

Mildenhall College Academy



# NEWSLETTER



March 2024



## Trip of a Lifetime to San Francisco

Principal: Miss N Hood

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# Dates For Your Diary



Last Day of Term - Thursday 28th March

PD Day - Friday 12th April

Students Return - Monday 15th April

Year 10 DT Food Trip - Thursday 18th April

Silver D of E Expedition - Friday 19th April

ESports Final - Monday 22nd April

Drama Showcase Event - Thursday 25th April

Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May

Year 10 DT Food Trip - Monday 13th May

PE Trip - Wednesday 22nd May

Art Trip to the Sealife Centre - Wednesday 22nd May

Year 7X Parents' Evening - Thursday 23rd May

Year 11 Leavers Day - Friday 24th May

Half Term Break - Monday 27th - Friday 31st May

Students Return - Monday 3rd June



***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***

# Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Easter newsletter and as always what a wonderful reflection of the staff and students at MCA as well as the wider community who support us with these wonderful experiences. Next half term is a busy one with lots of trips and visits and Year 11 and Year 13 preparing for their final examinations. The first week back will be busy for a different reason too as the Trust interview candidates for the post of Principal of MCA.



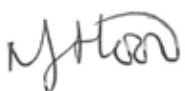
I have been at MCA for 20 years and I have loved every minute of it. It has been my greatest pride and privilege to have been a member of staff here and more recently the Principal. Over the years we have faced many challenges such as the pandemic, moving to a new site and the maintenance of the old site but overwhelmingly my memories are of successes and the consistent sense of a strong team – a family. I have always been committed to building a community where everyone is valued and where everyone knows they are cared for and that they can achieve whatever they set their minds to. Over the years our results have gone from strength to strength and last year students achieved higher than their peers in other schools. This is testament to the ambition and hard work of all the students and staff. It is not just about academic achievements and when I reflect on the contact I have from former students (there are many over 20 years) I am always proud to hear not just about their degrees or their careers but about how fondly they remember their time at MCA and the support they received and how that has helped them take on new and brave opportunities. It is always lovely to hear how happy they are and how they have confidently found their way in the world.

School is not a qualification it is an experience, one that prepares you for life and lifelong learning and opportunities. It has been my privilege to have been involved in a small way in the lives of so many students. I would also like to thank staff and students, past and present, for the value and joy you have all added to my life. I have a wealth of memories that will stay with me forever. I am looking forward to my new role in our Trust looking after 5 secondary academies, including Mildenhall, and will of course hold a special place in my heart as I work with MCA in a different way.

There is still a term to go and I remain committed to ensuring it is a great one!

I wish you all a lovely Easter break.

Best wishes



Miss N Hood  
Principal

Work hard; be kind

Working together; supporting individuals



# Careers

On Wednesday 14th February, we welcomed Emma from Jet2 airlines to MCA. Students who wanted to learn more about the career pathway to becoming a Cabin Crew member came along for a morning session with Emma. Students got to learn about the process of becoming a Cabin Crew member, what skills and qualifications they would need.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions about the life of a Cabin Crew member. Emma also brought along safety equipment and explained lots of the procedures that take place in getting the plane ready for take-off. Emma highlighted in her talk that all of the MCA traits we follow are essential in this line of work, especially teamwork.



'I really enjoyed the session and found it helpful thinking about my future.'

**Year 9 Student**

'It was really helpful to hear from someone in that career.'

**Year 8 Student**

## Cross-stitch and Crochet Club



This half term in Crochet Club, we have been spreading joy in our community by dropping the hearts we made last term in playgrounds, on benches and bus stops for people to find. We have also continued to learn new stitches and techniques. Our current project is making worry worms. We plan to drop these into our community after the Easter holidays.

In cross-stitch club, we have continued to work on our elves, using back stitching to

make their features stand out. Some of us have completed our elves and are moving on to our next project.

We are choosing from a number of 'thank you' designs created by Miss Davies and plan to make these as tokens of appreciation for people that have helped us.

As always, we would really appreciate any donations from cross-stitch fabric (adia) and yarn (particularly aran/worsted/chunky weight).

### Miss Davies and Mrs Holden



# Mr Barrett to Run First London Marathon

In April 2024 I will be running my first marathon in London in aid of the heroic charity Children With Cancer.

It has been a long time ambition of mine to run the London Marathon in 2024 as I will have recently turned 50. In addition both of my children will be at university so I will have the time to commit to the training.

I am very proud of their achievements and as they embark on a life of independence I can now spend some time helping others in need. I have chosen to raise money for CWC so some comfort can be given to those families having to deal with such trauma.

I also hope the money can go towards raising more money so a cure can soon be found so no other children and their families have to suffer such an unforgiving disease. I am hoping to raise £2000 so any small amount donated will be greatly received. Having your support will help me with the long

training runs in the winter and will inspire me to complete the challenge on the day. On behalf of those Children With Cancer thank you for your support.

You can donate to Mr Barrett via this link:

[https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/david-barrett?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=whatsapp?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=whatsapp](https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/david-barrett?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp)



## Youth Award Tea Party

7X6 Youth Award group have been looking at Alice in Wonderland and why the tea party was so significant to the story. We decided it would be a fab idea to plan and organise our very own tea party.

They created mood boards for what they would like to include in their Tea Party, the history behind how afternoon tea and tea parties came about. As a group they then set about looking at recipes and did some budget sheets on how much it would all cost. They designed invites and invited the Teaching Assistants to a Tea Party that they organised and run.

It was great fun and of course the cakes and sandwiches went down very well!



