

Mildenhall College Academy



NEWSLETTER



February 2019



New Academy Building - Enabling Works Begin!



Principal: Mrs S Byles

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Dates For Your Diary

Students Return	Monday 25th February 2019
Year 11 Mock Exams 2 - week 1	W/C Monday 25th February 2019
Year 11 Mock Exams 2 - week 2	W/C Monday 4th March 2019
Year 9 Health & Social Care Nursery Visit	Monday 4th March 2019
Year 8 Parents Open Morning	Wednesday 6th March 2019
Year 9 Health & Social Care Nursery Visit	Monday 11th March 2019
Year 9 HPV Vaccinations	Monday 25th March 2019
Year 10 'catch up' MMR Vaccinations	Monday 25th March 2019
Year 11 PE Moderation Day	Tuesday 26th March 2019
Year 11 GCSE Drama Trip	Thursday 28th March 2019
Year 7-10 A,G & T PE Trip	Wednesday 3rd April 2019
Year 7 Science Trip to Banham Zoo	Thursday 4th April 2019
Sixth Form Theatre Trip	Thursday 4th April 2019
Prefect Trip to Thrope Park	Friday 5th April 2019
Easter Holiday	Monday 8th-Monday 22nd April 2019
PD Day	Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Students Return	Wednesday 24th April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. I am pleased to be able to announce that the enabling work has begun on the site of our new build and that RG Carter are the contractors who will be building the hub. This is very exciting news for the academy and local community and we are looking forward to the project's completion in 2020.



I am going to keep you updated with a visual record of how the site changes during the build as it transforms from a muddy field to an amazing school and public services hub (see pictures below).

I am always pleased to see students taking the initiative to do something good and I am impressed that five Sixth Formers have developed a 'MCA⁶ app' which has been launched on both android and apple devices.

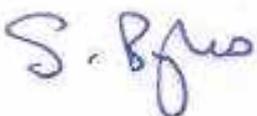
As ever you will read about many more success stories in this edition of the newsletter. Enjoy!

We have recently reviewed the process we use for issuing parents information about trips to give all a fairer chance of getting a place on those that are likely to be over-subscribed.

1. All pupils who receive paper copies of letters will be given these to take home on the same day that the letters are emailed to parents/carers.
2. For trips which could be oversubscribed the letter will state the number of places available and that these will be allocated on a 'first-come; first-served' principle.
3. There will be a delay between the letter being issued and when payments and forms can be returned. The date of when payments can be accepted on scopy and/or in person at the Finance Office will be specified in the letter. We will not process any requests before the stated date and time.
4. This will give anyone struggling to find the money a chance to speak to the trip organiser to see if any support can be given so that children do not miss out. We cannot help everyone but we may be able to help you spread the payments if it is appropriate to do so.
5. Pupil Premium children may also be able to have financial support for a trip. The person to contact in this case is Mr Goodenough.

I hope that you will agree that this will be a fairer system but even with this, there will be some disappointed children as it is not always possible to take everyone who wants to go on a trip. I wish everyone a happy half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Byles
Principal



Charity Haircut

Year 8 student Georgie Houston and Year 10 student Robyn Jay both recently decided to have their long hair cut to raise money in aid of the Little Princess Trust.

The Little Princess Trust are a charity organisation who provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children across the UK and Ireland that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Georgie is pictured right with her new shorter haircut proudly holding her letter of support from the RT Hon Matt Hancock MP.



Charity Update

On Friday 16th November 2018 we supported the national Children in Need charity and raised an impressive **£1,056.93**.

We also looked at which local charity we want to support in 2019. Our Year 11 Fundraising Team short listed the various nominations to :

1. King's Project Emergency Food bank
2. Bury Drop In
3. Scotty's Little Soldiers – East Anglian branch
4. Taylor Bewick Memorial Fund

Each Tutor group, as well as MCA⁶ were given the chance to vote for the charity of their choice. The overwhelming number of votes were to support a memorial fund for Taylor Bewick.

Taylor was a former pupil of MCA who suffered from the degenerative condition Duchenne's disease – a rare genetic disorder that he was born with.

Sadly Taylor passed away earlier in the year and we as an academy will raise money for Duchenne UK in his memory over the course of 2019.



On Monday 14th January 2019 Councillors and other members of the Mildenhall Hub team gathered at the site to congratulate construction company RG Carter on being appointed to take on the build after agreeing the contract worth more than £39 million.

James Wilson, director and general manager at RG Carter, said:

“RG Carter is delighted to have been given the opportunity to be a part of this unique and innovative project.”

Susan Byles, Principal of the Academy, said:

“The hub will provide the new school building which young people in and around Mildenhall so richly deserve. The students will benefit not only from having a better educational setting but also from working with the other hub partners.”

