

Mildenhall College Academy



NEWSLETTER



December 2020



MCA TRAITS

Principal: Miss N Hood

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Dates For Your Diary

Last Day of Term - Friday 18th December 2020

Students Return - Monday 4th January 2021

PD Day: Friday 12th February 2021

Spring Half Term Break - Monday 15th February 2021 – Friday 19th February 2021

Students Return - Monday 22nd February 2021

Year 11 Mock Series 2 - W/c Monday 8th March 2021 and Monday 15th March 2021

Year 11 Prom - Friday 18th June 2021

Sixth Form Midsummer Ball - Friday 2nd July 2021

Note: dates for Parents' Evenings will be communicated towards the beginning of the Spring term. These will be held virtually and will prioritise year groups sitting examinations this year.

Foodbank Donations

A huge thank you to the MCA community for their contribution to the local foodbank.



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter. Despite the impact of the pandemic it is lovely to see how many great things are still going on at MCA. So much has been achieved over the course of this term with the return to the academy, Year 11 Mock exams, Year 13 UCAS applications and university interviews including Cambridge, Oxford and a range of medical courses, our Awards Newsletter (vouchers and shields to come now we are out of lockdown), our upcoming virtual carol concert and the collection of food and provisions for the local foodbank for our non-uniform day.



This is in addition to the great learning that has taken place in lessons and in tutor time. Whilst it has been a challenge to get back into the routine of school and to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 it has been great to be back in the academy and the successes and achievements of the MCA community continue to be a source of immense pride. I hope that we can continue with uninterrupted learning as we carry on this academic year and prepare to move into our brand new building as part of the £45 million pound Mildenhall Hub project in 2021.

I would like to thank all staff, students and parents/carers for your outstanding efforts and continued support.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'N Hood'.

Miss N Hood
Principal



It can be difficult to envision what a future career might look like, so when in October 2019 I was approached by Mr Smith with an opportunity to explore what a career in law might involve, I jumped at the chance. The Legal Apprentice competition, which I entered last year as a part of a three-person team with Rojin Has and Trinity Robb, is held annually and sponsored by the Law Firm: Kingsley Napley (an internationally recognised law firm based in London). Offering an insightful glimpse into the type of work lawyers are tasked with, the competition would lead us to tackle a series of legal tasks around a contemporary issue. MCA⁶ had previously entered their first team the year before – a team that finished in the top 30% of 1800 entrants.

Over the next 5 months our team, mentored by Mr Smith, were sent tasks involving a series of characters who had become embroiled in career and family disputes. Sets of questions and scenarios were posed to us about the theoretical legal proceedings as we became familiar with appropriate terms and the role a lawyer plays. Mr Smith gave guidance,

but all final decisions were ones made by the team.

Pulling together all we had learned thus far, in our final task we were to make a 3-minute video clip where, as a team, we promoted our 'law firm' Garrard_Robb_Has Solicitors. In order to try and persuade one of the characters to employ us to represent him in a legal argument about privacy law. Our video needed to demonstrate the professionalism and engagement necessary in the law sector, whilst exhibiting the learning we had acquired during the competition.

After several attempts we finally put together our pitch which was exactly 3 minutes long and submitted our entry just before the national lockdown. We could only hope that the competition would be able to conclude as we awaited the results.

They came in late July. This year over 2500 schools had submitted teams, and to our delight, our team had been placed in the top 26 percentile of all entries. I am beyond proud of what we managed to accomplish and, whilst we did not get the opportunity to go to London, I couldn't have asked for a better team. To have finished in the top quarter of all UK schools is amazing and something truly worth celebrating.

*Phoebe Garrard,
Year 13*





Picture courtesy of *Suffolk Today*

Mildenhall College Academy students took part in a competition to design posters for use on hoarding artwork at the site of the new hub which will house the new Academy building. Students have now unveiled their creative work thanking keyworkers at the new multi-million pound site.

Twenty-five designs were chosen and printed for display as part of the collaborative project.

Richard Groom from R G Carter, said: “It has been a fantastic process seeing the students at the academy get involved on this project and we were really impressed with the quality and creative imagination the students brought to the hoarding. We are constantly looking at ways in which we can engage with our local community on our projects and would like to thank

everyone who has taken the time to be a part of this wonderful initiative.”

