



MANCHESTER COMMUNICATION ACADEMY PROSPECTUS

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



Welcome to Manchester Communication Academy

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Manchester Communication Academy. Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus which I hope will give you an insight into our school. I am delighted that you are considering MCA. We understand what an important decision you are about to make about your child's future education.

We believe passionately in the power of an excellent education to transform lives and provide new opportunities for young people. We provide an exciting and challenging experience for our students in a supportive and caring environment.

We have the highest expectations in term of teaching, learning and the standards our students achieve. We work on the principles that every child can be successful. We aim to create students that are ready to make a difference in the future whilst being proud of themselves and their school throughout their time with us.

To achieve the best for children we must work in partnership with parents. You are the expert on your child and we will work with you to ensure that your child can reach their potential. We seek to provide high quality teaching, excellent pastoral care and enriching opportunities within a distinctive family ethos. MCA is a wonderful environment in which your child will learn and thrive. We come together as a whole community –to be the best version of ourselves each day in order to achieve and be happy.

I understand that a prospectus can only give you a flavour. We would be delighted to provide you with a guided tour to see our wonderful students in lessons. Please contact reception for more details.

We are here for our students and their community and our promise that through excellent staff, family partnership and a curriculum that inspires, our children will be prepared for a future unknown.

Their story is unwritten, their future untold, we are excited to be part of their journey towards success.

John Rowlands
Executive Principal





Ofsted (April 2019)

“Leaders have developed a culture where pupils’ welfare is at the heart of every decision. Leaders go ‘above and beyond’ to ensure that pupils are well cared for.”

“Pupils are very proud of their school. They value their education and the support that they receive from teachers. They demonstrate this through positive attitudes to learning and good behaviour.”

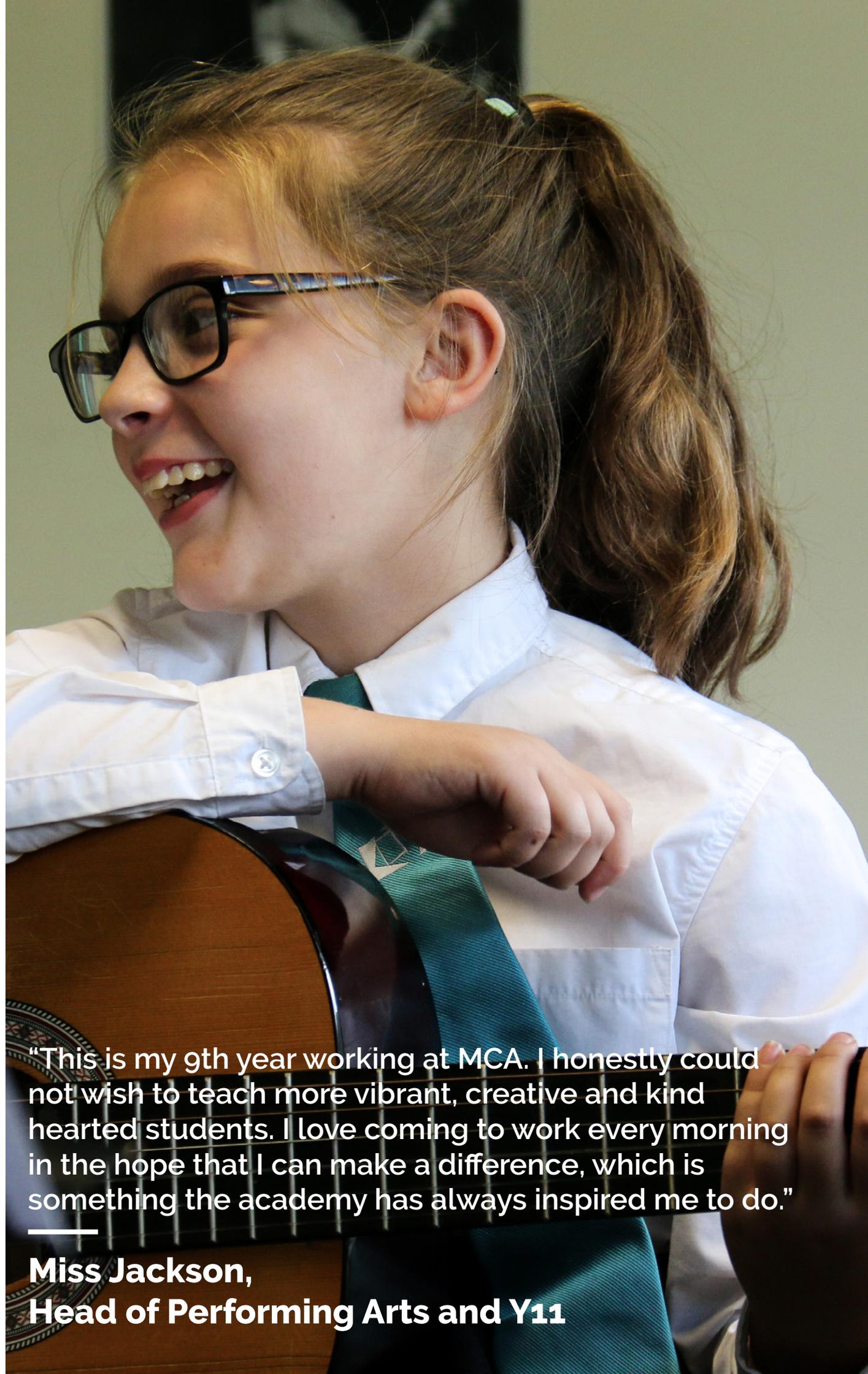
Ofsted (April 2019)





