

# NEWSLETTER

July 2026



## Farewell to Our Year 11 and Year 13 Students

Principal: Mr J Oxley

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# Welcome

Dear MCA Community

As we approach the end of a highly successful and rewarding academic year at Mildenhall College Academy, I am delighted to reflect on the many achievements, experiences and opportunities that have defined this term. This newsletter showcases the breadth of life at MCA and highlights the commitment, resilience and ambition demonstrated by our students and staff across all areas of academy life.

Our core ethos of “Work Hard, Be Kind” continues to underpin everything we do. It is evident in the classrooms, on the sports field, during trips and visits, and in the way our students contribute positively to our community. Alongside this, our TRAITS – being Resilient, Ambitious, Inquisitive, Together and ultimately Successful. These are not just words but values lived out daily. This term, we have seen countless examples of students embodying these traits, whether through academic endeavour, teamwork on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, or their contributions to charitable and community initiatives. I am immensely proud that MCA is in the top 25% of schools for attendance. This is a great testament to the sense of togetherness and resilience that exists in our community.



There have been many highlights to celebrate. Our students have embraced a wide range of enriching opportunities, including visits to universities, overseas trips such as the Battlefields experience, and participation in national-level events such as the outstanding performance by Voice Junction at the O2. Equally impressive has been the commitment shown by students in sport, community projects and leadership activities, all of which reflect the strength and character of our academy.

A particularly special moment at this time of year is the opportunity to celebrate the journeys of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. The Year 11 Prom was a wonderful evening, showcasing the maturity, pride and unity of our students as they marked the end of their Key Stage 4 experience. Similarly, the Year 13 Midsummer Ball was a memorable and fitting celebration of their time in the Sixth Form. These events represent more than just celebrations—they are important rites of passage, marking the transition to the next stage of our students' lives. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success for the future.

At the same time, we look forward with great excitement as we welcome our incoming Year 6 students for their transition days this week. It has been a pleasure to begin getting to know them, and we are confident they will quickly become valued members of our community. We look forward to welcoming them officially in September as they begin their journey with us at MCA. This time of year also brings moments of reflection and farewell. We say goodbye to a number of colleagues who have given so much to our academy community: Mr Haden, Miss Finbow, Miss Harper, Miss Holland, Miss Pendleton-Hicks, Mr Roffe, Mr Page, Miss Potter, Miss Griffiths and Miss Bird. Each of these individuals has made a lasting contribution to the life of the academy, supporting our students and embodying our values. We thank them sincerely for their dedication and wish them every happiness and success in their future endeavours.

# Welcome

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to our entire MCA community—our students, staff and families—for your continued support, dedication and belief in what we are working to achieve together. It is through this shared commitment that we continue to grow and succeed as a school. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and celebrating the many successes within it, and I look forward to building on these achievements in the year ahead.



Mr J Oxley  
Principal

Work hard; be kind

Working together; supporting individuals



## Dates For Your Diary



Friday 17th July- Last day of Term. Finish at 1:10pm

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

Monday 20th July – SUMMER BREAK BEGINS

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – PD Days – Academy Closed to Students

Thursday 3rd Sept – Years 7 to 11 students return/ MCA6 re-enrolment day

Friday 4th Sept – MCA6 students return



## 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](mailto:claire.coxall@attrust.org.uk)



## Excited for GCSE Results Day? So are we at MCA6!

We can't wait to welcome our new cohort of students to MCA6 on GCSE Results Day - **Thursday 20th August**. Whether you've already applied or are still weighing up your Post-16 options, it's not too late to join us.

After you've collected your results, come and chat with our friendly MCA6 team. We'll be ready to guide you through your A-Level and Level 3 course options and help you take your next steps with confidence.

Enrolment opens at 9am at MCA.  
Can't make it on the day? No problem - please email Miss Coxall:

[claire.coxall@attrust.org.uk](mailto:claire.coxall@attrust.org.uk)

**Thinking About MCA6?**  
Your future starts here.



## Active Citizenship - Friday Food Bank

This is an amazing achievement for Year 10 students Lacey Dawson and Scarlet Griggs.

Their objective was to raise awareness of local food poverty and make a difference to the lives of the local community who use the food bank in Mildenhall.

Both girls have been thoughtful and proactive in making this happen - they have gathered primary and secondary research, planned their actions and on Friday they were able to see the fruits of their labour.

We are so proud of them and what they have learnt throughout the process. They organised for the press to come and the people from the food bank to collect the donations.



Proud@MCA



# Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition

## First Bronze Qualifying Expedition



From Friday 5th - Saturday 6th June it was time for the first qualifying Bronze expedition. The day unfortunately did not start on time due to circumstances out of our control. However, thankfully by 11:45am we were on the road to the first checkpoint.

The students all started off in Ingham, then headed off towards Euston using their pre-planned routes on their route cards. All groups were raring to go, after waiting for a few hours at the academy to get going they started off at a very good speed, all reaching Euston in good time.

Here, some students had some lunch, before they continued onto their next checkpoint. All groups walked really well as a team during their first day of the expedition, making it to Thorpe Woodlands in really good time.

Once they reached Thorpe Woodlands, all groups assembled their tents quickly by working well together in their groups.



Once this was done, they showered and relaxed by the fire pit.

Many unsuccessful attempts were made at lighting the firepit at first before it finally got lit. Students then had dinner, which ranged from burgers and hot dogs to pot noodle and super noodles.

In the evening everyone relaxed, some students played UNO, others had a go on the obstacle course, the rest chilled by the campfire making s'mores. By 10:15pm all students were in their tents, ready for an early start in the morning.

In the morning everyone was up and awake by 6am! It was then a rush for everyone to get ready, have breakfast and then pack away the tents which was a hard task considering it was raining.

