

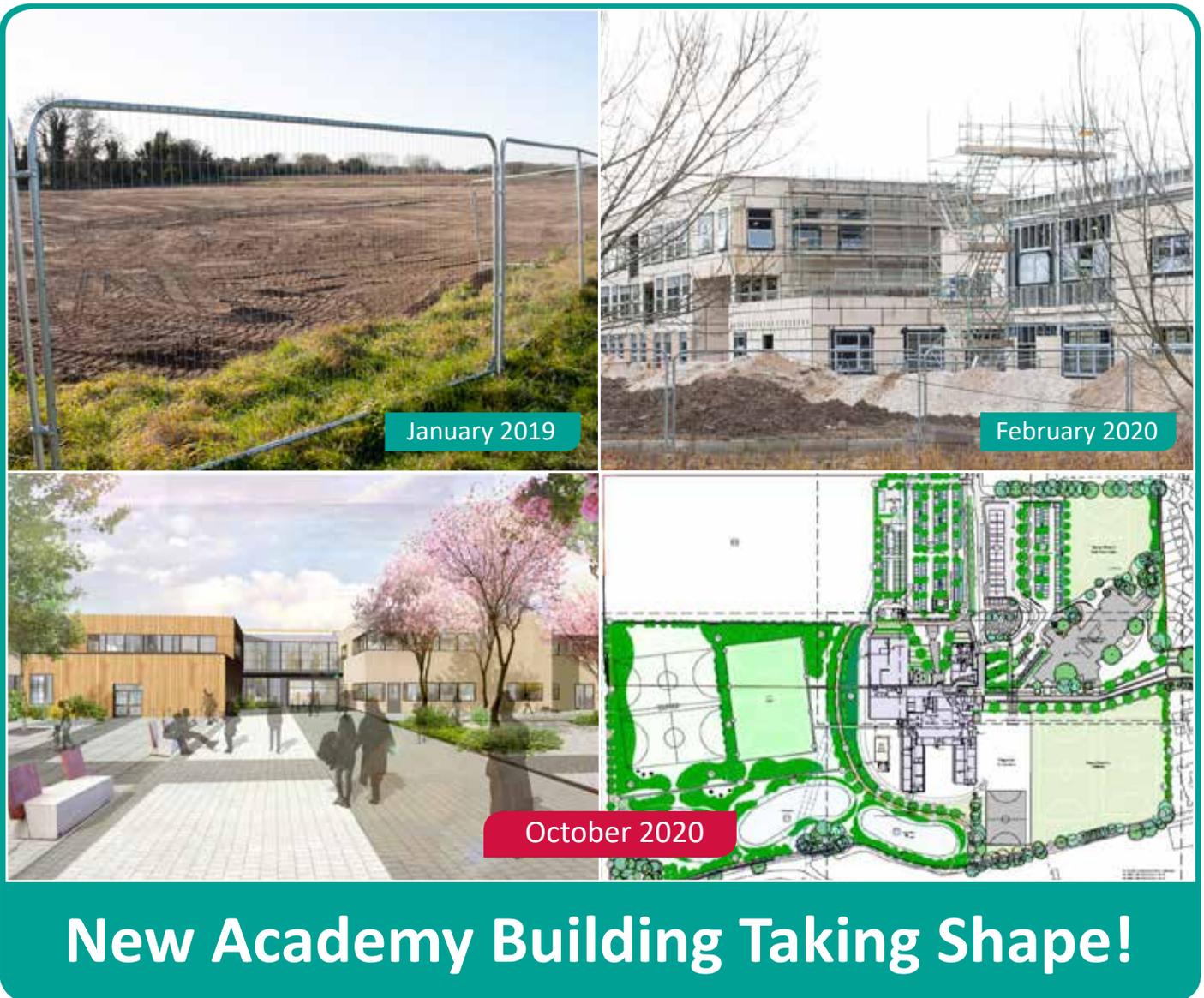
Mildenhall College Academy



NEWSLETTER



February 2020



New Academy Building Taking Shape!