# San Francisco Trip

This was MCA's first visit back to San Francisco after Covid. The aim of this trip is to inspire students to think beyond Mildenhall and the local area and expose them to new things. Students also develop their independence, being so far from their families.



decision with little warning. Staff and students started to look at the alternatives. With the other parks in the area making similar decisions, we decided to go to the popular San Francisco Zoo. Students had the chance to visit the animals and with it being around the time of the Chinese New Year, there was even a parade in honour of the occasion. We finished the day with some shopping at a local shopping centre before heading back to the hostel and then onto the Hard Rock Café for dinner.

## Saturday

We left MCA bright and early (around 7am) on Saturday 17th February and managed to get through security very easily at Heathrow. This gave students and staff a chance to get some food (including lots of sweets and sugary drinks) and relax for the journey ahead. We had a few nervous students but they soon settled into the flight and spent it chatting, playing games and watching films.

We landed in San Francisco around 4pm local time, getting to the hostel around 6pm. This gave everyone a chance to freshen up after checking in before taking a stroll down to Pier 39 where we had dinner booked at Bubba Gump's.

## Sunday

Sunday was our first full day in San Francisco. The plan was to visit Six Flags theme park for a day to work out the jet lag. On the way to Six Flags, we crossed the Golden Gate bridge for two photo opportunities, one on each side of the bridge. After the brief stops, it was time to head to Six Flags. Unfortunately, bad weather in the area meant that management decided that they had to shut the park for the day just as we arrived.

Gales and severe downpours were forecast and with the unpredictable nature of San Francisco weather, they made the difficult

## Monday

On the Monday, we took a walking tour around the city. We were met by a tour guide just outside the hostel and we jumped on a series of buses up to The Painted Ladies (some Victorian homes which have appeared in several TV shows and films. There were great views of the city from here.

From here, we took buses back towards the main part of the city where we visited China Town and Little Italy, finding out about the history of these places and seeing some of the architecture. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable and we ended the tour at a local mall for students to do a little bit more shopping. Afterwards, we took the cable car back towards Pier 39 where we ate at Bubba Gump's again. Students were given a bit of free time around the pier before dinner.

## Tuesday

On Tuesday, we had a packed agenda. Starting out at Stamford University, we took a tour around the campus where we viewed several different buildings and having a look at sites of interest such as the main chapel, the computer science building and the oval. Our next stop was to the TECH interactive museum which is full of various exhibits linked to Science and Technology. Most of the exhibits are interactive and allowed the



# San Francisco Trip

students to learn through fun. Following on from this, we visited the Apple visitor centre where the students were invited to use iPads to use Augmented Reality to find out about the Apple campus, where most Apple's developments are created. We rounded off the day visiting the homes where Apple and HP were founded. These were brief stops due to the fact they are in residential neighbourhoods.

## Wednesday

Our final full day was another packed day in Silicon Valley. It started with a trip to Electronic Arts (EA) where our hosts put on an incredible tour of their facilities. We started with an introduction into the building. The main purpose of the studio is to develop the Sims game. Our host took our students through some of the recreational facilities that the employees get to enjoy before visiting some of the staff at EA. We visited their esports broadcasting centre to find out how esports is covered before we spoke to the Sims Sound Effects Team and Managers to find out how the games are made.

We followed this up with a trip to the NASA gift shop for a chance to get some souvenirs before spending time at the Computer History Museum where students were able to wander around the museum to understand how technology has developed. Exhibits included early 'computers' as well as some crazy inventions that never made it to manufacture.

We finished the day visiting Google's new Bay View campus. This is an incredible facility that they spent billions of dollars putting together using feedback from employees to develop the best possible workspace. Facilities within the building include, open plan workspaces, offices, areas

to relax as well as some sleep pods.

## Thursday

Our last day in San Francisco started with a trip to Alcatraz. We took a ferry over to the island where we took an audio tour around the prison finding out about the history of the prison and its uses. There was a chance to see how prisoners lived by viewing different cells and we heard about some of the most infamous prisoners like Al Capone as well as stories about attempted prison breaks.

Following this we spent time on Pier 39 for the final time before heading back to the hostel to get the coach for our airport transfers.

A massive thank you must go to Miss Finbow and Miss Robson who gave up their half term to join Mr Sexton on the trip and make it possible.

Look out for a highlights video and details of when the next trip will take place.



# Crufts



To get in to Crufts you have to compete in champion shows and achieve 1st, 2nd or 3rd place.

Then on the morning of the big day (Crufts) you need to take your show passes to get in to the NEC then you need your grooming bag that should include treats, show lead, dry dog food, brushes, dog hairspray, dog water bottle, dog bowls and a blanket for the crate.

Crufts have a rule that your dog must always stay in their crate unless you are showing your dog or taking them outside.



## Drama

Some fantastic creativity being demonstrated by Year 11.

Shoebbox stage models of key Blood Brothers scenes! Can't wait to see the finished products next week!





# Legoland Trip



Students (and Staff) enjoyed the remainder of their time wandering the park, going on rides and looking at the impressive Lego models. From a computing point of view, Sky Lion was incredible and no trip to Legoland would be complete without a ride on the dragon rollercoaster. Plenty of Lego was bought from the shops at the end of the day, with one student buying and building an impressive Bowser model.

As part of our push to help Year 9 students understand some of their GCSE options in the Business, Health and Computing faculty, we organised a trip to Legoland. 146 Year 9 students attended the trip which was more popular than initially anticipated.

Students were assigned to either a Computing workshop or a Business workshop. Each workshop lasted 45 minutes and students were then able to spend the rest of the time wandering the park.

The Computing workshop taught students how to program using the Lego Spike robots. Students were given a brief to build and decorate their robot first and then taught some basic instructions to get the robot moving. They are then tasked with solving a problem of moving the robot from one location to another. Lots of students then found out how to add sounds to their program which they then included with their 'victory dances'.

