

NEWSLETTER

May 2026



New Extension Underway

Principal: Mr J Oxley

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Welcome

Dear MCA Community,

As we reach the end of another exceptionally full and successful half term at Mildenhall College Academy, it has been a pleasure to reflect on the sheer breadth of activity, opportunity and achievement that has taken place across our community. This truly has been a 'bumper' half term, one that captures everything we stand for as an academy and brings our TRAITS and our Work Hard, Be Kind ethos to life.

Across the academy, we have seen a wide and impressive range of extracurricular opportunities, with students embracing activities beyond the classroom with enthusiasm and commitment. These experiences demonstrate ambition and inquiry, as students challenge themselves, explore new interests and develop skills that will support them well beyond their time at MCA.



This period has been particularly significant for our examination cohorts. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are currently in the midst of the exam season, and we are immensely proud of the resilience, focus and maturity they are demonstrating. Their commitment to working hard under pressure reflects the values we strive to instil in all our students. Our Year 10 students have also reached an important milestone, beginning their mock examinations, including their first major exam experience in the main exam hall this week – a key moment in building confidence and examination readiness.

Alongside this, our Year 10 Work Experience Week was a resounding success. We have received a wealth of highly positive feedback from employers, who praised our students for their professionalism, enthusiasm and attitude. Our Year 10s truly did MCA proud, demonstrating teamwork, ambition and success in real-world settings, and gaining invaluable insight into the world of work.

For our Year 11 students, this is an important time to consider their next steps. I would like to remind all Year 11 students that in the final week of term we would be delighted to welcome you back for our MCA6 Enrichment Day. This will be a valuable opportunity to experience sixth form life, explore subjects and enrichment, and make informed decisions about the exciting journey ahead.

Beyond the classroom, enrichment and reward have been central to this half term. Our prefects enjoyed a well-earned and thoroughly enjoyable trip to Thorpe Park, recognising their leadership and contribution to academy life. Both the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions were hugely successful, showcasing determination, collaboration and resilience in challenging conditions.

I also had the privilege of having my photograph taken with a number of our top achievers across different year groups, celebrating students who have received exemplary reports. These moments of recognition are an important reminder of what can be achieved through consistent hard work, high expectations and kindness to others.

Welcome

One of the standout events of the half term was our first ever Debate Club event, with several schools visiting MCA and our local MP, Nick Timothy, in attendance. The atmosphere was vibrant and purposeful, and it was a powerful demonstration of inquiry, confidence and students working together to engage thoughtfully with complex ideas.

Creativity has been celebrated through the Young Artist Summer Show, where a number of our students had their work featured, alongside numerous sporting fixtures that have taken place, bringing with them excellent performances and results that reflect teamwork, commitment and pride in representing MCA.

Exciting times also lie ahead as work continues on our new build, which will provide valuable additional space and facilities for our growing academy. This investment represents our ongoing ambition for the future and our commitment to providing the very best environment for learning and development.

It is also with sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Wadilove, who has been an important and highly supportive colleague within MCA6. She has made a significant contribution to our community, and we thank her sincerely for her dedication and care. We wish her every success and happiness as she embarks on the next stage of her career.

It has been a fantastic half term at Mildenhall College Academy, and I am incredibly proud of every student and member of staff who has contributed to this success. Thank you for your continued support in helping MCA remain a positive, purposeful and caring community.



Mr J Oxley
Principal

Work hard; be kind

Working together; supporting individuals

Principal's Award

Congratulations to Year 11 student, Kodee Ives, who was very helpful when we experienced an emergency in the academy.

Congratulations also extend to Zach Hurren, Alfie Wilson and Seb Wilcox who were recognised for supporting with football coaching in the community.





Dates For Your Diary



Friday 22nd May - Last Day of Half Term

Monday 1st June – Students Return

Wednesday 3rd June – Year 10 Level Up Information Evening 5:15pm to 7:15pm

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June – DofE Bronze Qualifying Event

Monday 8th June to Friday 19th June – Year 10 and 12 Mock Exams

Thursday 18th June – EHCP Review Evening – 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Thursday 25th June – Year 11 Prom

Thursday 25th June – to Saturday 27th June – Battlefield Trip

Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June – ATT PD Day – ACADEMY CLOSED TO STUDENTS

