

# Manchester Communication Academy

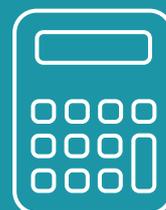
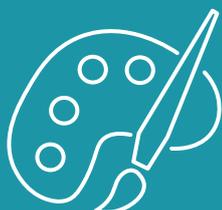
*With you...for you...about you...*

---

## Lift-Off!

An Introduction to Year 7 Study at MCA

Manchester Communication Academy is part of Greater Manchester Academies Trust



# Welcome to Lift-off!

Your guide to making the best possible preparation for Year 7 study.

We hope you enjoyed our virtual transition weeks! Remember it's not too late to visit our website to take a virtual tour, meet our staff, find out useful information about how the school day works and lots more.

In this guide you will find out about the subjects you study at secondary school and even the specific topics which will be covered during your first term. You will also be given some ideas of activities you could try over the long summer holiday which will help you hit the ground running in September.



# Welcome to English

You will no doubt be aware that Literacy now becomes English. However, because of your brilliant literacy skills, in Year 7 we are able to tackle more interesting texts, write about more exciting topics and discuss more mature issues than you ever have before!

We hope you already love reading, but if you don't we know you will by the end of Year 7. MCA even has its own library and librarian who is ready to recommend your next favourite book. Reading is obviously a big deal in English, but at MCA reading is part of every lesson because it is the gateway to understanding and enjoying all subjects.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- The Bone Sparrow by Zana Frailon
- Autobiographical writing
- Expressing our well-being
- Expressive Poetry
- William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream'
- And lots, lots more!

## What could I do prepare over summer?

Why not read another book by Zana Frailon? Don't plot spoil 'The Bone Sparrow' for yourself! Find out what autobiography means. Could you read the autobiography of a person you admire?

Ask a family member to tell you their autobiography?

Could you write a short piece of autobiography called 'My First Memory'?

How many facts can you find out about Shakespeare's life? How many films are there based on his plays? Could you watch one of them and write a review?

Could you learn at least one poem off by heart? Could you write your own?!



# Welcome to Maths

During your time here at MCA, we hope that you develop a love for maths whilst gaining the skills and confidence you need to use maths in your everyday lives. We will build on all the fantastic learning you have done at your primary school and introduce you to some new concepts and skills, like algebra! You can expect to be doing a lot of problem solving and we hope you are up for the challenge.

Your new maths teacher will be there to provide support with your learning and to encourage you to challenge yourself in the classroom and beyond. We are very much looking forward to meeting you!

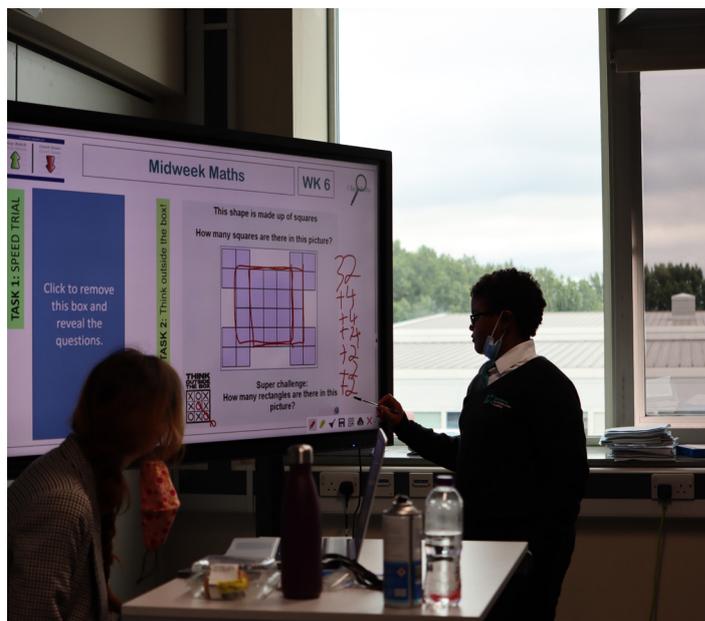
## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Sequences
- Algebra
- Solving equations
- Calculations with fractions
- Perimeter and Area of Shapes
- Angle Facts