The groups showed really good teamwork, with some of them doing the breakfast whilst others packed down the tents, meaning by 8am everyone had left camp and were on their way to finishing their second and final day of the expedition process.

Around 4km in, the students had to cross the A11 along with the support of staff. Group by group they all managed to make it across absolutely fine, before making their way North up to Stonebridge.



# Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition

Once they reached Stonebridge, they had finished walking on the muddy tracks of Peddar's Way, and the final 10km of the route was all path/road. At this point the heavens really opened, which made the map reading a whole lot harder as well as the walking.

However, not one group let the weather dampen their spirits, as they all were charging for the finish. The first three groups all walked together, motivating each other until the very end, with the last group suffering a lot with some sore knees and feet. Although, they did not finish far behind the first couple of groups and still did brilliantly to get to the end of the expedition.

The groups all finished in Croxton, an amazing feat by all. All groups walked

together well, using teamwork to help each other reach the checkpoints in good time and showing togetherness when each other had aches and pains.

A massive well done to all involved!



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## Second Bronze Qualifying Expedition



From Friday 3rd to Saturday 4th July it was time for the second Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying expedition. Compared to the last expedition, conditions overall were much hotter, so students were required to have more water and breaks in the shade,

however they didn't have to endure the rain that the June group faced.

The groups all started at a good time from two separate check points. Two groups started just South of Elveden, these had a 4.5km walk to the first checkpoint along a route that they had to use their navigational skills, the other two groups started in West Stow, with a slightly longer walk to the first check point, however it was along a straight path.

All groups walked with pace and purpose for the first section of the day, all reaching the first checkpoint within 1 hour and 15 minutes without getting lost, which is a cracking start.

Some groups rested whilst others marched onto the next checkpoint, which was a 4km walk North East up to Euston.



# Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition



All groups got there in good time, where everyone stopped briefly for lunch. The groups then set off to the next checkpoint all within 15 minutes of each other, the students were now half way through their first day of the expedition.

The final half flew by and three out of the four groups made it in very good time. One group did get lost but managed to work out where they went wrong and end up back on the right path. Once students were at camp, the tents all flew up quickly and then the students had time to shower and chill. In the evening, students cooked their dinners, these ranged from pasta, super noodles, bacon sandwiches and pot noodles, which are all classic D of E food. In the evening time, students had some downtime and made the most of the Thorpe Woodlands on-site equipment which was good to see. By 10pm students were all in bed for the second day of the expedition.

By 5:30am most of camp were already awake, with the remainder being woken at 6. Groups were very organised in the morning at having breakfast and packing away all their stuff and the camping equipment, and the first group set off at approximately 8am, with the rest of the groups setting off in equal intervals behind them. The first 3.5km

was towards North towards the A11, once the students reached here they all crossed one group at a time, before travelling North up towards Stonebridge for about 4km. Their aim of the expedition process was for all group members to work together by completing their specific job roles successfully, examples of job roles were: team leader, navigation lead, motivator etc. all groups were sticking to their designated roles well between checkpoints of the expedition, which enabled them all to maintain a constant, steady pace throughout the process. Whenever someone felt ill or got mildly injured everyone was able to support one another through showing real togetherness. Everyone finished within an hour of each other, all extremely happy to finish and complete their Bronze expedition. The students were then driven back to the academy where they then packed away the equipment and went home.

A massive congratulations to everyone who successfully completed their Bronze D of E expedition in sublime fashion. For the students to achieve their Bronze award they now need to complete and get their physical, skills and volunteering sections fully signed off, then it's onto next year to decide if they want to complete their Silver D of E Award.





# A Level PE Trip



On Thursday 4th June the Year 12 A Level PE students attended the Human performance Unit at the University of Essex.

The students were able to take part in a variety of fitness tests and the results of these tests will be used for completion of their coursework.

Students were able to use the very best scientific equipment such as force plates, timing gates and watt bikes. They were also able to experience a "day in the life" of the School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences (SRES). We are hopeful we will be able to return later in the year to complete the tests again to gather more data.



## Newmarket and District Youth for Christ

On Thursday 2nd July we hosted an event organised by Newmarket and District Youth For Christ called 'Discover'. Sam McKee from Reading University came and talked about "Is it reasonable to believe in God in the 21st Century?".

He was highly educated, passionate and inspirational looking at scientific discoveries that will positively impact our future.

His talk ranged from Neanderthals, DNA genome sequencing, curing cancer, space exploration and living on Mars. Over 200

students were able to come and listen and had the chance to ask questions. We are the first school to take part in this new adventure with YFC and we hope this will become an annual event.



# Battlefields Trip



The Belgium trip was an enriching experience; outside the heat it was truly beautiful.

Personally, my favourite places we visited were the cemeteries - albeit morbid, it truly helped to visualise the gravity of what occurred. The Menin Gate especially, seeing thousands of names engraved in the walls did create a sombre atmosphere. The Last Post was played for the 40,005th time under the Gate and we were privileged to take part in the ceremony and lay a wreath.

Whilst exploring their history, I was reminded the soldiers were heroes, people who protected us to live our lives and even have the chance to go on the trip. On the trip we visited many historical sites, from Talbot House in Poperinge to Tyne Cot.

We visited the impressive monument of Brooding Soldier at Saint Julien, as well as the graves of German soldiers in Langemark German cemetery. Staying at the Peace

Village meant we were able to learn about the project that MCA was involved in which culminated in the building of our Christmas Truce memorial.

While on the journey to Hoge Crater Museum we went to Leonidas for some chocolate which I gave to my parents as souvenirs and were able to explore Ypres, which had a car rally in full swing.

Overall, it was a magnificent trip that I would love to do again.

**Katie Nankivell, B4**





# Building Work Progress

Exciting times! On Saturday 4th July our new extension has moved into a different phase. The steel is going up and concreting is taking place.

