

MCA NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN ISSUE 2018



WHAT'S INSIDE?

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
AWARD (P9)

HEAD BOY, HEAD GIRL AND THE
DEPUTY HEADS (P10)

MANCHESTER LITERATURE
FESTIVAL (P3)

HISTORY TRIP (P4)

EUROPEAN DAY OF
LANGUAGES (P5)

GCSE RESULTS



MCA IS ONCE AGAIN 'ABOVE AVERAGE' FOR STUDENT PROGRESS NATIONALLY



CLASS OF 2018 RECEIVING THEIR RESULTS!



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. I hope you find it filled with some great news and stories from what has been a really busy first half term. For parents of our new Year 7 students, a special welcome. We look forward to working with you for the next 5 years. We were quite sad to see our Year 11 group leave us, they were an amazing year group and they will be missed. Our new Year 11 group have a big act to follow.

We are delighted yet again with our GCSE results for 2018, which places us 'Above Average' for the progress our students have made. In reality, this means that students make better than expected progress when compared to other schools both nationally and in Manchester.

As good as the results are, they can always be better and we adopt a saying at MCA that we will be better tomorrow than we are today. Your support in this is vital, irrespective of what year group your child is in. As an Academy community I would like us all to be really aspirational for our children and support them in achieving success in their futures. I know many families are facing challenging circumstances and we are with you every day to offer as much support as possible, together we can achieve great things. There can be no excuses in the pursuit of excellence.

Above all, I don't want MCA to be defined solely by our results. We want students to feel happy and safe and take pride in their uniform, their work, themselves and their community. We want parents to feel informed and involved in their child's journey with us and we want students to experience amazing opportunities through a curriculum that inspires them each day and for their future, not just to pass an exam.

One of the difficulties students are facing is that the vocabulary used in KS4 is really challenging and therefore we are promoting reading across the Academy. We recently opened a school library and have introduced a 15 minute reading time every day. Please try to ensure your child is reading appropriately at home. As always, if you would like any books let us know and we will provide them.

We also have an increased focus on attendance and we have introduced a new team to support this as well as working with Manchester City Council to improve this for the first time. This gives us increased capacity to support families in ensuring that every child has an attendance of 97% minimum. We expect every child to attend each day unless there are exceptional reasons. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Please do get in touch with your child's progress leader if you have any concern, we are here to help.

There are truly no limits to what children can achieve and we should pursue this each day.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Best wishes

John Rowlands, Principal

RESULTS – WELL DONE!

Top three for Attainment are:

- Hannah Rashidi
- Fathia Labisi
- Samira Abdi

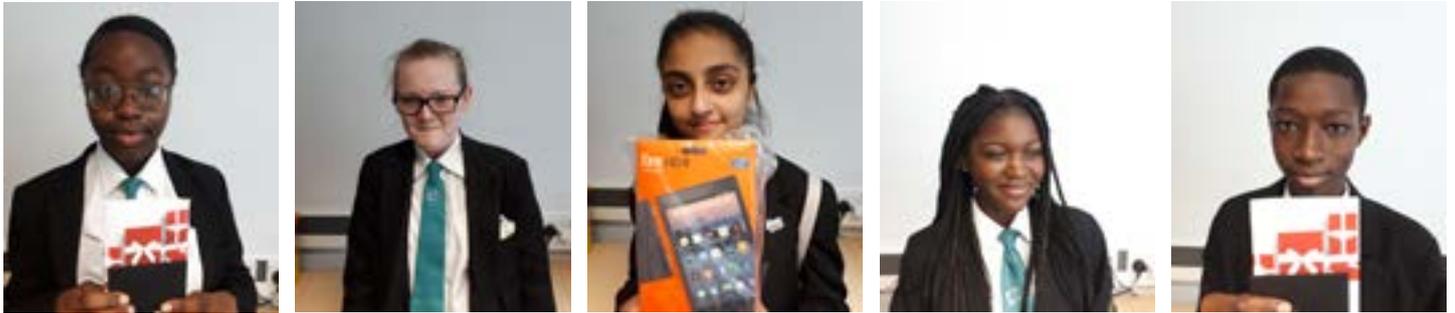
Top three for Progress are:

- Raqueem Hussian
- Iga Idziaszek
- Alayali Rizvi



ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to **Fahma, Kenya, Mia, Musa, El-Gibbor** and **Safa** who won the attendance competition at the end of last half term. We were delighted to reward them with Arndale vouchers and for our overall winner, an Amazon Fire tablet. This half term we have more prizes to give away to students who achieve 100% attendance.