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

1. **Look out for patterns** - One of the first things you will study is patterns and sequences. It is amazing how many patterns we can spot in our everyday lives, especially in food and nature. Can you spot any patterns over the summer holidays? Take a picture to show your new Maths teacher in September.
2. **Practice your Mental Math** - When you come to MCA, you will be using your numeracy skills a lot. You will find that being confident with your times tables will help you with all sorts of maths questions. Use these websites to help you practice your skills. [www.transum.org](http://www.transum.org) and [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk).
3. **What are these words?** - Here are some key words that you will use in your maths lessons. Can you find out what each word means in relation to maths: equivalent, variable, expression, generate, linear, coefficient and inverse.
4. **Mathematicians of the moment!** - Throughout the year you will be introduced to some famous mathematicians from a variety of backgrounds. The first mathematician you will learn about is Elbert Cox. Can you find out a fact about Elbert Cox? You will be able to share this fact with your teacher in September.



# Welcome to Science

Science is a really broad subject. During your time at MCA you will study everything from the largest planets to the smallest parts of an atom and everything in between. As well as learning in classrooms, we have 4 labs that we use in Science and this allows us to do a lot of practical work. You'll get to carry out chemical reactions, study different living things under a microscope, dissect animal organs and lots, lots more.

## What will I study in Year 7?

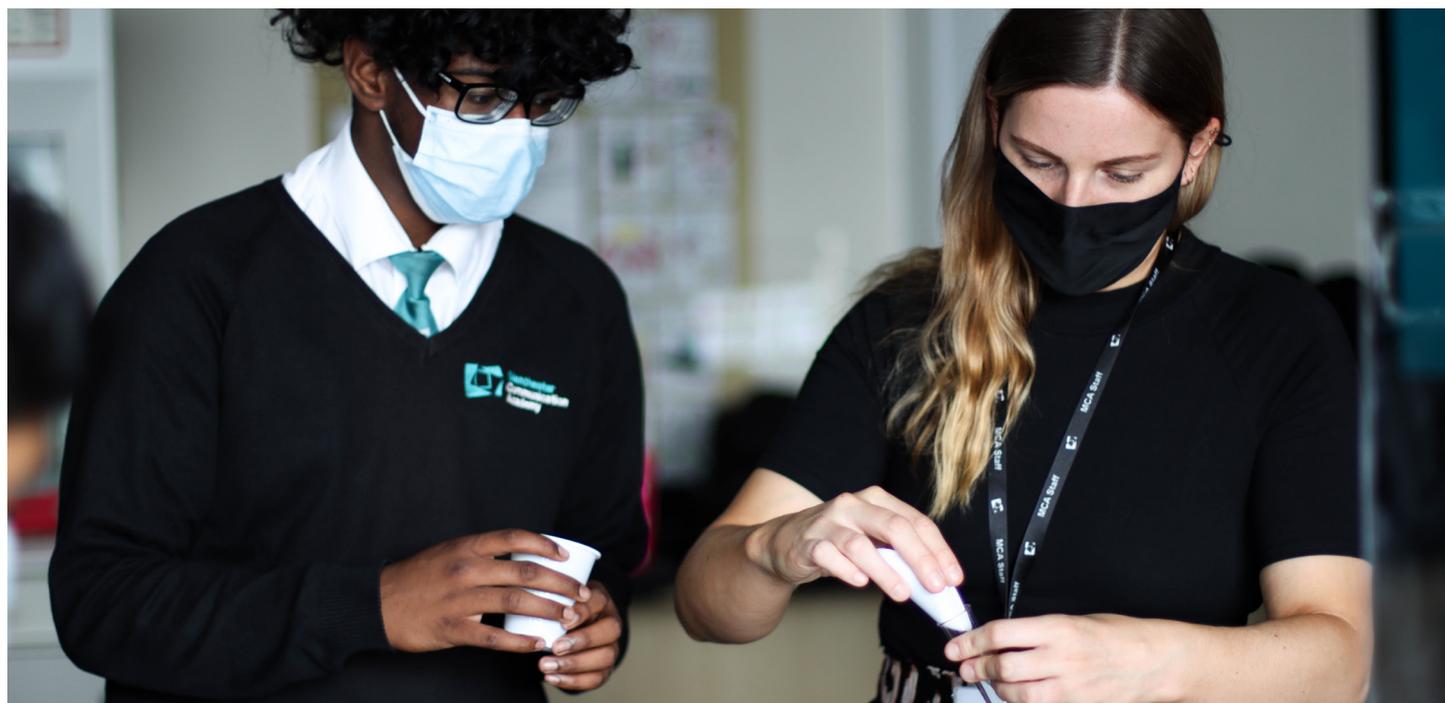
Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Biological Reactions
- Organ Systems
- Reproduction
- Forces and Motion
- Energy
- Atoms, Elements and Compounds
- Cells

