

Mildenhall College Academy



NEWSLETTER



May 2019



MCA Welcomes Overseas Visitors



Principal: Mrs S Byles

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Dates For Your Diary

Students Return	Monday 3rd June 2019
Year 12 Mock Exams – For Two Weeks	Monday 3rd June - Friday 14th June 2019
Bake Off Competition 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday 3rd June 2019
Y7 Parents' Eve - Q Population 5:00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	Thursday 6th June 2019
Y7 Parents' Eve - X Population 5:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m.	Thursday 13th June 2019
Year 11 Celebration Event	Friday 14th June 2019
Sixth Form UCAS Exhibition	Monday 17th June 2019
Year 9 Meningitis Vaccinations	Thursday 20th June 2019
Sixth Form Visit to University of Essex	Thursday 20th June 2019
Year 10 Geography Fieldwork	Friday 21st June 2019
Year 7-10 Exams - For Two Weeks	Monday 24th June - Friday 5th July 2019
Year 12 Health & Social Care Trip	Wednesday 26th June 2019
Sixth Form Art Exhibition	Thursday 27th June 2019
Year 12 Trip to University Library	Friday 28th June 2019
Year 13 Midsummer Ball	Friday 28th June 2019
Year 12 Work Experience Week	W/C Monday 1st July 2019
Sixth Form Induction Day	Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Dates For Your Diary



Meet The Tutor Evening 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Thursday 4th July 2019
Year 11 Prom	Friday 5th July 2019
Year 7 and 8 Music Showcase Concert 7:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9th July 2019
Year 9, 10, 12 Dance Show 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday 10th July 2019
Year 8 AG&T 'Crime Day' at MCA6	Monday 15th July 2019
Summer Music Extravaganza Concert 7:00 p.m.	Tuesday 16th July 2019
Year 6 in to 7 Induction Day One	Wednesday 17th July 2019
Year 6 in to 7 Induction Day Two	Thursday 18th July 2019
Year 7 STEM Day	Friday 19th July 2019
Sports Day This Week	W/C Monday 22nd July 2019
Year 10 History Battlefields trip	Tuesday 23rd - Wednesday 24th July 2019
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 24th July 2019



**THERE WILL BE A UNIFORM SHOP
HELD AT MCA on TUESDAY 20th
AUGUST 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



Dear Parents and Carers

GCSEs and A-levels have now started in earnest and I know that you will be doing all you can to support your children through this stressful and difficult period. Simple things such as giving your child a good breakfast before an exam and ensuring there is a quiet space to revise in when they are at home (this could be in your home or even in a grandparents or relative's house) go a long way to helping them succeed. Sometimes an exam goes badly and it is at these times when you need to ask how your child is feeling and offer reassurance that their future DOES NOT depend solely on the outcome of one exam. If you think your child is really struggling with exam stress please let us know as there are many things we can do to help.



This term students and teachers from Spain and Switzerland have visited us. They have spent time getting to know what an English school is like. It has been a valuable experience for both the visiting students and our host students and they have learned more about each other's culture.

I would like to use this opportunity to check that all parents whose children need to travel to MCA by school transport next year have opted-in. The deadline to do this by is 31st May 2019. If you do not 'opt-in' Suffolk County Passenger Transport will not provide a seat for your child on the bus. You can register at: www.suffolkonboard.com/optin

The building works are gathering pace but the contractor, R G Carter, has been asked to observe a 'quiet period' between 13th May and 25th June so that they do not disturb the exams taking place at the Sixth Form site.

Parents of Year 6 – Make sure you put these dates in your diary:
Thursday 4th July is Meet the Tutor Evening. You will receive a letter inviting you to a particular time slot lasting half an hour when you will have an individual meeting with your child's new form tutor. This is an important evening as we also give you details of the arrangements for the induction days.

Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th July – Year 6 in to 7 induction days. Your children will be spending two days at MCA to get to know their new secondary school. We can't wait to meet your children again and spend some quality time with them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Byles".

Mrs S Byles
Principal



As you may be aware we ran an attendance promotion during the second half of the Spring term. Because the half term was only 30 school days long we decided to award five lucky winners with a £30 Amazon voucher.

