### Mildenhall College Academy



# NEWSLETTER



October 2022



Principal: Miss N Hood

Mildenhall College Academy | The Hub | Sheldrick Way | Mildenhall | Suffolk | IP28 7JX

Tel: 01638 714645 | Fax: 01638 510184 | Email: MCA-reception@attrust.org.uk

www.mildenhall.attrust.org.uk

Twitter: @MilCollege | Facebook: Mildenhall-College-Academy

# Welcome

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

I am so excited to share with you this first edition of our newsletter and at the time of writing this we are 1334 students strong and growing! It highlights so many wonderful things that have taken place in just this half term from trips and visits to sporting events and the everyday learning and lessons that take place. Inside this newsletter is also a range of information to help you support your child to be successful at MCA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with homework and helping your child to succeed. The completion rate of homework has been high and this is



contributing to the progress made across the curriculum. Building those good habits such as independence, resilience and organisation are vital and help to ensure every child achieves their very best both academically and in being the best they can be. Well done to the students who have really set the bar high in completing and producing some truly outstanding homework. It has also been great to see the numbers attending the after-school homework club grow steadily over the half term. This is a great way of having a safe and quiet space with access to IT and staff support to complete homework and is open every day to all students.

Further to the link to the DFE guidance sent out ahead of the start to the academic year you will see information included with this newsletter around attendance and illness. Please take time to look at the guidance from Public Health England as this forms the basis of when and how we authorise absence based on illness. We appreciate that everyone will experience illness at times but ask that your child is only off school where absolutely necessary.

You will also have received a copy of our draft Relationships and Health Education policy. We would like to gather any parent/carer views on this policy and would ask that you email any feedback to <a href="mailto:mca-reception@attrust.org.uk">mca-reception@attrust.org.uk</a> for the attention of the Principal. You can view our curriculum on our website and it is very important to us that you are aware of and involved in, how we approach and deliver these topics.

Year 11 have started the year well and are halfway through their first set of mock exams. They have conducted themselves brilliantly and shown great ambition and resilience in every instance. Managing exam stress as well as maintaining positive mental health is vitally important and we encourage all of our year 11 students to take time out over the half term break to relax and enjoy themselves.

# Welcome

Finally, I would like to say a huge well done to all of our new Year 7 students who have quickly settled into the routine of life at MCA and who are making a brilliant contribution to the culture and atmosphere. We are excited for them, and all of the students at MCA, for their current and future successes.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I have and I wish you all a wonderful half term break.

**Best wishes** 

MHON

Work hard; be kind

Miss N Hood Principal Working together; supporting individuals

### **Design Technology**

Our KS3 DT students have been using their creative problem solving skills to create graphically interesting album covers for both existing bands and bands of their own creations, here are just a few examples. Well done 9X1!





# **Dates For Your Diary**

Monday 31st October - Students Return

Thursday 3rd November 2022 - Year 9 Parents' Evening 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Monday 7th November - Year 11 & 13 Trip to Parliament

Tuesday 8th November - Ski Trip Information Evening 5:30 pm

Thursday 10th November - Year 13 Enrichment Day

Tuesday 15th November - Year 8 Vaccinations

Thursday 24th November - Year 12 Parents' Evening 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Tuesday 29th November - Year 9 Sports Trip

Wednesday 30th November - Friday 2nd December - Sixth Form Battlefields Trip

Friday 2nd December - Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day

Friday 2nd December - Sixth Form Christmas Trip

Thursday 8th December - Year 9 Vaccinations

Friday 9th December - Year 9 Art Trip to the Natural History Museum

Tueday 13th December - Carol Concert 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Thursday 15th December - Awards Evening 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Friday 16th December - Last day of Term





Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and twitter to keep up with important information and all the exciting things taking place at MCA

# **Business, Health and Computing**

This term has seen us introduce a new online learning platform called Brightspace for all students studying Business Studies, Computing and Health and Social Care. This has been a big change in how teachers and students work but after trialling it with some classes last year, we are confident the time taken to learn the new platform will be worth it.

