

Mildenhall College Academy



NEWSLETTER



December 2021



Working Together; Supporting Individuals

Principal: Miss N Hood
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Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 11th January 2022 - Year 10 Parents' Evening

Friday 11th February 2022 - PD Day

Monday 21st - Friday 25th February 2022 - Half Term

Friday 18th - Friday 25th February 2022 - Ski Trip

Monday 28th February 2022 - Year 11 & Year 13 Mocks Begin

Tuesday 1st March 2022 - Year 13 Parents' Evening

Thursday 24th March 2022 - KS4 Choices Evening (Year 9)

Friday 8th April 2022 - Last Day Of Term

OUR PURPOSE

Our aim at Mildenhall College Academy is to deliver a broad, balanced and knowledge-rich curriculum to ensure that all young people leave school with the knowledge, skills and ambition to succeed in modern Britain and to compete in the global labour market. Our curriculum celebrates diversity, challenges injustice, promotes equality and encourages the creation of a better world. It is equally ambitious for all and seeks to provide the support necessary to allow all students (including SEND, disadvantaged, barriers) to access and achieve. We want all students to leave MCA with the knowledge, skills and qualities to:

1. **Achieve academic excellence**
2. **Be the best you can be**
3. **Contribute positively to your community**

“Work hard; be kind”



Dear Parents and Carers

It is so refreshing to read a newsletter that reflects the amazing opportunities on offer to students at Mildenhall College Academy and that does not focus on the pandemic. As we approach the festive period it always seems appropriate to reflect on the past year and to think about those new years resolutions. For me, the key message I take from this year is the sense of community and what can be achieved when we work together. 2021 has seen us move into our new home, return to a three year key stage 3, launch our BAME society, re-establish our sporting and other enrichment activities and return to face to face learning.



At the heart of all of this has been examples of people working together to help themselves and others.

I recently delivered an assembly which focused on working together where the key message was very much around striving to be the best person we can be and how this also involves helping others around us. There is nothing more influential than the thoughts and actions of our peers and I am delighted with the work of our prefects, sixth form teaching assistants and peer mentors. They are giving their time to make a real difference to the lives of others.

It isn't just through these events and our academy policies that we can ensure our community is a successful one. Our words and actions reach far and wide and it is all of our responsibility to be positive role models and to help our community be a safe, happy and successful one. Together we must ensure negative influences do not dictate our lives or our community. With this in mind my New Years resolution is to empower all students at MCA to have a strong positive voice for good. After all , they are our future.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable festive break and a peaceful New Year.

Best wishes

Miss N Hood
Principal





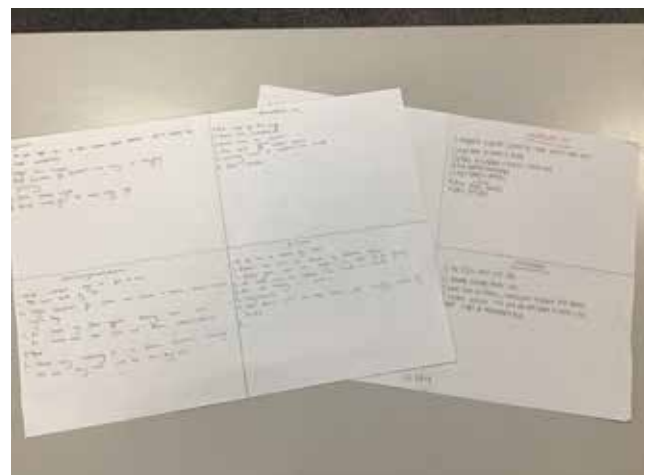
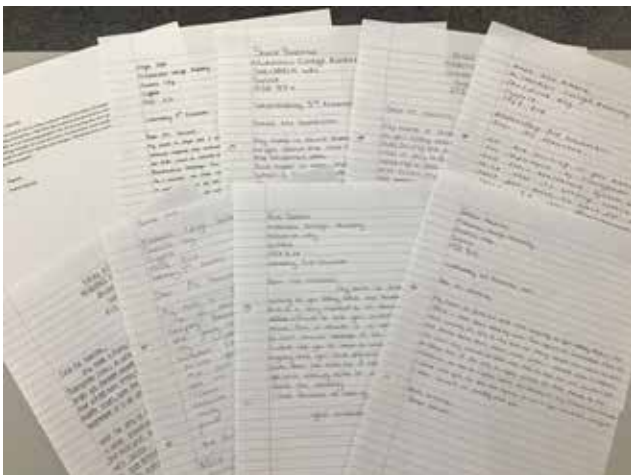
Students were accompanied to the war memorial on Thursday 11th November to lay a wreath on behalf of MCA. The academy also observed a two minute silence.