The Business workshop focused on some key aspects of the GCSE Business Studies exams which are also important to how Legoland runs. Students learned about marketing and the strategies that Legoland uses and also about the financial side of running a theme park. This workshop gave students a real insight into what GCSE business studies looks like.

The student feedback from the trip was extremely positive with students indicating that they really enjoyed being trusted to go around the park in their friendship groups and taking part in the workshops. We will be organising the same trip for the current Year 8 students next year.



# eSports Semi-Final



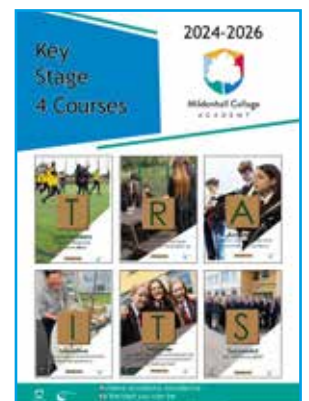
Ben, Aiden, Zach and Jack in Year 9 were invited to take part in the Digital Schoolhouse eSports semi-final having won the regional qualifier back in February. The semi-final was held at Guild eSports, which is co-owned by David Beckham, in London. The students competed against 4 other schools in a double elimination format. The game was Splatoon 3 which requires Teamwork to be successful. The students got to compete in the professional team rooms where they were able to devise and carry out their tactics.

The competition was intense, with all teams being evenly matched.

Unfortunately, their journey ended here but the students should be proud of their achievement to get this far and they demonstrated the MCA TRAITS throughout the competition.



## KS4 Options Evening



A big THANK YOU to all parents / carers and students who attended our Year 9 Options Evening.



# Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award



The Duke of Edinburgh silver students undertook their practice expedition from Friday 15th to Saturday 16th March. The group met at 6pm Friday evening where they set up for the evening. Thankfully, they managed to assemble their tents fast enough before the heavens opened an hour later. Despite the rain, it did not dampen the spirits of the silver crew who were determined to enjoy their evening before their expedition walk the next day.

Over night, a few car alarms kept us awake however we still managed to rise out of bed at 6am the next day. By 7:30am, the group had got up and ready for the day, made their breakfast using the camping stoves to good effect. Miss Davies made a very nice burger whilst the majority of us enjoyed pots of porridge.

The starting point of the practice expedition was in Icklingham. They started their route by 8am and navigated their way to their first checkpoint successfully with no breaks. The second part of their route was the longest stretch at just over 6km long, here the group showed excellent teamwork and completed this section in 1 hour and 30 minutes, which is a fast pace considering the bags they were carrying along the muddy footpaths

which they endured. Unfortunately, some of the footpaths we had planned to use are currently closed for repairs so a little re-routing from Mr Goodenough and Mr Waterson lead the group up to Elveden.

From here the group were driven down to West Row to finish the day walking along the river back to Mildenhall College Academy. Overall, it was a very successful D of E practice expedition with some excellent navigation skills from Rowen Ives keeping the team on track. Next challenge is the silver expedition from Friday 19th - Sunday 21st of April, which is a much tougher challenge along the North Norfolk coastline with sand dunes and more challenging navigational skills to conquer.





# Tower of London Visit



On Wednesday 13th March we went on the Year 8 History trip to London where we visited many interesting locations, each as rich in history as the one before. This trip was the second one organised by the academy as it was so popular.

After a two hour bus journey we arrived at the Tower of London and were given our wristband entry passes. We were split into smaller groups and our group went to see the crown jewels first of all. We saw many extravagant items, such as royal robes worn at the Coronation, the ancient anointing spoon – called an antique when first recorded in 1349, remarkable golden punch bowls and many other crowns and diamond encrusted royal items.

After this, we headed to Tower Green and walked the different walls and tower rooms as well as going inside the White Tower. To stay focused we were asked to count how many horses legs were in the White Tower. For future Year 8s who may go on this trip, the answer was 68!

After the Tower of London we headed for our tour around London linking to the history of Tudor and Stuart times. We kept stumbling on many tourist attractions, such as the Monument to the Great Fire of London, London Bridge, the Golden Hinde, the Globe Theatre, the Millennium Bridge

and St Paul's Cathedral. At each sightseeing point we were given a small talk on its historical significance. This walk gave us some fantastic photos – especially crossing the Thames and the view to Tower Bridge. After our dinner at McDonalds we reached the best part of the trip in my opinion – Six the Musical. It is a modern version of the stories of Henry VIII's six wives. Each wife has a solo song telling her story and the finale song was one we were allowed to record. The whole experience was phenomenal, exceptional and exhilarating.

Katie Davison, Year 8  
Katie Nankivell, Year 8





# Chartwell House Trip



On Monday 11th March, a group of Year 12 and 13 Historians visited Chartwell House - the home of wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. From visiting the house, it is clear that Churchill was a very family orientated man, despite all of his power and achievements. In fact, he claimed his greatest achievement was marrying his wife Clementine. One thing that we found particularly interesting was the banner in his study which he received after being made a member of the Order of the Garter.

Surrounding the house were acres of garden and this included the rose garden that was gifted to Churchill and Clementine on their 40th wedding anniversary. As well as this, the butterfly house can be seen as Churchill greatly appreciated their beauty and included many plants in his gardens for them. It is evident that the land around Chartwell House provided great inspiration for many of Churchill's art pieces that are displayed both around the house and in the studio.

Throughout the gardens, a marmalade cat with a white bib and four socks can be seen as the Churchill family requested the house never to be without Jock the cat. In fact, the

house is currently home to Jock VII. After we had looked around the house and gardens we made our way to the bomb crater. It is alleged that the bomb was dropped when planes were coming back from London and is now a play area. When we got there, we received more information about Churchill and the house.