Principal: Miss N Hood

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Dates For Your Diary

Last Day of Half Term - Friday 14th February 2020

Spring Half Term Break - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020

Students Return - Monday 24th February 2020

Year 11 Mock 2 Exams begin - Monday 24th February 2020

Year 9 English Theatre Trip - Friday 27th February 2020

Year 11 Drama Trip (Woman in Black) - Friday 27th February 2020

Year 10 and 11 English Trip - Thursday 5th March 2020

Year 9 Computing Trip - Friday 6th March 2020

Year 12 and 13 BTEC Sport Trip - Friday 13th March 2020

Year 8 Options Evening 6-8 p.m. - Wednesday 18th March 2020

KS4 Art Trip - Friday 20th March 2020

Year 9 HPV Vaccinations - Friday 20th March 2020

Year 9 and 10 IAG Event - Tuesday 24th March 2020

GCSE Drama or Music Performances 6:30 pm - Tuesday 24th March 2020

Year 11 Prefect Trip - Tuesday 31st March 2020

Years 7-10 PE AGT Trip - Wednesday 1st April 2020

Last Day of Term - Wednesday 1st April 2020

PD Day - Thursday 2nd April 2020

Easter Holiday - Thursday 2nd April - Friday 17th April 2020

Students Return - Monday 20th April 2020

A Note From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our February Newsletter where once again you cannot help but be impressed by the range of opportunities our young people have been involved in. From Florence Kent's experience singing at Mildenhall Lodge Care Home to Aiden Fouracre's concern for the environment and everything in between, the students at MCA have certainly been busy! In January we welcomed some new members of staff into the academy community:

Julie Provost (French Teacher)
Helen Shepherd (Inclusion Support Officer)
Lisa Grant (Student Support Officer – Newton)
Emma Grant (DT and Art Technician)
Hayley Carroll (Teaching Assistant)



They have all made a great start and are already making a valuable contribution to academy life.

Whilst our core purpose is to help every child achieve academic success, MCA is about so much more. MCA TRAITS is at the heart of everything we do. I truly believe that if we can help our young people be effective team workers, resilient, ambitious, inquisitive and together then they will be successful as individuals and as positive citizens in our communities. The House system, strong teacher-student relationships and the wide range of enrichment opportunities provided ensures students have every opportunity to demonstrate the standards required to be successful at the very highest level now and in the future. Featured in this newsletter are some of the ways we help support students every day.

With only nine school weeks until the summer examinations begin the academy community is really pulling together to support students in Years 11 and 13 especially. These are busy weeks with final preparations for the exams and the completion of coursework. Through the work we do to equip students with the resilience, grit and determination to succeed I am confident that they will continue to achieve their very best over the coming months (confidently overcoming the inevitable minor knock-backs along the way). There are going to be times where they need our support more than ever and included in this newsletter is information about some of the ways we can all help and support them around the examination period.

As you can see from the front cover our new multi million pound academy building as part of the 'Mildenhall Hub' project is really starting to take shape. It is really exciting to watch as it progresses and we look forward to moving in early next academic year.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and continued support and to wish everyone a restful half term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Hood'.

Miss N Hood
Principal



Shaded UK

On Friday 6th December 2019 the academy was pleased to welcome the band SHADED.

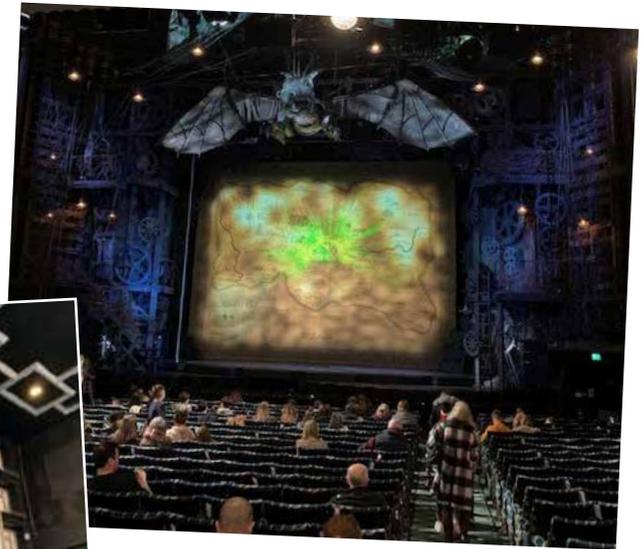
The band were invited in to help students understand the importance of being safe online and the issues around cyber-bullying. Students listened attentively and were a credit to the academy. After the sessions there was a very long queue for autographs!



