

PARENT/CARER NOTICES

Autumn 1: Monday 21st September 2026

Thursday 24th September – Open Evening Year 7 and 12 (5-8pm)

Thursday 24th September – Careers Fair (9.30am to 3.15pm)

Tuesday 6th October – Year 7 Open Morning (details TBC)

Wednesday 7th October – Parent Carer Forum Meeting (details TBC)

Thursday 8th October – Year 12 Information and Support Evening

Thursday 15th October – Year 7Q Parent/Carer Evening Online

Wednesday 21st October – Year 11 Mock Exam Information Evening

Thursday 22nd October – Year 7X Parent/Carer Evening Online

Monday 26th October – HALF TERM

Monday 2nd November – DISAGGREGATED PD DAY – ACADEMY CLOSED TO STAFF AND STUDENTS

Tuesday 3rd November – Staff and students return

Friday 6th November – MCA6 WSC Taster Day

Thursday 12th November – Work Experience Info Evening 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Friday 20th November – Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 25th November – Year 10 Parents/Carers Evening in Person 4pm to 6.30pm

Thursday 3rd December – SEND Team EHCP Review Evening 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 10th December – Awards Evening 5.30pm to 7pm

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Concert

Friday 18th December – Last Day of Term

Monday 4th January – Students Return

General Notices

Open Evening Prospective Year 7 and Year 12: 24th September

We are looking forward to our forthcoming Open Evening, one of the most important events in the Academy calendar. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase everything that makes Mildenhall College Academy a great place to learn, both for prospective Year 7 students and for those considering joining MCA6 in Year 12.

This year, the event will be a double Open Evening, welcoming both prospective Year 7 and prospective Year 12 students and their families. We are keen to attract as many visitors as

possible and would be delighted to see a strong turnout from our current students, particularly those in Year 11 who may be considering their next steps at MCA6.

To help make the evening a success, we will also be seeking student volunteers to support the event. Miss Powling will be leading arrangements on the main academy site, while Miss Coxall will coordinate activities at MCA6. Alongside our Prefect team, student helpers will play a vital role in welcoming visitors, providing tours and sharing their experiences of academy life. If your child is selected or volunteers to support the event, they will receive a permission letter which will need to be signed and returned by a parent or carer. Thank you in advance for your support. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our visitors and celebrating all that Mildenhall College Academy and MCA6 have to offer. *James Oxley*

Buses

We are aware of the ongoing issues affecting bus services and appreciate the frustration and inconvenience this is causing for families.

As previously communicated, we continue to raise our complaints and concerns directly with the transport company. I have also requested a formal response from them, which I have asked to be shared with all parents and carers this week.

Please be assured that we are monitoring the situation carefully and taking all actions available to us with our transport partners. We recognise the impact these issues are having and remain committed to seeking improvements.

The general explanation we have received to date is that a significant number of roadworks in the surrounding area have affected several bus routes. However, where this is not the case, we have made it clear that we are dissatisfied with elements of the service being provided, including concerns relating to driver conduct and service standards.

Please continue to keep us informed of any bus-related issues or concerns so that we can ensure they are raised appropriately and accurately with the company. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Once again, I apologise for the inconvenience caused. *James Oxley*

Free School Meals

Please see an explanation from the Suffolk Free School Meals team explaining the current situation with their service.

"Firstly, we would like to apologise for the delays currently being experienced in processing free school meal applications and notifying schools of eligibility outcomes.

We are currently experiencing unprecedented demand on the service, which has unfortunately resulted in delays between applications being submitted, eligibility checks being completed, and notifications being issued to schools. We are working hard to process applications as quickly as possible and are taking steps to reduce these delays. However, we are aware that delays associated with the new free school meals checking arrangements are now being experienced nationally, and the Department for Education (DfE) is aware of these issues.

We appreciate that the current delays may place schools and families in a difficult position, and we are sorry for the impact this is having. Please be assured that we are continuing to work through applications as quickly as possible."

As an academy we are aware of small number of cases where students have gone into debit on their accounts due to the delay from Free School Meals informing us of confirmation of eligibility. Unfortunately, in these instances, we are only able to set up the FSM entitlement on the date we receive confirmation from Free School Meals or, as we have been authorised to do, receive evidence from parents themselves. Please note when you top up MCAS, any debt incurred will automatically be taken from this amount. *Richard Goodenough*

Years 7 - 11 - Enabling Speedier Service in the Canteen

If you have not registered consent for your child to use our biometric system for purchasing food at the canteen and you would like to do so, please use the MCAS system to consent. The next round of electronic finger prints (not stored as finger prints) will be carried out in the School Library Tuesday 22nd September period 1 and during break.

Year 12 and Year 13 students can give their own consent - if you would like your finger print registered for buying food at the canteen - please go to the Main School Library during P1 and breaktime on Tuesday 22nd September.

Pin Numbers: If your child still has a four digit pin and not a six digit pin - please email mca-reception@attrust.org.uk.

Dinner Balances: Unfortunately, our till system was down on Tuesday last week due to a local internet outage. All manual entries have now been entered onto the electronic system- as a result your child's account may be displaying a debt. Please be assured that they have not been charged twice for a lunchtime meal or breaktime snacks on one day. Students now have had a meal/snack on Tuesday that has now been entered onto the system and could not be backdated. *Pam Garrard*

A Strong Start and Adapting to Change

Thank you for your ongoing support with both our uniform expectations and the Essential 6 equipment. These small daily routines make a significant difference and help ensure that students are ready to learn from the moment they arrive at school.

We are also very pleased with the positive start we have made to our new day structure. Students have adapted remarkably well to the changes, and we are already seeing some encouraging trends in our behaviour data.

Compared to the same point last year, detentions are down by 11%, whilst GMs have reduced by 38%. Last week, students achieved 10,057 positive events, equating to an average of 7.34 positive events per student.

Whilst this positive figure is slightly below the level achieved at the same stage last year, I will continue to encourage colleagues to recognise excellent learning, positive conduct and our school TRAITS at every opportunity. Nevertheless, I am pleased that we are seeing a reduction in negative incidents and a positive start to the academic year overall.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. *James Oxley*