During our trip, we were given a sheet of questions about the house and gardens to answer. They ranged from Churchill's flowers to his wife's favourite colour. We won the quiz and were rewarded with book marks and magnets.

***Jess Doyle, Kate Taylor-Balls, Izzy Bosomworth and Mia Pearson, Year 12***



# Studying at MCA<sup>6</sup>

## Molly Merrill, Year 13

At MCA<sup>6</sup> we are lucky enough to have a good support system for empowering girls to pursue a future in Computer Science. Historically Computer Science has been stereotypically male dominated making it intimidating for girls to feel they can succeed in the field. The teachers at MCA<sup>6</sup> actively encourage and support girls to engage in Computer Science by showcasing women's achievements in computing proudly on Brightspace. I personally find this very inspiring as I haven't seen many female role models represented and celebrated in this way before.

Many environment opportunities are offered to us which creates supportive spaces, allowing our confidence to grow via experimentation and exploration further into the subject. The innovation and problem-solving skills being developed and presented during these experiences are a critical step towards closing the gender gap and allowing girls to thrive in the world of Computer Science. I am very grateful for the efforts from my teachers for the positive environment they have made for us while studying here.



## Bianca Galvao, Year 12

I didn't take Health and Social Care at GCSE which made me worried about taking it in Year 12. However, there hasn't been a day where I've regretted taking it. A lot of people think it's only for people who want to get into the Social Care aspect, like working in a care home, but this isn't the case. It can link in with a range of subjects such as Psychology and Sports Studies. It's not an easy subject; there's plenty of coursework and exams but it can get you into a larger variety of jobs than most expect.

## Freya Todd, Year 12

Studying Physics at MCA<sup>6</sup> is very different to GCSE Physics. The course gives you an understanding of the scientific principles that govern our world. We do practical work regularly and have fun discussing our results before finding out what the results should look like.

We recently went to a local primary school with a group from Cambridge University to teach Year 5 students about Astrophysics. It was very cool to see how much they already know and to work with them to make a piece of art related to Astrophysics.



## Peter Faithful, Year 12

The Witchcraze is an A-Level History course that I am currently studying in Year 12. I find the Witchcraze a highly interesting and educational topic, which has expanded my historical knowledge and skills. The Witchcraze course highlights the impact the Witchcraze had on the world and how it both started and ended.

Moreover, it has positively impacted my essay-based skills which has helped me on a range of subjects. History at points can feel very unproductive however the Witchcraze is a genuinely exciting and thrilling course which all different sorts of people in my class have enjoyed. The course may seem very fact based however due to the interesting nature of the course it can be very easy to write about.







Students completing revision battleships for Unit 2 Criminology. They really enjoyed testing each other with their questions from across the Criminology course and have even taken them home to play in study periods.



Chemistry practical determining the enthalpy change of reactions.



Some pictures of students completing revision battleships for Unit 2 Criminology. They really enjoyed testing each other with their questions from across the Criminology course and have even taken them away to play during study periods.

# News From the Drama Faculty

## The Woman in Black Trip

On Wednesday 6th March, GCSE students took a trip to the Ipswich Regent Theatre to watch the matinee performance of *The Woman in Black* in preparation for their written GCSE exam in May.



*The Woman in Black* is a thriller which put all the audience on the edge of their seats as we found out more about the ghost who had been haunting the residents of a small village.

Originally written as a novel in 1983 by Susan Hill, it was then adapted into a play in 1987 by Stephen Mallatratt. It is the second longest-running non-musical play in West End history and is currently touring the country. Students thoroughly enjoyed the show and were inspired by the use of many dramatic techniques used throughout. *The Woman in Black* is a minimalist production which heavily relies on the audience's use of imagination.

We all had a brilliant day and our students represented the academy spectacularly through their theatre etiquette and enthusiasm for the show.

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*The Woman in Black* was a good play. I was able to create a vivid memory in my head for what the performance looked like so I can remember it for my exam. The play had many memorable moments such as the backdrop which changed depending on the scene as it would fade in and out of the scenes. The backdrop's best part was when it showed a baby nursery. The backdrop

then hid this and then later disappeared to show the nursery destroyed. The sounds used throughout the performance, especially the baby music and the rocking chair noise, helped to create the scary eerie atmosphere throughout the play. The use of multi-purpose props was also very creative and unique by using a box as a horse and cart, a bed, a table and many other things to encourage the audience to use their imagination.

## Review by Jorja Wootton

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This performance was very different to any theatre show I have seen, none the less it was very entertaining and I would definitely see it again. Scene changes as well as costume changes were slick and clearly showed when the location had changed as well as when the actors had switched from one character to another through multi-rolling. The use of multi-rolling was really effective and made for a high impact performance. Alienation techniques such as the actors walking through the audience whilst ignoring us created a really tense and exciting atmosphere throughout the performance. Sound effects and lighting added tension and fear throughout the whole show and kept the audience hooked. Both the red gel spotlights and eerie music allowed for some very effective jump scares! The story flowed nicely and the actors use of gestures and other acting techniques allowed us audience members to use our imagination to enhance the performance even further. With a spooky plot twist at the end of the show, I was left full of excitement and questions about 'The Woman in Black'. A must watch performance in my opinion, so creepy and creative!

## Review by Ashley Bell

# News From the Drama Faculty

## Year 7 and 8 Drama Club

As part of our on-going partnership with the Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal, Year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in a weekly Drama Club afterschool, facilitated by Emma Thorpe from the theatre's creative learning team. As part of the 10 week course of sessions students looked at team building, performance skills, building character and finally spent time looking at different extracts from scripts to rehearse.