Wicked

On Wednesday 18th December 2019 Year 7 students were lucky enough to attend a production of 'Wicked' at London's Apollo Victoria Theatre. The trip was an opportunity to inspire students and encourage a love of theatre.

The Students behaved themselves impeccably throughout the day and thoroughly enjoyed the show.



V&A Museum of Art and Design

On Tuesday 21st January 2020 Year 12 and 13 Art, Photography and Fashion students visited the V&A museum in London. They saw two exhibitions and had time to explore the gallery to develop ideas for their projects and learn about a range of artists and photographers. They saw the Tim Walker Exhibition as well as the fashion outfits in the Mary Quant Exhibition.



Bebras Challenge

In November students throughout the academy took part in the annual Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This is a national competition designed to get students interested in problem solving.

The challenge involves students attempting to solve 18 problems which gradually get more difficult within the 40 minute time limit.

There were some really good results with a number of students receiving an invitation to the Oxford Computing Challenge organised by Oxford University as a result of finishing in the top 10% of students in the country.



Active Citizenship

As part of their Year 11 Citizenship course students were introduced to the idea of volunteering. The group have recently volunteered at The Lunch Club in Mildenhall where members really appreciated the time and effort students put in.

The students also set about raising money for The Lunch Bunch and with the help of fellow MCA students they raised **£268.25**.



Phantom of the Opera

On Thursday 12th December 2019 GCSE and A Level Music students headed off to Her Majesty's Theatre in London to see Phantom of the Opera. They spent time in Covent Garden and then headed to the theatre where all were moved and impressed by the magnificent production. It was a wonderful day for staff and students and they hope to visit another show soon.



National Museum of Computing



On Friday 6th December 2019 Mr Sexton and Mr Kelly took a group of Computer Science students to The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. It was in the huts at Bletchley Park that a team of code breakers, including Alan Turing, spent World War 2 trying to break the codes sent out by German Enigma machines.

During the trip, students were treated to a guided tour describing how technology has developed from the computers used to break the Enigma code to what we use today. Students also got to have a go at making some chat bots to try and fool

each other as well as writing code on the BBC Micro computers, there was even the chance to play some retro games.

The trip really enlightened students as to what goes into the technology they take for granted. It also helped to show the hardware that students will need to know for their exams.

Year 10 student Connie Roffe said: ***"I really enjoyed my time at The National Museum of Computing in Bletchley Park. Seeing all of the computers and how they have developed over time was really cool. I loved learning about Alan Turing's work with the Enigma code and also playing Mario Kart on the gaming consoles. I hope to go there again in the future."***



Cyber First Girls

In January Year 8 girls were invited to take part in a cyber security competition organised by the National Cyber Security Centre. Girls teamed up into groups of four to attempt to solve some pretty challenging problems aimed to show them what a career in cyber security might look like.

MCA had six teams registered this year with lots of effort being put in across the

ten day period. Three teams in particular showed an excellent commitment with the MCA leader board changing daily during this time

Students enjoyed the challenges and are now considering careers protecting our country's computer systems.



During December our students did lots of wonderful things to support the local community. They decided to hold a non-uniform day and students brought in items for the local foodbank (for this privilege). Over 1500 items were collected which were donated to the Kings Project Emergency Foodbank in Mildenhall.

In addition to this on Friday 13th December 2019 'Seven's Harmony' vocal group visited Mildenhall Lodge Care Home to sing Christmas Carols with the residents. The students all had a very festive time and hope to return soon.