“Teachers develop strong relationships with their pupils and have high expectations of the work that their pupils can produce.”

Ofsted (April 2019)



“This is my 9th year working at MCA. I honestly could not wish to teach more vibrant, creative and kind hearted students. I love coming to work every morning in the hope that I can make a difference, which is something the academy has always inspired me to do.”

**Miss Jackson,
Head of Performing Arts and Y11**

Moving Up

Moving from primary to secondary school is a landmark event in every young person's life. To ensure that the transition between these two phases of education is seamless we ensure that your children already feel apart of the MCA family well before they start in year 7.

MCA staff already teach in a number of our feeder primary schools so it is likely that your child will even now, know some of the teachers. It is crucial to us that these relationships are forged before students start, so that there are some friendly faces they will recognise. Your child may have attended our holiday camps so they are used to the building and how to navigate themselves. If your child is keen to participate in some of the holiday camps, please let us know so as we would love for them to be involved.

In the summer term students can attend one of our transition weeks, where they will be welcomed into the Academy so that they feel confident with the step up to secondary education. During these weeks students will meet their progress leaders and their future classmates whilst experiencing an exciting curriculum that gives them an insight into secondary school life.

If your child has additional needs or English as a second language they will be welcomed to the Academy before the transition weeks to meet key staff. Our future students and their families will have a longer transition programme supported by key workers that will be best placed to meet any additional needs.

Inspiring the Student

The curriculum at Manchester Communication Academy provides students with the opportunities to be prepared for their future, to uncover and nurture their talents and to excel in traditional subjects that provide them equitable opportunities for further study and success.

Our curriculum is text rich, offers a broad range of computing and digital literacy skills. MCA is a Computing at School (CAS) and BCS lead school and a Digital Schoolhouse centre in supporting excellence in computer science education. MCA values a broad Arts offer including instrumental and singing lessons for every student at KS3 and every student completing an Arts qualification at KS4. MCA is committed to giving students the best opportunities to succeed in an ever changing, highly competitive job market.

The design of the building is around large flexible learning bases with separate specialist provision

such as practical areas for science, creative arts and fitness. The timetable has core provision from years 7 – 11 in six faculty areas – Maths, English, Creative Arts [includes Technology] Global Understanding [includes history, geography, RE and MFL], Science and Health & Wellbeing – PE, fitness and cookery.

The timetable allows for 4 x 1 hour 20 minute lessons per day with whole year groups taught in a faculty by specialist staff member. There is an extensive programme of extended schools activities, of which students are required to attend a minimum of 2 sessions per week. These sessions provide a variety of enrichment experiences as well study support.