Attendance is so important for the future of our students. As you can see from the graph below, the higher the attendance, the more chance of achieving the grades needed to access future training courses and chosen careers. Punctuality also impacts attendance. If a registration is missed, the student is recorded as absent as they are missing out on learning.

We have therefore started to work more closely with the Local Authority on attendance, which is outlined in a separate letter.

We look forward to celebrating more winners with you next half term.

DID YOU KNOW ?

A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%

If you would like to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact the Academy at attendance@mca.manchester.sch.uk



ENGLISH

MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 10th October 15 students from Year 11 participated in the Manchester Literature Festival in partnership with Read Manchester and The Writing Squad. The presentation was a culmination of several writing workshops in which students were asked to write on the theme of escapism through reading. They performed with confidence and all audience members, including other schools, commented on their confidence, vocabulary and wonderful ideas.

The Manchester Mayor was also in attendance, launching Read Manchester's 'TakeTen' initiative, which encourages young people to read for 10 minutes a day in order to combat mental health issues and promote wellbeing through reading. They were very impressed to hear that Manchester Communication Academy already surpasses this by reading for 15 minutes a day!



TALK OF THE TOWN

The first 'Talk of the Town' of the year took place in English this half term. It was truly inspiring to see some of our new pupils from Year 7 brave the stage and speak in front of proud parents, carers, friends and fellow students. Along with some keen Year 8s, the select group of students read out original poems and topical opinion pieces. As a subject, we are really focusing on the importance of student voice and equipping our children with the confidence and resilience skills they need for later life. Which MCA pupils will be the next 'Talk of the Town'?

SCIENCE

MAKING MAGNETS

Year 8 were looking at the different properties of elements and how the properties change once they become a compound. They viewed iron and sulfur reacting together to make iron sulfide. They then extracted iron from a match head. They observed that the compounds together were not magnetic before but after mixing iron oxide and sodium carbonate on the match head and lighting it, iron was extracted and they could prove this with a magnet.



GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

GEOGRAPHY TRIP

During September and October, the Geography department took Y11 out on two fieldwork trips as part of the GCSE course. We took the tram to Salford Quays over two afternoons to look at how effective urban regeneration had been and the students were able to get a really good sense of this change despite high winds and heavy rains. We also went on an overnight trip to the north-east coast to see coastal processes, erosion, and management at Flamborough Head and Withernsea. We were lucky enough to have warm weather and the students were able to get a much clearer picture of how ideas we had studied over the last year actually looked in real life.



MCA GO TO BERLIN

30 Year 10 and 11 pupils and 3 staff went on the first History trip abroad to Berlin, Germany from MCA in the October half-term. Mr Fraser, Mrs Goldsworthy and Miss Korth were delighted to spend time with our pupils in Berlin, who learnt much more about the Cold War and Nazi period of German history. Highlights included the visit to Sachsenhausen memorial concentration camp and checkpoint Charlie, with pupils asking pertinent questions which extended their knowledge of these GCSE exam units.

All pupils came back with a greater grasp of the Cold War and the Nazi regime, which will enable them to succeed in their exams in history. Pupils also enjoyed staying at Acama Hotel and hostel and visiting the DDR museum, where various trinkets and gifts were bought to remind them of their visit.

The history team look forward to taking future trips to Berlin for GCSE history pupils.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

This year staff and students celebrated European Day of languages 2018. Staff got involved by dressing in traditional dress from different countries around the world and students took part in the European Day of Languages annual quiz for the chance to win some restaurant vouchers to sample worldwide cuisine! During lessons our Year 7 students had the opportunity to learn some Mandarin and took part in the chopstick challenge, mastering how to use chopsticks. Year 9 students also took part in the National European Day of Languages T-Shirt Competition, fingers crossed we may have some winners!