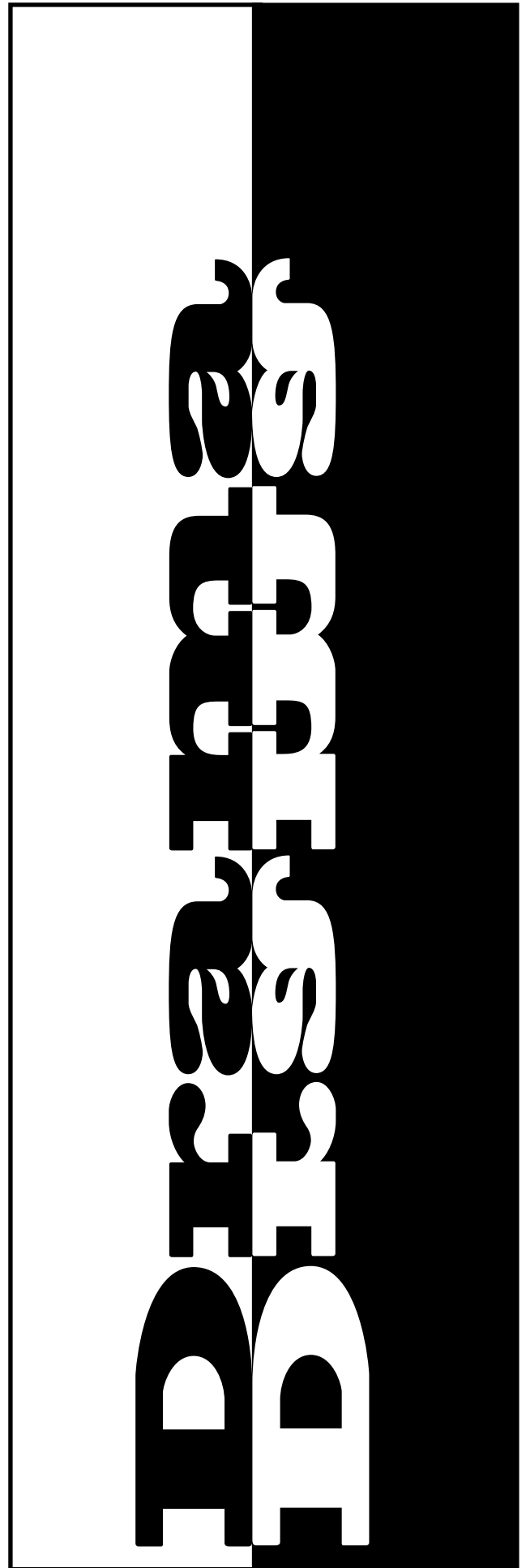
For the last 5 sessions students have been working on developing performances of a range of script extracts working towards a showcase evening for friends and family after the Easter holidays. We look forward to seeing the final performances on the 25th April!

## Year 10 Devising Workshops

Emma Thorpe has also visited the academy to work with our Year 10 GCSE Students to support them with their devising skills. Students will create a performance themselves, using a stimulus as a starting point.

Emma visited the students twice this half term, developing their improvisation skills through quick paced games and activities. Emma also encouraged the students to reflect upon their narrative arc to ensure that the performance is engaging and interesting for the audience. We also looked closely at characters and the challenges that they are facing, in order to consider the solutions that can be presented within the performance.

Emma will be holding three workshops with Year 10 and we look forward to welcoming her back after the Easter break for our final session.





# News From the Maths Faculty

The end of the Spring term has brought more opportunities and discoveries for students and their learning. A fantastic addition to our maths lessons this half term has been the slides on women in maths for International Women's Day. Students were taught about a time where women were simply not allowed to perform calculations in their workplace, and how their movements have allowed our students to benefit from some incredible resources and opportunities. The film "Hidden Figures" demonstrates this really well!

A huge shoutout to Lucy Pinnell in Year 11 who achieved a Gold Award on her UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge and has been invited to participate in the next round of UKMT competitions last week. The Intermediate Challenge is notoriously difficult, so moving on to the next round – The Pink Kangaroo – is a huge achievement. Good luck to Lucy and all other participants!

In a few weeks' time, students will be paid a visit by two engineers from Optimise Heat and Steam who will come into MCA and talk about their experiences in their field and how they use maths in their jobs. As an academy, as well as a faculty, we recognise the importance of exposing students to different career options, and the many paths available to them after their GCSEs. Optimise will talk to students about apprenticeship opportunities, as well as give students the chance to ask questions and for any advice. For those students who would like to learn about a practical application of maths in the real world, or for those who need clarity on "when will I use this?" the engineering visit will provide a great insight into the importance of our curriculum and where they may take their knowledge in the future.

In other news, one of our staff members is taking part in a huge milestone event this year and running the 2024 London Marathon on the 21st April.

Have a go at the questions below and help support Mr Barrett!

- 1. The Marathon is 26.2 miles long and Mr Barrett wants to run in under 4 hours. How fast does he need to run per mile?*
- 2. He's raised £1276 and wants to raise a minimum of £2000. How much more does he need to raise?*
- 3. How many KM is 26.2 miles?*

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Happy Birthday to Mr Birch who is celebrating his Birthday this Easter



**Name:** *Mr Birch*

**How I spend my free time:** *Spending time with family and friends, going to concerts, going to Football matches, playing pool, watching sport on tv, listening to music.*

**Sporting team I support:** *Wolves, AC Milan*

**What I like best about maths:** *That there is an end answer and often different ways of working something out.*

**Pets I have:** *Rolo (Dog), Herbie (Cat)*

**Things that really wind me up:** *Rudeness and lack of manners*

**Ambitious@MCA**

## Swimming

Year 7 student Samuel Butcher has spent 2 days at Newmarket Leisure Centre competing for their Open Meet. Samuel achieved 4 new personal bests and achieved a bronze medal for his 100m freestyle race.



