack they want. There will be a spend limit of £2.00 per day to spend at break and if students ParentPay accounts are in debt of £10.00 or over they will not be able to access the break service until this is rectified. Any questions regarding this, please email [info@dixonsma.com](mailto:info@dixonsma.com)