We had a tight squeeze coming through the gates with only a 5cm clearance either side of the 2026 JCB 18m telehandler 4WD fork lift crane for the concreting!



## Bake Sale Success

Thank You for Your Support!

On Tuesday 23rd June, our academy held a successful bake sale to raise money for two LGBTQ+ charities, **Just Like Us** and **Stonewall**. Thanks to the fantastic support of our academy community, we are delighted to announce that we raised £134!

A huge thank you to all the bakers, students, and staff who donated such a wonderful selection of delicious treats. Your generosity helped make the event a great success. We would also like to thank all the students who helped organise the event, decorate the stall, and sell the cakes throughout the day. Your hard work and teamwork were greatly appreciated.

Every cake purchased and every donation made will help support the important work

of **Just Like Us** and **Stonewall**, helping to promote inclusion and support for LGBTQ+ communities.

Thank you to everyone who supported the bake sale. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to support a good cause and make a positive difference.



# Year 12 Community Project



For our community project, we decided to clean up the courtyard area of the school. This allowed us to improve and reopen a part of the school that could be used by students during both social and study times. We wanted to make the area more welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

We began by gathering all the equipment we would need to complete the task including gardening gloves, rakes, brooms, and bin bags. Before starting the project, we discussed how we would divide the jobs between us so that everyone had a role and the work could be completed well.

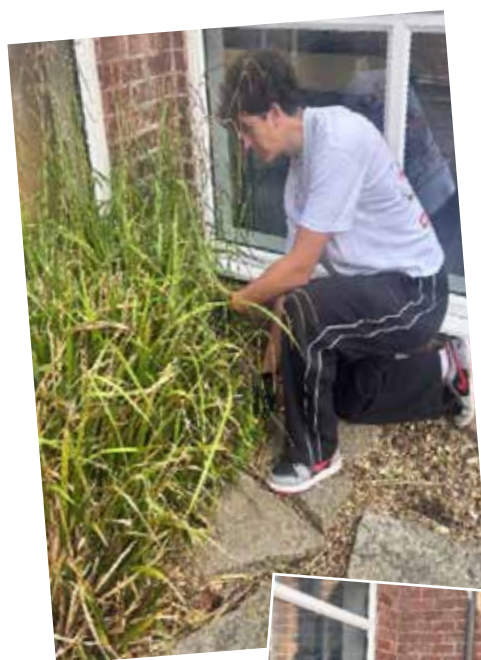
We moved the bench out of the way so we could access the weeds growing through the cracks in the concrete. Removing these weeds took up a lot of our time but was worth it. Once this was completed, we removed several large dead plants that were making the area look untidy, overgrown, and making the area more difficult to use. Clearing these plants immediately made the courtyard a more inviting space to spend time in.

We reorganised the giant chess board, putting the pieces back in the correct places and setting it up so it could be used again - encouraging people to make use of the space rather than avoiding it.

We swept up the dead leaves, dirt, and other stuff that had built up over time. We filled several bin bags and ensured it was appropriately disposed of. This has made a big difference in the appearance of the courtyard. The area is much cleaner and more accessible.

The project was a great success, we have made a space that was overgrown and inaccessible, into an area that can be used by all students.

The project was a positive experience as we worked well as a team, developed our communication skills, and took pride in improving an area of the school that can now be enjoyed by other students.





# Chess Club



This half term at Chess Club was highlighted by a new type of event! While we didn't run the traditional tournament we were planning, we instead decided to run an event where the club teamed together to play an "International Master" difficulty robot via chess.com! While the club unfortunately didn't win against the robot, the members contributed some amazing moves, and everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

However, we have also been looking to next academic year, our main preparation involved coming up with a sequence of tactics that we will teach alongside the basic rules, this includes things such as forks, opening principles and basic endgame patterns.

Additionally, we were present at both Year 6 transition days allowing the students to get a taster of what the club has to offer, alongside traditional chess we also offered an 'UNO Chess' variant, where players would draw an UNO card and make moves according to what the card said, and a puzzle where players had a 5x5 chessboard, and using the pieces given they had to come up with a solution to cover every square.

Next year we will run sessions both Tuesday lunchtime and after-school with an additional session to be added to Wednesday lesson 5 from September, why not make a brilliant move next year by joining Chess Club.



## News From the English Faculty

We were delighted to receive a story board of paintings for the English Faculty to support our teaching of Macbeth.

The paintings were a free donation from a local artist with contributions from The Police and Balmforth Estate Agents.



## Careers Upcoming Events

- Squadron Leader SGT Serena Mockford visit - **Thursday 16th July**
- College of West Anglia visiting MCA - **Thursday 17th September**
- Our Careers Fair will be held on **Thursday 24th September**
- We are hosting an emergency services morning on **Thursday 15th October**
- Water Bear will be coming in to talk to our music students on **Thursday 22nd October**
- Futures For All speaker – Jane Dyball visit - **Tuesday 3rd November** to talk to music/business students.
- Inflatable Planetarium coming on **Tuesday 1st December**



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## Career Options

How confident are you in talking to your child about their career options and next steps?

Do you know which skills employers value most and how young people can develop them for future success?

We would appreciate your feedback. Please take a moment to complete our short questionnaire and help us better support students in their career journey.

**YCF – Your child's Future questionnaire for Parents and Carers.**



<https://www.cecparentcarer.co.uk/9a086253-3ac4-4ab3-975b-86cb55a11957>

## Careers Appointments

Appointments are available with Independent Career's Advisor, Ms Nicki Howe

New dates are available from September 2026. Speak to your tutor to book Or Email: [Roxanne.Whitmore@attrust.org.uk](mailto:Roxanne.Whitmore@attrust.org.uk)

Or fill out a career's appointment request on Microsoft forms (link on the Student Resources page)



## FUTURES **FOR ALL**

Guest speaker  
Jane Dyball will  
be coming to MCA  
on **Tuesday 3rd  
November 2026**  
to speak to students  
about business, law  
and music.