He really smashed it and worked ever so hard competing against so many other lads. We are very proud of Samuel.

## U15 Boys Handball

The U15 boys enjoyed their first handball fixture of the year at home against a strong Thurston team on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Thurston ended up arriving late to the fixture which MCA took full advantage of early on, as we were fully warmed up we settled into the game a lot quicker than Thurston and with the fine finishing of Jacob Watkins we were 2-0 up inside the first 2 minutes, a cracking start. Thurston then found their feet and managed to pull 1 back soon after making the score 2-1.

From this point, the rest of the first half was very even with both teams attacking well and scoring plenty of goals. At half time, the score was 6-6 which was a fair scoreline to sum up the game so far. Unfortunately for MCA, the second half did not start as well as the first, with Thurston scoring 3 goals inside the first 5 minutes. MCA had to start showing real resilience to not let their heads go down and carry on. Thanks to the tough

battling of all the boys they managed to score a few well taken goals and make the game more of a contest. Although we could not score as many as Thurston in the second half of the game the boys still made a good account of themselves, just losing 10-8 in the end.

## U12 Touch Rugby

The U12 girls took to their first rugby competition of the year, at a very wet Bury Rugby Club.



We entered into the touch competition, to allow students the opportunity to experience games of rugby.

Out of our squad of 10 players, only 3 had ever played rugby before! With this in mind, the results of the day are even more impressive. Our first game was against Northgate and we started strong getting some early tries in, through some quick footwork. Margarida Goncalves and Ellecia Paflin had some nice link up play down the wing, helping us gain territory.



The girls were learning as they played, through the Referee who was a coach at Bury Rugby Club. Our defensive line was tight and was working well to prevent Northgate scoring. A few gaps appeared when we switched off allowing a few tries to be scored. Lilly Gadsby and Isobel Coupe were good in supporting the girls around them who hadn't played.

The end result of the first match was 4-3 to us, a great start. Our second game was against Stowmarket who seemed to have looked at more contact rugby and had more experience. However, our girls hit the ground running and had most of the attacking play. Lucy Martin's speed enabled her to break through a number of players, moving us further up the pitch.

A number of players grew in confidence from the first game. Lacey Amena started to move forward in possession, creating lots of space for passes. What was also lovely to see was the communication between all of the girls. Ella Brewer showed great skill transitions through her ability to catch some difficult passes, maintaining possession of the ball for MCA. Bow Coopersmith showed no fear when attacking towards a strong Stowmarket line. Our defensive line held strong preventing any tries from Stowmarket. The second game we took 1-0, meaning two out of two wins so far! That was all schools played but we decided to have another friendly against Northgate, on a larger pitch. This created more space for the girls to play in. Some great tries from both sides, meant the score ended 3-2 to Northgate.

Overall, a fantastic performance from MCA and we are looking forward to the next competitions.

## U12 Girls Futsal



The U12's Futsal team went to Debenham High School for their 1st Futsal tournament on Monday 26th February. The girls started very nervously and unfortunately went 1-0 down to Stowupland.

However, some very clever play between Ellecia Paflin led the girls to pulling the game back to draw 1-1. The girls' nerves had settled, and they then came up against a strong Debenham side. Amazing saves from Ella Brewer kept the girls at an even drawn game of 0-0. The girls finished 2nd overall in the tournament. To allow the girls more game time, MCA played each of the teams again in 10-minute friendlies. The girls thrived and shone in these 2 games winning each of them 4-0 and 4-1 with goals from Ellecia, Jess and Savana Avory.

Quick thinking play from Isla Edwards and Lucy Martin allowed the girls to break away and score. Well done on some fantastic play girls.

## U13 Girls Indoor Cricket

The U13 girls had their first cricket game of the year. A number of the girls were nervous due to not playing cricket before. However, after a few quick lessons on the rules and skills they gave the game a good go.

The girls played Barnardiston and were fielding first. Ella Brewer made some fantastic dives to stop the ball as wicket keeper.

A great catch from Gracie-Mai Lloyd reduced Barnardiston's batting team. Good bowling from Erin Bailey and Erin Hobbs, aimed to keep the batting score down. MCA were then in to bat with Holly Bosley taking the lead. Holly made some excellent hits and was retired when she reached maximum runs. The rest of the girls made some good hits but sometimes hesitant on running. However, this will come with experience in future years. The end score was 89-62 to Barnardiston. To allow for more game time, we played Barnardiston again. Lucy Martin stepped in as wicket keeper and put on a strong display. Lula Wellings made another great catch to get the batter out. A more confident display brought the score to 84-76, which MCA can be proud of.

Well done MCA on some great teamwork!

## U14 Tchoukball

MCA competed in their first Tchoukball tournament on Monday 4th March. Having not played much Tchoukball competitively before, this was a new experience for a lot of the Year 9 students.

The first game was against County, where MCA lost 7-4. The second game was against a strong King Edwards School. Although MCA managed to score more points than in the first game, we ended up losing 14-6.

By the final game, MCA were starting to get used to the tactics and understanding of the game. The final game was our closest yet, where MCA went 1-0 up. They were winning the game 6-7 with a minute to go, but unfortunately fell at the last hurdle and lost 8-7. Huge credit and congratulations to the students who represented the academy brilliantly, with great praise from the organisers of the event towards our students. Ben Cross led the team well, with good encouragement and work rate. Some great low defensive catches from Marika Wegrzyn and Isla Beale worked hard, scoring some good points.

## U15 Girls Handball



The U15 girls handball team played against County Upper on Wednesday 6th April at MCA. The girls were very hyped to be playing their first fixture of the year and were busy running through tactics and defensive strategies before the game.