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Here are some scientific investigations you can carry out over the Summer holidays!

1. **Weather diary:** Keep a recording of the temperature and the weather each day. Do you notice any patterns?
2. **Moving water:** Rub a balloon on your hair. Turn the tap on in the kitchen. Slowly move the balloon towards the water coming out of the tap. What happens to the water? Can you find out why this happens?
3. **Reversing glass:** Draw an arrow on a piece of paper. Hold the paper a little way behind the glass and look through the water at the arrows. Observe what happens!
4. **Psychedelic Milk:** Pour a couple of centimetres of milk in to the bowl. Add a couple of drops of food colouring at even spaces around the edge of the bowl. Add a drop of washing up liquid to the centre of the bowl. Observe what happens!



# Welcome to Drama

Drama will allow you to experience an environment that promotes confidence and resilience, with the opportunity to apply creativity through self-expression. During your drama lessons you will have the opportunity to become strong team leaders, exploring a range of scripts, dramatic themes, topics and stimuli in rehearsals. You will also learn how to perform using physical characterisation and a range of performance techniques.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Mime and Movement
- Physical Characteristics
- Matilda 'The Musical'
- Rehearsal Skills and Techniques
- Blood Brothers
- Script Structure
- Learning Lines

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Watch a theatre performance or musical online (for free).

Write something interesting about the plot, characters and/or setting. (The setting can include the lighting, sound effects, costume and set).

Read a scene from "Blood Brothers" or "Matilda The Musical." Try to develop an idea of how a script is structured.



# Welcome to Dance

Dance at MCA offers you the opportunity to learn key dance moves and choreography. You will learn how to follow and pick up dance routines, choreograph your own, rehearse and perform as a group developing creativity and self-expression. In your dance lessons you will gain communication, teamwork and leadership skills as well as improving your confidence.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Choreography
- Key Dance Moves
- Appreciation & Performance
- Choreographic Skills & Devices
- Street Dance (Commercial)
- Contemporary Dance (Style Fusion)
- Dance Through Time (History)

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Watch a Dance movie (Netflix or Amazon Prime) -Alternatively access YouTube and watch videos of dance choreography - There are good routines on WORLD OF DANCE and URBAN DANCE CAMP.

You can also watch tutorials of some basic street dance steps such as shuffles, glides, freezes and spins.



# Welcome to Music

Music allows you to develop your creativity and confidence. During your music lessons you will have the opportunity to listen to a variety of musical styles. You will also have the opportunity to rehearse and perform a number of pieces on keyboard, guitar, drums and singing. You will develop communication skills, how to use musical elements and independent skills throughout a range of musical topics during Year 7 to help develop your musicianship.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Musical Elements
- Listening skills
- Exploring film themes and character motifs
- Composing for character
- Performing melodies
- Reading Notation
- History of Blues, Rock and Pop
- Singing and performing Musical Theatre

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Listen out for music during any films you watch and think about this helps to add an effect to the scene and characters.

My top composer is Hans Zimmer who has composed music for The Lion King, Pirates of the Caribbean and The Dark Knight. He also has lots of soundtracks on YouTube you listen to.

You could also have a read online about different musical styles. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3q47p3/revision/1>



# Welcome to Computing

The purpose of MCA Computing Curriculum is to provide high-quality computing education that equips you to use Information Technology, Digital Literacy, Computational Thinking skills and Creativity to understand and change the world. Computing will allow you to be confident in a variety of software packages, planning, design, research and project management skills which you are able to apply to different scenarios. Below are the three main areas of the Computing Curriculum

**Digital Literacy** - In this area you will understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting your online identity and privacy; recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct and know how to report concerns.