Year 7 student Florence Kent said:

'Singing at Mildenhall Lodge was an honour and such a memorable experience. I loved seeing the residents smiling, clapping and singing along and it made me feel warm inside. I love singing so thank you for the wonderful opportunity'

As part of the festive celebrations Year 11 prefects visited the elderly at a local care home where they spent time talking to them about their lives.

Other activities have included 'Fill a Sock' for the homeless and taking gifts to West Suffolk Hospital Rainbow Ward for children who were in hospital over the Christmas period. These are just a few examples of the wonderful things students do.



At Mildenhall College Academy it is not only about academic success but ensuring that our students feel safe and supported. We aim to support all of our students in a variety of ways. Here is a brief glimpse of some of what we offer.

Breakfast Club

The academy operates a free 'Tea and Toast' service every morning in the Dining Hall starting at 8:15 a.m.

Peer Mentoring

We have trained Year 11 and Sixth Form students to work with younger students in the academy to support them with their emotional and social wellbeing.

Prefect Team

The Year 11 prefect team are on duty every break time to help support students at social times. This can simply be a friendly ear or helping with activities.

Paired Reading

Trained Year 11 students work closely with Year 7 students to help improve their literacy skills. This takes place every tutor time.

Dedicated Year 7 and 8 Lunch Space

Dedicated classrooms where Year 7 and 8 students can sit and eat their lunch and where there are games available to play. The rooms are supervised at all times by staff.

Financial Support - Uniform

Financial support is available to purchase academy uniform. Enquiries should be directed to Mr Goodenough.

Financial Support - Trips

The academy offers a wide range of trips and visits. We do not want any student to miss out on the opportunity to attend a trip due to cost. Please contact the trip leader who will look to see what support can be provided.

SEND Provision

The academy provides support for students with special educational needs via our SENCo, Ms R Woods and her excellent support team. They can be found in the Student Support Area and Room 34.

Young Carers

Being a young carer can be challenging. The academy operates a support system for young carers to help them manage their time as a young carer and a student. If you would like to find out more please see Mrs McMullan.

Student Support Officers

Each house has a House Leader and a Student Support Officer:

Austen - Mr Hunter
Brunel - Mrs Bugg
Cavell - Mrs Seaney
Newton - Mrs Grant

the team are on hand to help with any questions or concerns a student may have.



The House Office

The House Office is always staffed and is the main student information point. If a student needs to borrow uniform, dinner money, stationery or anything else they can go there before school, at break or at lunch time. It is also the place to go if a student has any concerns.

Library

At break and lunch times students have the opportunity to read books and use the computers in a quiet supervised space.

Sixth Form Teaching Assistants

Year 12 and 13 students support students in lessons at Bury Road. The students help in lessons linked to their Sixth Form courses.

Careers Advisor

1:1 impartial careers advice is available to all students from a qualified independent advisor. To request an appointment students should see their tutor.

Clinical Psychologist

Dr Woods works with the academy to plan and deliver a provision that promotes positive mental health. We have a range of support groups including anxiety and depression.

School Nurse

Monthly drop in sessions are available as well as planned appointments through a referral process. Students can also contact the school nursing team out of hours using the contact details which can be found outside the House Office.

Clinical Psychologist

Dr Hope Westgate and I are working to support the whole MCA community through training events, workshops, therapy groups, advice and information and 1:1 support for students. Although the 1:1 clinical psychology support is only available for a small number of students at any one time, our group projects aim to support emotional wellbeing throughout the academy and are designed to benefit larger numbers of students.

We are also planning a workshop for parents and carers, so do look out for the short survey that will soon be coming around, as this will be an opportunity to tell us what you would find helpful.

Dr Alison Woods and Dr Hope Westgate
Clinical Psychologists at MCA.



Dr Woods



Dr Westgate

Tutor Projects

C10 - Collected items to be donated to local care homes for residents during the winter period.

C9 - Raised £120 by holding a Christmas Hamper raffle. The money raised went to Kings food bank. Congratulations to Year 9 student Natan Molnar who won the hamper.