A photograph of two students in school uniforms. The student in the foreground is a young man with a red patterned headband, looking intently at a computer monitor. The student in the background is a young woman with dark curly hair, also looking at the monitor. The setting appears to be a classroom or computer lab with a desk and other equipment visible.

“There is a strong culture of safeguarding across the school. All staff work towards creating a safe and caring environment for all the pupils.”

Ofsted (April 2019)



Caring for All

Manchester Communication Academy work on the principle that every child can be successful by providing an exciting and challenging experience for all our students in a caring and supportive environment. Every student has a progress leader who is the main point of contact for the child and their families. The progress leaders will make regular contact with families and provide necessary support to ensure that your child is happy, healthy and on track to make the best possible progress.

Students will also have regular contact with their head of year who will offer any additional support needed. Every Monday, students have an Aspire lesson with their progress leader as they develop new skills to help equip them with the skills necessary to succeed at school and beyond. MCA have a child centered and supportive Pastoral Team who offer care to students and families who made need a more personalised approach.

Uniform

We have a formal uniform and we expect every child to attend school looking smart in full uniform every day.

Indoor clothing, boys and girls:

- black blazer or black jumper with the school logo on
- 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 or trainers suitable for school wear

We are pleased to inform you that we are able to supply your child with one of each of the following items: jumper, tie, PE top, shorts and socks and an outdoor fleece top. Parents will be required to supply the other items. We believe that our uniform is smart, yet cost effective. Students new to MCA will be given a voucher to receive a free uniform, including school jumper, tie, PE top and shorts.

School Rules

At MCA we have three school rules that encompass our vision and values. These are simple yet clear rules for all members of the MCA community allowing teachers to provide students with the education that they deserve. The three school rules are:

1. Put your learning first
2. Respect the building and everyone in it
3. Follow the instructions of the MCA staff team

Attendance

Manchester Communication Academy work with students and families to set high standards for attendance. Students that have better attendance at school, achieve better results. Therefore, we expect families to support students in having excellent attendance so that they can fulfil their potential.

Enrichment

Beyond the Classroom

Outside of curriculum lessons MCA has a vast offer of activities for students to engage in. After the school day students have an opportunity to participate in clubs including sport, cooking, engineering, textiles, art, reading, planting, mystery, board games, learning a new language, guitar, drumming, magazine and many more. We have 112 clubs on offer for our students, of which they have to attend two a week. MCA's wide offer means that there is something for everyone.

Character Development

It is important that our students have a breadth of opportunities, knowledge and experiences that will develop a range of skills shaping them into valuable young men and woman that will contribute to our society. The Aspire curriculum is one vehicle that allows us to achieve this.

We want students to express their views, step out of their comfort ones, challenge themselves and demonstrate resilience to overcome challenges they may face now and in life after MCA. We utilise a wide range of specialists both within and outside the Academy to deliver this offer which includes students attending University visits and taking part in workshops.

Our Aspire curriculum is designed not only to develop their knowledge but to develop a range of values. It is also important for us to ensure that we are a school that values and enhances the health and wellbeing of all of our students. We have recently been recognised for this work by being awarded the Wellbeing for Schools Award. We strive to develop healthy minds and healthy bodies

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students at MCA are offered the opportunity to complete a Duke of Edinburgh award. This is a great opportunity for students to step out of their comfort zone and spend a year completing the award. Students build on a range of skills that

they would not necessarily gain in the classroom and get to use them at the end of the year when they complete an overnight camping expedition. Students say that they feel more confident, are more resilient, and gain a great sense of independence from completing the Award.

Educational Visits

At MCA, we believe that a broad and rich education does not just happen within school. Instead, students should have the opportunities to explore the world beyond the classroom, enriching and consolidating their subject knowledge but also developing cultural awareness and skills that will equip them for future life. Equally, we believe education should be enjoyable and memorable! Through our trips offer we aim to create these unforgettable moments.

