

Welcome to Manchester Communication Academy

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Manchester Communication Academy. Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus which I hope will give you an insight into our school. I know what an important decision selecting a secondary school is for families. Will my child be happy? Will they be well looked after? Can they achieve academic excellence? Will there be opportunities outside of the classroom? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding yes. I am extremely proud to be the headteacher of MCA and this is because we put children at the centre of everything we do.

Here at MCA, we encourage all of our learners to be brave, be brilliant, be kind and to let them know that they belong to our family. We support our students to be brilliant in every aspect of their lives, to be a brilliant son/daughter, a brilliant brother/sister, a brilliant friend and a brilliant person. Our students are brilliant because they put everything into their learning that they possibly can. At MCA you can shine in so many aspects of school life, drama, dance, sport, cooking, singing, writing, debating, exploring, discovering. We are relentless in the pursuit of excellence.

Thinking about going to a new school, a much bigger school, with new people and new teachers can be scary. There is absolutely no reason to be scared. Be brave in your decisions, be brave by making the right choices and doing the right thing. At MCA we are risk takers, we push ourselves to the edge of our comfort zones as we know that this is where the magic happens.

Students at MCA are taught many many things, but the most important lesson that our students learn is to be kind to each other, be kind to family, friends and to themselves. If we lead with kindness we will never put a foot wrong. By opening this prospectus and reading this address, you have taken the first step to joining our MCA family. We are a family, we are a team and we look after each other. Our motto at MCA is: With you, For you, About you, as our future class of 2026 we will be with you every step of the way.

I look forward to meeting you soon and welcoming you into our Academy.

Ms Watmough, Headteacher.







Dear Year 6 student

I am delighted that you are considering MCA, you have just made the first step to make the world a better place. We know this because at MCA, great things happen every day and your time with us will build your self-confidence, develop your thinking and prepare you to make a difference in this world.

We realise this step is tricky, it can be anxious but we are so excited to support you on your next step. We want you to be excited and challenged each day at MCA whilst feeling well cared for. We want you to be the best version of yourself each day in order to achieve and be happy and our staff teams and children can't wait to support you towards your future.

To achieve your best, we realise that we must work in partnership with your parents and carers. They are the experts on you and we will work with them to ensure that you excel here at MCA. There are many hidden talents within you waiting to explode!

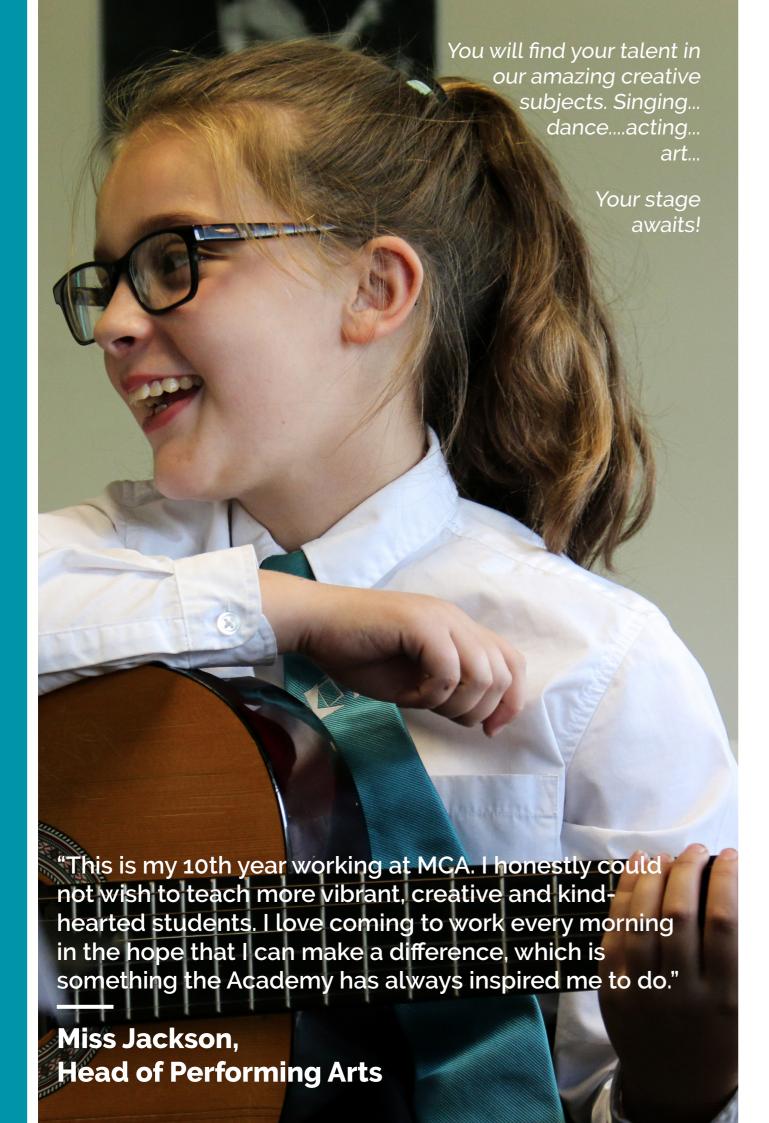
Your story is unwritten, your future untold, we are so excited to be part of your journey.