To access Brightspace from home, students need to go to:

https://att.brightspace.com as there are lots of versions and going to the wrong version will mean students can't sign in. Students should then click on Single Sign on and use their academy email address (YearstartedSurnameFirstinitial-MCA@ attrust.org.uk, e.g. 22SextonM-MCA@ attrust.org.uk Mr Sexton started in year 7 this year) and their normal computer password. Please email Mr Sexton (martin.sexton@attrust.org.uk) if your child has any issues logging on.

Brightspace is being used for all classwork and homework tasks and as your child gets familiar with all it has to offer, they will start to benefit more and more.

 Students only need to complete homework on Brightspace meaning there is nothing physical to hand in on the homework due date

These benefits include:

- Students can see class work for lessons they miss (and hopefully use this to catch up) meaning less learning is missed
- Students will be able to see a detailed break down of topic areas that are

strengths and weaknesses to help focus their revision

- Opportunities for feedback are less likely to be missed as lots of this is now automated
- Assessment resources can be stored on Brightspace to help with revision
- There is an organised calendar for each subject and an overall one covering all subjects with important dates able to be highlighted
- Key terms are listed in the glossary and Knowledge organiser have their own unit to help with revision
- Students can see a clear overview of units, lessons and the year to understand their learning journey with us better

We know there will be teething problems with this new system but students and staff are working hard to understand it and there has been some excellent progress so far. The platform is already improving students' independence in their learning with students taking an active role in using it to understand topics they need further help with.

There are some exciting features that we are looking at:

- Parent access to give you better access to your child's progress and homework tasks (similar to go4schools)
- Badges and certificates to celebrate achievements and promote a love of learning



THE MCA WAY - We are here to learn and be successful!

A cadenic excellence

Be the best you can be

Contribute positively to the community





We take <u>PRIDE</u> in our work because it shows we care about our education and it helps us to review and reflect on our learning and progress.



Presentation of work is important because organised and tidy notes and diagrams are useful to us when we need to revise and prepare for assessments and exams.



Every piece of work should have a title and date and these should be underlined with a ruler. We write in pen and we draw in pencil.



We record <u>new vocabulary</u> accurately and we take care with our spelling, punctuation and grammar. We take notice of corrections that have been made by our teacher.



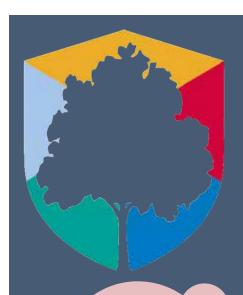
homework to complete the tasks set so that we can demonstrate the new knowledge and skills we have learned.





We contribute positively to our lessons and we take respons ib lity for our learning. We respond to feedback by completing <u>DIRT</u> tasks and showing we have understood by making improvements.

Success@MCA



THE MCA WAY
MEANS WE ARE
READY TO LEARN
BY HAVING THE
FOLLOWING
EQUIPMENT:



Your timetable so
you know where
you should be at all
times

A black or blue pen (and a spare)

A ruler for underlining titles and dates

A green pen for responding to feedback

A pencil for drawing and an eraser because making mistakes is part of learning!

A scientific calculator for Maths and Science

# HOMEWORK

# HOMEWORK IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR LEARNING AND IS PART OF THE MCA WAY.

- IT HELPS DEVELOP INDEPENDENT WORKING
- IT ENSURES YOU RECALL LEARNING AND THEREFORE HELPS ENSURE YOU SECURE KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW AND REMEMBER MORE
- IT ALLOWS TEACHERS TO SET INDIVIDUAL WORK TO HELP YOU IMPROVE AREAS SPECIFIC TO YOU
- IT PREPARES YOU FOR THE REVISION REQUIRED FOR ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS
- IN YEARS 10-13 HOMEWORK IS SET WEEKLY
- IN YEARS 7-9 MATHS, ENGLISH AND SCIENCE ARE SET WEEKLY WITH ALL OTHER SUBJECTS SET FORTNIGHTLY
- IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE AND/OR HAND YOUR HOMEWORK IN ON TIME YOU WILL GET A DETENTION THE FOLLOWING DAY
- YOU CAN ATTEND HOMEWORK CLUB EVERYDAY
   AFTER SCHOOL WITH ACCESS TO A QUIET SPACE,
   STAFF SUPPORT AND IT

We have really appreciated the support from parents and carers in helping their child succeed with homework. Well done to the students for some excellent homework.

