



Manchester Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Newsletter

Friday 26th June 2020

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all our families for supporting the first week of our new online timetable. We have received national attention for being one of the few state schools in the country to be offering such a comprehensive online teaching curriculum for **all** our students. Students should now log in for lessons at 9.30am, 11.30am and 1.30pm. Invitations are sent to students through their school IT account and Microsoft Teams. We are continuing to distribute Chromebook laptops to support students studying online but students can access the lessons using their smart phone and the Microsoft Teams app.

We have loved having Year 10 back in school and this week's attendance for the year group is up on the first week which is fantastic. We are now more confident that the whole of Manchester Academy will return to school in September. There may be some changes to the previous routines, but we are determined to get all our pupils back into school. In order to prepare for this, there will be **no online lessons on 13th/14th and 15th July** as all staff will be in the Academy, preparing for a full return to school in September. Work will be emailed to students during this week.

Manchester Academy is pleased that the government, following Marcus Rashford's campaign, is providing vouchers for families on Free School Meals over the summer. We had already decided we would commit to this, but it is great that a Manchester legend has made this happen for all families in England. Please be aware that you are likely to receive one voucher to cover the summer, rather than weekly vouchers.

For National Schools Sports Week, our PE department have delivered amazing challenges which have been supported by stars from across the world of sport. Manchester Academy staff have also been fully involved and please check our Instagram, Twitter or Facebook accounts to see some amazing activities. We have also seen lots of students joining in which is fabulous. Every week we set the Manchester Magic challenges which are additional activities for our students (and their families!) to get involved with. We would love to see whole families taking part!!

We are so proud of the way our students have conducted themselves during lockdown and now that, finally, some restrictions are being lifted, we want students to enjoy these freedoms but keep

safe at the same time. It's so important that schools open fully in September and to do this we need to keep infection rates low. Please keep talking to your son/daughter about hand washing and sensible social distancing if they are outside. Our work as a city will hopefully now mean we can begin, in small steps to return to normal.

Important Information about Parental Communication

We are sending school communication via our new school app Weduc, can you please ensure you download the App so you can be kept up to date with all important information. We will send your enrolment codes via email or SMS. Please can you follow the instructions to download Weduc. There is more information about it on our website:

<https://www.manchester-academy.org/parents/weduc-parent-app>

Thank you for all your positive messages and for such strong support in our recent parent survey – it is hugely appreciated.

Best wishes,

Mr Eldon



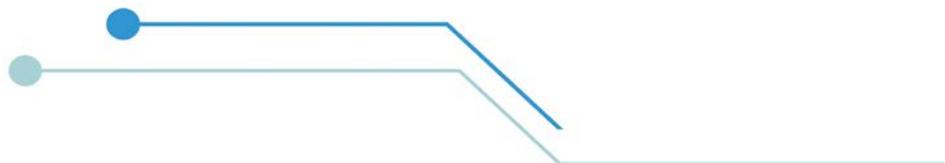
Mr J Eldon, Principal

Year 7

This week, we celebrated National School Sports Week and we saw many staff and students take on the challenges set by our fantastic PE department! Seeing students throwing themselves into the tasks and working hard to secure for points for Team GB (Y7) has made me exceptionally proud! If you have missed out on this, it is not too late as the challenges do not expire and can be completed at any time. Most challenges need basic household items e.g a towel or bottle and can be completed and enjoyed by all the family! Let's push for a win so that Year 7 can hold the Sports Week trophy!

I have been dropping in to more and more Year 7 lessons this week and listening in to our students working hard and showing their talents. There has not been a lesson in which I have been disappointed, in fact, I have had positive feedback from staff letting me know how fabulously Year 7 have been working! I am thrilled to see students gaining confidence with the 'live lesson' format and using the 'hands up' function before unmuting their mic and giving verbal answers or reading extracts – this is not always easy and can be daunting so a big well done. As I am writing this now, I have received an email from Mrs McLellan who has had an amazing drama lesson with Year 7! She said students were reading and taking part. She also said that Year 7 were so keen that they were online half an hour early enabling them to plan an online drama game. I could feel the enjoyment that Mrs McLellan felt through her email so, again well done Year 7!

With this said, the Home-Learning Heroes for this week are:



- Masud Dahir
- Emmanuel Abraham
- Danya Butt
- Rezwan Islam
- Yacub Abdualhi Adnan

All of these students will receive vouchers in the post!

In the upcoming weeks we have more exciting things for students to be getting involved with, including a United Learning wide poetry competition! This competition will be judged by best-selling author Patrick Gale. This competition is open to all year groups and students must write a poem about the **environment**. The winning entries will be read to all of the United Learning staff at a conference and the winner will of course receive a prize. Staff will be focusing on how we can help students write these poems during their online English lessons. Please encourage your children to take part in this as it would be amazing if a Manchester Academy student could win this competition!