To be in with a chance of winning, students had to attend all 30 days of the half term.

There was one winner drawn from each House and one extra winner for the House with the most 30 day attendees.

During the course of the half term the figures fluctuated as the Houses fought for the lead spot. At the end of the promotion Austen came out as the overall winners with the greatest

number of 100% attendees awarding Miss Muttock with a giant Easter egg for her inspirational leadership of Austen House.

The five lucky winners were:

Connor Cobbold, Archie Fairhead-Andrews, Billy Williamson, Daniel West and Emily Cox.

Well done to all, and look out for future attendance promotions!

Mr D Barrett
Attendance Leader

attendance
MATTERS

Charity Update

As part of our charity support this year we raised money for Red Nose Day at the end of March 2019. This included Tutor Groups bringing in loose change, a cake sale and a 'Red Nose Day T-Shirt' treasure hunt which was won by Year 8 student Callum Cambridge.

Our 'local' charity as chosen by the students and staff of MCA this year is Duchenne UK. This was chosen in memory of former MCA student, Taylor Bewick.

Our first part of fundraising included a huge Easter Egg Raffle. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and everyone who purchased a 20p raffle ticket. Forty prizes were given out in total with the 'big' prize winners being:

Hayden Sanders, Jack Chisholm , Molly Mathers and Esme Riser.

Overall we raised **£167.84** and we will continue to raise more money over the rest of the year.



Easter 'Big Prize' Raffle Winners

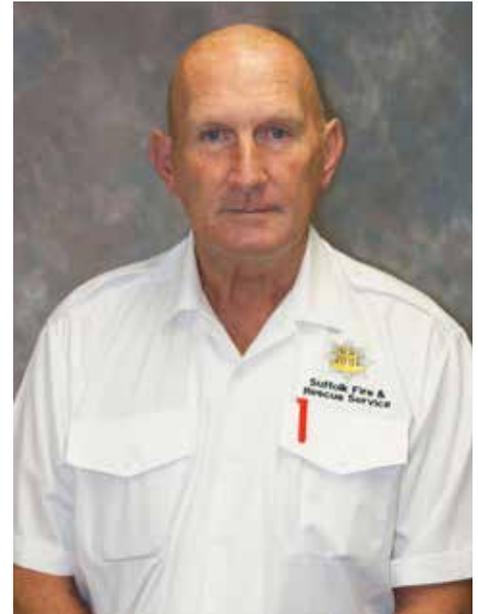
Young Carers Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 8th May 2019 we held a tea, coffee and cake morning in Room 34 in order to raise money in support of our young carers.

On behalf of the Young Carers we would like to say a big thank you to all of you who supported the morning. We have raised **£57** so far.



As the weather warms up and the summer holidays approach I would just like to take a moment to remind you of the dangers of water, known as the 'fatal five'. Being by the water can be a great way to spend your days but please be mindful and stay safe!



The Dangers of inland Waters: The Fatal Five

1. Cold Water Shock

This creates a physical response within the body which can cause limbs to become numb, which makes it very difficult to swim.

2. Under the Water Surface

Hazards such as branches or even shopping trolleys could cause entrapment. Weed can wrap around legs or feet and eventually cause drowning.

3. Currents or Water Conditions

Floods and unknown depths can be hazardous to swimmers. Submerged man hole covers can be raised by the pressure of water, leaving the man hole exposed.

4. Alcohol Consumption

Avoid alcohol when swimming.

5. Swimming Competency

There is a vast difference between the calm waters of swimming pools compared with strong currents of rivers. Strong swimmers can encounter problems caused by strong under currents.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe summer holiday.

Andrew Sheldrick

School Fire Liaison Officer





My name is Alex Bryant and I am a former student of Mildenhall College Academy where I attended from 2005 - 2006. I started my career in the entertainment industry through my work in social media, graphic design and production at American television shows and networks such as: CBS, Oprah Winfrey Network, Entertainment Tonight, Bravo, Canada's CTV, Billboard Music Awards, Grammys and the Daytime Emmy Awards.

