



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well. I am pleased to share some of the highlights from a positive week here at the academy.

This Week

Jodrell Bank History Trip- Year 10

On Monday, Mr Fraser took a group of Year 10 students to Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire, accompanied by Mr Bowles. The visit focused on the role played by Jodrell Bank during the Cold War and explored the key historical question: "Could science stay neutral in the Cold War?"

Students examined a range of historical sources to understand how scientific advancements were used by competing nations in the wider battle of ideas between Capitalism and Communism. The group represented the school exceptionally well and engaged thoughtfully throughout the day.

Year 9 Workshops - Progressive Masculinity

This week, our Year 9 students took part in workshops exploring the theme of progressive masculinity. These sessions encouraged pupils to reflect on positive identity, respectful relationships and responsible decision-making.

Debate Mate Competition- Years 7-10

A number of Debate Mate students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 attended a debating competition at Eden Boys' School. We are delighted to share that our students won 3 out of their 6 debates against teams from Burnage, Barlow, Eden Boys' School and St Paul's. Judges praised MCA students for their teamwork, clear communication and well-structured arguments. Thank you to Mrs Fujikawa and Mr Taylor for organising this for our students. We are proud to announce that MCA will be hosting a Debate Mate competition in March.

Visit from Sheffield Hallam University -PE Department

Tim Vernon from Sheffield Hallam University spent the day with our PE team earlier this week. During his visit, he observed lessons and spoke with senior prefects, Youth Travel Ambassadors and Sports Leaders. Tim was extremely impressed by the confidence and communication skills demonstrated by our students. He shared that not only did he hear about the great work taking place in PE, but he could see it clearly reflected in the students themselves. Thank you to Mr Neild for organising this.

Alumni Visitor - Aderonke Efunnaga.

On Thursday alumni student Aderonke came in to visit the Year 10 and Year 11 Health and Social Care students. She inspired them with her journey since leaving MCA in 2019 and the setbacks she has overcome. She is now a 4th year medical student and runs a very successful cake business. All the students left inspired and with a bonus cake in hand.





Coming up

Attendance Challenge continues!

Our Attendance Challenge is continuing, and we are encouraging all students to make the most of the next two weeks by being in school every day and arriving on time.

Students earn points each day by meeting our attendance expectations:

- 1 point for being in school
- 1 point for being on time

Points are collected across the half term and converted into entries for our end-of-challenge prize draw. There are some fantastic rewards up for grabs, including an Apple iPad, Apple AirPods, reward vouchers, as well as weekly prizes and trips.

For the next two weeks only, students can earn double points each day, meaning even more entries into the prize draw. The best way to increase chances of winning is simple: be in school and on time every day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote excellent attendance
Punctuality

We have noticed an increase in the number of students arriving late to school each day. As a reminder, students are expected to be in the school building by 8:20am. Any student arriving after 8:28am will be placed into a Punctuality Workshop. Arriving late disrupts not only your child's learning but also the learning of others. We kindly ask that you speak with your child to reinforce the importance of good timekeeping and ensure they arrive at school on time each day.

Stationery

Thank you for your continued support around students bringing in their pencil cases. Just a reminder that students can purchase a filled pencil case from school reception, as they walk into school, for 50p.

Please be aware that students need to have the following in their pencil cases: pen, pencil, ruler. Students should not bring in scissors or compasses- these will be provided in lessons. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Please be aware that Year 10 Parents' Evening is coming up on Tuesday 3rd February. Clubs will be cancelled on this occasion due to staff being involved in the parents evening. This is an important evening to hear about how your child is progressing in their GCSE/ BTEC courses- we look forward to welcoming you.

Year 11 Key Dates

- 2nd - 6th Feb MFL Speaking Exams
- 3rd Feb - MADE Session (Marginal Gains)
- 9th - 13th Feb Week 1 of PPE2
- 16th - 20th Feb Half Term Revision
- 23rd Feb - 6th March Week 2&3 of PPE2
- 31st March - Parents Evening (PPE2 Results)
- 20th - 24th April MFL Speaking Exams



22nd - 24th April Art Subjects Exams
29th April - 1st May Art Subjects Exams
8th May - 26th June GCSE EXAMS

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Sue Watmough
Headteacher