Nicola Hood, Principal is delighted students were given the opportunity to be involved and see their hard work displayed at the new location, she said: “Despite these unprecedented and difficult times, it has been heart-warming to see how the community has pulled together.

“I am very impressed with the work by our students thanking key workers for their effort during the pandemic. Seeing the hub near completion is very exciting and the opportunities it offers only seek to enhance the community cohesion we currently see.”

Year 7 Art

Some superb work from our year 7 artists! Some Henri Matisse inspired drawing and colourful collages.



Follow the Art Faculty on twitter
@MCAartdept



Awards 2020

Due to current restrictions we could not hold our annual awards evening this year. However, despite this over 130 students have been recognised for their achievements and received awards.

We would like to congratulate all award winners and also extend our thanks to our sponsors, without them these awards would not be possible.



WWI Poem by Oliver Peachey, Year 10

Stood in the trenches
Along the front line,
Which will kill first, his bullet or mine?
The sergeant comes along,
With a bottle of whisky,
Says compliments from the lieutenant,
This mission will be risky.
Look at what we have for soldiers,
Boys,
Nothing more.
This land of mud, is it worth fighting for?
We wait as the time hits 7.30,
Nerves are high as everyone would agree.
The captain blows his whistle,
And we start to climb.
We hear them open fire, and hope this
hell will be over,
Sometime.

I was inspired to write this poem by a couple of films I have watched, such as 1917 and The Trench. In the line 'The time hit 7.30, I wrote 7.30 because that is the time the first wave of soldiers went over the top at the battle of the Somme.



Armed Forces Champion *Mr A Smith*

I was approached by the Principal in September of 2019 and asked if I would be interested in leading the academy's effort and application for the Military Covenant Silver Award. This award is presented to employers who show their support for either ex-military personnel (or their families) or serving personnel (Cadets, The Reserve etc).

I was delighted to take on the challenge and set about finding out what our academy's relationship with the military community was. As it turns out the relationship is very strong. At MCA we have:

Teaching and support staff who are ex forces – commissioned and non-commissioned – including overseas personnel

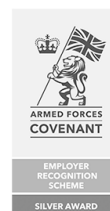
Teaching and support staff who are married to still serving military personnel
Students who belong to Cadet associations

MCA is the venue for a combined cadet force drill night

I decided as part of our application to celebrate Armed Forces Day June 2020 and to Tweet photographs of any of our staff and students who were associated with the military or any uniformed agencies. We tweeted police cadets, sea cadets, girl guides, US Marines, an Apache Pilot, teaching staff who had been in the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC), RAF, US Navy and the British Army.

I put together a portfolio of our academy's effort to support the military community including our advertising of job vacancies of two military websites designed to encourage the employment of service personnel and their families. It was really pleasing to be told in August 2020 that we had been successful in our application. Ordinarily, representatives from the academy would be invited to the Eastern Region celebratory dinner to officially receive our award but this year such festivities have had to be curtailed. Nonetheless, MCA can be proud that we are the first academy within our Trust to receive this award. Gold award next, perhaps.

Mr A Smith - Faculty Leader - Social Sciences



Proudly supporting those who serve

Christmas Card Competition

MCA is proud to announce the winning entries for its Christmas Card competition:



Kathryn Riley - Year 7



Molly Hitchin - Year 11



Mia Lewandoska - Year 11

A fantastic Taster Day at MCA⁶ for the MCA Year 11 students. Despite the pandemic Year 11 students were able to get a taste of Sixth Form life as part of their careers education and as post-16 planning support.

Students got to taste 4 subjects as well as taking part in sessions run by the University of East Anglia and The Fix. External applicants were not able to join us but we hope to include them later in the academic year as part of our ongoing transition support.

If any Year 11 student would like further support or an impartial careers interview they should contact Mr Goodenough who will arrange this.