From half term Year 10 and 11 will have an after school detention for late or non-completion of homework. Year 8 will also continue to be set a detention but this will move to lunchtime. Year 7 and 9 will be added at a later date.

# **House News**

### Seacole House

Students of the Week this half term have included: Rhys Leader for academic. Zack Stanford for supplying teddies for students to use in the SEND area, an incredibly kind gesture. Jayden Mosley for helping to collect litter at lunchtime and making a positive contribution to the community. Luke Ring for winning his motocross event with one race to spare. He has also made a fantastic start to life at MCA. Charlie Brickett for demonstrating the MCA TRAITS in a variety of different subjects including PE, Spanish and English.

Seacole 3 and 4 both had 100% attendance and were rewarded with cookies during tutor time.

Seacole House recently took part in an End Ball House Competition. All students conducted themselves superbly and demonstrated the MCA TRAITS. The eagerly anticipated results of this competition will be announced after half term!

### Austen House

We have had a very positive start to the new academic year. Several students have been getting involved with the academy Student Voice committees and sharing their ideas on how to make MCA even better. The Austen House Council meeting also took place last week and the student representatives shared their tutor groups' suggestions in a very positive way with lots of great ideas! We have had several students nominated for 'Student of the Week' by staff, showing that Austen students are demonstrating the MCA TRAITS on a daily basis. Well done to the Austen 'Students of the Week' this half term:

- Eleanor Barnfather (Year 8)
- Kian Nicholls (Year 11)
- Emily Hovell (Year 11)
- Mayumi Torres (Year 8)
- Chloe Fuller (Year 9)
- Arthur Miller (Year 11)





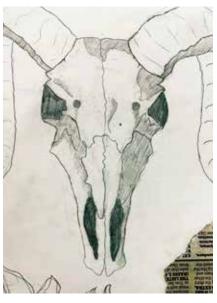
ACADEMY





In honour of the worldwide annual Inktober drawing celebration, initially created to encourage all drawing in its many varieties and forms, we are sharing some of the sketches and drawings coming out of our Art classrooms across all Key stages to highlight the hard work and talent of all of our students. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Miss Moles-Smith Subject Leader of Art











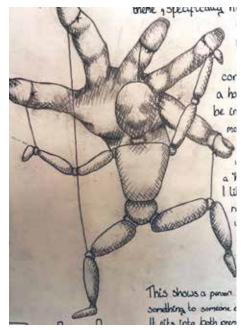


# Inktober





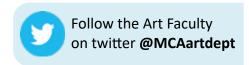












# **Emotional Wellbeing**

Mildenhall College Academy will be marking Children's Mental Health Week on 6th-12th February 2023. The theme is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. More information about activities will follow.

### **Creative Education**

If your child is struggling to manage their emotions and you would like to have some support and guidance on how to help them we are able to offer you Creative Education Community Membership access for a set period. Membership will give you access to over 100 courses which will help you as a Parent or Carer. Examples of courses available are: Supporting your teen, improving children's sleep with these top tips, supporting your worried child and many more.

Think positive

Spend time with supportive friends

Spend time with supportive friends

Spend time with supportive friends

Spend time outside

Spend time with supportive friends

Spend time outside

Spend time outside

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Spend time outside

Spend time outside

Spend time outside

Each course is made up of a series of bite-sized videos. You can watch them all in one go, or spread them out, whatever suits you best. For every completed course you can download a certificate to mark your progress.

If you would like to access any of the courses please contact me by email **helen.mcmullan@attrust.org.uk** so I can arrange your membership for an agreed period of time.