In KS3, all students will have the opportunity to attend an overseas excursion with the Global Understanding faculty. This may be to France or Spain as part of the Modern Foreign Languages curriculum where students will practice their language skills with native speakers and in real life situations as well as eating local food and exploring vibrant cities.

Students in Year 7 will be invited to attend an Aspire outdoor pursuits excursion that allows them to build new friendships, challenge themselves with exciting physical activities, develop their team building skills and their confidence.

Throughout their time at MCA, students will be invited to attend a range of theatre trips, visits to galleries, and to attend high profile sports events. There are many more visits throughout the year that allow students to test their skills in real life contexts, making learning meaningful but also lots of fun!

MCA is fully committed to ensuring all students have equal opportunities to experience these exciting and valuable opportunities and as such we aim to provide financial support so that all trips are accessible to all students.





“As soon as you walk through MCA’s doors, whether staff, a brand new Year 7 student, or a Year 11 preparing for exams, you are welcomed as family. It really is unlike any other school in that the welfare and progress of our students is really at the centre of everything we do. Our students enter MCA as students, and leave as well-moulded and prepared members of society.”

Miss Holland, English Teacher







The School Day

The school opens at 7am, with the canteen available for students to work on homework, meet friends and join breakfast club for free bagels and cereal. First period starts at 8:30am with students being sat down and ready to learn. Period two begins at 9:55am followed with breaktime at 11.15am. At 10:30am period three starts, with the day continuing for lunch at 12:50am. At 1:25pm students have fifteen minutes of reading time and we encourage all students to read as much and as widely as possible, followed by last period at 1:40pm. School is let out at 3:00pm, with extended school activities (ESA) starting straight after. All students must participate in at least two ESA's each week and is part of our commitment to developing the whole child.

Maayir's Day in the Life

"Every day at MCA brings something new. Sometimes it's a new friend or teacher that will support you, sometimes it's an opportunity you just can't let go of. Everyday is full of life, learning and enjoyment. MCA offers some of the best range of clubs before, during and after school meaning that even if you're early there's always something to do. Aspire curriculum means that we learn about the real world giving us the opportunity to understand and prepare ourselves for life after school. There are a wide variety of trips offered by MCA including a visit to Cambridge University which really is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Last year I was fortunate enough to be handed the role of head

prefect and to be part of the student council both of which have helped me to develop skills that I will value not only in school but in life. One of the many things I enjoy about MCA is the great quality of support and help we as students receive from staff with all of them willing to stay behind and provide us with help whenever we need it."

Stephanie's Day in the Life

"Studying at MCA has been a rewarding experience for me. All the support and encouragement the staff provide me with are incredible and extremely beneficial. During my time at this school, I have been provided with numerous opportunities that have shaped me into what I am today. I have been given an opportunity to be a leader by being part of the Prefect team and this has helped me develop the skills needed for my future. MCA values the progress of every single student and this is why every student is offered a 'Climb session' or 'ESA' depending on what subjects they require extra support for. The school doesn't only assist me academically but also support me with my health and wellbeing by making sure the food that we bring to school is healthy. The teachers always strive to teach us in an effective and coherent way, making sure they're taking into consideration the abilities and learning methods of each student."



“School leaders, including governors, bring to life their vision that social disadvantage should never be a barrier to learning.”

Ofsted (April 2019)

Leaders for Tomorrow

MCA's student leadership programme is a great opportunity for our young people to develop the necessary skills to be tomorrow's leaders. Communication, team work and problem solving capabilities are essential requirements for employers and are developed through this programme. We believe that every student has the potential to be a leader and this plays an integral part to our success. Student Leadership allows students to give something back to the Academy by supporting staff and modelling our values for other students.

Sports Leaders

Sports leaders help to coach younger students and run different sporting events for our local primary schools. Literacy and numeracy leaders buddy with our primary students to support them with these skills.

School Council

The school council is a vehicle to give students a voice in how to shape the school for the future. The council regularly meet with the senior leaders in the school to feedback on the curriculum, the environment and opportunities for our young people.