MCA started strong with the first few attacks all being MCA's way with Summer Palfrey making the breakthrough to make it 1-0 to MCA. However, County struck back quickly and made it 1-1. This did not dampen the girls' spirits however, by quarter time MCA were 4-1 up with goals from Wiktorija Gogolewska and an amazing top left hand corner shot from Summer Palfrey.



# Sport

The second quarter did not go as planned and County found their feet a little. Marika Wegrzyn scored a great goal, at half time it was 5-3 to MCA.

The goal frenzy then began with Summer scoring her 3rd goal, Nicole Nunes getting onto the score sheet and an own goal gave MCA the lead 8-3 going into the final quarter. In the final quarter, again, County pulled themselves back into the game a little but with another goal and a first for Mazie Day the girls held onto a 10-7 win.

Well done girls, great teamwork and play by all.

## Year 8 Boys Basketball



The Year 8 boys basketball team travelled to Samuel Ward for a chance to play Castle Manor to advance to the County finals. The boys made a good start thanks to early baskets from Oliver Gray.

After this it became quite a tense first quarter and this reflected in the scoring 6-6. The second quarter was an equally close affair with both sides trading baskets with every attack. Brendan Brooks and Jake Houser provided some good defence at the end of the second quarter to give MCA a narrow lead of 16-14. The third quarter very

much was a different story, Samuel Ward began to take control of the game and if not for great defensive work from Toby Liles and Natan Guzylak, Samuel Ward's lead could have been even bigger. The fourth and final quarter also proved tough for MCA who despite their best efforts failed to deal with the potent Samuel Ward attack. Jacob Townsin, Jordan Roberts and Toby Liles showed great determination throughout this last quarter with Kaleb Redmond and Oliver Gray scoring the baskets. Final score Samuel Ward 42-20 MCA.

## U16 Girls Football

MCA hosted Samuel Ward in the semi-final of the West Suffolk Cup on 18th March. Two late call ups in Marika Wegrzyn and Nicole Nunes were needed to support the overall team effort. The girls started strongly and were committed to making the first few minutes count. Some strong covering from our defence stopped some attempted through balls from Samuel Ward.

MCA were clearing their lines well and trying to get the ball into the attacking half to get some shots on target. As the game progressed Ella Brewer made some excellent saves and kept the team in the game. Unfortunately, a good cross run from Samuel Ward ended up with a goal and we went into half time 1-0 down.

Following a positive team talk MCA went back out into the second half looking to win. A strong chance came with a one on one with the keeper, looked to be going our way, but some good recovering from Samuel Ward thwarted our chance. Our girls had no substitutes and were tiring and some good passes from the opposition led to some quick goals, going 3-0 down. MCA tried to keep their heads up, but unfortunately

# Sport

conceded two late goals to finish the game at 5-0. What a fantastic effort it has been in this cup competition and sadly it has come to an end. Well done girls, you've done MCA proud!

## U12 Boys Rugby



The Year 7 boys rugby team attended a tournament at Ipswich School. For some of the students this was their first ever time representing the academy. MCA played a variety of different schools, some with much more rugby experience.

Unfortunately, they lost all of their games, some of which were only by a single try. The boys demonstrated superb effort and resilience throughout the day and did manage to get on the scoresheet thanks to Sonny Brackenbury.

Despite each loss the boys were able to shake hands at the end of the game and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and were a credit to the academy.

## U13 Boys Futsal

The Year 8 futsal team took part in the Suffolk futsal finals at Thurston on Wednesday 20th March. Here the boys played five games against the best futsal teams in Suffolk with each game being nine minutes in length. The boys faced Sir John

Leman in their first game and the first six minutes was a close affair with chances at both ends with neither team finding the back of the net. After this Sir John Leman broke the deadlock with a bit of individual brilliance leading to their first goal, they then took a strong hold on the game winning the game 2-0.

MCA's second game was their strongest, here they faced Debenham who came 2nd overall. During this game MCA were unlucky and conceded two own-goals in the first five minutes of the game and Debenham followed this up with a third shortly after making it Debenham 3-0 MCA.



Tobias Barrett did some tough battling in midfield and managed to squeeze in a cracking shot into the top left corner of the goal making it 3-1. Tobias doubled MCA's goal scoring tally a minute later making it 3-2 with one minute to go. In the last minute MCA went for it and Callum Clarke ended up finishing brilliantly into the bottom corner of the net giving us a 3-3 draw in the dying seconds of the game, a great comeback! In the last three games MCA battled hard and showed some good, fast flowing football however did not score any more points for the competition. Overall, MCA showed a very determined performance during the Suffolk futsal finals and scored some great team goals.



## U14 Girls Football



The U14 girls travelled to Samuel Ward Academy to play their West Suffolk Cup semi-final. The game was played on the 3G pitch at Haverhill Rovers, which was a nice experience for the girls.

After the whistle, the girls started strongly with a high work rate, chasing down the ball. MCA managed to get the ball through for Ruby Lee and Beth Edson to chase, but we could not convert the chances. Samuel Ward played some really nice passes and were confident on the ball. But our defence was standing strong and covering each other to prevent conceding any goals.

Unfortunately, a quick throw in from Samuel Ward led to a good goal and we went into half time 1-0 down.

After another positive team talk, the girls showed they were still motivated to win. We started the second half even better. Some explosive runs down the wing from Ellecia Paflin moved us into attacking positions, with Evie Byrne committing to some good tackles. The ball came out to Belle Clark who took a shot and it glanced just wide of the top corner. Things were looking promising.

We were pressuring Samuel Ward and some great positivity could be heard from Gracie-Mai Lloyd throughout the game. With some amazing throw ins to move us further down the pitch, which was great to see! Some more good link-up play from Samuel Ward led to their second, with nothing Ella Brewer could do to stop it.