Mr Rowlands, Executive Principal.









We are with you...

Moving from primary to secondary school is a landmark event in every young person's life. To make the transition between these two phases of education is seamless, we ensure that your child already feels a part of the MCA family well before they start in year 7.

It is crucial to us that these relationships are forged before students start so that there are some friendly faces they will recognise when they arrive. Your child may have attended Urban Crew, clubs or our holiday camps so they are used to the building and how to navigate themselves in school.

We hope that in the summer term students can attend one of our transition weeks, where they will be welcomed into the Academy so that they feel confident with the step up to secondary education. During these weeks students will meet

their progress leaders and their future classmates whilst experiencing an exciting curriculum that gives them an insight into secondary school life.

If your child has additional needs or English as a second language they will be welcomed to the Academy before the transition weeks to meet key staff. Our future students and their families will have a longer transition programme supported by key workers that will be best placed to meet any additional needs.

An Inspiring Journey... We are for you

The curriculum at Manchester Communication Academy provides students with the opportunities to prepare for their future, to uncover and nurture their talents and to excel in traditional subjects that provide them with equitable opportunities for further study and success.

Our curriculum teams have carefully planned 'Learning Journeys' which run from Year 7 all the way to Year 11. These ensure that our curriculum carefully builds up, with content and skills being sequenced logically to better embed understanding. We are all readers at MCA, this features on the timetable everyday as we know that this helps us to excel.

We actively encourage students to read widely, frequently and with interest and as such, provide inspiring opportunities for them to challenge and question the world around them. We want our students to read for pleasure as we know this will contribute to their future successes.

We offer a wide range of computing and digital literacy lessons so that we can produce the programmers of the future. We value a broad arts

offer including instrumental and singing lessons for every student at KS3 and every student completes an art qualification at KS4.

MCA is committed to giving students the best opportunities to succeed in an ever changing, highly competitive job market. The design of the building is based around large flexible learning areas with separate specialist provision such as practical areas for science, creative arts and fitness. The timetable has core provision from years 7 - 11 in six faculty areas - maths, English, creative arts [includes technology] global understanding lincludes history, geography, RE and MFL], science and health & wellbeing [PE, RE and cookery].

The timetable allows for 4 x 1 hour 15 minute lessons per day with whole year groups taught in a faculty by specialist staff members. There is an extensive programme of extended schools activities, of which students are required to attend a minimum of 2 sessions per week. These sessions provide a variety of enrichment experiences as well as study support.

We care... we are about you

Manchester Communication Academy works on the principle that every child can be successful by providing an exciting and challenging experience for all our students in a caring and supportive environment. Every student has a progress leader who is the main point of contact for the child and their families. The progress leaders will make regular contact with families and provide necessary support to ensure that your child is happy, healthy and on track to make the best possible progress. Students will also have regular contact with their head of year who will offer any additional support needed.