**Digital Information Technology Skills** - You will understand how to tackle a real world problem using the tools, knowledge and resources available to you and document the process for a client. You will be able to link classroom learning with real world scenarios.

**Computer Science** - You will develop understanding of how to approach a conceptual problem, breaking it down into smaller more manageable pieces and creating efficient and sustainable solutions. You will learn how to make apps and games using programming techniques.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Log in
- Creating, Saving, Copying and Pasting Files and Folders
- E-Safety
- Cyberbullying
- Fake News
- Social Media
- Digital Footprint
- Hacking and Malware

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Go on BBC BiteSize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdydmp3/revision/1> to learn how spreadsheets work

Go on <https://www.powtoon.com/?locale=en> to practice how to create animation in Powtoon

Go on <https://scratch.mit.edu/> to practice how to create games on scratch.



# Welcome to Art

Art will allow you to engage with a variety of projects within Fine Art, Photography, Textiles and Graphics.. You will learn about a wide range of artists, designers, craftspeople and photographers; develop a variety of practical skills; engage with different materials and media., and learn about key techniques, all of which will enable you to develop your practice as an artist. You will learn how to work independently, think critically and value your own opinions. You will also develop an understanding of the creative industries and the job opportunities that Art & Design can provide.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Projects will cover a range of sources, including different artists, designers, photographers, craftspeople, sculptors, art movements, cultures, ideologies, politics and religions. The main skills that you will be assessed on are as follows:

- Colour & Tone (colour theory, mixing colours, shade/tint, contrast)
- Line & Shape (proportion, outline, line weight, perspective)
- Composition (arrangement, spacing, scale)
- Texture (surface texture, visual texture, mixed-media techniques)
- Pattern (repeat pattern, motifs, symmetry, geometry)

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Create some artwork! Please head to our department instagram [https://www.instagram.com/mca\\_art\\_design](https://www.instagram.com/mca_art_design) for inspiration. Here you will find examples of students' work, links to tutorials and a range of professional artists, designers, photographers and craftspeople that you can link into your feed. If you create any work, please take a photograph of it and send it to our account.



# Welcome to Technology

The purpose of MCA Computing Curriculum is to provide high-quality computing education that equips you to use Information Technology, Digital Literacy, Computational Thinking skills and Creativity to understand and change the world. Computing will allow you to be confident in a variety of software packages, planning, design, research and project management skills which you are able to apply to different scenarios. Below are the three main areas of the Computing Curriculum

**Digital Literacy** - In this area you will understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting your online identity and privacy; recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct and know how to report concerns.

**Digital Information Technology Skills** - You will understand how to tackle a real world problem using the tools, knowledge and resources available to you and document the process for a client. You will be able to link classroom learning with real world scenarios.

**Computer Science** - You will develop understanding of how to approach a conceptual problem, breaking it down into smaller more manageable pieces and creating efficient and sustainable solutions. You will learn how to make apps and games using programming techniques.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Log in
- Creating, Saving, Copying and Pasting Files and Folders
- E-Safety
- Cyberbullying
- Fake News
- Social Media
- Digital Footprint
- Hacking and Malware

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Go on BBC BiteSize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdydmp3/revision/1> to learn how spreadsheets work

Go on <https://www.powtoon.com/?locale=en> to practice how to create animation in Powtoon

Go on <https://scratch.mit.edu/> to practice how to create games on scratch.



# Welcome to Humanities

## History

Hello! During your time at primary school you may already have studied some exciting history topics, perhaps it was the Egyptians, the Tudors or even the Victorians? You may have even watched some of the hilarious Horrible Histories programmes and begun to be interested in the lives of people from the past. Whatever your previous experience, the curriculum at MCA will open up those doors to the past and allow you to enjoy history as a living, breathing subject!

### What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the exciting topics you will study in Year 7:

- Who was Ivory Bangle Lady and what can she tell us about the past?
- What was the impact of the Norman invasion?
- Who were the peasants and why were they revolting?
- What was the Black Death and why did it affect lives in England?
- Who was Mansa Musa and what does his life reveal about Medieval Mali?
- Righteous, religious and rich: What was life like under the Tudors?