HEALTH AND WELLBEING



HEALTH DECISIONS WITH ABL HEALTH

MCA is working with ABL Health. Each Monday, staff join to lead the Y7 Aspire Healthy Diet lessons to students and then following this students can opt into a 1-2-1 or small group programme to develop and improve their life choices in order to lead a healthy active lifestyle. During the launch event, students had the opportunity to sign up to engage in the project and made their own smoothies through exercise by blending the fruit on the smoothie bike. Any MCA students can engage in this project, just speak to Mrs Wilcock for more details.

U16S BASKETBALL MATCH

The under 16s basketball team played against Trinity. A well fought game was played between the two very good teams, with the final score of twenty-two to thirty-eight to Trinity. The Most Valuable Player of the game went to Jeremy Keke



Y7 AND Y8 NETBALL MATCHES

On Wednesday 11th October the Y7 girls played their first netball game of the season. They played against The Co-op Academy and won by an amazing 3-0. The girls showed energy, determination and most of all teamwork.

On the same night the year eights also played their first match of the season against The Co-op Academy. Although the girls lost 1-0 they still showed teamwork, great effort and enthusiasm. Kameelah won Player of the Match.



NETBALL GAME (Y7)



NETBALL GAME (Y8)



RUGBY GAME

THE FIRST WEEKEND RUGBY GAME

On the morning of Sunday 7th October, thirteen of our Y9 and Y10 students took part in their first weekend rugby fixture. The game was played at home against North Manchester Rugby Club, with the score ending very close at 7-6 to our visitors. The boys showed great character and resilience to compete against a well established Rugby team. Well done to the boys and we are looking forward to more games to come!

MANCHESTER CITY F.C VISIT

On Monday the 15th of October, the MCA students had the pleasure of meeting Demi Stokes, Megan Campbell and Pauline Bremer who play for Manchester City's first team. The students had the opportunity to ask the players questions, show them some of their drills and play a few matches. The pupils really enjoyed being able to interact with the player. Watch the video highlights on our Social Media.



STUDENTS WITH THE PLAYERS



A STUDENT PLAYING WITH PAULINE BREMER



FOOTBALL MATCH



Y7 FOOTBALL MATCH

The Year 7 played their first fixture since they joined the Academy. The game was played against Abraham Moss, with a (3-3) draw, winning themselves a point. The students performed extremely well and worked well as a team. Abubaker Muhammed won Man of the Match. Well done to all the students involved.

CREATIVE ARTS

3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

Some of the MCA students were able to attend a 3D printing workshop. They started off with an introduction where they had the opportunity to listen to a presentation, question experts and take a look at models.

After this, they participated in a workshop. The students design their own models using Autodesk software. Then they went on to design and 3D print of their models.



TROUPE DANCE

The KS3 after school club offers Troupe Dance. Miss Kelly who is a Troupe dancer herself has put together this club to teach students a different style of dance. Since the club came together in September they have been learning and creating their own routines. We've named ourselves the 'Storm Trouperz'. These routines will be performed in the Winter showcase, this will be their first ever audience, and we're super excited!

MONKEYWOOD WORKSHOP

An actor from Monkeywood theatre company in association with HOME Theatre came in to work with our Y9 and 10 students. They led a workshop based on their recent performance work and inspired by the area they live in. Our students explored what it means to live in Manchester and were asked to think about their favourite place. Working in either poetry, prose or drama, students developed their ideas under the guidance of the visiting professionals and were able to share their short performance at the end of the sessions. All students were a credit to the academy and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, engaging maturely and creatively with the work. After the session two year 10 students joined our visitors on NMFM to talk about the experience of working together. A big thank you to all involved for an exciting day of creating theatre!





