

Friday 21st November

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share some positive news from across the school this week. This week all members of the school community have been focused on the theme of teams and how this supports our community and belonging to the MCA family. In this week's update there are some wonderful examples of how this has been brought to life by staff and students.

Recognition

I am delighted to share with you that MCA has been awarded the Manchester Sports Award for School of the Year. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the commitment and talent of our students and staff. We are thrilled that our PE department has been recognised for their excellent work and constant efforts to provide fantastic sporting opportunities for our young people.

Additionally, we are thrilled that one of our students, Yoel Abrehaley, won Young Volunteer of the Year. This is a testament to his dedication and hard work in supporting others and we are immensely proud of him.



This Week

Across the academy it has been a busy and rewarding week.

Year 11 have completed their PPE exams- we are very proud of their hard work and dedication during this period.

Fifteen students visited MCPA for work experience and received excellent feedback for their enthusiasm and initiative, particularly when reading with younger pupils and supporting phonics sessions.

Our Year 9 Big Sister group also met on Tuesday, giving students a valuable opportunity to build confidence, strengthen friendships and work towards their academic goals.

Later that day our Year 10 prefects met with Head Girl Gift and Mrs Wilcock to share their ideas for improving academy life. MCA offers a wide range of leadership opportunities such as Guardian Angels, reading buddies, peer mentors, sports leaders and EDI leaders, which help students develop important life skills.

This week's assemblies were led by our House Champions, who encouraged full engagement in all aspects of house life. Every effort counts towards house points, from attendance and punctuality to participation in after school clubs. We want all students to take pride in the house they represent.

On Thursday we were delighted to welcome magistrates Rachel Medcalf and Kirsty Hart, who delivered a Knives and Consequences workshop to two Year 9 groups. Students gained valuable insight into the justice system and the laws surrounding knife crime. We look forward to welcoming our guests back soon for a mock trial.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, Year 11 Parents Evening will take place on Thursday 11 December. Your child will receive their mock results and there will be workshops available on using AI effectively, revising successfully, keeping your child safe through Life360 and managing exam stress. We hope you will find these sessions helpful and we look forward to seeing you there.

Although the PPE exams have come to a close, period 0 and period 6 are continuing for Year 11 students. Please check in with your child about these revision sessions- your support in encouraging their attendance is much appreciated.

As we move into next week our focus on the theme of teams will develop into how we show respect for team identity and build a resilient spirit. Please ask your child which house they belong to and how they show pride in their house. A key focus for our houses is student attendance at ESA activities. There is a rich offer available to our children. Do you know which clubs your child attends, and can you support us in increasing their attendance? Taking part in the ESA offer at MCA provides valuable experiences and opportunities they may not receive in the classroom. You can find our ESA offer on our website.

<https://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/esa-club>

Your Feedback

We're inviting parents to take part in a short questionnaire to share your views on your child's career education and how well you feel they are being prepared for their future. Your feedback is incredibly valuable. You can find out 3 newsletters released so far this year for parents information on our website here. <https://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/careersnewsletter>

We would welcome your feedback by completing the following survey:

<https://www.cecparentcarer.co.uk/b73cd34b-baf3-4757-a239-c43370ec12e3>

Parent Workshop on Online Safety

Please be aware that an online workshop around helping your child to stay safe online will be taking place next week. You can join this workshop by clicking on the link below.

Date: Thursday, 27 November

Time: 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Access link: https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_andrWwTqTOyeCjuLILFoHQ

Finally, we invite you to read about our exciting expansion project:

Expansion Project Update

We are delighted to share that our expansion project continues to make excellent progress as we move towards the opening of our brand-new Science Block, 4G sports facility, and dedicated Year 7 school this September.

Construction on the new Science Block is moving forward at pace. The steel frame is currently being erected, and you can see some of the latest photos included in this newsletter. This building will provide state-of-the-art laboratories and learning spaces that will significantly enhance the science experience for all our students.

We are also pleased to report that the foundations for the new Year 7 Block have now been completed, with the steel frame scheduled to go up in December. This purpose-built facility will give our youngest learners a modern, welcoming space designed specifically for their needs as they begin their secondary journey.

Alongside this, work continues on the new full-size 4G sports pitch, which will offer students an outstanding all-weather training and playing surface, greatly enhancing PE, school sport, and enrichment opportunities.

These developments represent a truly exciting moment in our school's growth. The new buildings and facilities will not only improve the learning environment for current students but also help ensure that MCA continues to provide exceptional opportunities for future generations.

We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses.



Wishing you a restful weekend.

Sue Watmough

Headteacher