C8 - Carried out random acts of kindness ranging from holding doors open to helping a child cross the road and giving a friend a gift.

C7 - Gave out gingerbread men to staff as a way of saying thank you and showing their appreciation.

C6 - Made 'Thank You' and 'Happy New Year' cards which were then delivered to staff as a way of expressing their appreciation.

C5 - Organised a staff versus students charity football match and raised £42.31 for the Rainbow Trust children's charity.

Renewable Energy

Year 8 student Aidan Fouracre has a keen interest in renewable energy and a desire to encourage others to do their bit to help save the planet.

As a way of raising awareness he asked to submit an article in the newsletter. This is his message to our readers:

'We should use renewable energy sources because it would save thousands of lives. 400 people a year are dying from carbon monoxide poisoning so if we start using renewable sources now, after six months that number could be halved'

Aidan Fouracre, Year 8

Aidan is an active member of our Environmental Committee.



'Parental engagement is a powerful lever for raising achievement in schools. When parents and teachers work together to improve learning, the gains in achievement are significant.'

Do Parents Know they Matter (Harris & Goodall/University of Warwick 2007).

When parents and carers are actively involved in their children's education, children do better on a wide range of measures. These positive effects include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- Higher attendance rates
- A lower risk of exclusion
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Improved outcomes

In fact, Professor of Education John Hattie concludes that ***'the effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student's education'***.

This is why it is so important to us at MCA that we build a positive partnership with the parents and carers of our students, from before your children join us right through to when they leave. When schools and parents listen to each other and work together, it has a really positive impact on student well-being and attainment.

The term "parental engagement" is a broad one and covers many ways parents and carers can get involved in their child's school life. It includes:

- What parents do at home to help their child succeed at school
- Supporting children to attend and learn at school every day
- Making sure children understand the value their parents place on education
- Parents being involved in their child's school – reading emails and responding if necessary, attending parents' evenings and other parental information events, talking to members of staff on the telephone, providing feedback and suggesting improvements.

Your voice matters to us and we welcome any opportunity to build strong and positive relationships with the parents and carers of our students so that we can all help them to become successful adults.

Do you have a procedure in place if your child's bus is late picking them up in the morning?

Late buses are buses which have not arrived 20 minutes after their timetabled pick up. If this happens it is recommended you follow this course of action:

1. Your child contacts you with their stop and bus route
2. Ask them to stay at the stop
3. Call the Academy on **01638 714645** to report the late bus

If the academy is not already aware of the delay, we will look into the situation and call you back. Students who are provided a pass for a Suffolk County Council operated bus should also report the incident to Suffolk Passenger Transport by calling them on: **0345 606 6173**.

Post 16 Home to School Transport

If you currently travel on a route operated by Suffolk Passenger Transport and are looking to attend MCA⁶ in

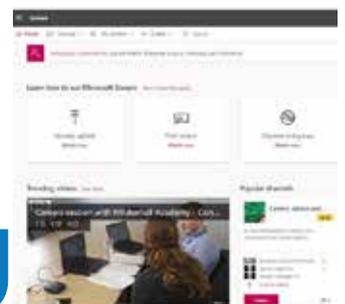
September you may not be aware that transport is NOT automatically provided. Suffolk Passenger Transport currently operates a Post-16 discretionary travel scheme where you can apply for a place by registering with them by the 31st May at www.suffolkonboard.com/apply. If they are able to offer you a place they will send you an invoice. However if they are unable to offer you transport, and you applied by the deadline of 31st May, they will write to advise you of this before the start of term. Alternatively you can travel to MCA⁶ by public transport. All 16-19 year olds can apply for a free Endeavour Card which is accepted by the majority of bus service providers in Suffolk. This card gives young people a minimum of 25% discount on an adult bus fare anytime. You do not need to be in full-time Post-16 education to benefit from the free Endeavour Card. To find a full list of bus operators that accept the Endeavour card and apply, visit www.endeavourcard.co.uk. You can also contact bus operators directly to see what ticket options they offer. Details of all operators are available at: www.suffolkonboard.com/operators.