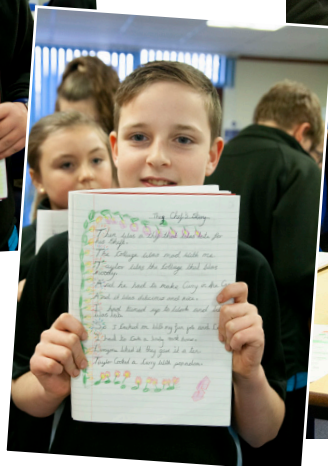
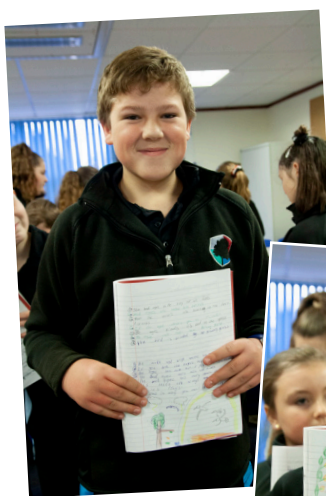
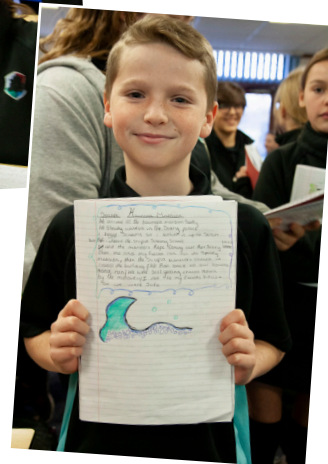
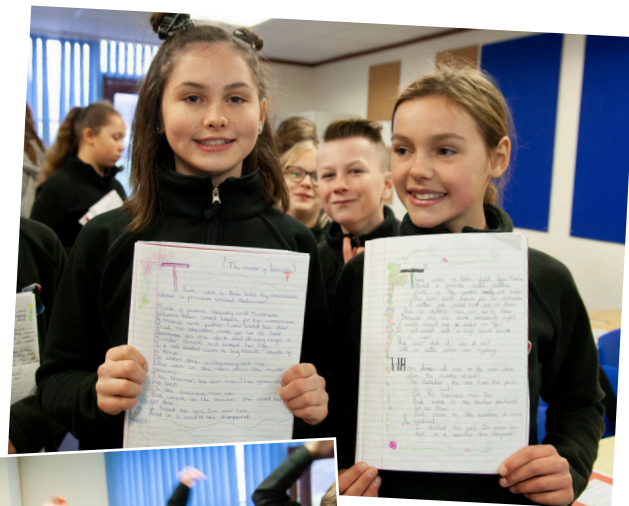