If I had advice to share to current students, I would encourage them to keep a strong work ethic, be willing to learn beyond academics, show empathy to one another and help others through any hardship and finally not to be afraid to ask for help. When I was in primary and secondary school I faced multiple obstacles, however, I was empowered to work towards being the best version of myself by surrounding myself with people who were there to genuinely support me during my pitfalls and triumphs.

Since MCA have had some humbling experiences including: being invited to the Deiu Ngu Temple grand opening by the Dalai Lama in Westminster, California,

receiving a full-ride scholarship from General Motors, having artwork with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, featuring on Hallmark Channel and helping to raise \$1.3 million with Oprah Winfrey for a food pantry near Dallas, Texas.

Since moving to Austin, Texas, in January I recently opened for former first lady Michelle Obama for her 'Becoming' book tour in front of 17,000 people, I was invited to attend the inaugural Indy Car Classic race at the Circuit of the Americas, and was just named one of Black Enterprise's 2019 "100 Men of Distinction" honorees. The real intention behind what I have shared is to ensure that anyone who reads this can also believe that they too can have amazing experiences in their own life.



If you are a former student and would like to stay in touch and give back to your old school, you can sign up at:

networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/mca



On Friday 29th March 2019 we welcomed twenty five students from Spain into the academy for half a day to showcase our learning environment. The visit, organised by the British Language School, allowed the visitors to shadow our students for the day which culminated in a topical quiz with mixed teams made up of both MCA students and our visitors.



On Wednesday 8th May 2019 we welcomed twenty nine Swiss German visitors and on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th May 2019 we were joined by a further twenty five visitors from Spain.

These visits provide an invaluable experience for our students and gives them the opportunity to build some new European friendships!



Lessons From Auschwitz



Recently, two A-Level history students, Hana Harvey-Crysell and Luca Chadwick, were selected to attend a series of three visits organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' scheme.

The scheme is a four-part course entailing an orientation and follow up seminar and a trip to three Holocaust related sites in Poland. The trip to Poland took place on the 7th March as Miss Harris, Hana and Luca flew from Stansted in the early morning to arrive at Krakow airport for around 10 a.m. to begin their tour. The first point of call was a seemingly normal Polish town called Oswiecim where the locals were going about their business as they would any other day and as anyone back home would.

Perhaps the town suddenly gains a less 'normal' image, however, when referred to by its German name: Auschwitz. This was indeed one of many towns which had been destroyed and succumbed to Nazi rule during the early stages of the Second World War. Not much can be said for this town other than for how normal it seemed which is extremely crucial when it comes to humanising those who were

victims of the Holocaust. If you were to walk around this typical Eastern-European town without an idea of its name it is unlikely you would even consider what its story could be.

Soon after, we made the short trip to Auschwitz I – the first of two concentration and death camps used by the Nazis in this area. This camp was configured from what was once a Polish Army barracks and was used to hold all prisoners for the early stages of the Holocaust. Auschwitz I soon become too small for what was becoming a horrifyingly huge scale operation and the camp became predominantly for non-Jewish prisoners. This consisted of political prisoners such as communists, Polish resistance, homosexuals, gypsies as well as people from other ethnic and religious minorities. The camp was also used to house prisoners of war, who were kept separately to ensure that they were treated as per the Geneva convention – arguably irrelevant when the camp's main objective is considered! Visiting this site was unusual to say the least. To think we were walking around buildings and on ground where so many forgotten victims had walked was harrowing.

For the first time, the holocaust ceased to be a story, but a reality; seeing people's belongings, shoes, cases and their possessions seems trivial but to think that every item you see represented a lost story is saddening.

Finally, we arrived at probably the most well-known site of the Holocaust: Auschwitz-Birkenau. Walking through the gates is something that can only be done in silence. This was not just a prison for innocent people. This was the place that they would die. This site was constructed to operate alongside Auschwitz I, and was where most Jewish prisoners were deported to and filtered. Perhaps the most disturbing thought of the day being that to its staff, this place was a success and every single life that was signed away as it entered the gates was a job completed. The harsh conditions were visible, and even in the bright Polish sun the camp remained dark. After much discussion and exploration, it slowly started to sink in where we were and what we were doing. Visiting this site was the final confirmation (if any at all was needed) of the reality of the Holocaust. Both victims and perpetrators' stories were everywhere you looked yet remained untold. It was fascinating.

