



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**

#### *Art Gallery Trip*

On Wednesday, The Excellent Club, a group of Year 7 and 8 pupils, visited Manchester Art Gallery to continue their exploration of the question, "What is Art?" During their visit, they attended a talk by Katy McCall, an artist working at the gallery, who explained the thought process behind the new exhibition *Things of the Very Least*, designed for 0–3 year olds to encourage younger children to experience art galleries.

Katy also guided the students through other areas of the gallery, introducing them to a simple yet effective approach for interpreting artwork. The students were fantastic—asking loads of insightful questions. Katy described them as "AMAZING" and "an absolute pleasure."



#### *World Book Day*

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day and as 2026 is the National Year of Reading, at MCA we wanted to 'Go All In!'. This meant that our celebrations lasted throughout the week and were so brilliantly led by our wonderful Student Reading Ambassadors. Between them, they designed and led a whole host of activities from championing our Book Hunt, to encouraging students to choose a book to recommend to a friend to ensuring that our Beehive was buzzing with reading activity and fun.

Throughout the day itself, at the start of every lesson, every student read an extract from the same short story; *Stray Magic* by Diana Peterfreund. This is a brilliant fantasy story about a magical 'dog', who needs to find her lost witch-owner!

Alongside this, some teachers volunteered to read a section of one of their favourite books to a class they don't normally teach. This was really well received by the students with some asking where they could go and buy a book using their World Book Day voucher and others asking to borrow the book from the teacher so they could continue reading it. The Creative Arts Department added even more joy to this by all being dressed as characters from *101 Dalmatians*!

This is just snapshot of some of the week and whilst it was wonderful to share the joy of reading for pleasure, we know that supporting and encouraging our young people to read for pleasure outside of school can have such a positive impact not only on their achievement but also has the potential to have a positive impact on their mental health and well-being. Do you know if your child has used their voucher yet?



A huge thank you to our Reading Ambassadors, our Literacy team and all the staff who dressed up, joined in and shared the joy of reading.

Careers:

We would like to share this link to a booklet with you to explore and look into Careers future. This booklet advises you about educational routes, options after MCA, information about what apprenticeships are, work experience, talking with your child and more. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [careers@mca.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:careers@mca.manchester.sch.uk)

[https://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/\\_files/ugd/41f5a1\\_2c90d-d56a8a440a48081b26b3e9e60c5.pdf](https://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/_files/ugd/41f5a1_2c90d-d56a8a440a48081b26b3e9e60c5.pdf)

### **Coming Up**

*Exam Stress Workshops*

Join Kooth for a free 45 minute webinar and you'll hear from one of our community engagement team, alongside a clinician from Kooth.

They will offer expert tips on:

When to take action

Share practical ideas to help children manage their anxiety

Discuss how Kooth can provide extra support.

***Book 16th March, 7:00pm***

### **Year 11 Key Dates**

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*