Every Monday, students have an Aspire lesson with their progress leader as they develop new skills needed to succeed at school and beyond. MCA has a child-centred and supportive Pastoral Team who offer care to students and families who may need a more personalised approach.

Family support

As a parent or carer of an MCA student we hope that you too will feel part of our MCA family. The Family Partnerships team is here to get to know you. We recognise that families can often be facing challenges that could impact on their child in school so it is important to us that we are here to listen and understand. We work closely with other organisations across Manchester to provide signposting and information for a wide range of issues including housing, immigration, training and finance.

Uniform

We have a formal uniform and we expect every child to attend school looking smart in full uniform every day.

Indoor clothing, boys and girls:

- · black blazer or black jumper with the school logo on
- · plain white shirt or blouse with school tie
- plain black trousers or appropriate length of black skirt (no lycra)
- plain black socks
- plain black shoes or trainers suitable for school wear

We are pleased to inform you that we supply all Year 7 students with one of each of the following items: jumper, tie, PE top, shorts and socks and an outdoor fleece top. Parents will be required to supply the other items. We believe that our uniform is smart, yet cost effective. Y7 students will be given a voucher to receive a free uniform with the items listed above.

School Rules

At MCA we have three school rules that encompass our vision and values. These are simple yet clear rules for all members of the MCA community allowing teachers to provide students with the education that they deserve. The three school rules are:

- L. Put your learning first
- 2. Respect the building and everyone in it
- 3. Follow the instructions of the MCA staff team



Attendance

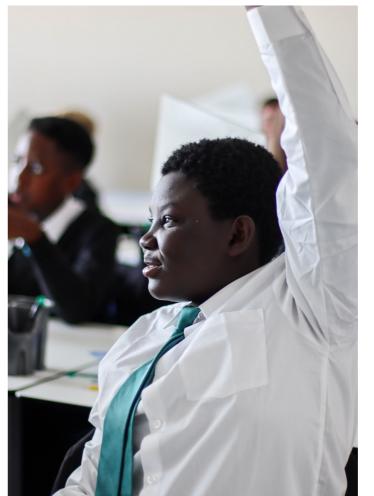
At MCA we have a high expectations when it comes to attendance. We know that children with excellent attendance learn more and achieve more.

Children with over 90% attendance at school are more likely to gain five or more grade 9-4 GSCEs (formerly A^*-C) or equivalent qualifications.

As you may be aware, students with very good attendance regularly receive rewards and praise for their efforts. These include individual prizes such as restaurant vouchers or treats and class prizes as farm groups take each other or in champions league fixtures. All students that attend well are also rewarded through Blast Bank.

Blast Bank

Blast bank is our student reward programme. Students will collect blast bank points for a range of aspects such as attendance, attitude to learning and good behaviour. These can be used to qualify for both small rewards like free breakfasts or larger rewards such as trips.







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Going beyond...

Beyond... the classroom

Outside of curriculum lessons, MCA has a vast offer of activities for students to engage in. After the school day students have an opportunity to participate in clubs including sport, cooking, engineering, textiles, art, reading, planting, mystery, board games, learning a new language, guitar, drumming, magazine club and many more. We have 112 clubs on offer for our students, of which they have to attend two a week. MCA's wide offer means that there is something for everyone.

Beyond... yourself

It is important that our students have a breadth of opportunities, knowledge and experiences that will develop a range of skills shaping them into valuable young men and women that will contribute to our society.

The Aspire curriculum is one vehicle that allows us to achieve this. We want students to express their views, step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves and demonstrate resilience to overcome challenges they may face now and in life after MCA. We utilise a wide range of specialists both within and outside of the Academy to deliver this offer which includes students attending University visits and taking part in workshops.