At the sun set, modern Jewish groups sung, and candles were lit causing hairs to raise. Our visit was over, but Auschwitz remains. The horrors and facts will never disappear, and it is important that we remember.

We hope to run a follow-up assembly and project to promote holocaust remembrance.

Luca Chadwick, Year 12



Photos by Luca Chadwick

STUDENTS TRAVELLING FROM BRANDON BY BUS

The academy administers the transport from Brandon, not Suffolk Passenger Transport, therefore you need to apply to us for your pass. You should by now have received a letter and application form from us. If you have not received your copy please contact Mrs Tuffs in the academy Finance Office. During the Summer break a letter will be sent notifying you of the route allocated together with your bus pass.

STUDENTS TRAVELLING FROM LAKENHEATH

Current Year 6 students joining us in September 2019, who live in Lakenheath and who are no longer eligible for free transport provided by Suffolk Passenger Transport can apply to Mildenhall College Academy instead. You should by now have received a letter and application form from us. If you have not received your copy please contact Mrs Tuffs in the academy Finance Office. During the Summer break a letter will be sent notifying you of the route allocated together with your bus pass.

FOR ALL OTHER STUDENTS TRAVELLING BY BUS

Suffolk County Passenger Transport have changed their policy regarding transporting students to schools within Suffolk. Passenger Transport now require students to “opt-in” and the deadline is the 31st of May 2019. From September only students who “opted-in” will be issued with a pass and be allowed to travel by bus to the academy. If a student is unable to show a valid pass then they will be unable to travel. It is vital that you ensure you have received your pass by the 16th of August.

For further information regarding school travel, including checking application status or if you believe you are entitled, but missed the deadline, then please contact Passenger Transport on 0345 606 6171 or visit www.suffolkonboard.com

Year 6 students who are eligible for a free pass in September will be issued with a bus pass for the inductions days.

Suffolk County Council
Passenger Transport
0345 606 6173



Banham Zoo Trip



On Thursday 4th April 2019 Mr Collier, Mrs Wetton and Mrs Abeyasekere accompanied a group of fifty Year 7 students to Banham Zoo in Norfolk. The trip was organised as part of the key stage three Science course to demonstrate biology in the real world and how ecology and animal adaptations are of vital importance.

The students enjoyed the opportunity of finding out more about how animals are classified into different groups through a discovery session at the Education Centre. There was also the chance to handle cockroaches, giant snails and a snake.

After a well-earned lunch the rest of the afternoon was spent exploring and finding out more about the animals in the main part of the zoo. For example, did you know that giraffes regurgitate their food; chewing it partially before swallowing, then bringing it back up again to chew some more before swallowing again. We also saw penguins, monkeys, baboons, a tiger, cranes, leopards, flamingos, red pandas (Mrs Byles' favourite animal!) and many more.

The highlight of the afternoon for many of the students was visiting the birds of prey and having the birds flying amongst them. The birds on display were an American Bald Eagle, a falcon and several vultures. They were amazing. Unfortunately, the time disappeared very quickly at Banham and we had to depart for home. It was a great day!

Mr Collier, Science Faculty

MCA⁶ Gig Night

I thoroughly enjoyed the MCA⁶ Gig Night which was held on Wednesday 27th March 2019. I even recognised some of the Naughties tunes!

The Year 12 and 13 students all gave excellent performances and the show was well organised and ran smoothly meaning there was minimal waiting for the next act. The

students were obviously enjoying themselves and helped each other out which was great to see.

All the acts were tremendous - but I did enjoy two Year 12 performances best of all.

Well done to Daisy who organised it all, the refreshment team and our two talented music teachers who encourage our students so much to reach their potential.

Ms Cooper



Drama News

Students have been busy rehearsing in preparation for their upcoming Drama Festival. Year 7 and 8 students will perform extracts from work that they have created over the course of the academic year which range from silent movie sketches inspired by Charlie Chaplin to extracts of scripts that have been developed and rehearsed. Year 9 GCSE students have been creating their own performances and are now preparing to perform these for the first time to an audience, so there is lots of excitement in the air!