Careers Channel

The new MCA career channel has finally gone live! The channel allows students to listen to interviews from real people, doing real jobs within different sectors of the employment world. We currently have a host of interviews including an Occupational Nurse and an Archaeologist. They are there ready to inspire students to become the best they can be!

The channel also contains a list of CV's from professional people. Reading through these CV's will enable students to learn more about what is expected from them in the world of work. It will also show them the best routes to take in order to get to where they want to go.

Office 365 – STREAM – Careers advice and guidance.



Office for Students

A few weeks ago I was invited alongside Mrs Sanders-Pope to visit the Houses of Parliament for the launch event of the outreach education hub project 'Uni Connect'. This was formed from the previous NEACO project originally funded to help students from areas with a low university uptake find out more about university as an option.

On Wednesday 29th January 2020 we travelled to Westminster for the event which consisted of speeches from MP's and governors for the Office for Students about how the project has helped so far and their aims and aspirations for the future to try and get more people from these areas into university.

After the speeches we were approached by various people who were keen to find out about how the project has helped at academy level and as an individual. This was a great opportunity to speak with those individuals who have invested in the future students of higher education.

The event included speeches from the Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP and Sir Michael Barber, Chair of the Office for Students.



I have received support through the Take Your Place programme and will be going on to study a Motorsport degree at Coventry University.

Tom Canham, Year 13

TA Work Experience in the Lower School

I have found being a Teaching Assistant at MCA a very rewarding role as I get to watch younger students progress in their learning, I get to work alongside students of all different abilities. The main reason I decided to become a teaching assistant at Bury Road is because I am passionate about helping young individuals and it has enabled me to help the younger students while also gaining specialised skills that will benefit my future.

Ariana Chipchase, Year 13

Here are some of the key terms used in exams:

State – Give a simple answer such as a correct term or name.

Describe – Give detail about what happens, where it happens and when it happens.

If it is 'describe a graph', give specific numbers and data from the graph.

Explain – Give detail about how and why it happens. Use specific key terminology within the topic/subject.

Suggest – Come up with an idea based on what you have learnt. Do not panic, you may not know the answer – the examiner just wants you to apply your knowledge.

Revision Success

1. Make every lesson count- long term memory is so powerful.

2. Get everything you need to revise for each subject: Have you got a revision guide? Check list for every topic? Knowledge organiser for every topic? Past paper questions?

3. Make sure you have a quiet space to work in.

4. Make a timetable- which subject/s on each day?

5. Check off each topic covered.

6. Make notes/flashcards.

7. Remove and test yourself - be active, talk it through.

8. Past papers - mark, evaluate and revisit.

9. Use knowledge tests to secure key knowledge. Sam learning is great for this!

Exam Skills Timetable

| Day | Time | Subject | Room | Staff |
|-----------|--------------|---|--|--|
| Monday | Lunch | | | |
| | After School | Maths 1-4 Maths 5-6 Maths 7+ Chemistry | 7 104 5 17 | Mrs Kerr Mr Birch Mr Hughes Miss Hill |
| Tuesday | Lunch | Business Studies Spanish | 52 67 | Mrs Willingham Miss Reason |
| | After School | English Lang English Lang History 4+ History 6+ Drama (Chatroom) | 42 44 49 48 60 | Miss Robson Ms Percy Mrs Powling / Miss Harris Mrs Betts / Mr Lewis Miss Finbow |
| Wednesday | Lunch | HSC | 52 | Ms Christoforou |
| | After School | English Literature Biology Biology Computer Science IT DT (Food) DT | 39/40 10 13 72 71 Library 26 | Miss Roe/Mr Mottershead Mrs Holden Mrs Briggs-Hunter Mr Sexton Mr Kelly Mrs Peacock Mr Daniels |
| Thursday | Lunch | French Chemistry (from 12.50pm) | 66 16 | Mr Hodgson Mrs Ackland |
| | After School | English Lit HSC Geography 4+ Geography 6+ Music Art Physics Physics Drama (HTS) | 43 52 36 33 63 27 14 12 60 | Miss Medcalf Ms Christoforou Mrs Earll Mrs Billson Mrs Sayer/Mrs Wright Miss Moles-Smith Mr Chubb Ms Southward Miss Finbow |
| Friday | After School | Drama (Shakers) Business Studies | 60 52 | Miss Finbow Mrs Willingham |

Rugby

On Tuesday 26th November 2019 MCA U15 boys won the U15 rugby tournament at Stowmarket RFC going unbeaten throughout the tournament.