'We Will Remember Them'



Citizenship

As part of their studies around UK parliament Mr Goodenough's citizenship group have written some letters to our local MP Matthew Hancock regarding issues that are important to them. Students also took part in a mini general election where they wrote manifestos setting out these same ideas.



This term has seen the exciting introduction of a Year 10 'Scholars Club'. Working virtually with the University of Cambridge and Take Your Place, a small cohort of Year 10 students have been taking part in a 6-week academic skills project where they have been exploring a Sociology topic looking at the representation of different people in the media.

The project aims to develop transferable and academic skills and encourages students to take part in extra-curricular and academic enrichment activities, as well as learning more about post-16 and post-18 study options.

The students have worked really hard in the sessions and both Mrs Powling and Mrs Betts have been really impressed by the level of maturity demonstrated by the students and the intellectual discussions that have taken place.

Moving forward, we are hoping to take the students on a visit to Cambridge University later in the year and hold a graduation ceremony at MCA for participants and their parents / carers to celebrate the work produced by the students. We are also planning on offering this opportunity to another cohort of students later in the year... watch this space!





This term we have started a new student society called the MCA BAME Society.

BAME stands for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic. We meet fortnightly and have just elected our student leaders. Congratulations to Luna Cliff and Tyrique Chirisa (both in Year 13) for becoming the Chairs of the society. Both Tyrique and Luna are committed to improving the positive representation of people from BAME backgrounds and will no doubt lead this society well as they are such excellent role models themselves. A huge thank you to all the other BAME Society leaders and members who are supporting Luna and Tyrique.

As well as making our elections, this term we have explored why there is a need for such a group, discussed British BAME role models such as the poet Samuel King, started planning a trip to London to explore Black British History & Culture and arranged for a course led by BAMEed to be delivered to our BAME Society leaders about identity, belonging and anti-racism in schools.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Percy who entered a competition that won our library 100 new books by diverse authors. There are so many fantastic books by writers from different ethnicities that deserve to be read, studied and celebrated, and we now host 100 of them in our academy library!

New members always welcome. One of our next important jobs is decide on a different term other than BAME. Please let us know your suggestions!



As the end of term approaches, preparations are underway for the MCA ChrisMaths Challenge 2021.

Year 10 & 11 Higher Tier GCSE students and Year 12 A-level Maths and Core Maths students are all invited to take part in the event, due to take place on the last day of term.

Teams of four will compete to solve mathematical problems, some of which will have a festive twist.



For example, how many gifts were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas song?

Can you work it out without using the internet?!



The first round is a Merry-go-round – each member of the team has a problem to work on for 4 mins & then passes on to the next person for 3 mins. The Merry-go-round continues... 2 mins then 1 final minute for the final member of the team. Will they agree on a solution? Will they work together to correct each other's mistakes or just keep going round in circles?



Find out which team is crowned MCA ChrisMaths Champions in the next newsletter.



In November Year 10 and 11 had the opportunity to listen to two online lectures organised in conjunction with the Historic-all organisation based at Cambourne Village College. These lectures are designed to broaden student knowledge of GCSE and A-Level topics, in addition to giving a taste of what university lectures are like.