After Year 11s examined performance in February, 11O3 have been working hard revising and preparing for their written GCSE examination. Revision snakes and ladders and Blood Brothers jenga have led to some fantastic and very competitive

revision taking place. Good luck for your final exam Year 11!

It has been an extremely busy half term for the BTEC Performing Arts students!

The term started with Year 12 performing their devised workshop performance to the Year 9 GCSE class. The performance was a huge success and was followed by a question and answer session between the audience and performers. Year 9 showed fantastic creativity by giving the BTEC students feedback. The performances followed the life of a character who became so engrossed by the world of fiction that they lost their grip on the real world. The show featured a fusion of dance and drama which went down very well with the audience.

Miss R Finbow, Subject Leader for Drama

Journalist Visits English Lessons

Year 10 English students welcomed the visit of journalist and ethics expert Chris Elliott last month. Mr Elliott spoke about his career in newspaper journalism, when he worked for publications such as The Times and The Guardian and gave students an insight into some of the ethical issues journalists have to consider when investigating and publishing news stories.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about careers in journalism and how the internet has drastically changed the way that people access the news.

MCA student Jade Scott said she thoroughly enjoyed the activities and hearing about Mr Elliott's personal insight into the ethics of journalism.



Jade was clearly struck by the complexity of the decision making process involved in some news stories.

We are extremely grateful to Chris Elliott for visiting us and sharing his experience and expertise.

Mr Mottershead and Jade Scott, Year 10

Marathon

During the Easter holidays Mrs Betts, our Assistant Faculty Leader for Humanities, took part in the 123rd Boston Marathon. This is the oldest and most prestigious marathon in the world, and competitors have to provide a qualifying time to enter. The crowds, unpredictable weather and rolling hills ending with the infamous Heartbreak Hill at mile twenty make it one of the toughest, but most legendary marathon major courses to race.

The course starts 26.2 miles outside of Boston, Massachusetts. so you have to get a coach to get there. Mrs Betts said "When I walked to the coach, there was torrential rain. By the time I finished the race it was 95% humidity, and 22 degrees. I completely underestimated the hills and although I ran sensibly by the time I reached Heartbreak Hill my legs were sore and cramping up due to the heat. I completed the race in 3:33. It was an incredible experience and one day I will go back and be ready for those hills!"

Boston Marathon was just the warm-up, however, for London Marathon 13 days later! Mrs Betts had qualified to start in the Championship start for this race,

which meant that she was warming up in the same area as Mo Farah and the world-record holder Eliud Kipchoge!

"This was very exciting and nerve-wracking. My legs were still sore from Boston, and everyone else on that start line looked a lot faster than me. However, I was motivated to try and get a personal best so I took a risk, and started at a decent pace. This was a mistake. By mile 18 all of the fatigue from Boston reappeared. I had to dig deep to keep moving at all and the new goal was just to finish. The crowds were amazing, and pushed me to the finish line at Buckingham Palace in 3:34. This time qualifies me for Good For Age so I will be back next year. This time I will not enter two marathons so close together!" Said Mrs Betts.



Netball

The Year 9 Girls Netball Team (pictured right) recently beat Thurston Community College and Stowmarket High School to become the Western Area Champions.

The girls played remarkably well and we are very proud of their fantastic achievement!



Mini Marathon

Year 8 student Ben Peck was invited to compete in the London Mini Marathon on Sunday 28th April 2019 as he is the current Under 13 national and inter-counties cross country champion.

He is the number one male cross country runner in the UK in his age group!

Ben set off at 9:09am with other elite juniors, completing the final 3 miles of the 26.2 mile circuit. Ben WON the race in the U13 age group, finishing in a time of 16 minutes and 7 seconds.



Ben Peck with his winners trophy

Handball

The Under 15 boys handball team competed at the county finals in Ipswich on Friday 26th April 2019.

The boys finished third out of the six schools - a wonderful achievement.

They can be seen here proudly displaying their bronze medals following successes against Debenham High School and Thurston Community College.



U15 Boys Handball Team

Cricket

The U15 Girls cricket team were in action at the county finals on Friday 29th March 2019. Some great cricket on display.



U15 Girls Cricket Team



Follow the PE faculty on twitter for all the latest sports news
@MilPEdept