Our Aspire curriculum is designed not only to develop their knowledge, but to develop a range of values. It is also important for us to ensure that we are a school that prioritises and enhances the health and wellbeing of all of our students. We strive to develop healthy minds and healthy bodies

Beyond... your comfort

Students at MCA are offered the opportunity to complete a Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a great opportunity for students to step out of their comfort zones and spend a year completing the Award. Students build on a range of skills that

they would not necessarily gain in the classroom and get to use them at the end of the year when they complete an overnight camping expedition. Students say that they feel more confident, are more resilient, and gain a great sense of independence from completing the Award.

Beyond... Manchester

At MCA, we believe that a broad and rich education does not just happen within school. Instead, students should have the opportunities to explore the world beyond the classroom, enriching and consolidating their subject knowledge, but also developing cultural awareness and skills that will equip them for future life. Equally, we believe education should be enjoyable and memorable!

Through our trips offer we aim to create these unforgettable moments. In KS3, all students will have the opportunity to attend an overseas excursion with the global understanding faculty. This may be to France or Spain as part of the modern foreign languages curriculum where students will practise their language skills with native speakers and in real life situations as well as eating local food and exploring vibrant cities. Students in Year 7 will be invited to attend an Aspire outdoor pursuits excursion that allows them to build new friendships, challenge themselves with exciting physical activities, develop their team building skills and their confidence.

Throughout their time at MCA, students will be invited to attend a range of theatre trips, visits to galleries, and to attend high profile sports events. There are many more visits throughout the year that allow students to test their skills in real life contexts, making learning meaningful but also lots of fun! MCA is fully committed to ensuring all students have equal opportunities to experience these exciting and valuable off-site experiences and as such we aim to provide financial support so that all trips are accessible to all students.









Our MCA... in our own words

Here at MCA, we have 30 minutes of form time each day, where we receive regular messages, assemblies and key notices from our progress leader who look after us throughout the year. This is valuable time as you get to build a strong rapport with your progress leader and if you need to ever speak to a member of staff, they are there for you.

During form time, you may also take part in a 'votes for schools' lesson where you get the opportunity to, as a group, discuss topical issues which are happening in our society and affect us the most. At the end of each lesson, we place a vote making sure that our voices on these important issues are heard.

Finally, we have 15 minutes of whole school 'reading time' each day. This is really important to every student at MCA as not only does it improve our vital reading skills, but it exposes us to a range of different texts. These texts have often encouraged us to read outside of our usual reading genres and this is incredibly satisfying as it broadens our horizons.

We always look forward to our health and wellbeing lessons, which are designed to help us to feel good about ourselves and unwind, they are always fun and engaging! Students rotate around different areas of this course such as PE, where we partake in physical exercise and get to participate in games which promote our leadership and team building skills. Cooking is another great subject within this scheme - we learn how to make healthy, inexpensive meals. Art and photography is great for creativity and expression. Finally,

dance helps us to let go of any stresses and lets our bodies move freely.

Armando's Day in the Life

MCA has shaped me into who I am today and really helped me build my confidence by giving me numerous opportunities to improve myself. Last year, I was given the opportunity to become head prefect and this has helped develop skills that will assist me later in life. Being at MCA has been very beneficial for me. There is an abundance of opportunities if you're willing to embrace them and all the support and encouragement you'll get from the staff is incredibly helpful. Every teacher, no matter what they teach, are always there for you - no matter what. They all go out of their way to help students - whenever they need it

Fatima's Day in the Life

Being a student in MCA has been an amazing experience for me. The past four years at this school have been phenomenal. The opportunities I have been given have really benefited me – helping me develop as a person. Last year, being given the great role of head girl, I improved my leadership and communication skills immensely – I'm certain these new skills will help me in later life. The school's careers curriculum is amazing - you explore your options during Aspire lessons in KS4. This ensures you have a plan for your future beyond MCA



Leaders of Tomorrow

MCA's student leadership programme is a great opportunity for our young people to develop the necessary skills to be tomorrow's leaders. Communication, teamwork and problem solving capabilities are essential requirements for employers and are developed through this programme. We believe that every student has the potential to be a leader and this plays an integral part to our success. Student leadership allows students to give something back to the Academy by supporting staff and modelling our values for other students