Jane Dyball is the former CEO for MPA group  
and founder of Laffittes Ltd.

Jane graduated Bristol University with a  
degree in law and has since gone on to work  
in synch licensing.

Also working as a paralegal with song writers  
Michael Jackson, Red Hot Chilli Peppers,  
George Michael, Muse and many more.

Jane lead the renegotiation of MCPS  
arrangement with PRS and the paying down  
of over £20m of debt at MCPS In November  
2018 she won the outstanding contribution  
award at the music week women in music.

In October 2019 Jane was also recognised  
for her contribution to the songwriting  
community at the IVORS academy Gold  
Badge Awards.



Water Bear will be attending MCA on  
**Thursday 22nd October 2026** to speak to  
music students about careers in music.

Water Bear, the College of Music was  
founded by music education pioneers Adam  
Bushell and Bruce John Dickson.

Together they each have more than 30 years'  
experience in professional music and 25  
years at the highest level of music education.

Their relentless dedication to supporting  
musicians and artists is focused on building  
sustainable long-term careers.

### Apprenticeship Vacancies

Check out the Eastern Education Group  
website for some exciting apprenticeships  
currently on offer:



[https://easterneducationgroup.ac.uk/  
apprenticeship-vacancies/](https://easterneducationgroup.ac.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies/)



# Voice Junction Perform at the O2



On the 14th June, Voice Junction performed in the National Entertainment Awards at the O2.

They received the golden buzzer which means that they have gone straight through to the 2027 finals at the O2 and then 2028 finals on Broadway in New York!

Mrs Sayer reports that they were absolutely brilliant, professional and a real credit to the Academy - to say that they were delighted is an understatement!

Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to hearing about the finals and Broadway!





# News From the Music Faculty



On Wednesday 15th July 30 members of our academy choir travelled to the beautiful Snape Maltings to take part in the Celebration of Schools Music event.

Accompanied by Mrs Sayer and Mrs Wright, the choir enjoyed a memorable day of music-making. From the moment we arrived we were impressed by the stunning surroundings and excellent facilities. The event was extremely well organised, and the staff made everyone feel welcome, creating a relaxed and inspiring atmosphere throughout the day.

One of the highlights was watching performances from other schools. It was a pleasure to see so many talented young musicians, and to join in the grand finale performing a song specially commissioned for the event.

Our own performances were very well received by the audience, and we received lots of positive feedback. Special congratulations go to all our soloists, who performed with confidence and skill, representing both themselves and the academy superbly.

Throughout the day, our students' behaviour, attitude and enthusiasm were exemplary. They were excellent ambassadors for MCA and reflected the very best of our academy both on and off the stage.

We are delighted with all that the choir achieved and grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a success. It was a wonderful experience and a fantastic way to end the academic year.

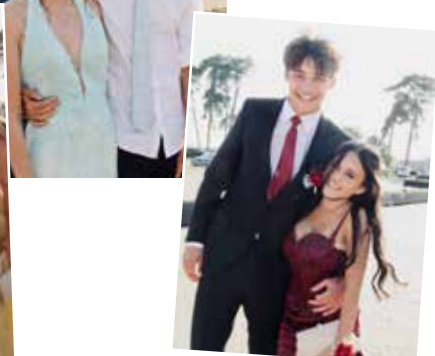
Well done MCA Choir!



# Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 prom this year was held at Eriswell Lodge and was a great success with amazing standards of behaviour from our wonderful Year 11's.

It was a fantastic evening and we are grateful to everyone who helped shape this evening and supported our Year 11's to reach this milestone.





# Midsummer Ball

Our Midsummer Ball at Hockwold Hall on Tuesday 7th July was an amazing way to celebrate the end of our students time at MCA6 and the start of a new chapter.

We wish the class of 2026 all the best for the future!





# Year 12 Work Experience



I spent the majority of my work Experience week with P & F Safepac Co Limited out on the road travelling to (mostly people in the American forces) houses and either packing up all their belongings and loading them into the back of one or many vans, or delivering their belongings such as furniture and kitchenware, etc. to them in their new home.

Typically I went with 2 other employees on every job and during my week, went to Cambridge, London, Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds to name but a few.

It was hard physical work with lots of lifting of heavy items but was enjoyable in the warm weather and my ability to form good relationships with my fellow employees.

During my week, I developed skills such as communication (both with customers and employees) and teamwork, such as carrying a heavy and large load through a narrow doorway which required the help of several employees.

**Jack Hardinge**

For my work experience, I went to the accountancy firm Whittings LLP in Mildenhall Town.

During my week I was doing tasks such as working on taxes, bank statements, invoices, and risk assessments.

I really enjoyed it. There wasn't a time where I would sit around with nothing to do, I always had something to do which made it interesting and I learnt lots of new things.

This work experience has helped me learn new skills such as teamwork, learning new things that could help my future as accountancy is a path I want to go down.



The accountants there were lovely and helpful with everything, since most of them are young and they are doing apprenticeships, they understand more as they are still students themselves and they were happy to answer questions and offer support.

**Arville Vaicekauskaite**

I spent my work experience week at Little Treasures Pres-School. I found my placement useful, and I learnt new things about myself and I now have a better understanding of a childcare workplace environment. I spent the week assisting with children aged between 0-5. Going forward from this experience, I understand more about which age-group I would prefer to work with, if I decide to pursue a career in childcare in the future.

**Zoe Riddell**



# Year 12 Work Experience



For my first work experience placement, I went with the Women's Aid Centre to do an event called crucial crew at West Suffolk College. This event was designed for different primary schools to come over to the college and build more comprehension on how to survive life threatening disasters (like fires or floods) and to learn life skills like CPR. I helped with teaching and interacting with the children about respect and the staff were open about letting me fully involve myself in the task.