### Signposting information

Kooth – website YoungMinds – website SHOUT – Text AFC to 85258 YoungMinds – Text YM to 85258 NHS 111 Option 2 (24/7 mental health support) Mind – 0300 123 3393 Childline – 0800 1111

### Mildenhall College Academy Website

There is a range of useful information for young people and adults supporting them on our website, this includes podcasts and other website links. This can be found under the student link Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Helen McMullan Senior Mental Health Lead



# **Open Evening**



We were delighted to welcome prospective Year 6 pupils and their parents / carers to our Open Evening on 29th September. A huge thank you to our Year 11 Prefects and Student Helpers for making it such a successful evening.

# Successful@MCA









# **Attendance**

### **Attendance Matters!**

Research has proven that students who regularly attend school achieve better academic results at GCSE as well as in their post 16 studies. This in turn helps them to succeed in the workplace and in being healthy and happy citizens. The more a student can achieve at school, both academically but also in the qualities and values they develop, the more opportunities open up to them throughout their lives. Our curriculum focuses on the academic but also the enrichment and additional opportunities that help make the curriculum so broad and exciting.

If a student is unwell, then please refer to the attached PHE guidance around what the expectation is in terms of attending school. It is vital that students return as soon as they can after illness. If a student needs to attend a medical appointment, then please make sure you provide evidence of the appointment to the attendance office either by emailing or sending in the appointment confirmation.

### **Punctuality Matters!**

The academy day starts at 9:00am and all students are expected to be on site by 8:55am. The gate will be closed at 8:55am and if a student arrives after this time, they will receive a detention. This does not include where lateness is due to a bus running late where staff are notified, and students do not receive a late mark. During the day students are expected to arrive at all lessons on time to ensure everyone can learn in a positive learning environment without disruption. Please reinforce the importance of attendance and punctuality with your child and how it helps them to be successful.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance or attendance in general please contact your child's tutor or the attendance office for guidance and support.

Every week we award the highest attending tutor group with a cookie reward.

Congratulations to Cavell 9 (pictured above right) and Cavell 5 (below right) who are our first 2 attendance winners.









# **Attendance**

### **Travelling to/from MCA**

It is important that all students remember that they are representing the academy when travelling to and from the academy whether on foot, by bus or by bike. The behaviour policy applies at these times but most importantly we want MCA students to understand their contribution to their community must always be positive for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Members of the public and those who live along the route to the academy have a right to feel safe and secure in their surroundings just like everyone else.

### Parking at MCA

We have been asked to remind all visitors to the academy that you must use the allocated parking, including for dropping off and picking up, and not use the disabled parking area. The council will be putting parking enforcement in place in the near future.



# Our Aims:

- ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- · BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE
- · CONTIZIBUTE POSITIVELY TO YOUTZ COMMUNITY



# **Battlefields Trip**



As part of their GCSE history studies, Year 11 students spent a weekend exploring the First World War battlefields of Belgium and France between the 15th and 17th October.

This trip was postponed from the heatwave in July and although the students have had to wait, they were excited to see the sites where the battles of the First World War took place and learn about real people who were involved in the devastating conflict over 100 years ago.

We visited museums, cemeteries and trench systems and took part in the Last Post at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

We were also really excited to say hello again to our Christmas Truce memorial, which we put up with our German partner school back in 2014. We stayed at the Peace Village in Messines.

"You sit in a classroom and you tell us a number, and you think, 'that's big'. But to be in a cemetery and see their ages and names. You have made individuals stories come to life. You don't learn that in a classroom." *Paige Stannard, Year 11* 





# **Battlefields Trip**









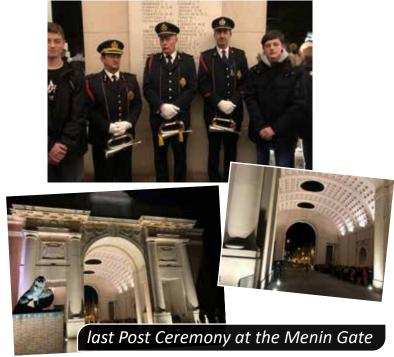




**Tom Chambers** (pictured above)visited the grave of his great great grandfather, Cpl Flory, at the New Irish Farm cemetary.