Prefects

In years 10 and 11 students are given the opportunity to become prefects. Students complete a written application which allows them to share and celebrate their qualities. Prefects are our role models and demonstrate how to meet our high expectations. They assist with whole school events, theme days and community events. Being a prefect gives students the opportunity to build confidence, communication, independence, problem solving, organisation and much more. In addition they have the opportunity to complete a leadership award that recognises this development. All prefects receive a unique tie different to other students that allows them to stand out. Prefects in year 11 have the opportunity to apply for the prestigious role of Head Prefect or **Deputy Head Prefect**

Year 9 Junior Leaders

Junior Leaders are our aspiring prefects.
Junior leaders support prefects where
necessary with whole school events. Junior
leaders also take on more responsibility with
supporting departmental activities. This is a
good opportunity for students who have a
particular interest in a specific subject and
would like to use their subject specific skills
to engage with peers. This could be from peer
to peer mentoring, to running department
competitions for students.

Sports Leaders

Sports leaders learn and demonstrate

important life skills such as effective communication and organisation whilst learning to lead basic physical activities to younger pupils, their peers or within the community. MCA sports leaders are the driving force behind increasing physical activity during extra-curricular time and offering students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sporting avenues such as involvement in; Manchester School Games, Sport Relief, National School Sports Week and transition activities. In addition, students are given the opportunity to complete leadership seminars, awards and certificates to further develop their skills and competencies.

Year 7 and 8 Ambassadors

Year 7 & 8 Ambassadors have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through form time activities which will allow the students to engage with their peers. Being an ambassador is a fantastic opportunity to gain confidence and new skills such as; resilience, communication and organisation. Ambassadors will be provided with the opportunity to represent their peers' views to help ensure student voice is at the heart of what we do at MCA.

Student Council and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

The school council is a vehicle to give students a voice in how to shape the school for the future. The council meet with the senior leaders in the school to feedback on the curriculum, the environment and opportunities for our young people. The council have now teamed up with the Anti-Bullying ambassadors and we work towards achieving recognised awards for the school. These badges are awarded by the Diana Award and encourage students to be creative in making the school a safer and better place for all. Both the student council and Anti-bullying ambassadors work simultaneously to create, shape and build a happier environment for future generations.



Towards your future...

We have high hopes for you

At MCA we are committed to ensuring our students gain an outstanding offer of careers education advice and guidance. We use real time Labour Market Information (LMI) and a broad range of partners to inform students of future career opportunities and ensure our programme is consistently reviewed and shaped to respond to the changing labour market.

The curriculum offer at MCA is enriched by a broad range of partners from key and emerging industries, providing students the opportunity to make meaningful contacts with employers and attend workplace safaris that support high expectations and aspirations around the world of work. Through our 'aspire' curriculum, these partners work alongside us to allow all students to complete an industry recognised qualification, that adds both value and a competitive edge to the academic CV and employability profile of our students.

Our comprehensive programme of careers provision develops knowledge and skills

throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, to help support students in making informed decisions that form the very foundations of their future. Just as the transition to high school can be challenging, so can the transition beyond and we strive to ensure that the key stage 4 careers curriculum equips students with the necessary skills, behaviours and confidence to successfully navigate through an ever evolving economic world.

An instrumental part of Key Stage 4 sees all students have a number of encounters with further and higher education institutions. In addition, all students receive one-to-one impartial careers advice interviews that involves the creation of a personalised action plan centred around their potential careers and pathways. Students are given outstanding support from our progress leaders, careers team and partner organisations based on their individual needs and interests, which readily supports the application process for either their further education or apprenticeship choices.

The Aspire Curriculum

Where will it take you?

The Aspire curriculum is designed to make the students of MCA be positive members of society in modern Britain. We enable our students to become healthy and independent members of the Manchester community allowing them to understand how they are developing personally and socially, equipping them with the skills to tackle moral, social and cultural issues in life. We challenge our students to apply the skills they learn within and beyond the school. We focus on developing attributes of:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Aspiration
- Awareness
- Communication
- Creativity
- Organisation and Management
- Teamwork
- Self-Motivation
- Equality and Diversity



What makes the MCA curriculum unique?