Monday 29th June – Year 12 Work Experience Week

Wednesday 1st July – SEND Transition Coffee Morning 9:30am to 10:30am

Thursday 2nd July - Meet The Tutor Evening

Friday 3rd to Saturday 4th July – DofE Bronze Qualifying Event

Tuesday 7th July – MCA6 Midsummer Ball

Tuesday 7th July – House Cup Winner Rewards Day

Friday 10th July – MCA6 Induction Event

Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July – Year 6 into 7 Transition Days

Wednesday 15th July – MCA6 Sports Afternoon

Friday 17th July – Music Fest Event

Friday 17th July – World Challenge trip to South Africa departs for 2 weeks

Monday 20th July – SUMMER BREAK BEGINS



**Follow us on Facebook and X to keep up with important information
and all the exciting things taking place at MCA and MCA6**



Thinking About MCA6? Your future starts here.



Whether you've already applied or you're still exploring your post 16 options, there's still time to join our MCA6 community.

Enrolment Day: GCSE Results Day — Thursday 20th August
Come along, celebrate your achievements, and secure your place for September!

Got questions about A Levels or Level 3 courses?
Miss Coxall, Assistant Principal & Director of Sixth Form,
is here to help: claire.coxall@attrust.org.uk



News from Across The Academy

Tutor Project



Mr West's Tutor project - sunflowers successfully planted... now we are just waiting for the sun!

Year 11



On Friday 1st May MCA6 enjoyed welcoming our Year 11 students for a chat over potential subject choices and a pastry! A great start to a Friday morning.

Work Experience Week



Year 10 students enjoying their Work Experience week at St Marys Primary Academy in Mildenhall.

Community Award Winner

Congratulations to Year 8 student, Lewis Piggott, on winning the Rotary Club Award for Positive Contribution in the Community.



Proud@MCA

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Our Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students are gearing up for their summer expeditions!

To prepare for their June and July overnight expeditions, both groups headed out into the local area at lunchtime with Mr Waterson and Dr Hobbs.

They put their classroom knowledge to the test by practicing grid references, using compasses, map symbols and orientating the map. This navigation training is one of the final steps in their six-month journey, which has already seen them dedicate themselves to volunteering, physical activities, and learning new skills.

All that's left to do now is practice putting up tents and filling in their route cards for them to complete their expeditions.

Best of luck to all involved!



Debate Club

On Friday 15th May we hosted our first annual Mildenhall College Academy Debate Competition. Three other schools brought formidable teams who discussed their views on the UK Education system alongside three teams of our own.

Mr Nick Timothy, West Suffolk Member of Parliament was in attendance and commented on the eloquence and maturity of our students.

We were particularly proud of the variety of students from MCA who stood up in front of a big audience and expressed their thoughtful and personal views. In the end, a wonderful team from Bottisham won

the prize - a big bar of chocolate and a trip around the Houses of Parliament!

We are planning to continue our positive trajectory next year and grow the event even further. We're really excited about the future of debating and public speaking at MCA.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



It was the annual Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition from Thursday 16th April to Saturday 18th April. As some of the students were prefects, they had the pleasure of going to Thorpe Park the day prior so were already tired after having a long day before the expedition. The expedition itself is a 3 day, 2 night process across the North Norfolk Coast between Heacham and Cley-Next-The-Sea. All the routes had been planned by the students themselves and they were all ready to tackle the expedition.

We arrived at Heacham at approximately 10:20am, where the students had planned a slightly different route this year compared to the previous students who have done this expedition. Their route did not involve the coastal path but involved going more inland away from the sea, this involved more navigation however was a faster route. So the students naturally made quicker progress as they spent the whole day walking on road rather than the coastal path which paid off as by 3pm we were already heading back to base, the Norfolk Brickyard.

We reached the Norfolk Brickyard in good time, and the students put up their tents quickly and explored the many wonders of the campsite. At 6pm, the owner of the campsite, Tim, kindly put on the pizza oven

which enabled students to enjoy pizzas for the evening which was a nice end to a good first day.

The second day started and the weather was perfect, clear blue skies and not much wind, which makes a difference from their practice earlier in the year which was in a storm, this helped keep spirits high. By 9:15 the group had started their second day which started at Brancaster. The group walked along the Coastal path to Burnham Overy Staithe, here they went into the local shops to grab some sweet treats. Here, the boys headed inland towards Burnham Overy Town and the girls continued along the coastal path, before both groups ended up walking through the beautiful, Holkham Estate. Both groups had covered 15km by this point so were well on their way to finishing for the day. The boys then headed back North towards the coastal path whereas the girls headed east towards Wells-Next-The-Sea, by 3:30pm both groups had finished their walking, totalling around 20km for that day.