I very much enjoyed this placement. My presentation skills developed and evolved throughout this placement due to me standing at the front of the class, adding onto what the staff were saying. It was intimidating at first but as the day went by I was made to feel more comfortable.

For my other work experience placement, I went to Inspire Social Care Services in Newmarket.

Throughout the 3 days I spent there, it really opened my eyes and was educated on different disabilities that aren't as prominent in the media. Everyone I engaged with was friendly and welcoming, giving me the chance and insight on how to adapt my communication for those who have different social behaviors and needs.



The staff allowed me to help members of the service with activities and encouraged me to interact with the members from my own accord – I genuinely cannot express enough how kind everyone here was. One of the most prominent skills which was

expanded here was my articulation ability, as I would describe myself as someone who is unfortunately quite socially awkward but after this experience I feel I've become more confident with my speech - which is a skill I can carry onto a new venture in the future. Patience, teamwork and problem-solving were also skills I flexed with this placement, as I felt as if I were sincerely within the warm community created in this service and the team of staff recognized me as part of the team while I was there which I appreciated greatly.

I would 100% recommend even just volunteering here; it is a worthwhile experience.

**Mia Murphy**



During my work experience week at Balmforth Estate and Lettings Agents I drew floor plans, used software, accompanied on house check ins, check outs and inspections. I organised keys, took photos of a house, visited their other office and watched someone fly a drone as well as many other things.

If you are interested in going into this area, then I would recommend Balmforths as a good work experience placement. I learnt how estate agents list and upload their houses and the process in doing this.

I think this placement will help with future employment and has reaffirmed for me that I have no interest in working an office job, it has helped me realise what i am looking for.

**Millie Hardwick**

# Geography Fieldtrip



***Pictured left to right:** Junior Ofori, Deep Randhawa, Anopai Munemo, Jaroslav Karger, Osasuyi Aimufua, Kasha Mahama and Mr Smith*

Year 10 Geographers enjoyed a sunny fieldwork trip to Cromer on 22nd and 23rd June. We travelled to Cromer to complete an important component of their GCSE fieldwork studies.

The weather was fantastic on both days, providing perfect conditions for a day by the coast – and even a well-earned ice cream! Students enjoyed a picnic on the waterfront before putting their geographical skills into practice through a range of fieldwork activities.

Throughout the visit, students collected valuable primary data by conducting questionnaires, creating beach profiles and carrying out sediment analysis. These activities enabled them to investigate coastal processes and develop a deeper understanding of the geographical concepts studied in the classroom.

The trip was both educational and enjoyable, giving students the opportunity to apply their learning in a real-world environment while enjoying the sun and the beach. Their Geography teachers were delighted with

the engagement shown by all students throughout the fieldwork.

The results of their work have been turned into graphs and analysed to help students answer the question “What is the impact of coastal management on coastal processes and communities?”

Overall, the students found that the local community in Cromer were overwhelmingly in favour of the coastal management as they felt it protected local businesses from the impact of coastal erosion. We found that the sea wall and rock armour were largely effective against erosion, but the groynes did not fully prevent the process of longshore drift removing sand from the beach.





# Neurodiversity Club



The MCA Neurodiversity Club have had an exciting year. We have running several projects that we are proud of. In November, we collaborated with the community hub library to launch a week-long stand about neurodiverse conditions. During lunch times, students from the club were available for members of the community to chat to and ask questions. There was also a display board for visitors to read at any time and a model of the solar system, where each planet represented a different neurodiverse profile based on their prevalence in the population.

In the new year, we started to work on identifying both the challenges and more importantly the strengths that those with neurodiverse profiles have. We gathered our ideas and represented them within the outline of a person to show how there are multiple different experiences within the neurodiverse community. During this time, we also held a "meet-and-greet" for new students, and staff, and Mr Haden was delighted to be able to share details of the club with other ATT staff during a meeting on Diversity and Inclusion.

After the Easter break, we turned our attention to raising awareness around the academy by creating a competition for Morning Meetings. Information sheets were placed around the academy, and tutors were provided with a blank template, with three sections to complete throughout the week.

Students were asked to firstly design a flag or logo to represent neurodiversity and inclusion, then to complete a list of different strengths that neurodiverse individuals can have. Finally, tutees were given a list of statements that they needed to sort into myths and facts. Students from the club then judged these posters on a range of criteria. There were some excellent entries, with Austen House gaining the most points overall, and Dr Hobbs' B9 scoring highest to win the grand prize.

Finally, we turned our attentions to raising the profile of neurodiverse individuals both within the academy and the wider world. Students from the club created posters about themselves and their hobbies, as well as highlighting famous people who are neurodiverse, including Justin Timberlake and Ariana Grande.

Miss Bird and Mr Haden would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been a pleasure hosting the club over the past three years, and we couldn't be prouder of the students that have been a part of it.



# Changes and Getting Ready for September

## Essential 6

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to take this opportunity to support students and families in preparing fully for the new academic year.

From September, we will be reinforcing our expectation that all students arrive at the Academy equipped and ready to learn. To support this, we are introducing the "Essential 6" – six key items that every student must bring to school each day in a suitable pencil case.

These items are fundamental to ensuring students can fully engage in their learning from the moment they arrive.

- Tutor teams will routinely check that students have all six items
- Students who are not fully equipped will be recorded
- Parents / carers will be contacted where items are missing
- A note will be logged on Bromcom
- Repeated issues may result in further sanctions

We want to work in partnership with families to ensure that every student is set up for success. If you anticipate any difficulty in obtaining the Essential 6 items, please contact the school so that we can offer support.