On 10th November, 26 students attended a lecture with Dr Majorie Gehrhardt (University of Reading) on 'Commemorating the First World War: Then and Now'. This lecture considered the purpose of memorials, and how memorialisation of the First World War has changed over time.

On 15th November, 24 students attended a lecture with Dr Elaine Murphy (University of Plymouth) on 'Danger and Excitement: The Experiences of Women during the British Civil Wars of the 1640s'. Staff and students learned lots of

interesting stories about how women took part in the civil wars, such as aristocratic ladies who helped defend their towns from siege, and ordinary women who petitioned for the right to vote and a 'levelling' of society.

Both lectures were recorded and can be found online, along with the wider series from 2020-21:

www.cambournevc.org/news-and-events/historic-all

Look out for the new programme in the New Year!



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@MilHums



This will be paired with lectures throughout the week that provide an overview of specific questions. In pestilence and plague, we focused on the immune system, immunity and methods of treating disease. I was very happy that I got to present my findings on the history of medicine to my group. I look forward to GP placements in the spring and training to become a Health Care Assistant before starting the 5 yr Medicine course next year!

Overall, I am really enjoying life at university, making friends and taking part in new activities.

Bethany Way

This September I moved to Norwich to start the Gateway to Medicine course at UEA with the Medical Aspiration scholarships. The course acts as a preparation for the 5 year Medical course, teaching students further biology, issues in healthcare and the psychosocial wellbeing of patients and society.

Every week I have a PBL (problem based learning) session with my group where we look into the presented topic and discuss our way through said topic, for example 'Pestilence and Plague'. From there we will go away and research the questions provided about the human body, biological structures and societal impacts associated with the topic.



This term, the Humanities faculty have organised two Geography speakers for the students.



On 23rd November, students in Year 12 and 13 were invited to an online seminar hosted by the Royal Geographical Society. The talk aimed to help A level students with the extended writing. This event was well attended by our A level Geographers and had many tips on how to answer the extended writing questions. The students who attended have already been able to use some of these new skills in their extended writing in lessons.

On Tuesday 12th October, some students in Years 11, 12 and 13 attended a talk titled "Where can Geography take you". The Geographical Association teamed with NEACO to deliver this talk to give an overview of the different university and non-university pathways the students can take after school.



They heard from undergraduates, students, apprentices and employers. The call for more sustainable living and working has only gotten louder in recent years and the topics that the students study in Geography have never been more relevant. The students said that they had no idea how many options there were open to them and it was interesting to hear from lots of different people from different backgrounds who all had a different perspective on the Geographical world around us!



Christmas Card Competition Winners

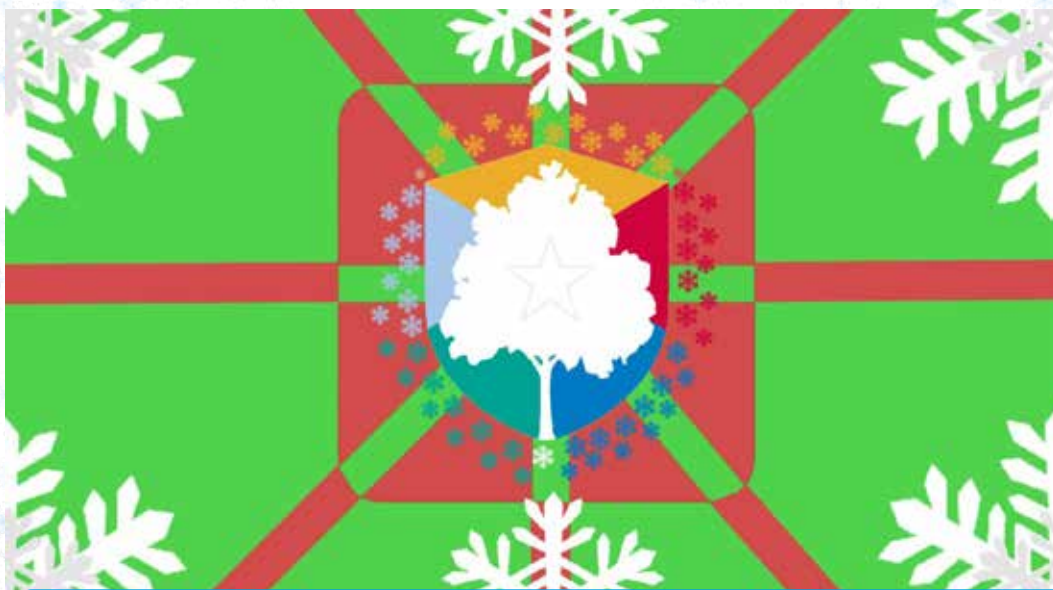
MCA is proud to announce the winning entries for its Christmas Card competition:



Lily Bokor - Year 13



Paige Wallace - Year 9



Thea Budrey - Year 8



Lessons are back to running largely as they were before the pandemic and there have been some great activities going on to get students interested in the subjects they are studying. In Health and Social care there are lots of active activities from revision pong to interactive poster making as well as the required role plays. Computer Science lessons have involved students taking apart computers to help with their understanding of how the computers work as well as acting out how numbers are sorted in lists. In ICT students used paper aeroplanes to understand how algorithms work.

It has been great to see a term returning closer to 'normal'. Within the Business, Health and Computing faculty we have been able to pack a lot into this term.

We started the term preparing for some more Academy Assessed grades for our vocational subjects where individual units were affected last year. These have been submitted to the exam board and we await the results in January and we hope students are pleased with the rewards for their efforts. Students and parents have been informed of provisional results so they are able to make an informed decision about whether they would like to resit a unit.

We welcomed two new members of staff to the Faculty, Mrs Waddilove and Miss Lavender (who also teaches psychology and criminology) and they have brought in ideas and strategies which have helped to increase interest in their subjects.

Across Computer Science and ICT, all students took part in the yearly Bebras Computational thinking competition. Results are in and there were some excellent achievements once again! Ethan Bright in year 11 managed to score an incredible 194 out 200! In year 10, Oliver Misiaszek scored highest with 167 out of 200. In year 9 and year 8 the highest scoring students both scored 157. These students were Maciej Klasztor (9) and Oskar Rompkoski (8) Isaac Harwood scored 177 out of 200 in year 7. 30 students across all year groups achieved a score which put them in the top 10% in the country and this means they have received an invite to the Oxford University Computing Challenge in the new year. All Certificates are being processed and will be with students soon.

Outside of lessons, extra-curricular activities are back. Students are getting involved in the esports competition run by Digital Schoolhouse where one team from MCA will battle it out in Super Smash Bros against teams from across the country to be national champion. We still have spaces for teams for the MCA battle, speak to Mr Sexton if you are interested. Lego League is back where students will be competing against other schools to solve engineering challenges using Lego robots. Year 8 girls have been involved in a cyber security competition designed to show that careers in cyber security are rewarding and exciting.

We also hope to be able to finally start organising and taking deposits for our trips to San Francisco and around the UK. Although these are primarily aimed at students interested in computing they will be suitable for all students regardless

of whether they are studying ICT or Computer Science.

Have a go yourself

You can have a go at doing some coding yourself at home by completing these festive activities on the Micro:bit:

<https://microbit.org/news/2020-12-03/microbit-holiday-activities/>



Young Detectorist

Year 8 student Milly Hardwick has recently made the news after unearthing a Bronze Age axe hoard whilst metal-detecting in a field in Hertfordshire.

After the initial discovery Milly's family unearthed 65 artifacts, including axe heads, cake ingots, and blade fragments. Archaeologists with Oxford University were alerted to the find and went on to discover another 135 artifacts some eight feet away from where Milly first found the first axe. Great work Milly!

U14 footballers

The U14 football team showed great resilience by finishing second in their league after losing their first game. They played some very good football, with their best result being when they beat Castle Manor at home 4-1 which included some very well taken goals. The team also did well to reach the second round of the cup.