Both groups were tired and hungry. So thankfully they finished opposite some nice fish and chip shops where they went to French's to grab some, there was then also time for students to go round a few shops and grab an ice cream before heading back to camp. In the evening most students took time to chill, before playing games like intruder and charades. By 10pm lights were out as the students were tired from the previous two days and they knew they had their last day tomorrow with an early start in the morning.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On the Sunday, all students were awake by 6:30am, having breakfast, and getting sorted for the day ahead. By 8am, everyone had packed their bags and tents and were on the bus heading to Wells for their final day of the expedition. By this point, the students were still a bit tired but looking forwards to the last day and getting it finished. From Wells, the students headed to their first checkpoint of the day, Stiffkey. The majority of the journeying on the third day was along the coastal path, which is a very picturesque public footpath and yet again the sun was out so the students were taking it all in whilst making their way through the final day of the process. Once they were past there they headed to Morston, these were the longest two checkpoints of the day, both just over 5km in length each so the students were happy to get them completed.

showed great amounts of teamwork and resilience over the weekend to get through it together.



The boys at this point soldiered through Blakeney straight to Cley-Next-The-Sea where they all stopped to enjoy an ice cream whereas the girls stopped at Blakeney to enjoy cakes and hot chocolates before striding to the finish line in Cley. Both sets of students smashed the last day of the expedition and thoroughly enjoyed the process despite their tired legs at the end.



Overall, it was another successful Silver expedition enjoyed by all students, conditions were perfect and everyone

Astronomy

Good luck to the Astronomy students with their upcoming Astronomy GCSE.

These intrepid Year 10 students have spent the last years doing the equivalent of a 2-year GCSE course in just 1 hour a week after school. The pace has been relentless. Many more started the course but these hardworking few managed to stay the course.

On top of the classwork they have also had to conduct 2 pieces of course work. One based on naked eye observations and one aided, using either telescopes, binoculars or computer software.

They have all been brilliant and will thoroughly deserve the grade they get.

I am immensely proud of them, they should all be very proud of themselves too. I wish them all good luck.

Mr Chubb



Top Achievers

We proudly celebrate students who have received exemplary reports



Prefect Team

Our Year 11 Prefect Team enjoyed a day at Thorpe Park, a reward for their efforts this year!



Extension Build Project



We are delighted to share a photograph of James Oxley, Principal, alongside Pam Garrad, our Academy Manager, joined by colleagues from Pentaco, Concertus and West Suffolk Council, to mark the commencement of our highly exciting extension build project.

Significant headway has already been made, ensuring we are well placed to meet the needs of our growing community in 2027.

It was a pleasure to gather with some of the dedicated team members who are working so hard to make this important development a reality for our academy.



News From the Humanities Faculty



On Saturday 9th May Geography Teacher Mr Haden completed the Macmillan Mighty Hike along the Norfolk coast, from Cromer to Holkham.

26.2 miles, taking in some of Norfolk's outstanding scenery, shaped by thousands of years of erosion, longshore drift, and glaciation, finishing at the historic Holkham Hall, and at least three miles walking along the shingle ridge between Weybourne and Cley.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations, and especially those that came in on the day - it really helped keep us going!

The Just Giving page is open for another four weeks, please follow the link below if you wish to make a donation.

[Just Giving Page](#)



News From the Art Faculty



'Appreciation Will Never Be Too Far' by Abigail Roe

We had four fantastic submissions to this year's Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show from Hope Arlow, Jewel Jijo, Abigail Roe and Lacy Amena.

The results have now been released, with well over 33,000 entries submitted from young people aged 4–18 across the country.

I am very proud to announce that Abigail Roe has had her piece *'Appreciation Will Never Be Too Far'* selected for exhibition in the show's online gallery, where the majority of works chosen by the judges are displayed.

Although Hope, Jewel and Lacy were not selected on this occasion, they showed

amazing bravery in putting themselves out there and entering their work. There is always next year, and there is so much they can continue to learn and develop between now and then.

Well done to all four students!



Chess Club

This half term at Chess Club has been another busy one featuring many games, puzzles and challenges!

At the main MCA site, we have been continuing with our very popular "10 Tactics" initiative, which has done very well at getting members to use a wider variety of strategies in their games.

Members have focused mainly on forks and sacrifices this half term, vital strategies to get an advantage over the opponent.