MANCHESTER COLLEGE VISIT

The Year 9 Performing Art students had the opportunity to watch the Manchester College's Theatre in Education Production. The students really engaged with all the topics tackled (cyber bullying, physical and emotional pieces) which were outstanding. Not only did they learn valuable lessons, but they were also inspired by the talent displayed by these young professionals.

ART EXHIBITION

On Friday 19th October, MCA students hosted their first art exhibition at GK Gallery, Salford. Work from the GCSE Art, Photography and Graphics courses was on display to the general public from the 19th October to the 2nd November. The open evening was attended by students, parents, governors and staff from MCA, who were able to view the students' artwork in a gallery setting for the first time. Our students have received some fantastic complements on the standard and quality of their work. The public have made enquiries to buy some of the artwork, and Salford University have invited our students to attend workshops in their Graphics studios. Congratulations to all the students who were involved, and to our wonderful Art technician, Miss Moylan, for organising the event.

ART EXHIBITION



HASNAA WITH HER WORK



HAKSA WITH HER WORK



LEARNING AT MCA

POST 16 PATHWAY EVENT

On Wednesday the 26th September we hosted our annual post 16 pathways event aimed at our Year 11 students who are currently involved in making decisions around their next steps beyond MCA.

The event was attended by variety of Apprenticeship providers including The Growth Company, YMCA, RAF and Rathbones in addition to local sixth form colleges and FE providers such as Xaverian, Connell, Pendleton, Hopwood Hall and The Manchester College.



WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

On Friday the 28th of September, we were delighted to join in the Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. The event fundraises toward supporting people who are facing cancer. It was a brilliant turn out with desks full of delicious treats, and smiles on staff members' faces.

Along with pin the cherry on the cake (**Mr Karasz**) and how long is the sausage roll (**Mrs Fraser**), we had our very own bake off! It is safe to say it was extremely hard to decide which to pick, they were all magnificent.

But, there has to be a winner:

- **Mrs Carvell** won the Nom, Nom, Nom challenge.
- **Miss Cronin** won Don't Quit your Day Job.
- **Miss Holland** won Star Baker.

We raised £350.19! Well done and thank you to all who took part.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

MCA has been presented with an outstanding contribution award for making a real difference in our community and making 'Our Manchester' great, from Manchester City Council by the Lord Mayor, June Hitchen



with you... for you... about you...

ASPIRE LESSONS

Aspire has been launched this year at MCA. Students start their Monday form time using the Votes for Schools programme which looks at various topics of conversation around British Values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural topics. It is a great opportunity to hear the students opinion on the topics. This half term we have looked at Brexit, Police presence in schools, World and Wildlife, Alcohol and Black History Month.

For our Aspire lessons within Year 7 and 8 we are looking to build our students ability to make the right choices to lead Healthy Active lifestyles. Students have been engaging in Emotional Wellbeing lesson on stress, self esteem and looking at coping strategies through physical activity; diet, hygiene and clubs around Manchester. If you have any queries or you feel you would like your child to improve their Health and Wellbeing - please contact **Mrs Wilcock** and we can look to further support your child.



MAJA WITH ETHAN

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This year MCA has launched a new course to our Year 9s in Child Development. The cohort of students are thoroughly enjoying their learning so far this academic year, showing a real passion for the subject and a career within the area. We have had visit from Ethan (11 months), Edward (4 months) and Betty (3 years) so that students are able to seek and apply their knowledge of Physical, Intellectual, Language and Communication, Emotional and Social developments that take place in a child's life between the ages of 0-5 years. For the students, its not just the ability to recall the information, but for some, they have never experienced being with children of this age. We are extremely grateful to the staff who gave their time and look forward to all the opportunities we have to come.

THE PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW

We are extremely proud that Manchester Communication Academy is featured in this year's 'Parliamentary Review', having shown tremendous improvement to now be in the top 20% of performing schools nationally for student progress. To read the whole article www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/manchester-communication-academy



PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW GALA



NATIONAL T.A. DAY

NATIONAL T.A. DAY

On the 14th of September we celebrated National TA Day, and to show our appreciation, every Teaching Assistant received a special mug with goodies inside. A big thank you to all our Teaching Assistants at MCA!