The hub, which will open in 2020, will include a new school, children’s centre, new leisure facilities, a health centre, facilities for Suffolk police, West Suffolk

Council and Suffolk County Council, as well as a library, job centre and Citizens Advice centre.

Enabling works, including a sewer division, are already taking place ahead of construction getting fully underway in the spring.



On Tuesday 29th January 2019 we welcomed Professor Tim Minshall, Head of the Institute for Manufacturing and Centre for Technology Management at Cambridge University.

This particular seminar explored the concept of innovation and its importance in the modern technological world.

Professor Tim Minshall engaged our young learners with design Innovation examples that have helped, shaped, or will develop, humanity's progress.

He discussed the idea of failure being an integral component of success in great detail, making reference to Tesla's landing rocket and the number of failed attempts made in order to achieve the desired outcome, which is a rocket that can take off, travel to space and return to earth and land. This event was hugely enriching for our design students at MCA.

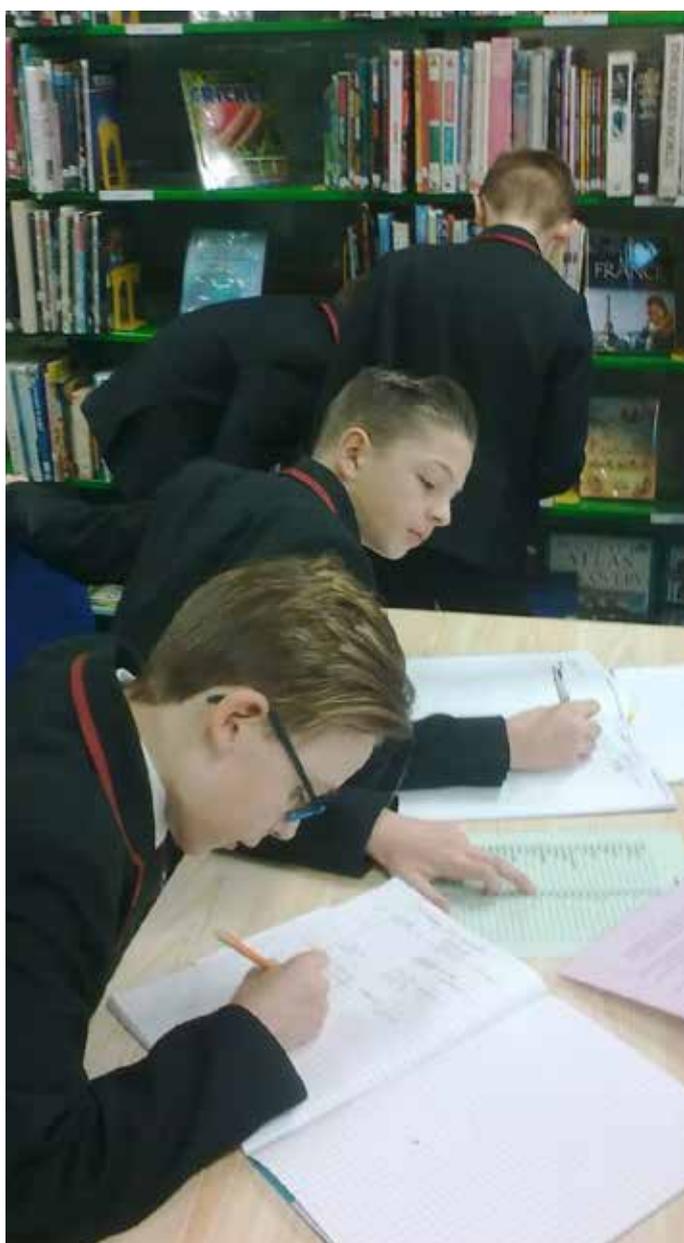
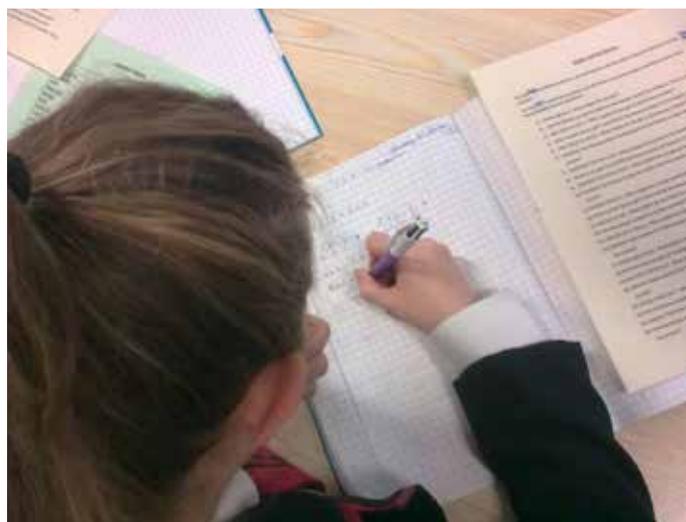
It encouraged the students to believe that anyone can be an innovator if they have an idea and to not be put off by failure!