Students appreciate strength that comes through diversity!

At MCA we are determined to encourage the development of the whole child: morally, socially, physically and academically. It is of paramount importance at MCA for our students to develop a good wellbeing (physical, moral, social and mental) to have a positive impact on their overall attainment and achievement. Our curriculum subjects offer a broad range of experiences to equip our students to lead healthy, safe and active lifestyles.

A Health a Well-Being offer that includes PE, RE, Dance and Food supports students to develop healthy bodies and healthy minds, preparing you with the confidence and leadership skills to take on the world! The Aspire curriculum is designed to make the students positive members of society in modern Manchester and Britain. Students are ready to tackle moral, social and cultural issues in life.

Every student experiences a full range of Arts subjects and will choose a pathway that will lead to successful qualifications in Arts subjects. The art and design department have specialist equipment including glass and clay kilns, sewing machines, CAD CAM equipment, laser cutters and 3D printers.

The Performing Arts facilities include a drama studio, dance studio, music recording studio and musical practice rooms. Students are offered guitar, drumming and singing lessons. Will you be part of one of our many fantastic showcases?

Can you speak more than one language? We embrace, celebrate and encourage multilingualism. You will be supported to continue to develop your knowledge and skills.

In Maths, you will be prepared to tackle difficult challenges. We celebrate diversity

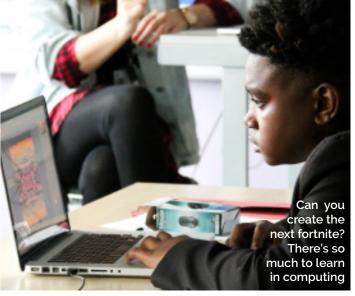
through the history of mathematics in a text rich environment.

In our newly built Science laboratories, students have the opportunity to nurture and develop their practical and critical thinking skills. Triple science is a highly prestigious course that supports students who want to move into scientific careers. All students who study Triple Science at MCA achieve results well above expected.

Our English curriculum provides the opportunity for students to read a diverse range of literature, whilst inspiring students to read simply for pleasure, both during their school years and beyond.

In Years 7 and 8 creative art subjects students experience a wide range of subjects across creative arts including art, photography, textiles, graphics, technology, computing, drama and music. In Year 9 students choose their pathways within creative arts that they continue with through their KS4 curriculum pathways. The creative arts department prides itself on the range of exciting skills that students cover at KS3 that informs and prepares students to choose their options into KS4.





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All our students can have individual lessons in drumming, singing, or guitar... of course it's free! Learning to play music is so important