OPEN EVENING

Year 5 and 6 pupils were welcomed to our academy where they had the opportunity to explore all the amazing activities which take place everyday in MCA. Our year 11 prefects and Year 7 pupils provided guided tours to all Year 5 and 6 pupils.

The pupils collected stamps for being inquisitive and participating with activities, as they journeyed around the school discovering what we have on offer at each academic area. A reward was available for all completed passports!

We also provided the pupils with the chance to speak with some of our students and teachers so they can get a true picture of the life of an MCA pupil.



HEAD BOY, HEAD GIRL AND THE DEPUTY HEADS

The MCA Head Boy & Girl have been chosen from the successful prefects for the 2018/19 year. The selection process begun with a teacher vote whereby teachers voted for the prefects they thought would be best suited to the role of Head prefect. This then allowed a shortlist of 6 to be selected based on the majority votes. The shortlisted 6 prefects were then given the opportunity to pitch to their fellow year 11 students during an assembly, and the process was finalised by a student vote. The 2 successful candidates with the most votes were Ademola and Abisha. The remaining 4 students were appointed as Deputy Head prefects. The students were; Humariaa, Ricardo, Hasnaa & Awah. Massive congratulations to all students and we look forward to working with them this year.



GIRLS ACTIVE INFLUENCER

On Wednesday 31st October Riley was invited to the Houses of Parliament in London to receive a reward as Youth Sport Trust Girls Active Award 2018 for Influencer of the Year.

Over the past year at MCA, Riley has had a key involvement in Girls Football within the Academy for the KS3 students, who has been an asset to the success of the team. She has had the opportunity to coach, manage and mentor members of the team, with the assistants for Miss Busby (PE staff and Team Manager). She has been recognised for her hard work as she treats every member of the team as an individual, with an honest and fair approach which brings out the best of every student she works with. MCA and the PE department are extremely proud of Riley and the hard work she has put in

Riley also received personalised letters of Commendation from Tracey Crouch, Minister for Sport and Civil Society. Head over to the website to read it and the full article.



CAREERS

Y10 students are currently take part in the Toddlers and Teens group, which visited Investec Wealth and Asset Management in Manchester on Friday 19th October. As part of this event the students were invited to tour around the premises, listen to a short talk about asset management and the types of services the company is involved in and each of them took part in a careers based speed dating activity with a number of employees at the organisation. The students were treated to a business lunch and an interactive CV building session which was extremely useful to them in preparation for Y11 where they will be considering their post 16 destinations.

During half term a number of our Y11 students were involved in a 3 day Law course at The Factory Zone hosted by Sharp Futures where they explored different careers within the legal profession. They enjoyed a visit to Manchester Crown Court and met first hand legal professionals who gave an insight into their roles, the demands of their jobs and the



UNIFORM

We have a formal uniform and we expect every child to attend school looking smart in full uniform every day. Good attendance is essential to success at school and all students are expected to have an excellent attendance record and be punctual.

- Indoor clothing, boys and girls:
- black blazer
- plain white shirt or blouse with school tie
- plain black trousers or appropriate length of black skirt (no lycra)
- plain black socks
- plain black shoes suitable for school wear
- Optional black V-neck jumper with school badge in addition to the blazer

KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 14th November (2018)	Enterprise Event - Y9
Thursday 22nd November (2018)	Year 11 Parent's Evening
Thursday 29th November (2018)	2018 Year 11 Leavers Awards
Wednesday 5th December (2018)	Parent Forum
Monday 24th December (2018) - Friday 4th January (2019)	Winter Break
Monday 14th January (2019)	PPE Mock Exams
Wednesday 16th January (2019)	Year 10 Parent's Evening
Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February (2019)	February Half Term

To view more events take a look on our website at <http://www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com/calendar>

SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT DETAILS



www.manchestercommunicationacademy.com



@ManComAcademy



Greater Manchester Academies Trust



admin@mca.manchester.sch.uk



Silchester Dr, Harpurhey,
Manchester, M40 8NT



0161 202 0161





Manchester
Communication
Academy