During December each Year 7 Maths class was taken into the library to do some maths using the classification system of non-fiction books.

The Dewey Decimal System is what is used to classify the non-fiction books in libraries all over the world. Students were tasked with using the reference system to answer some calculations, then they were also asked to solve some calculations and find what type of book was to be found at that number.

This allowed the students to become more familiar with the non-fiction section of the library as well as putting some maths skills into practice in a very different setting.



Elmers Big Parade

From June to September, Ipswich is set to play host to an amazing and colourful art trail set in and around the town centre.

Elmer's Big Parade Suffolk will bring together artists and schools from across the county to design and create their own Elmer to add to the herd and raise money for the charity St. Elizabeths Hospice.

MCA will be taking part in this exciting art opportunity and our very own Elmer has already arrived safe and sound at the academy.

At the moment we are in the planning stage and are going through the fantastic entries submitted in the competition to design our Young Elmer. Students in the shortlisted top ten entries will form our painting team, who will work together



to turn the winning design into a work of art. As we make make a start and begin to paint our Elmer, keep your eyes peeled for updates and pictures in newsletters and on twitter.

Miss Moles-Smith

Meet the Governor Dr Jo Brei-Crawley



I am very excited to be a community governor for MCA and learn more about the British education system. I have been working in the US education

system for over 30 years, most of this time in US overseas schools. I have worked in a wide range of age groups including primary schools, middle schools,

and have been an assistant principal. I have taught university courses in early childhood education and technology. I have a Master's Degree in Administration, an Educational Doctoral Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and advanced studies in technology. Currently I am the Educational Technologist at Lakenheath Middle School. As a community governor I feel that I can bring in a new perspective to MCA while bringing back to my school in Feltwell examples of exemplary instruction.

My responsibilities in the academy are for MFL and Maths.



On Friday 18th January 2019, Mildenhall College Academy took two teams to The Forum in Norwich to take part in this year's Lego League. For some of the students it was their fourth year competing; for others it was their first time competing.

The morning session consisted of the three judging tasks. The first task was the project presentation, where students had to present the findings of their research to a problem, and come up with an innovative idea to resolve a problem going into space. Task two was the robot design. The students had to discuss their robot and why they made certain decisions. Task three was the core values task, where the students had to discuss how they had worked as a team

and overcome problems. Both teams did incredibly well in all three of these tasks.

During the afternoon session the students got to see how well their programming of their robot worked. Team two did slightly better than team one here but team one worked hard to close the gap through the course of the three robot games.

At the awards ceremony, both teams were awarded a trophy. Team one were awarded the trophy for Core Values showing how well that they had worked as a team throughout the course of the preparation and the event. Team two were awarded best newcomer.



MCA⁶ App

In July Mrs Sanders-Pope set a group of Sixth Form students the challenge of creating a new app for students at MCA⁶ as part of their work experience.

Finlay Boyle, Dan Arnold, Callum Cash, Freddie Webb and Jake Bozward were selected as the development team to design, develop and test this app. First they had to meet with their client (Mrs Sanders-Pope) and work out what she wanted. At times they also had to tone down her ambition which gave them a realistic project experience. The next task was to put this into some form of plan of action and then start to design the user interface and functionality of the app.

They took over red office and plastered the walls with ideas, database designs and algorithms before getting on with some coding. Sub teams were formed

with Finlay Boyle taking the project manager role.

By the end of the week a working app was created with an admin interface and the team had to present their app to Mrs Byles and Mr Skillern. They explained what they had done and both were incredibly impressed and gave permission for the app to be published to students.

This app went live in January 2019 and is now available as a free download to students and staff.

Students will be able to use this app to view information, notices and access key websites.

Home to Academy Transport

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.

Please lodge a complaint with Suffolk Passenger Transport by calling them on **0345 606 6173**.

Post 16 Home to Academy 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.





Operating Theatre Live

On Tuesday 18th December 2018 a group of Year 12 and 13 students attended a trip accompanied by Mr Smith to West Suffolk College to take part in 'Operating Theatre Live' – an interactive workshop learning about human anatomy and what it's like to be a doctor.

Before entering the theatre, we were provided with a full set of scrubs (including a face mask) as well as a stethoscope. The day then involved multiple dissections including having a whole pig's head placed in front of us to dissect! We had to remove the brain in order to further investigate this organ.

We also got to investigate the respiratory system and were able to dissect the lungs and heart of a pig in order to look fully

at their structures and talk about the functions.

