

McMillan Messenger

September 2025

Message from the Principal, Mrs Lang

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a busy cycle. I do hope everyone managed to have a lovely summer with friends and family. It has been brilliant welcoming all our students back after the holidays, particularly seeing Year 10 looking so smart in their business dress.

At the end of the last academic year, we focused on creating our new DMA Community Hub, and as such we are delighted to announce the opening of our brand-new Community Hub this term. This special space has been created to support not just our students, but also their families and everyone in the local area. The Hub will offer a welcoming environment for learning, wellbeing, and connection, with resources and activities designed to foster a strong sense of community. As part of our commitment to wellbeing, we are pleased to share that we've introduced yoga classes for parents and carers. These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity to unwind, find balance, and connect with others. We encourage you to come along, whether you're completely new to yoga or have some experience - all are warmly welcome. Please contact Mrs King pking@dixonsma.com if you are interested.

We will also be delivering a 12-week Apna Health Programme, starting on Tuesday 16 September 2025 from 10:00 to 11:30.

This will be a 90-minute Healthy Lifestyle Session designed exclusively for Asian women and facilitated by qualified practitioners. The programme will cover the following topics:

- Healthy eating for weight loss, with culturally tailored advice
- Healthier takeaway options
- Nutrition education
- Stress management
- Incorporating physical activity into daily routines
- Exercise and movement
- Body measurements
- Educational and group-based activities
- Menopause

We always want to work with and support our families. We recognise that returning to school can bring added financial pressures, especially when it comes to purchasing new uniform and business dress. To help ease this burden, we warmly encourage anyone in need of support to get in touch with the school. Our uniform swap shop is available for parents and carers to access good-quality items of uniform and business dress at no cost, helping to ensure every student feels confident and ready for the term ahead. For those facing particular difficulties, we are also able to offer vouchers to assist with uniform expenses. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to use the swap shop or discuss further support - we are here to help. Just email info@dixonsma.com or pop into main reception. Similarly, 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 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.

In addition, we are very pleased to let you know that we have arranged for a dedicated worker to be available in our Community Hub to support families with applications for support, benefits, and free school meals. Tahira is a benefits advisor who attends each Thursday. This valuable resource is intended to make the process more accessible and less daunting, ensuring that every family receives the help they are entitled to. If you would like to find out more or access this support, please speak to a member of our reception team, who will be happy to provide further details or direct you to the community room.

As always, if you have any further suggestions or feedback, do let me know.

Yours faithfully,



Kat Lang
Principal

Term Dates

Below you'll find the key term dates for this academic year taken from the official school website to help you plan for the year ahead:

- Autumn Term 1: 1 September – 17 October 2025
- Half-Term Break: 18 October – 2 November 2025
- Autumn Term 2: 3 November – 19 December 2025
- Winter Holiday: 20 December 2025 – 4 January 2026
- Spring Term 1: 5 January – 15 February 2026
- Half-Term Break: 16 February – 22 February 2026
- Spring Term 2: 23 February – 27 March 2026
- Easter Holiday: 28 March – 12 April 2026
- Summer Term 1: 13 April – 22 May 2026
- Half-Term Break: 23 May – 31 May 2026
- Summer Term 2: 1 June – 17 July 2026

Please make a note of these dates as they are important for both attendance and planning family commitments.

Cycle 1 Assessment Timeline

- Year 8 and 10 will take place during week 7 and 8 (6th - 17th October)
- Year 11 Mock 1 will take place during week 10 and 11 (10th - 21st November)

Equipment

Please can we take this opportunity to remind families that all students need to be 100% equipped for the day, each day and dressed for a day of work. All families have signed the home-academy agreement, agreeing to support with this. A list of equipment your child should have can be found in the family handbook which is on the school website: <https://www.dixonsma.com/admissions/family-handbook> Families are kindly reminded that we accept cash at student support for equipment.



Attendance Matters – make every day an unmissable day at Dixons McMillan Academy

At Dixons McMillan Academy, we believe that every child can succeed when they are supported and challenged to meet high expectations. One of the most powerful ways we help students achieve their best is by promoting excellent attendance.

When students attend school every day, they build strong routines, grow in confidence, and deepen their knowledge. Even missing a few days can impact learning and progress. Research shows that poor attendance can lead to lower grades and fewer opportunities in the future.

We understand that life can be challenging, and families may face barriers to regular attendance. That's why we work closely with parents and carers to offer support and find solutions. Our values – resilience, integrity, and courtesy - guide us to act with care and purpose. Our drivers - mastery, autonomy, and purpose - help students understand why showing up matters and how it connects to their future.

Bradford Council also supports families with attendance. If a student has unauthorised absences, parents may receive a Notice to Improve or a fine. U-codes (unauthorised late marks after 8:30am) can also lead to fines, so arriving on time is essential.

We take a whole-school approach to attendance. That means you may hear from a range of staff - from SLT to advisors - checking in about your child's absence and working with you to re-engage them in school.

Let's work together to make every day an unmissable moment. If you need support, please speak to your child's advisor or a member of our pastoral team. We're here to help.



TIPS FOR EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE



Set a regular bedtime

Get ready the night
before



Have a healthy breakfast

Leave on time



Keep track of absences

Find out who to contact
for help