### What could I do to prepare over summer?

**Watch:** Horrible Histories is always a winner- can you make a note of all the different songs they sing? What are those songs about?

**Read:** To prepare for our topic 'what was the impact of the Norman invasion?', you could dive into '1066: I was there' by Jim Eldridge to see medieval England from the perspective of a young boy.

**Listen:** Greg Jenner actually writes the Horrible Histories TV programmes, but he also does a podcast called 'Homeschool History Podcast' full of facts and jokes and you can choose which event in history to listen to.

## Geography

Hello. I am sure you all already know a tonne about the world. We are really looking forward to you sharing that knowledge with us in Geography at MCA. I am sure you have seen stories in the news about earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions, or watched some of the amazing documentaries out there which explore nature and the impact that we are having on it. Whether you know lots, or a little about geography, here at MCA we will ensure you are inspired to always want to find out more about the fascinating world we live in.

### What will I study in Year 7?

Here are just some of the exciting topics you will study in Year 7:

- All about Manchester, and our local areas – where we live
- How to use lots of different types of maps, including digital ones
- Cultures of different European countries
- What causes places to experience flooding
- How and why cities grow
- Animal migration in Africa

- Tribes in Africa
- How we can help schools in Kenya
- How and why Diseases spread in some African countries
- The future of Africa – how it is developing rapidly.

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

**Watch:** The Carmen Sandiego series on Netflix, will give you some good understanding of some different countries around the world.

**Read:** Horrible Geography Book Collection

**Listen:** Go and have a listen to some Geography themed podcasts, to explore a range of places around the world. Here is the link <https://app.kidslisten.org/pod/Kid-Friendly-Geography-Fun-Facts-Podcast>



# Welcome to Modern Foreign Languages

In MFL (Modern Foreign Languages), you'll get a taster session of both French and Spanish, then you will be given the opportunity to choose which language you would like to study throughout your time at MCA. Languages are fundamental to our lives – how else would we communicate to each other. You'll learn how to communicate using listening, reading, speaking and writing skills – but don't worry – we're here to help and support you along the way! You'll also learn about the various cultural events throughout the year like Festival de Cannes and Fête de la Musique.

## What will I study in Year 7 French?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7 – can you guess what some of them are? Some words are similar to the English words – did you know that these are called cognates?

- La rentrée (Introduction into French)
- En classe
- Mon temps libre
- Ma vie de famille
- En ville

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Do any of you speak French or Spanish already at home? If you do, try having a 'French day' or 'Spanish day' – where you speak only that language for the day.

Get onto YouTube and listen to some French songs. Sara'h is a French artist who sings English songs in French – the lyrics are at the bottom of the screen so why don't you try singing along? Or if you're sporty, why not try Yoga in French? Just type in 'French yoga' in the YouTube search box.

If you've got Netflix and loving baking, then watch Nailed it! France – it's a baking show for amateur bakers. Or try putting your favourite film into French with English subtitles?

Why don't you research a French speaking country and find out any interesting facts? Some examples are Haiti and La Réunion.

## What will I study in Year 7 Spanish?

Here are just some of the topics you will study in Year 7 – can you guess what some of them are? Some words are similar to the English words – did you know that these are called cognates?

- Mi vida (Introduction into Spanish)
- Mi tiempo libre
- Mi insti
- Mi familia y mis amigos
- Mi ciudad

## What could I do to prepare over summer?

Do any of you speak French or Spanish already at home? If you do, try having a 'French day' or 'Spanish day' – where you speak only that language for the day.

Get onto YouTube and listen to some Spanish songs. Or if you're sporty, why not try Yoga in Spanish? Just type in 'Spanish yoga' in the YouTube search box.

If you've got Netflix, why not try putting your favourite film into Spanish with English subtitles?

Why don't you research a Spanish speaking country and find out any interesting facts? Some examples are Colombia and Chile.

# Welcome to Physical Education

We already know that PE is going to be your favourite subject at MCA! When you join us you will spend six weeks exploring all the different activities we have to offer you. We will show you how to be excellent in PE, not just by performing well with your BODY, but by showing us you have a great HEART to help others, and a fantastic MIND to learn knowledge about the skills. At the end of each half term we host an interhouse celebration, where you will have the opportunity to participate and compete against other classes to see which form group can win!