U13 footballers

The U13 football team got off to a flying start to the season winning their first two games 4-1 and 2-0 against Westley and Newmarket respectively and ended up coming second in their league. Since their loss in the league, they have shown great resilience to now be in the third round of the county cup with the next game taking place on Thursday the 9th of December vs Ormiston Stoke where the U13's aim to reach the quarter finals if they are to win.

U14 & U15 Netball

The U14 and U15 Netball teams have played several games this term against a range of other schools. They have played every game with superb effort levels and we have seen some fantastic team and individual performances. A highlight of the fixtures was both teams beating County Upper School (U14s won 3-1 and U15s won 7-3). Well done to all involved for both teams!

U12 football

Congratulations to the Year 7 football team, on a reaching the Quarter Finals of the Suffolk Cup!

The football team have overcome Kesgrave at home, beating them a convincing 7-2. Both teams played some great football, however some great finishes from MCA and saves from Ben Cross, gave the boys the edge.

In the third round of the cup, on Monday 6th December 2021, Year 7 beat Chantry Academy 6-1, at home, securing their place in the quarter finals. Again, another convincing win against a strong opposition with some great individual players. As a collective, the team battled hard which paid off in the end. Goals from: Morgan Kachokammanja x 2, Jesse Logan x 3 and Henry Edwards x 1.

That's now a total of 37 goals in just 5 games! Good luck to the boys in the quarter finals!



U15 Boys Football

The boys won both of their league games against Stowupland and Newmarket 3-0 and 3-1 respectively, these wins resulted in them winning division 2 and promotion into division 1 for their final season.

The boys then lost 3-0 in the county cup but conducted themselves superbly through this years campaign. They have also represented the academy in a futsal tournament against Breckland. MCA entered two teams which finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.



U14 Badminton

Well done to the Under 14 badminton team who played really well against Newmarket and Stowmarket on Wednesday 1st December, great effort.



U16 Boys Football

The boys won all three of their league games against Newmarket, Breckland and Stowupland, 3-2, 3-2 and 4-3 respectively. These victories ensured that they won their league. They also won 6-2 against Thomas Mills but lost in the next round of the cup by a convincing margin to end an overall successful campaign. Stand out player was Jake Stephenson who scored 11 goals across all fixtures.

U15/16 Rugby

The boys attended a multi-school tournament at Stowmarket rugby club. The boys earned victories against Stowmarket and Ixworth, but fell just short against a strong County Upper side. Effort from all involved was superb and students demonstrated great teamwork during each game. The boys have another tournament at Ipswich rugby club in the new year.

U14 Basketball

The U14 boys' basketball team have showed great determination so far winning both their opening games against Stowmarket and Ormiston Sudbury comfortably. Their teamwork over the two games improved tremendously, allowing them to score 18 points in just one quarter of the game against Stowmarket. The boys look ahead to Wednesday the 8th for their last game against St. Benedicts where they hope to make it three wins out of three.

U16 Girls Football

The U16 girls football started off in the cup with an amazing result against IES Breckland winning 8-0! The girls showed composure when playing and also great skill on the ball to see off our local rivals. The girls now progress into the next round against Kesgrave.

U13 Girls Netball

The Year 7 Girls have had a number of netball fixtures this term, playing Westley, Sybil Andrews and King Edwards. The girls have shown resilience

and tried their hardest. They look forward to every game and have shown progress each fixture.

Former Student is a star at World Cup!

Former student Tymal Mills has been representing England recently in the T20 World Cup in the UAE after a very successful hundred season with the Southern Brave.

Tymal studied at MCA in years 9-11 and then joined our sixth form where he gained some excellent results before heading off to University. Tymal featured in all 4 group games before sadly getting injured and his tournament was ended prematurely. Tymal mentions MCA in a podcast he hosts with Mark Wood called No Pace for Radio. In the podcast Tymal talks about his A level PE assessment and his Duke of Edinburgh award. We wish Tymal a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back in an England shirt.