Prefects

In year 10 and 11 students are given the opportunity to become prefects. Prefects are our role models and demonstrate how to meet our high expectations. They assist with whole school events and have various individual duties such as delivering assemblies, tutoring younger students, helping improve teaching and learning and much more.

Preparing for Life beyond MCA

An integral part of the vision and mission of MCA is that all students gain an effective programme of careers activities from year 7-11 to help them make informed decisions on progression routes and that they are fully prepared to sustain their destinations of choice. Just as the transition to high school can be challenging, so can the transition beyond. To ensure that this is as seamless as possible our careers programme enables students to make informed choices about their future pathways.

The curriculum offer at MCA is enriched by a broad range of partners from key and emerging industries in the region, providing students the opportunity to make meaningful contacts with employers. These partners work with us to allow all students to complete an industry recognised qualification, which add value to the academic CV and employability profile of our students when they come to progress into post 16 education, training or employment and their future.

To support appropriate progression to further education or apprenticeships all students have the opportunities to go on workplace safaris. All possible post 16 pathways are thoroughly explored and students will encounter further and higher education institutions through college and university visits. All students have a one-to-one careers meeting and are supported in developing personal statements, CV writing and interview skills.

WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE Manchester Communication Academy



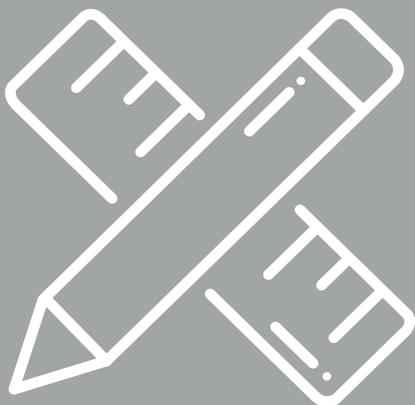
Manchester Communication Research School

As part of the Research Schools network we provide training and support for schools, informed by the latest EEF.



Ofsted Rated as A Good School

We are proud to share that our latest Ofsted report judged Manchester Communication Academy as a GOOD school in all area.



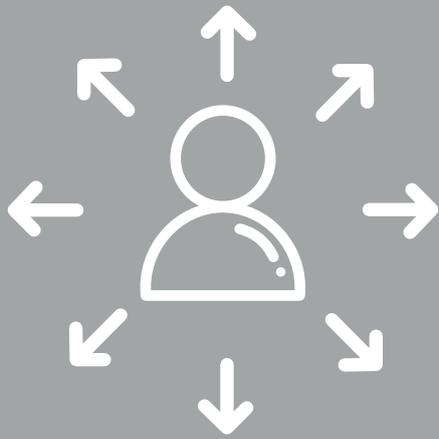
Extra Curricular Activities (ESA)

Our extensive extra-curricular programme offers students a wide range of opportunities to share their interests, learn new skills and develop important life skills.



Multicultural and Bilingual Community

We are extremely passionate about promoting the languages within our community. We see speaking other languages as being an invaluable asset to both student and to our school.



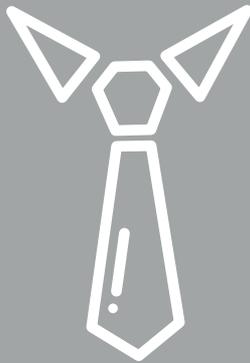
A wide Scope of Opportunities

Children are afforded a wide range of opportunities which take their learning beyond the classroom.



Reading Inspiration

Students have 15 minutes daily reading time at the start of each afternoon and we encourage all of our students to read as much and as widely as possible.



Free Uniform and Pe Kit For Y7

We provide all y7 students with A blazer, A tie, A PE top, shorts and socks and An outdoor fleece top. We believe that our uniform is smart, yet cost effective.



Excellent Pastoral Care

Students receive high levels of pastoral care and support as recognise in our recent Ofsted report (April 2019)



A Dedication to Teaching

As a National Research School, Teaching and Learning is evidence informed ensuring all students experience the highest quality of lessons. We are committed to the highest standards of professional development.



Achieving Success

MCA has been in the Top 20% of schools nationally for progress performance for the last two years.