# This Half Term @MCA6



# This Half Term @MCA



# **Everyone Learning @MCA**

Dr. Hobbs spent a few days over the summer at the National STEM learning centre in York as part of her Early Careers Teacher CPD.

Dr. Hobbs, whose background includes academia, as well as sales and marketing and re-trained to be a chemistry teacher during COVID.

"It was a fantastic three days at an amazing venue with excellent instructors where I was able to immerse myself in all three sciences for KS3 & 4 and their practical elements, as well as have some fun with chemistry. Here I am - looking quite terrified setting fire to methane bubbles - I remember this was the first time I finally had a chance to do this experiment after seeing it demonstrated and it was quite an experience actually doing it myself. Going on this funded course has given me much more insight into the most up-to-date approaches for teaching the sciences and inspiring a new generation of scientists. Watch out soon for my science club!"

Dr. Hobbs



**Ambitious@MCA** 

#### Drama

Students who attend the performing arts club have been working hard on a musical theatre number from the hit musical "Matilda". The club is run by Miss Stewart-Hogg and Miss Kerruish every Tuesday after school in the Drama Studio and is open to students in years 7-11. After half term we will be working on a new musical theatre number, so come along and work on your performing arts skills!



# Sixth Form



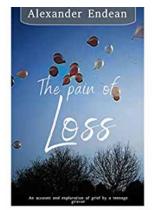
On December 5th, 2015, I lost my Stepdad unexpectedly due to kidney failure. The loss has impacted my family greatly, as he was the most kindhearted, loving man I'd ever met. The academy has provided support through the years, and this helped the healing process. Taking all of this into consideration, I decided to publish a book called The Pain of Loss, in my summer holidays. It is an exploration of the psychology of grief and my own

experiences with all proceeds going to Kidney Research Uk.

The book wasn't the easiest to write, but I hope it provides comfort to anyone struggling with grief, or even struggling with mental health in general. The support for the book so far has been amazing, with appearances in the Bury Free Press and Zack FM Radio, and I couldn't have done this without the support of my friends, family and teachers.

The book can be purchased on Amazon and is priced at £5.00.

Alex Endean, Year 13



### **Psychology**

Sixth Form Psychology students worked in small groups to create a timeline of psychologists through history and include explanations of what theories and concepts they were linked to. The students in this group were extremely proud of their work and wanted to showcase it.

Jess Burton, Year 12



# **Sport**

### **Gymnastics**

Year 8 student,
Amalie Turner
competed at the
prestigious British
Teams gymnastics
competition on
Sunday 2nd October.



Being one of the youngest there at only 12 competing against seniors 16+ in age she did amazingly well and placed 3rd with her team. Well done Amalie!

### **Sports Leaders**



Our leaders had their first event of the year with the Primary School Sports Partnership football tournament at Great Heath Academy.

We had a range of students from years 8, 9 and 10 supporting. Students undertook a variety of roles including referee, linesperson and scorekeeper. They officiated all games with confidence and enthusiasm, and helped with scoring. They did this all in awful weather conditions, keeping a smile on their face throughout! We received lots of positive comments about our leaders and the fantastic job they did. Well done all!

# Teamwork@MCA

### **U16 Netball**

The U16 Netball team played in the Western Area Netball tournament at Thomas Gainsborough on the 22nd September. They played three games with the best result being a tight draw against St Benedicts. The girls played some fantastic Netball and had a great afternoon representing the academy.



### **U12 Netball**

The U12 team went for their first MCA netball tournament away at Sybil Andrews. The girls seemed very nervous but in high spirits. The first game against Castle Manor was a tough one, however, the girls grew into the game and started to find their feet. The second game against Sybil Andrews started well, with the girls managing to score a couple of their shots. The third against Stowupland saw the girls go 2-0 up at half time, however a very strong Stowupland side saw the girls unfortunately lose 3-2. The girls gave it their all and learnt a lot from the tournament. Onwards and upwards for the next tournament in December at MCA! Well done girls.