At lunch time there were lots of opportunities to ask various people questions about universities and possible future pathways with specialists on hand to help with things such as personal statements and interviews.

The day was very hands on and interesting and we all came away with a wealth of new knowledge that is above and beyond what is regularly taught in A-level courses. It was an opportunity that not many 16-18 year olds have and I think it will help us to be more successful when we apply to universities in the future.

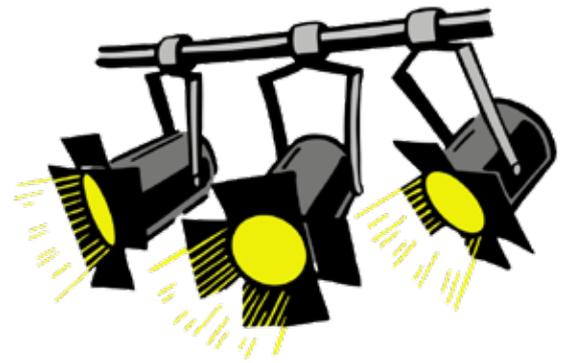
Lucy King, Year 12



On Tuesday 22nd January 2019 GCSE Drama students enjoyed a visit from theatre company ***Splendid Productions*** who specialise in creating performances based on classic texts in a modern and exciting way. They also portray in their work that politics and theatre can work really well together and create performances that make the audience think about what is going on in the world currently.

Workshop leader John taught our GCSE students different techniques and methods that they could use when creating their own pieces of theatre.

The day started off with playing some games to work on reaction skills and to make sure that everyone was wide awake! He then moved on to different activities to get the students thinking about how to add meaning into their performances. The day ended with students creating a performance based



on a fairy tale using the different techniques that they had learnt. After the workshop John spoke to the group about his experiences in the acting industry. He told the students about what going to Drama School was like and discussed the different professional work that he has done.

Students gained a lot from the day and have now started to use the techniques learnt in their practical performance.



Once again it has been a busy half term for the PE faculty. We are thrilled to have taken two teams to compete in Suffolk County Finals competitions this half-term.

The students involved have excelled in local leagues and Western Area competitions to qualify for the finals.

It is very rare for us to have two teams representing the academy in County Finals in the same year.

Indoor athletics

The U13 and U15 boys' and girls' indoor athletics teams have been in action in recent weeks. The format of the Western Area competition, held in Newmarket, featured a mixture of individual and team events across a range of throwing, jumping and running disciplines. Stand-out performers for MCA were the U15 girls team of Amalee Neill Gourlay Mia Bewick, Luna Dimande, Emily Stokes Esme Riser, Jessie Beale and Jemima Kent. They fought off competition from the likes of King Edward VI School, Castle Manor Academy, Ormiston Sudbury Academy and Newmarket Academy to finish runners-up.

The girls narrowly missed out on a place in the county finals, beaten to top spot by Thomas Gainsborough School. Well done to all U13 and U15 athletes who represented the academy so well across two afternoons of competition.

Sports Studies

Our Year 12 Sport Studies students have been creating the Cardiovascular system to test their recall of knowledge.



Basketball

The U16 girls basketball team competed in the Suffolk Schools County Finals on Tuesday 29th January 2019.

Some excellent basketball was played in the first match as we scored 32 points before losing out to a strong Copleston High School side.

Badminton

On Wednesday 30th January 2019 our U16 girls badminton team competed in the Suffolk Schools Badminton Finals in Ipswich. Overall they finished as one of the runners-up. Top performances came from Esme and Abi who won two of their five matches.

Cross Country

Year 13 student Reuben Handy took a break from competing in cross country just over a year ago.

He has been focusing on playing football and cricket since. Reuben was recently persuaded to enter the U20 mens race at the Suffolk Cross Country Championships at Culford on Sunday 6th January 2019. Not only did he run very well, but he won the race!

We would also like to congratulate Year 8 student Ben Peck who also won his race at Culford on Sunday to become the U13 Boys Suffolk Schools Cross Country champion.



Under 16 Girls Basketball Team



Under 16 Girls Badminton Team



Reuben Handy

Netball

In their final ever games, the Year 11 Netball team beat St Benedict's Catholic School 18-16 and narrowly lost to Thomas Gainsborough School in a match which went down to the last few seconds, losing 8-7. (Picture attached).

Dance Workshop

The Year 10 Dance students took part in a workshop run by dance company *Slanted Dance* on Tuesday 29th January 2019.

The students learnt a piece of professional repertoire called 'Rosas'.

All the students worked exceptionally hard and the final piece looked excellent. They learnt lots of valuable top tips and developed their techniques.



Year 11 Netball Team



Dance Workshop

Could you offer
Work Experience
placements to our
Sixth Formers?

If so we'd love to hear from you!

t: 01638 714645 e: reception@mca.attrust.org.uk