You will also see an accompanying poster in this newsletter highlighting the Essential 6 to help reinforce these expectations with your child.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring students are organised, prepared, and ready to learn each day.



## Essential 6

"Success in school isn't about luck; it's about showing up ready to learn every single day."

-  Black Pen
-  Green pen
-  Pencil
-  Eraser
-  Ruler
-  Scientific calculator

### Top Tips

- ✓ Keep all equipment in your pencil case.
- ✓ Check your bag before school.
- ✓ Replace lost or broken items quickly.

Academic excellence. Be the best you can be. Contribute positively to the community.

## Heads of Year

From September 2026 we will be moving from our current vertical tutor system (where tutor groups include students from different year groups) to a year group tutor system, where each tutor group will contain students from the same year.

## Why are we making this change?

This adjustment is designed to strengthen the support we provide for students at each stage of their development. As students move through the academy, their academic, social and emotional needs change significantly.



# Changes and Getting Ready for September

A year-based model enables us to respond to these needs more effectively. We currently offer a year-group structure at Year 11 and this has proven to be a highly successful model.

## What this means for your child

- Your child will be part of a tutor group made up entirely of students from their own year group.
- Tutors will work closely with one year group, allowing them to better understand the specific needs, challenges and priorities for that age group.
- Each year group will have a dedicated Year Leader, providing clear oversight of attendance, behaviour, wellbeing and academic progress.

Our new Pastoral Leadership Structure is as follows:

- Year 7- Mr Birch and Miss Starnes
- Year 8- Mr Weeks and Miss Chaplin
- Year 9- Mr Cussons and Miss Grant
- Year 10- Miss Robson and Miss Carter
- Year 11- Mr Waterson with Miss Bugg and Miss Chambers

## Work Completion

As part of our ongoing commitment to academic excellence at Mildenhall College Academy, we will be strengthening our expectations around work completion within lessons. We want every student to strive for their very best and to engage fully in their learning at all times.

From September, work completion will be explicitly reflected within our consequence system. This has been carefully considered as both a deterrent and a support mechanism to ensure that all students understand the importance of sustained effort and high-quality work.

- Where a student does not complete an adequate standard or volume of work, a consequence may be issued
- This may take the form of a C1 or C2, depending on the sequence of events within the lesson
- Staff will always adopt a 'warm' approach first, including clear expectations and an informal warning before issuing a consequence
- Staff are being trained to carefully consider SEND needs and pastoral context before issuing any consequence

It is important to emphasise that this approach is about ensuring no student becomes passive in lessons. Active engagement, effort, and resilience are fundamental to academic progress and long-term success.

Alongside this, our strong culture of recognition and rewards for excellent effort and high-quality work remains central to our practice. We are proud to celebrate students who demonstrate commitment, perseverance, and pride in their work.

We believe that fostering a culture of hard work and kindness is essential, and we appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these values with your child.

## MCA Way- Lesson Essentials

At Mildenhall College Academy, we are committed to continually strengthening our teaching and learning through evidence-informed practice. As part of this, we have introduced our MCA Lesson Essentials – a clear set of expectations outlining what high-quality learning looks like in every lesson.

These essentials will be shared with students through stickers placed in the front

# Changes and Getting Ready for September

of exercise books, serving as an ongoing reminder of the key elements that should underpin their learning.

## Key features include:

- Powerful Knowledge – the most important knowledge from each lesson, carefully identified so students know what they should remember and retain over time
- Independent Practice – where students clearly identify work completed without support, allowing both teachers and students to see how well knowledge is being securely applied

We believe it is important that both students and parents / carers understand what effective learning looks like. By making these expectations explicit, we strengthen accountability across the Academy – supporting both staff and students in maintaining consistently high standards. These approaches are rooted in what we

know makes the greatest difference to learning: clarity, practice, and purposeful engagement. We are confident that the MCA Lesson Essentials will further enhance the quality of teaching and support all students in achieving their very best.



● Do Now labelled, completed in full and marked in green pen

📅 Date and title underlined

🔑 Key vocabulary clearly recorded

💡 Powerful Knowledge (PK) clearly labelled and recorded.

★ Independent Practice (IP) clearly labelled and completed to a good standard

👉 Neat presentation and pride in your work

📅 Every Lesson • 🌐 Every Subject • ★ Every Time

*Academic excellence. Be the best you can be. Contribute positively to the community.*

## End of Term Celebrations at MCA6





# Top Achievers



We proudly celebrate students who have received exemplary reports.

## Congratulations to our 100% attenders for 2025-26

Austeja Baleviciute  
George Barrett  
Elsie Barton  
Gracie Barton  
Alisa Belska  
Riley Blowers  
Libbie Bruce  
Jimmie Bye  
Elsie Chappell  
William Coupe  
Neve Crowe  
Niobe Ealy-Speare  
Jack Eaton  
Kamiy Ellison-Rolph  
Lara Ferreira



Jasmine Gee  
Scarlet Griggs  
Rachel Groves  
Harry Hazlett  
Jessica Hinchliffe  
Jasmine Hines  
Euan Holmes  
Amelia-Rose Hudson  
Maximilian Kuckelhaus  
Eowyn Lemiesz  
Kaitlin Manuel  
Soraya Mazey  
Domas Milerius  
Raul Mohorea  
Harry Mullender  
Jack Mullender  
Katie Nankivell



Alfie Noble-Jaggard  
Edward Norman  
Junior Ofori  
Neilan Ologbosele  
Elliott Parsfield  
Tahlea Peachey  
Ollie Quinn  
Emily Redgrave  
Shammah Sayidi  
Nathan Sinclair  
Emma Southgate  
George Southgate  
Kamsi Uzoezie  
Michelle Uzoezie  
Thomas Way  
Jessica Willis  
Symona Wong



## U13 Rounders

On Tuesday 2nd June 2026, the Year 8 Rounders team travelled to Thomas Gainsborough School for a rounders tournament in what was dark and grey conditions. There were 5 other schools that were competing in the hope of playing all teams, depending on the weather. MCA started by winning the toss and choosing to field against TGS. MCA started slowly and struggled to find their momentum. However, this didn't stop them preventing TGS from getting many rounders. This was down to some good decision making from the fielders which helped to stop TGS early doors. Dara Lagunju at back stop played a huge part in helping, by being alert and ready for when the ball came her way.