Follow the PE Faculty on twitter
@MilPEdept



Under 16 Girls Football Team

10 TOP TIPS

For Good Mental Health



Looking after ourselves and each other is important. As well as the top tips above in the poster created by MCA students information and advice can be found on our website. Students learn about wellbeing in SKL lessons and tutor time. They can also seek support from our pastoral team.

Clubs and Activities AUTUMN 2021



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Lunch (7/9/11)	E Sports (9 & 11 only) G14	Week A Year 11 Football Astro Week A BAME Society F8 Year 11 Football Astro	Badminton Sports Hall	Week B LGBTQ+ Lunch Club Yrs S22 Week B Keyboard Club (12:05) S12 Week A Volleyball/ Basketball Sports Hall	Week A Keyboard Club (12:05) S12
Second Lunch (8/10)	E Sports G14 Keyboard Club (1:20) S12 Badminton Sports Hall	Week A BAME Society F8 Week B Futsal Sports Hall	Week B Football Astro	Week A LGBTQ+ Lunch Club S22 Week A Football Astro	Cyber Security G14
After School	KS3 Girls Fitness Hall Badminton Sports Hall Football Astro This Girl Can (Invite only) SEND Homework and Sport Homework Support - All year groups Library	Understanding your computers (Computing students) G14 Cheerleading - all years Hall Homework Support - All year groups Library	KS4 Girls Fitness Hall Basketball/ Handball Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Sports Hall Rugby Astro Lego Robots (all years) G14 Homework Support - All year groups Library Art Sessions 3:15-4:15 F20 / F21	Netball All years Hard Courts Boys Fitness Hall Basketball/ Handball Yrs 10 & 11 Sports Hall Homework Support - All year groups Library Voice Squad S11 Band S12	Homework Support - All year groups Library



Mildenhall College
ACADEMY



Teamworkers

Together Everyone
Achieves More.



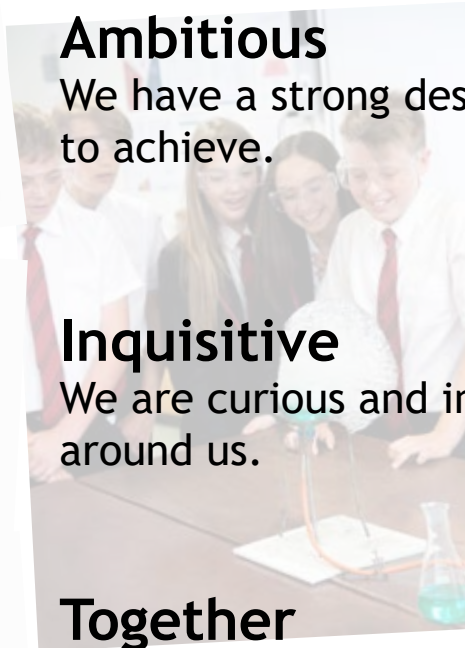
Resilient

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



Ambitious

We have a strong desire and determination
to achieve.



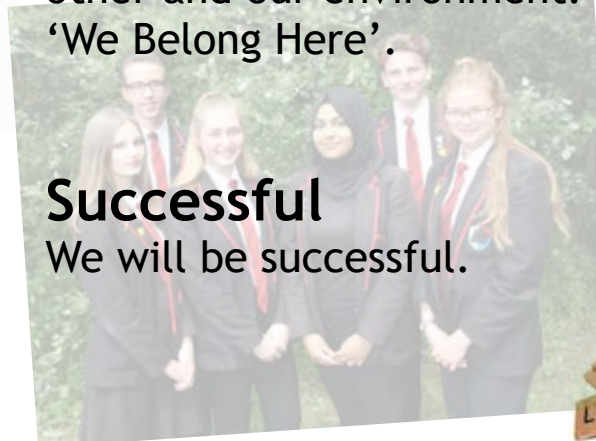
Inquisitive

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.