The team was led by Rhys Parry-Jones.



Athletics

On Tuesday 14th January 2020 the MCA athletics team took part in the Newmarket Academy indoor athletics competition. The boys came third and the girls came fifth.

Stand out performances included Sienna Smith in the sprinting and Jude Hawkins in the boys field events.



Other Sporting Achievements

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| U12 Netball v St Bendicts | Won 5-2 |
| U13 Netball v Thurston | Won 4-3 |
| U13 Netball v Stowmarket | Won 4-0 |
| U12 Netball v Thurston | Won 2-0 |
| U13 Netball v Sybil Andrews | Drew 6-6 |
| U13 Netball v Sybil Andrews | Won 12-2 |
| U12 Netball v Sybil Andrews | Won 2-0 |
| U14 Basketball v Samuel Ward | Won 30-11 |
| U14 Netball v County Upper | Drew 1-1 |
| U12 Girls Basketball v Horringer | Won-40-6 |
| U12 Boys Basketball v Castle Manor | Won 24-20 |
| U15 Futsal Tournament | Won 1, lost 3, 4th out of 5 |

Basketball

The U12s Basketball team got their competition off to a positive start. Their first game against Westley was a close 26-20 loss. This was the first basketball game for most of the squad and so was a fantastic result. The girls really improved from the first quarter to the fourth. The next day they traveled to Horringer where they had a great 40-6 victory. The girls were increasing in confidence; shooting, defending and dribbling all over the court. Their next fixture is against Castle Manor. Lets see if they can continue their winning ways!



Netball

Year 10 Netball achieve first in the Suffolk Western Area League with the Year 8 Netball team coming second for their age group

Clubs and Activities SPRING 2020



Lunchtime

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| SEND Club ROOM 34 | SEND Club ROOM 34 | SEND Club ROOM 34 | SEND Club ROOM 34 | SEND Club ROOM 34 |
| Basketball Hoops DOME | Cyber Security ROOM 72 | E-Sports Competition ROOM 72 | Lego League ROOM 72 | Handball DOME |
| MCA6 Mindfulness ROOM S20 | Badminton DOME | N&DYC Lunch Club ROOM 51 | Badminton DOME | Keyboard Club ROOM 61 (KS4) ROOM 63 (KS3) |
| | Football (Year 7 & 8) ASTRO | Board & Card Games ROOM 40 | Football (Years 9 - 11) ASTRO | 'You Belong Here' Club ROOM 39 |
| | Japanese Club ROOM 65 | Wellbeing Club ROOM 63 | Voice Squad ROOM 61 | MCA6 Film Club ROOM S24 |
| | Art & Colouring Club ROOM 36 | Year 11 HSC Club ROOM 52 | Guitar Maintenance Club ROOM 62 | |
| | MCA6 LGBT Club ROOM S6 | | | |
| | MCA6 Yoga DANCE STUDIO | | | |
| | MCA6 Newsletter Group (Monthly) ROOM S20 | | | |

After School

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Cheerleading (all years) GYM | Netball ASTRO | Computing and ICT Revision ROOM 72 | Basketball DOME | <i>No clubs</i> |
| | Football FIELD | Rugby FIELD | BTEC Sport Intervention ROOM 73 | |
| | MCA6 Health and Social Care Intervention ROOM S20 | Girls Cricket DOME | Year 11 GCSE Music Intervention ROOM 63 | |
| | | Band ROOM 63 | GCSE Art Club ROOM 27 | |
| | | DT GCSE Club ROOM 24 | Year 11 HSC Club ROOM 52 | |