MCA then batted after 20 good balls and had a target of 4 ½ rounders to beat. Again, MCA started slowly but soon found their feet and managed to rack up the points. MCA was batting well, and managed to score a couple of good rounders. MCA got no outs and from there on in were consistent with their batting and points scoring.

MCA finished with 7 rounders which meant they finished with a 7 – 4 ½ win in their first game.

### MCA 7 – 4 ½ TGS

The second game started soon after against a strong Ormiston Sudbury Academy team. MCA lost the toss this time and were therefore batting first. Due to some uncertainty on the first ball, whether it was a good ball or not, the first batter was out at first base on the first ball. A long way to go for MCA. This didn't stop the team and the next ball saw us score a rounder to get

MCA back on track. With intelligent batting and running MCA managed to top up the score through half rounders finishing the batting with 6 rounders.

OSA were next to bat, meaning MCA were fielding. MCA was bowling well, making it hard for OSA to score any points in the first few balls. Savanah Buachie was fielding well, backing up and supporting second base. MCA continued to work hard. Although OSA had only scored a couple of rounders, the concentration levels dropped for MCA and they started to concede half rounders for most balls, before finishing strong. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough, and MCA ended up losing 8-6.

### MCA 6 – 8 OSA

The tournament was then cut short due to the extreme weather that was coming in. Nevertheless, the girls played some good rounders considering the amount they have previously played. As a team, they showed great resilience and togetherness, cheering each other on throughout both games.

Well done girls, you represented the academy exceptionally.

## U12 futsal- Suffolk County finals

On Tuesday 9th June it was finally time for the U12 Suffolk Futsal Finals, after being cancelled back in April. All the games took place at Suffolk New College Sports Centre in Ipswich, and there were 5 teams who qualified for the final, these were: Mildenhall, Sir John Leman, Debenham, St Joseph's and Hartismere.

Mildenhall were on for the first game, and their opponents were St Joseph's. This was a fast-paced game that MCA managed to get



a hold off early on, with a well taken goal by Thomas Procter giving MCA the well-deserved lead. MCA started to dominate possession, although St Joseph's looked dangerous on the counter. St Joseph's managed to score a well taken equaliser to make the game 1 - 1. After this MCA kept majority of the possession, however, could not take our chances, whilst St Joseph's scored 2 more goals making the final score: **3 - 1 to St Joseph's.**



The next game was against Sir John Leman (SJL). The boys were frustrated after their first loss and wanted to get a win on the board. Solid defending at the back from Ethan Lee and Charlie Salter made us hard to break down. Whilst Noah Edwards and Oliver Curtis worked well together up top, allowing MCA to take the lead 1 - 0 with a nice finish into the bottom corner from Noah Edwards. The second goal came shortly after, with a nice 1-2 from Oliver to Noah leading to Noah's second goal of the game making it 2 - 0 to MCA. SJL finally scored their first goal, making it 2 - 1, however, MCA did not let their foot off the gas, applying constant pressure to their back line and finding holes in their defence, Noah scored another goal, giving him a well-deserved hattrick, and Thomas also managed to grab a goal when he came on, making the final score: **4 - 1 to MCA.**

MCA then faced Debenham for the next game. A starting line-up of Charlie, Ethan, Thorben Wilcox and Thomas controlled the ball well, stopping Debenham from progressing up the pitch and creating some good chances. The deadlock finally broke when Charlie brilliantly dispossessed one of their players off the ball, cut in and struck the ball into the bottom corner to make it 1 - 0 to MCA. The rest of the game was a cagey affair, with both teams not allowing each other time with the ball. The final whistle finally went and the full-time whistle blew. **MCA 1 - 0 Debenham.**

Our last game was against Hartismere. We had to draw the game to secure second place, with the win out of reach as St Joseph's had gone unbeaten in all of their games. Nevertheless, MCA weren't going to settle for a draw and were hungry for the win. Within a minute MCA took the lead, a swift 1-2 from Alfie Brewer to Noah lead to Noah scoring another goal for MCA. 2 minutes later, and Noah backed this up with another good finish, making it 2-0. MCA really started to take a hold in this game now, with strong defending from Charlie and Ethan yet again keeping Hartismere at bay, and any chance that they did have was well saved by Archie Harrison in goal. Ethan made it 3-0, with a long shot effort rifled into the top corner, another brilliant goal for MCA. After this, it was Alfie's turn to score, with his goal also being finished nicely into the top corner, making the final score: **MCA 4 - 0 Hartismere.**

The results secured MCA second place, meaning the boys are runners up in Suffolk for futsal! The boys played superbly, growing in confidence after every game and playing extremely well together. Well done boys!

## U13 Rounders

On Friday 17th July 2026, the Year 8 Rounders team travelled to County Upper School in Bury St Edmunds to take part in their first competitive rounders tournament.

With many of the girls having never played a competition-style game before, and some still learning the rules, nerves were understandably high as MCA prepared for their opening fixture.

MCA's first game was against a strong Thurston Community College team. Despite the nerves, the girls settled into the game well and showed plenty of determination.

Thurston proved to be a well-drilled team and took advantage of their experience, but MCA continued to battle throughout. There were some promising moments with both the batting and fielding, and the girls gained confidence as the game progressed. Although MCA were defeated 5–2, it was a very respectable result against an experienced opposition.