### U14/15 Netball

The U14 and U15 girls went to Thomas Gainsborough to represent MCA in the Western area tournament. Both teams had tough opposition and a hard group stage however, both teams came out fighting.

The U15's started with a close game against St Benedict's, getting narrowly beaten 4-2. The U14's starting on winning ways with a 10-6 win against Thurston. The U15's then unfortunately lost their next 2 games to very strong Finborough and TGS teams, however the girls were getting into the flow with the games and building strength by strength every game. The U15's then played their last game against County Upper and lost by 1 goal (3-2 in the last minute of the game!). Some great play throughout this game with a special mention to defender Vanessa Wilkens and mid-court player Clara Armsby for fighting to the end. Well done girls. The U14's were playing at the same time with an unfortunate loss to another strong Finborough team (10-2). The girls then got back to their winning

ways with a 6-5 win over KES. Sharp shooting from Macey Alecock and calm midcourt play for Ala Konoplanska helped MCA towards their 2nd win of the day. The girls then came up against Sybil Andrews, opposition they had played the day before (losing 12-5). The girls had learnt from the day before and sharp defending from Lyric Allen and Lila Keogh gave the girls a 2-2 draw!

The U14's qualified for the knockout stages coming up against a very strong and well drilled Culford team. The girls lost 11-4 but heads where still held high! In the 3rd /4th play off, the U14s came up against Stowmarket. The girls found themselves 4-0 down at half time and tiredness had set in. An unexpected injury occurred at the start of the 2nd half and the girls were forced to play with 6 players. Even after fighting hard the girls unfortunately lost 6-0. Heads held high the girls were very happy with their 4th place out of 13 teams. Well done both teams!

@MilPEdept

Follow the PE Faculty on twitter

### **U15 Football**

The year 10 boys enjoyed their first football fixture of the year, playing against four other schools at the King Edward School. The games were short in length and only 8-a-side, which meant that rolling subs were allowed so all participating had to adapt well to be successful. The boys showed great teamwork and strength to win their first 3 games all 1-0 against Stour Valley, **Ormiston Sudbury and King Edward** School. The last game was then between MCA and Thomas Gainsborough who had also won all their games, so it was all to play for. The full-time result of this game was 0-0 so we went straight to penalties where MCA just edged it winning 5-4. Great individual performances and togetherness from the squad helped them all achieve success.

### **U14 Football**

The U14 football team enjoyed their football festival at IES Breckland School against Breckland and Newmarket. The squad showed really good unity and teamwork to come away with two very comfortable victories, as well as keeping clean sheets in both of their games.

### **U13 Football**

The year 8 football team have started the year off strongly, beating Samuel Ward 5-0 at home. This was our first game at 11 aside as a team, and they started off as strongly as last year. MCA played some great football, managing to keep the ball on the floor well in windy conditions. Oliver Harvey and Henry Edwards played

well in midfield, also with the high work rate of Bailey Gibbs on the wing. Aeden Bennett played his first game for MCA and was solid at the back. Goals came from Jesse Logan, Maxim Mlityalawa, Bailey Gibbs, Dylan Shaw and Max Rose. We will play either Breckland or St Benedicts in the next round.

#### **U12 Football**

MCA took on Breckland in their football fixture. MCA were under a lot of pressure early on in the fixture however, showed a lot of resilience to make it 1-0 against the run of play. Breckland then made it 1-1 quickly after. The game was end to end and the 1st half-finished 2-2. Breckland started the second half well and took the lead, making it 3-2. Mildenhall did not give up and made it 3-3 from a free kick. The last kick of the game was a penalty kick. A lot of pressure from Jensen to take the kick but he handled it really well and the score finished 4-3 to Mildenhall.