However, this is not all, students can soon look forward to our third and final competition of this year - this will be held late next month and promises to be another fun event for participants to enjoy.

This half term we have also begun our planning for next academic year - we have started by coming up with a set of more advanced chess strategies we are going to teach every member alongside the basics of the game so they can improve more quickly.

Additionally, we are exploring whether we could incorporate game analysis into our sessions which would then give a breakdown of each move and how to improve for the next game.

Our sessions continue to run on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Library and after-school in room F11.



GOWARD & EVANS CHARITIES LAKENHEATH Reg Charity No. 253727

The Trustees wish to remind all residents of the Parish of Lakenheath that written applications for both 'Relief in Need' and Education grants (young people under the age of 25) are welcomed in advance of meetings held in March and September each year.

Applications for our next meeting (including those wishing to apply for support for Post-16/18 Education – 6th Form/College/Further

or Higher Ed/University etc) are required by 23rd August 2026 at the latest please.

Anyone may feel free to contact the Clerk to the Trustees (in confidence and at any time during the year) :

Mrs Laura Williams c/o 8 Woodcutters Way,
Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9JQ

Mobile: 07796 018816

Email: laurawill@btinternet.com

U12 Girls West Suffolk Cup Semi-Final



The U12 Girls delivered a performance full of determination, teamwork, and resilience in their West Suffolk Cup semi-final this week against King Edwards. From the first whistle, the team showed real intent, working hard for every ball and fighting in every moment. The match remained tightly contested throughout, with great defensive work from Tillie Paxton, Erin Turner and Martha Harwood. Throughout the game Jasmine Gee continuously made superb saves, to keep us in the game, showing her confidence in goal. Our girls held strong for the majority of the game, but unfortunately conceded a goal late in the second half after an unlucky rebound. Evelyn Howard did a great job of dropping back and chasing the ball around the pitch, trying to win it back for Mildenhall.

Despite the setback, the team refused to give up. Nell Pearce and Kelsie Howell continued to chase balls down and try to put pressure on the defence. In the final moments, they pushed forward with everything they had, coming agonisingly close to an equaliser from Martha Harwood. A powerful volley on goal looked destined for the net, but the opposing goalkeeper pulled off an impressive save in the dying

seconds. Izabelle Manns continued to pressure the KEGs winner throughout the final moments. Although the match ended in a narrow 1–0 defeat, the girls should be incredibly proud of their performance. They demonstrated skill, heart, and outstanding resilience. The whole academy is proud of what they achieved and excited to see what this team does next season.

U13 West Suffolk Cup Final Basketball

Mildenhall College Academy secured the West Suffolk Cup with a hard fought 33–28 victory over Ormiston Sudbury Academy in an intense and competitive final that showcased resilience, teamwork, and composure under pressure.

The opening quarter set the tone for a closely contested encounter. Both sides displayed strong defensive organisation, making scoring difficult in the early stages. Mildenhall's disciplined man to man defence and calm ball control enabled them to edge the first quarter 8–6, reflecting their patience and focus in possession.

In the second quarter, Mildenhall began to demonstrate one of their key strengths: collective teamwork. Improved spacing, sharper passing, and unselfish play led to more clear scoring opportunities. Daniel Young, Paavan Balrey, and Filip Skorek led the scoring with confident finishes, while the team's defensive intensity limited Sudbury to just four points in the quarter. By half-time, Mildenhall had built a promising 19–10 lead. The third quarter proved pivotal. Mildenhall College Academy showed real mental toughness and determination, increasing the tempo of the game while maintaining defensive discipline.

Sport

Their ability to transition quickly from defence to attack created repeated scoring chances, extending the lead to 31–16 by the end of the quarter. This phase of the match highlighted the squad’s fitness, organisation, and willingness to work for one another. Despite facing a significant deficit, Ormiston Sudbury Academy mounted a strong comeback in the final quarter.

They applied increased pressure and capitalised on late opportunities to narrow the gap. However, Mildenhall responded with resilience, composure, and leadership, managing the game effectively in the closing minutes to secure a deserved 33–28 victory.



Alongside the point gainers, a number of players played crucial roles in the team’s success. Ross Sansom, Eden Sansom, and Nial Sansom all made vital contributions through defensive effort, rebounding, and off the ball work, ensuring the team remained organised and competitive throughout the contest.