## What will I study in Year 7?

After your transition period, you can expect to do the following sports and activities in Year 7

- **Team Disciplines** such as Football, Netball, Basketball, Hockey and Rugby
- **Individual Disciplines** such as Trampolining, Gymnastics, Badminton and Table Tennis
- **Alternative activities** such as Yoga, Body Pump, Health Related Fitness, Lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee
- **Summer Disciplines** such as Volleyball, Rounders, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics

## What could I do prepare over summer?

The best way to prepare for PE is to be active during the summer holidays! Why not try and plan a family bike ride, or a Basketball tournament with your friends?

If the weather isn't looking too good, why not be a super spectator? There's plenty of sport on TV this summer with the Tokyo Olympic Games being one of the main events. How many different sports can you watch?

Can you watch any sport live? There's plenty of local teams you can watch for free and you could be a sports journalist for the day and write a match report.

Why not be creative and design a poster to support a cause such as "kick racism out of football" or "This Girl Can".



# Welcome to Religious Studies

Religious Studies allows you to explore some of life's big questions, such as how did we get here? does God exist? and what is a religion? It also enables you to become more understanding of the community and the world around you, as well as the people who are a part of it.

Within your RS lessons you will be introduced to the concept of 'belief' and what having a belief means. You will investigate the 6 main world religions and get the opportunity to learn about places of religious importance and religious festivals. You have the chance to explore and reflect upon your own beliefs as well as learning about the beliefs of other people.

A common misconception about RS is that you will only like the subject, or do well at it, if you are religious, this is not true at all. RS allows you to think really hard about what you believe in and allows you to engage in real life issues, helping you to gain more of an understanding about the world in which you are a part of.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are some of the topics and areas you will study in Year 7:

- What do people believe about God?
- Why do people believe?
- Why do people not believe in God?
- Places of worship
- Pilgrimages
- Religious festivals,

## What could I do prepare over summer?

All religions are packed full of interesting and cryptic symbolism. Symbols are things which represent something else, usually an important idea such as love, wisdom, peace, care for the environment, justice, faith and friendship. All the world religions have religious symbols that represent beliefs and/or practices within that religion.

For this challenge, you will need to come up with your own symbol of something which is important to you. This can be in the form of:

- Artwork e.g. sculpture, drawing, painting, poster, collage, Lego
- Stories e.g. parables, fables, comic book, storyboard

Whichever method you choose be sure to write an explanation of your symbol so its meaning is entirely clear.

### Artwork

If you choose to create some artwork for your symbol you should think about what idea you are trying to represent. Is it one of the ideas mentioned earlier, or another one which is important to you?

How are you going to show your symbol? Is it going to be a drawing or painting? Or are you going to be even more creative by creating a sculpture that expresses your idea? You can use any materials that you have available to you.

For inspiration, you might want to research some religious symbols or other famous symbols that are used around the world, and you can use your findings to help with your creation. Remember you will need to write a brief explanation of what your artwork represents.

# Welcome to Food

When you join MCA, you will be introduced to lots of new and exciting subjects. One of those is Food and Cookery. At MCA we have kitchens set up just for you where you will have your very own cooking station. You will learn all about food, where it comes from, different cultures and healthy eating. As well as learning all about the food we eat, you will also practice your cooking skills using lots of different ingredients and equipment to learn to make meals for your friends and your family.

## What will I study in Year 7?

Here are some of the topics you will study in Year 7:

- Being safe and hygienic when cooking
- Why our bodies need different foods
- Where our food comes from

Here are some of the dishes that you will learn to make:

- Pitta pizza
- Fajitas
- Tandoori skewers
- Mini chocolate fudge cakes
- English breakfast
- Pancakes

## What could I do prepare over summer?

Why not have a look at some of the food labels in your kitchen cupboards, can you find out:

- Where each food came from?
- What is in the food? Is it high in sugar or salt?

Why not practice making a simple dish like vegetable couscous or fruit salad to build confidence preparing foods.

Watch one of Miss Unsworth's cooking videos on MCA's social media. Can you identify three cooking skills in each video?

Find three dishes that come from different countries. How are they different to the foods that we eat here?