#### **Bowls**

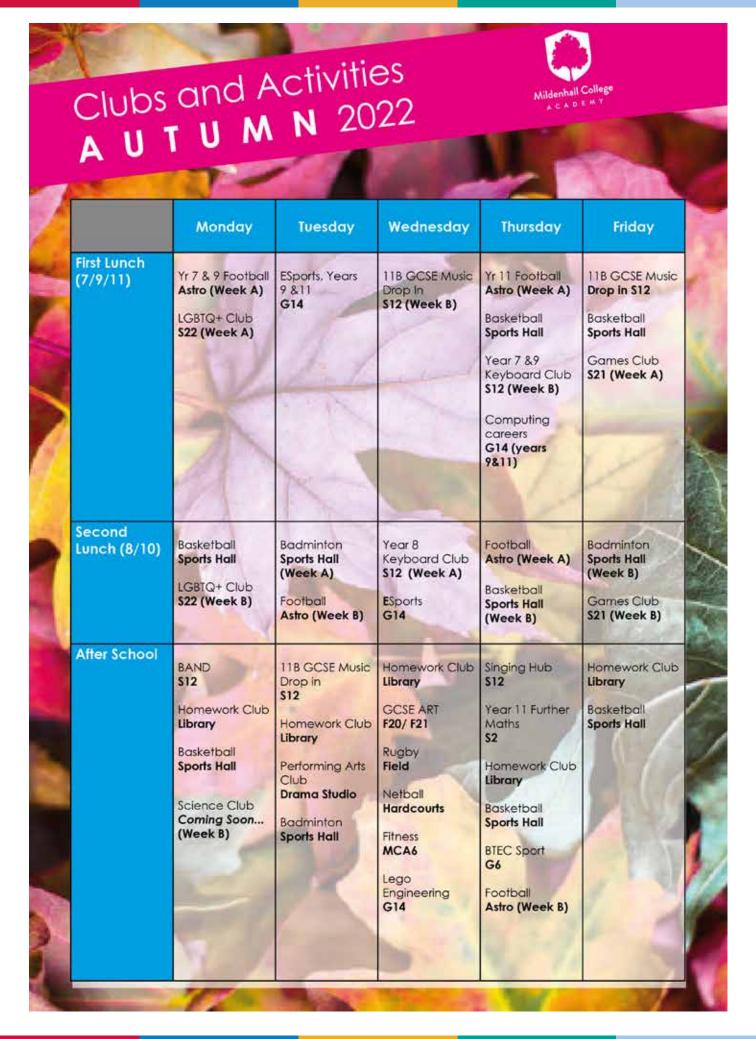
Congratulations to Year 11 student,

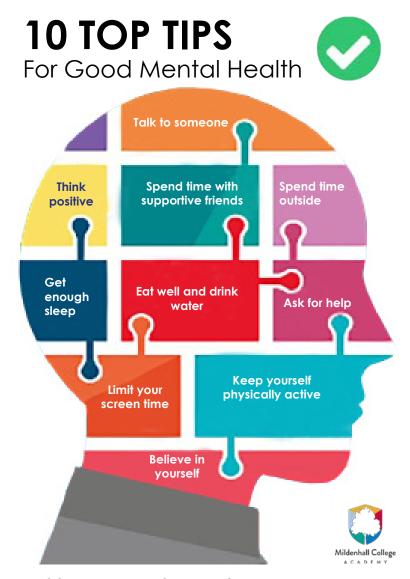
Aidan Fouracre, who won the Most Improved Player award at his local bowls club award evening.

Pictured right: Aiden Fouracre, Year 11









We have a number of first aid qualified staff in the academy who are able to respond to any emergencies. Most of the time we are dealing with students who have a headache or who feel unwell in a general sense. In these instances we will contact parents / carers to gain permission for a paracetamol to be given or to inform that a child feels unwell. If a child feels unwell we will offer a drink of water and something to eat if appropriate. We are not able to offer medical care beyond this as we do not have the medical expertise or facilities to do this. In these instances we will contact you for a decision about whether your child comes home or stays in the academy. We try to encourage students to remain in the academy accessing their learning unless they are too unwell.

In any eventuality students must go to student reception for us to contact you and not make contact themselves as mobile phone use is not permitted. If your child has a long term or temporary condition affecting their ability to be in the academy as normal or where we need to be aware for their safety and comfort please contact your child's House Leader who will arrange a meeting and where necessary an individual health care plan.



### **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.