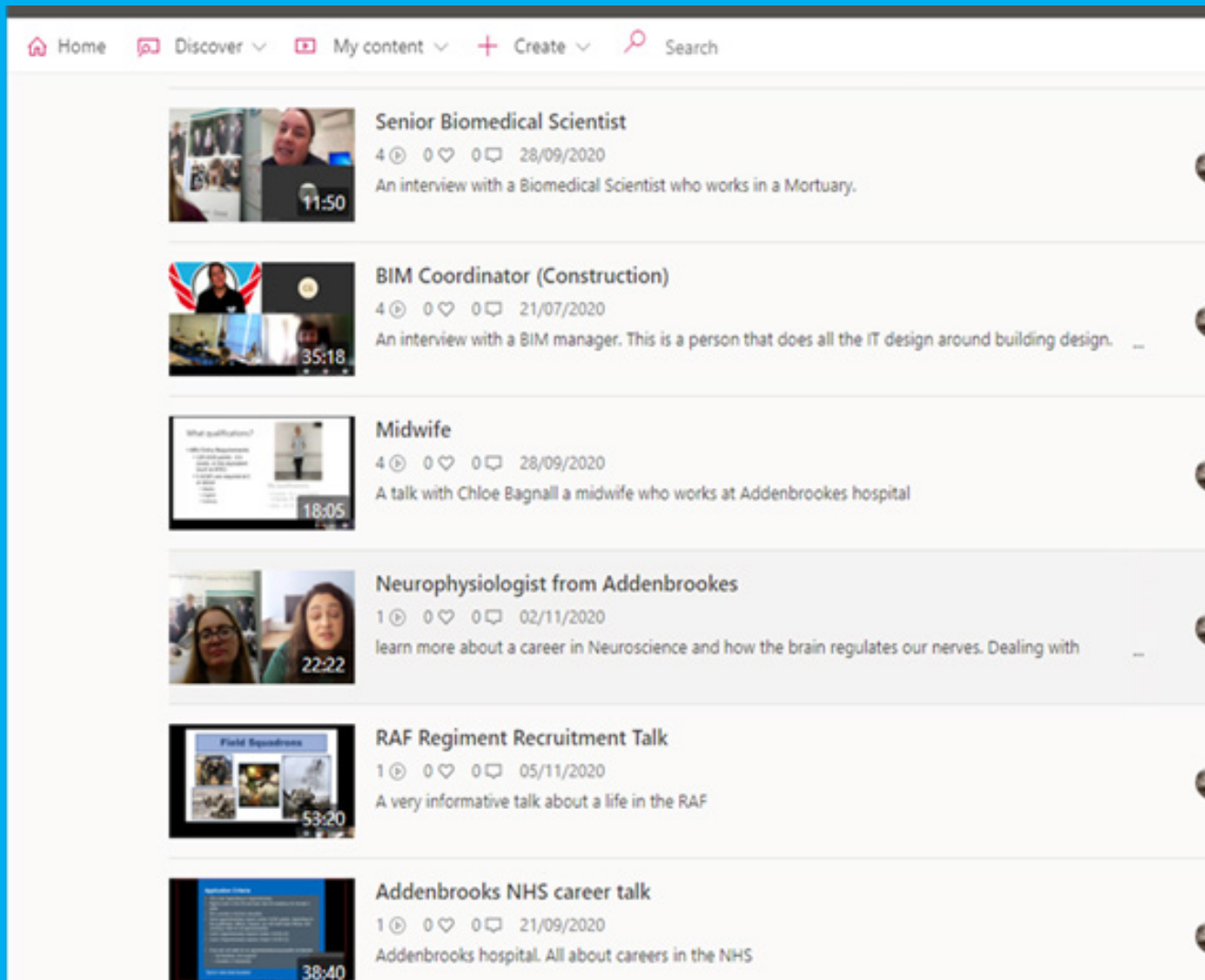
Year 7 enjoy a great first term at MCA

It is always exciting to welcome Year 7 in September, but this has been especially true this year! All Year 7 students have been studying a unit called Literary Heritage.

7Q5 have loved jumping in and out of our virtual TARDIS and time travelling through the literary periods. They have decoded Anglo- Saxon texts and laughed at the sound of the words spoken by a professional storyteller.

Decoding the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales was a little easier, and by the time we landed in the early-modern period they found The Prologue to Romeo and Juliet an absolute breeze! What has been the most enjoyable part of these lessons has been watching the enthusiasm with which the students attack each text. A very successful first term.





This term we have looked at the different career opportunities within the creative industry, the energy sector and health and social care. Alongside this we now have a working relationship with Addenbrookes Hospital and have carried out career interviews with Midwives, Dieticians and Scientists. This work will enable our students to have a greater understanding of all the opportunities that exist within the NHS. It will also provide our students with a one to one point of contact for any information relating to careers in the NHS.

Coming up very soon we will be offering mock interviews to Year 11 students via our working partnership with Kier Constructions. Kier are the lead construction company working on the F35 programme at RAF Lakenheath. This is a great opportunity for our students to not only gain future skills, but to also get themselves noticed in a world renown Engineering company.





Mildenhall College Academy is a designated School-centred initial teacher training academy (SCITT), working alongside the University of Bedford to deliver initial teacher training (ITT). We work in partnership with a number of ATT academies in Suffolk and Norfolk to deliver our School Direct programme. The programme consists of;

- A one year full time or two years part-time course
- In school 4 days per week and at University every Friday
- Primary & Secondary placements

I would like to congratulate the 15 trainees, 13 secondary and 2 primary, who are training with the ATT partnership this year. All have successfully completed their first term's teaching placement with us this week. I would particularly like to thank the following trainees, who have all been with us here at MCA this term;

- Aisling Doherty (Art) – returning to MCA after Christmas
- Sacha Baldwin (Art) – off to complete placement B at Icen Academy
- Rebecca Coombs (Science) – off to complete placement B at Westbourne Academy
- Jeanette Hobbs (Science) – off to complete placement B at Icen Academy but returning to MCA in March
- Hannah Luca (Drama) – returning to MCA after Christmas
- Mandy Taylor (English) – off to complete placement B at Icen Academy
- Dafydd Russell-Jones (Geography) – off to complete placement B at Westbourne

but returning to MCA in March

- Rory Fisher (History) – off to complete placement B at Icen Academy but returning to MCA in March

- Gemma Anderson (Maths) – returning to MCA after Christmas

We wish them all well in their next placement.