Overall, it was an outstanding team performance from Mildenhall College Academy, underpinned by strong work ethic, unity, and perseverance. These traits, combined with tactical discipline and individual contributions, proved decisive in lifting the West Suffolk Cup and capping off an excellent display in the final.

Mildenhall Martial Arts

On Saturday 9th May, we took 40 students from Mildenhall Martial Arts to compete at a Traditional Korean Martial Arts UK Championship. Among them were 11 students from MCA/MCA6.

We are incredibly proud to say that every single one of those students came away with a fantastic haul of medals and achievements across the day. However, even more importantly, they represented both our school and Mildenhall College Academy with outstanding respect, determination, support for one another, and true sportsmanship throughout the event.

Their conduct, attitude, and effort both on and off the mats were a real credit to themselves, their families, and the wider school community. We were immensely proud of them all and felt you would be too.

Thank you to Mildenhall Colledge Academy, as always, for their continued support of the students and the opportunities they are able to pursue alongside their education.

***Master Shaun and Nichola Alderton
Mildenhall Martial Arts***



Clubs and Activities

Clubs and Activities **S U M M E R** 2026



WEEK A&B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch		Chess Club - All Years - Library (A&B) KS3 Band - \$13 (A&B) Environment Committee- F13 (A) Colouring Club - F5 (A&B)	Playing Cards Club - \$10 (A&B)	Dungeons and Dragons - \$6 (A&B) Chess Club- Year 12 and 13 - SW9 (A&B)	Dungeons and Dragons - \$6 (A&B)
After School		Chess Club - All Years - F11 (A&B) Dodgeball - Sports Hall (A&B) Rounders - Astro (A&B)	Pickleball - Hard Courts (A&B) Cricket - Astro (A&B)	Fitness- All Years - MCA6 Gym (A&B) Neurodiversity Club - All Years - F17 (A&B) Volleyball and Badminton (A&B) Football - Astro (A&B)	

research ED

East Anglia

hosted by ATT Institute

The world's greatest education conference is landing in Mildenhall! Academy Transformation Trust is delighted to be hosting the first ever researchED East Anglia at our own Mildenhall College Academy.

Our ATT Institute will be bringing together teachers, school leaders and researchers who care deeply about evidence-informed practice. It's going to be energising, practical and relentlessly focused on improving what happens in classrooms. Join us in Mildenhall for a day of sharp thinking, honest conversation and ideas you can take straight back to your school.

Speakers will be announced shortly, with a fantastic line-up currently being confirmed- so watch this space! Secure your place now and be part of researchED East Anglia from the very beginning.



Speakers

Our full list of exciting guest speakers will be released in the leadup to the event! Follow **#rEDEastAnglia** on all social platforms to stay up to date



Location

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



Getting Here

Click here to download our *How to Find Us* document

Book a Place
Now Via



Saturday 13 June

9.30 - 16.00

£37.93 per ticket

Group discount available



Scan or Click 

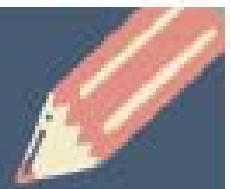


research  ED





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!

Academic Excellence

Be the best you can be

Contribute 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 titles being centre aligned. **We write in pen and draw in pencil** when completing paper based tasks.



We save our work in organised folders with meaningful names to allow us to find our work later.



We record **new vocabulary** accurately and we take care with our **spelling, punctuation and grammar** making use of spell check to help us. We take notice of corrections that have been made by our teacher or suggested by spell check.



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.



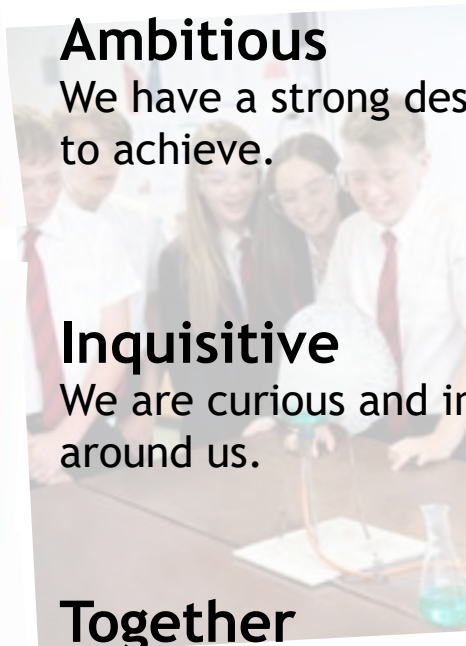
Resilient

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.



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