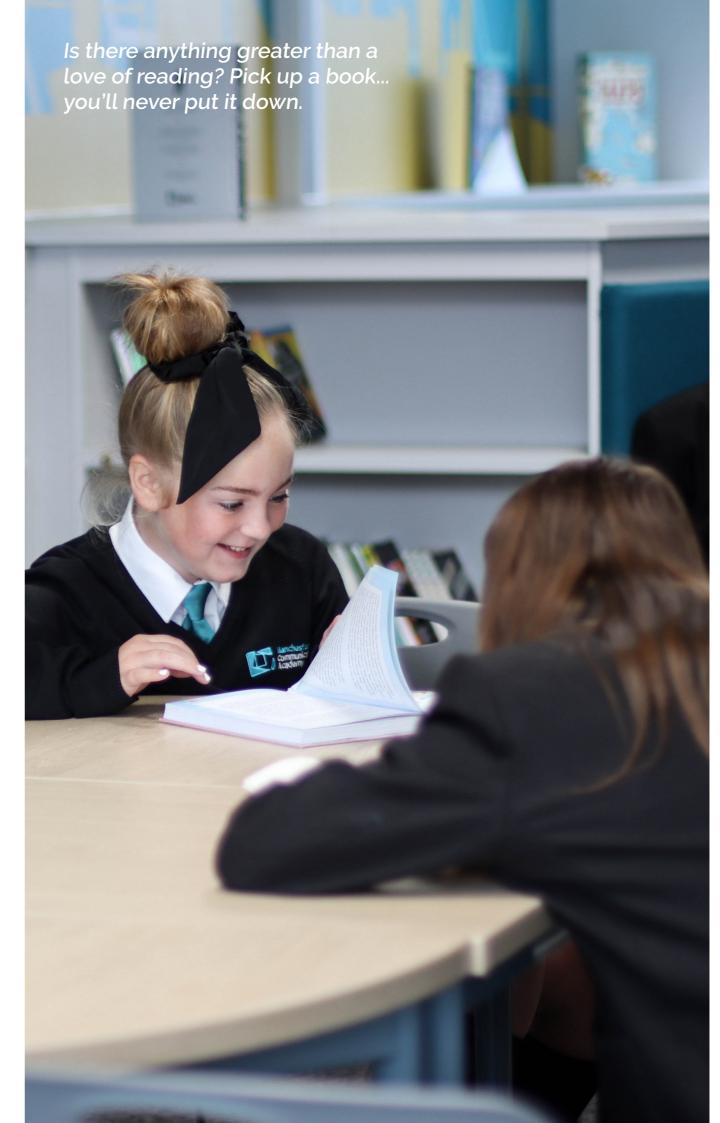
At MCA we believe that in order for our students to be successful in the competitive world around us, they must develop a resilient mindset and be prepared to tackle difficult challenges. Our mathematics curriculum is designed to do just that. Our curriculum aims to support students in developing their mathematical fluency with a greater emphasis on problem solving and reasoning. You will be taught by a team of well qualified subject specialists, in an enjoyable learning environment, focusing on applying mathematics to solve every day problems, all whilst preparing you for your next steps.

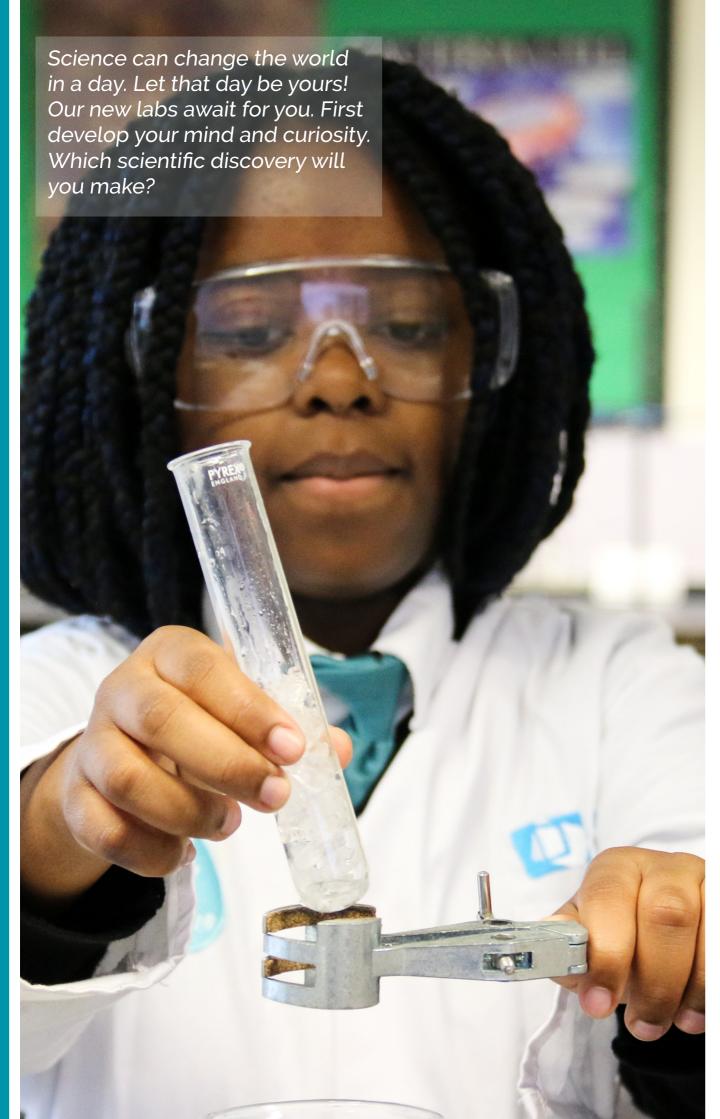
At MCA, we teach English language and literature to deepen students' understanding of the human experience. We ensure that all of our students are able to express themselves effectively in a variety of forms and contexts which we feel contributes to their long-term security and well-being. It is also our aim to instil a love of scholarly learning and a resilient attitude towards academic rigour. Our curriculum provides the opportunity for students to read a diverse range of literature, whilst inspiring students to read simply for pleasure, both during their school years and beyond. We consider our curriculum to be rich in both knowledge and skills, building upon the students' experience during primary school.