### MCA 2 – 5 Thurston Community College

The second match saw MCA face another strong side in Finborough. Having already experienced one competitive game, the girls looked far more confident and organised. Their batting improved, allowing them to score more consistently, while the fielding became more decisive. Finborough's experience and quality ultimately showed, but MCA pushed them all the way and improved on their previous performance. The girls scored 2½ rounders, half a rounder more than in the opening game, before narrowly losing 4½–2½.

### MCA 2½ – 4½ Finborough

In their final game of the day, MCA faced St Benedict's and produced their best performance of the tournament. By this point, the girls were playing with confidence and enthusiasm, and everything seemed to come together.

The batting was excellent throughout, with rounders being scored regularly while runners showed great awareness between the posts. The fielding was equally impressive, with MCA working together brilliantly to get four St Benedict's players out.

The girls were rewarded for their efforts with an outstanding total of 10 rounders, their highest score of the day by some distance.

St Benedict's battled well and managed to score 6 rounders of their own, but MCA were in control for much of the game and deservedly secured their first victory of the tournament.

### MCA 10 – 6 St Benedict's

Overall, the U12 girls did fantastic. They represented the academy brilliantly throughout the tournament and should be extremely proud of their performances.

Their resilience, teamwork and willingness to learn were evident in every game, and the improvement they showed from the first match to the last was remarkable.





## Year 7 and 8 Multi-skill festival



Year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to represent MCA at a Multi-Skills Festival hosted by FA Disability Football and County High School.

The event began with a variety of football-based challenges designed to develop different skills. Students were split into boys' and girls' teams and rotated around a number of stations, completing a range of activities. After an initial practice round, teams revisited each station and recorded their scores. Both teams demonstrated excellent effort and determination throughout.

Highlights included Daisy Hampson successfully calling and completing the bucket shot at the first attempt, while the boys' team achieved the highest score in the goal-scoring challenge. At the end of the skills competition, both MCA teams finished on 27 points, earning a joint second-place finish.

The second half of the evening gave students the opportunity to participate in a football tournament, with each match focusing

on a different aspect of inclusive football. Students experienced walking football, deaf football and blind football. During the deaf football matches, all players wore ear defenders and had to communicate using alternative methods. The girls adapted particularly well, with Martha Harwood leading effective communication through hand signals as her team secured an impressive 3–0 victory.

In the blind football matches, half of each team wore blindfolds while guided by teammates. The students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and creativity, with Logan Cleaver and Nikkos Powell working exceptionally well together to help their team achieve another victory.

All students represented the academy superbly, demonstrating outstanding teamwork, resilience and a genuine passion for sport and physical education.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved, and we look forward to participating in future festivals.



**MILDENHALL  
COLLEGE  
ACADEMY**



**YEAR 11**

# UNIFORM DONATIONS

*Pass it on. Help someone else.* 

We are collecting pre-loved  
**MCA** uniform to support  
future students and families  
in our school community.



#### WE NEED:

Blazers, shirts, ties, trousers,  
skirts, PE kit and more.



#### CLEAN & GOOD CONDITION

Please donate items that are  
clean and ready to wear.



#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your donation can help another  
student feel confident and  
prepared.



#### DROP OFF:

At Student Reception  
Thank you for supporting our  
school community!



**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN MAKE  
A BIG DIFFERENCE.**





Do you have an interest in the **Royal Air Force**?  
Would you like to learn to fly a plane?  
Do you enjoy adventure training



## 2417 Newmarket Squadron

Drill Hall, Rayes Lane,

Newmarket

Suffolk

CB8 7AB

07527 508138

Parade Days - Monday and  
Wednesday



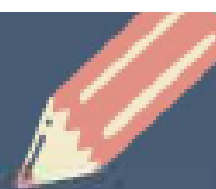
RAF Air Cadets  
**Inclusion**

 **ROYAL AIR CADETS**  
AIR FORCE the next generation





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!

**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 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







Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY



## Teamworkers

Together Everyone Achieves More.



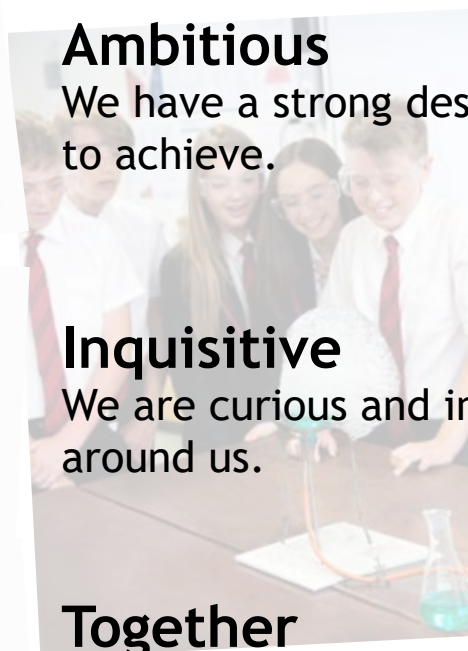
## Resilient

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



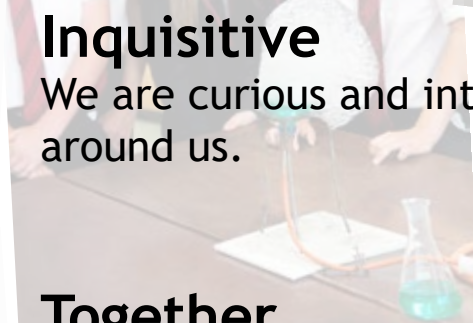
## Ambitious

We have a strong desire and determination to achieve.



## Inquisitive

We are curious and interested in the world around us.



## Together

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



## Successful

We will be successful.



## 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](mailto:Resilient@MCA)