Later on in the game, MCA won a free kick on the edge of the box which just flew over the top of the bar. In the last 10 minutes of the game Samuel Ward won a penalty in the box and slotted it home to make it 3-0.

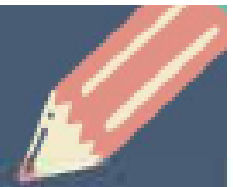
MCA were tiring quickly, but we still pushed forward with further chances coming to us. Also, great defensive work from Amelia Claydon-Soares and Lucy Martin stopped further attacks from Samuel Ward. Eden Benion and Marika Wegrzyn were late additions to the team to support our performance and did a great job!



Follow the PE Faculty on twitter  
**@MilPEdept**



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



# The MCA Way

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



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY

**A**cademic excellence  
**B**e the best you can be  
**C**ontribute positively to the community



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



We try our best during lessons and when doing 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 responsibility for our learning. We respond to feedback by completing DIRT tasks and showing we have understood by making improvements.

**Success@MCA**

# HOME LEARNING

HOME LEARNING 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 HOME LEARNING 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 IN YOUR HOME LEARNING ON TIME YOU WILL GET A DETENTION THE FOLLOWING DAY
- YOU CAN ATTEND HOME LEARNING CLUB EVERYDAY AFTER SCHOOL WITH ACCESS TO A QUIET SPACE, STAFF SUPPORT AND IT





## Teamworkers

Together Everyone Achieves More.



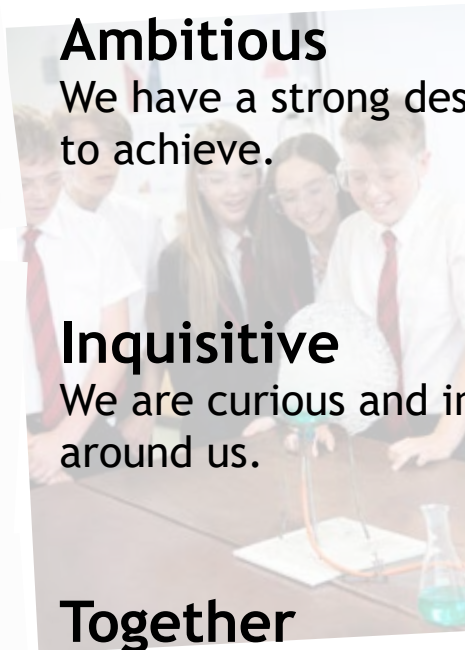
## Resilient

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.



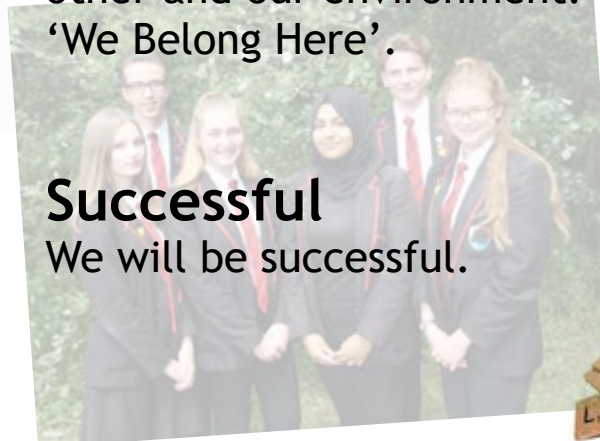
## Together

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



## Successful

We will be successful.



# Clubs and Activities

## Clubs and Activities SPRING 2024



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY

WEEK A&B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>First Lunch (7/9/11)</b>	Badminton / Volleyball (MWI) (A)  Year 7 Football (ABU) (B)  Year 7 Training Band in S13 (A&B)		Year 7 Singers S11 (A&B)  Wellbeing Wednesday Club - S13 (A)	Year 9 Football (AWA) (A)  Basketball (AWA) (B)	Esports – G14 (A&B)  Basketball (MHO) (B)
<b>Second Lunch (8/10)</b>		Year 8 Football (NTF) (B)  Year 10 Music Coursework Club (A&B)	Wellbeing Wednesday Club - S13 (B)	Esports – G14 (A&B)	
<b>After School</b>	Homework Club Session 1 – 3:30 – 4:00 Session 2 – 4:15 – 5:00pm (A&B)  Fitness (MHO/MWI) (A&B)  Year 7 and 8 Football (ABU/LFR) (A&B)  Basketball (DWE) (A&B)  Robotics - G14 (A&B)  Main Band (SINFONIETTA) in S13 (A&B)	Homework Club Session 1 – 3:30 – 4:00 Session 2 – 4:15 – 5:00pm (A&B)  Year 10 Music Coursework Club (first session)  Table Tennis and Fitness (AWA) (A&B)  Netball (AMO, MHO) (A&B)  Lego Robots – G14 (A&B)	Homework Club Session 1 – 3:30 – 4:00 Session 2 – 4:15 – 5:00pm (A&B)  Year 11 Music Coursework/ Revision Club (both sessions)  Boys Rugby (AWA) (A&B)  Girls Rugby (MWI) (A&B)  Badminton (NTF) (A&B)  Year 9 and 10 Football (DWE) (A&B)  GCSE Revision (BMU) (A&B)  Crochet Club (A&B)	Homework Club Session 1 – 3:30 – 4:00 Session 2 – 4:15 – 5:00pm (A&B)  Year 11 Music Coursework/ Revision Club (first session)  Voice Junction - S11 (A&B)  Year 11 Football (A&B)	Homework Club Session 1 – 3:30 – 4:00 Session 2 – 4:15 – 5:00pm (A&B)



## 10 TOP TIPS

For Good Mental Health



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.

**Resilient@MCA**