Quality daily reading is essential. It's easy to appreciate the impact reading skills can have on students' academic performance across all subjects and for this reason explicit reading strategies are taught across the curriculum to

ensure that students can access and understand challenging academic texts across a range of subjects. However, at MCA we also understand the impact reading has on our mental health and well-being. There is recently published data which reveals a clear link between regular reading and a longer life expectancy! We have a longestablished Reading Time at the Academy, which ensures a daily twenty minute protected time slot during which students read either collaboratively or independently. During this time, we encourage students to bring a book of their choice or there is quality reading material provided. This reading time takes many forms - it could be reading around a topical issue, exploring texts which are subject-specific or reading an exciting piece of fiction.









The world is a mixture of wonderful and worrying things, come and be equipped with the skills to make the world a better place.



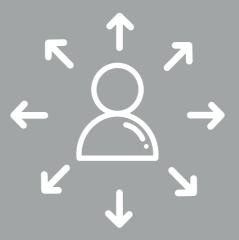






WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE

Manchester Communication Academy



A wide scope of Opportunities

Children are afforded a wide range of opportunities which take their learning beyond the classroom.



Reading Inspiration

Students have 20 minutes daily reading time at the start of each afternoon and we encourage all of our students to read as much and as widely as possible.



Manchester Communication Research School

As part of the Research Schools network we provide training and support for schools, informed by the latest EEF.



Ofsted rated as a good school

We are proud to share that our latest Ofsted report judged Manchester Communication Academy as a GOOD school in all areas.



Free Uniform and PE Kit For Y7

We provide all y7 students with a blazer, a tie, a PE top, shorts and socks and an outdoor fleece top. We believe that our uniform is smart, yet cost effective.



Excellent Pastoral ____Care

Students receive high levels of pastoral care and support as recognised in our recent Ofsted report (April 2019)



Extended School Activities (ESA)

Our extensive extra-curricular programme offers students a wide range of opportunities to share their interests, learn new skills and develop important life skills.



Multicultural and Bilingual Community

We are extremely passionate about promoting the languages within our community. We see speaking other languages as being an invaluable asset to both students and to our school.



A Dedication to Teaching

As a National Research School, Teaching and Learning is evidence informed ensuring all students experience the highest quality of lessons. We are committed to the highest standards of professional development.



Achieving Success

MCA has been in the Top 20% of schools nationally for progress performance for the last two years.

nchester Communication Academy | Prospectus



How to Apply

To apply for a place at MCA please visit: https://lealive.manchester.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

You will need to set up for an account on this site if you do not have one.

Once you are logged in you will be able to submit an application for Manchester Communication Academy.

You will be given the option to apply for 3 schools using the one form.

Please input all of the required information onto the form.

The deadline for school applications is on Friday 29th October 2021.

If your child lives in another local authority, please apply for school places through the Council that you pay your council tax to, even if you wish to apply for a school that comes under Manchester City Council.

If you need any support completing your online application, please contact us.

For further information please visit the transition section the our website