Who can enrol on our course? Entry Requirements

Our School Direct ITT course is a school-based programme, leading to the award of a PGCE with QTS, which is delivered in two placement schools. The PGCE is validated and awarded by the University of Bedford, our partner university.

If you're looking for an in-school initial teacher training route then School Direct could be ideal for you. To join our School Direct programme you must have:

- A minimum of a 2:2 honours degree or equivalent in the subject for which you are applying to teach, or a degree of which at least 50% is in that subject, is required for entry onto this programme.
- A levels in the subject and/or related subjects are desirable
- A standard equivalent to a grade 4 (or GCSE A* to C) in the GCSE examinations in English and mathematics (and Science if you are training to teach at primary level). The results of these could still be pending whilst an application is made.
- Show competency in fundamental skills in English and maths before the award of QTS. Please note the need to pass skills tests in literacy and numeracy before commencing training has now been removed.

Should you require any further details about our ITT course, please contact Carolyn Kerr, Assistant Principal, at the academy – carolyn.kerr@mca.atrust.org.uk

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge



This year we had 421 students take part in the annual Bebras computational thinking challenge organised by Oxford University. The challenge requires students to solve as many of the 18 problems as possible in a 40-minute time limit and results are compared to other students across the UK.

As with previous years, there were a number of success stories. Firstly, in the year 7 age category, AL achieved the title of 'Best in School' with a score of 166 out of a possible 200. The national average for year 7 was 77.

In the year 8 and 9 category, Chloe Palmer did incredibly well with a score of 200 out of 200! This gave her the award of 'Best in School' and also meant she was one of 83 students in the country to achieve this (123'353 students took part in this age group). A special mention must also go to Ruby Edwards as the highest scoring year 8 student in the same age category.

In the year 10 age category, Ethan Bright achieved the 'Best in School' title with a score of 153. The national average for this age group was 72. His score also put him very high up in Suffolk where the highest

score was 157.

In the year 12 and 13 age category, Harvey Packham scored 118 out of 200 giving him the title of 'Best in Sixth form'. The national average here was 78.

23 of our students managed to finish in the top 10% of the country in their age categories. These students will be invited to a separate competition in the Spring Term where they will be able to compete for the title of 'Best in the Country'. These students are:

Hannah Barker
May Berney
Ethan Bright
George Cashford
Thomas Chambers
Gregory Danks
Ruby Edwards
Harry Fatibene
Felicity Gilby
Dominic Martin
Aron Mazey
Erin McDonnell
Evelyn Merrett
Nikodem Moch
Harvey Packham
Chloe Palmer
Oskar Rompkowski
James Shipp
Kyle Stamp
Maurycy Wegrzyn
Anna-Maria Wong

Well done to all involved!



Be Safe at Christmas

- Ensure that your Christmas lights conform to the British Standard Kite Mark.
- Don't place candles too near your Christmas tree or other combustible materials.
- Don't leave candles unattended.
- Never remove batteries from smoke detectors for Christmas toys.
- Keep decorations away from lights and heaters.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Never overload electrical sockets with Christmas lights.
- Always switch off Christmas lights, and unplug them before going to bed.
- Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Don't consume alcohol while cooking.
- Ensure that family and visitors know how to escape, and where to meet in case of an emergency.
- Ensure that cigarettes are extinguished properly.
- Keep guards around an open fire and wood burners.
- If you use fireworks for celebrating Christmas and New Year, ensure that they are stored in a safe place. Never return to a lit firework, and always have a bucket of water available.
- Check on elderly relatives and neighbours to make sure that they are safe for Christmas.



Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year,

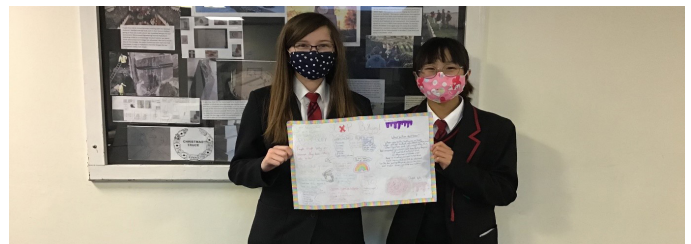
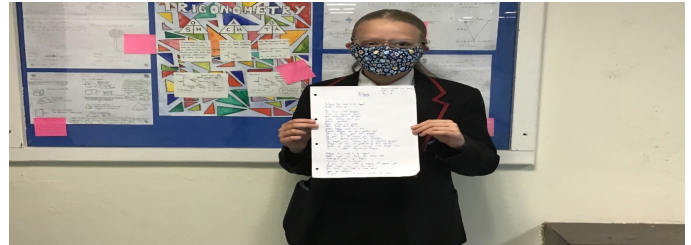
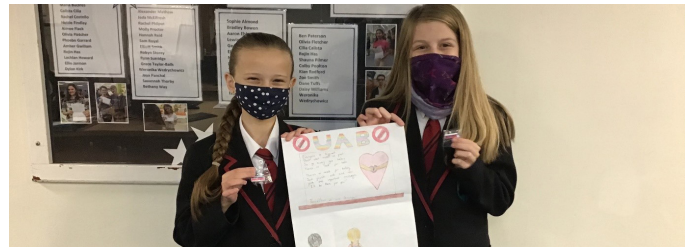
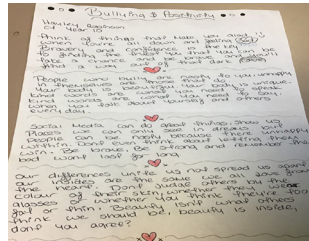
Best Wishes,
Andrew Sheldrick (School Fire Liaison Officer)

United Against Bullying

Congratulations to our winners of the anti-bullying campaign who produced some lovely poems and posters to raise awareness around the issue of bullying. The winners were presented with a Love2Shop Voucher and a United Against Bullying pin badge.

Winners

- Gracie-Mai Peachey
- Hayley Robinson
- Felicity Gilby
- May Berney
- Je-Anna Buckle
- Anna-Maria Wong



Racism Speech by Eden Patterson - Year 8

When you're young, it's almost like you've never got anything to worry about. You can go to a restaurant without being accused of eating and leaving, you can go to the shops with your family without being given dirty looks and you can even hold an object without someone thinking it's a weapon. For, this isn't when you're young. It's when you're privileged and 'normal'.

We won't wait for that change that should come naturally. We will protest until we are equal. We won't put up with your racist remarks. We will unite to fight for justice. Because after everything, it is owed to us.

Like Martin Luther King said "I have a dream..." it shouldn't have to be a dream. Ending racism shouldn't have to be a dream. We shouldn't have to wish for the bare minimum.

We won't wish anymore, we will take action, we won't let our ancestry vanish because of the colour of our skin. We will hold up our fists for the equality that we deserve.

The colour of your skin doesn't matter when applying for a job, it doesn't matter when you want to sit at a table nor does it make any difference to your characteristics.

The support and respect that others should occur in everyone.

My white friends are the most understanding, supportive and caring people towards my black community and I wish some people were as educated as them. My culture means so much to me and the rest of us.

We won't wait for that change that should come naturally. We will protest until we are equal.

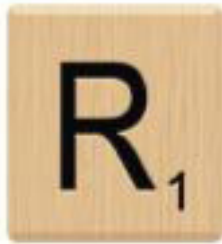


Mildenhall College
ACADEMY



Teamworkers

Together Everyone
Achieves More.



Resilient

We make mistakes and face challenges but
we never give up.



Ambitious

We have a strong desire and determination
to achieve.



Inquisitive

We are curious and interested in the world
around us.



Together

We show tolerance and respect for each
other and our environment.
'We Belong Here'.



Successful

We will be successful.