Please remember, there are online lessons every day at 9:30am, 11:30am and 1:30pm and these are registered. Y7 attendance has increased and I can't wait to see it continue to do so.

Take care,
Miss Tregelles.

Year 8

Dear Y8,

Engagement in Learning

It is excellent to see that Y8 attendance and engagement in online is the most improved in school, we now see more and more of our students joining their lessons on Teams. This is not a replacement for school but it is making a big difference to the progress those students make. To all that have been joining online lessons, well done. It is a pleasure to award our weekly "Home Learning Heroes" awards to:

Student	Reason
Ruqayya Bojang	Excellent work in ICT and Science
Sagal Bashir	Excellent work in ICT
Thuraya Al Hadrami	Good online attendance and work in Drama
Mohamed Aldeeb	Good online attendance and work in Drama
Suzan Ibrahim	Good online attendance and work in Drama



Those who are not attending or joining all our lessons remember that our virtual timetable provides all students with three lessons a day instead of two. The lesson times are now 9.30 – 10.30, 11.30 – 12.30 and 13.30 to 14.30, with all lessons being taught live on Microsoft Teams. Guidance on how to join lessons is on the website, please use the links that explain how access Microsoft Teams, it is possible on a phone, laptop or tablet. If for any reason a student misses a lesson, he or she can find the work on the files section within Microsoft Teams and on the Manchester Academy Share Point which can be accessed via the school website.

Students are expected to behave sensibly when using IT. If any student posts inappropriate messages on this channel, you will be reported to SLT and your parents will be contacted. This may mean you are removed from all subject Teams and your email account suspended – this would mean you will not take part in any future interactive lessons.

Before the students return to school in September, I want to make sure that they are confident with what the next couple of years will include. This lockdown period gives students the perfect opportunity to email their teachers, research subjects online and discuss their future with friends and family. Students can also email teachers about different routes they can take after they leave school. This will give students the opportunity to discuss college, apprenticeships and sixth form.

The PE Department has lead an online excellent sports week with many of you and staff entering online contests such as bottle flipping, balance challenge, catching an egg from an upstairs window. Many of them have been endorsed by international athletes, have a look at the school's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages to see them or have a go yourself. It is real case of 'Making Manchester Magic'.

Stay positive, stay motivated and stay safe.

Regards,

Mr Boyle.

Year 9

Dear Y9,

Timetable & engagement

Our virtual timetable has changed this week and provides our students with three lessons a day instead of two. The lesson times are now 9.30 – 10.30, 11.30 – 12.30 and 13.30 to 14.30, with all lessons being taught live on Microsoft Teams. If for any reason a student misses a lesson, he or she can find the work on the files section within Microsoft Teams and on the Manchester Academy Share Point which can be accessed via the school website.

Engagement this week has been good, but we have experienced a dip within attendance. All students are notified about their lessons through emails, assemblies and the school's social media platforms daily. If any students are experiencing issues with their online learning they need to notify



the school by emailing remoteteaching@manchester-academy.org. I would also like to remind the students of the following online learning statement that we all at Manchester Academy expect students to uphold –

Students are expected to behave sensibly when using IT. If any student posts inappropriate messages on this channel, you will be reported to SLT and your parents will be contacted. This may mean you are removed from all subject Teams and your email account suspended – this would mean you will not take part in any future interactive lessons.

Y10 Ready!

Within this week's assembly and form tutor emails the students have been asked to consider the following questions -

1. How will you prepare for the next academic year during lockdown?
2. Do you know what your options contain for GCSEs?
3. Is establishing a routine essential for my GCSEs?
4. Am I ready to change and step it up?
5. How can I keep myself on track over the next two years?

Before the students return to school in September, I want to make sure that they are confident with what the next couple of years will include. This lockdown period gives students the perfect opportunity to email their teachers, research subjects online and discuss their future with friends and family. Students can also email teachers about different routes they can take after they leave school. This will give the students the opportunity to discuss college, apprenticeships and sixth form.

This is an exciting time for our students, and we are here to answer all their questions.

Home Learning Heroes

We have seen a large amount of nominations for our **Home Learning Heroes** over the last few weeks and it gives me great pleasure to announce this week's winners are –

Vivian Alvarado Rodriguez

Kawtar El Fatnassi

Dylan Crammond

Bisma Raza

Adam Mahmoud Jamia

Congratulations to these students for trying their hardest within their online lessons and for doing extra-curricular activities. Vivian – we all loved your poem!

Stay positive, stay motivated and stay safe.



Regards,

Mr Thomas.

Year 10

Good morning to you all!

We've had our first full week of online learning of three lessons a day and this has been really successful! The attendance at core subjects has been substantially better than foundation subjects and I ask that you encourage your children to log on for all of their lessons as this is vital for their ongoing GCSE courses.

We've been busy this week, and last, contacting your children regarding their options and asking them to drop one. We've made this decision to enable your children to have more time with subjects they are keeping and their core subjects. We hope this proves successful and Mr Rogers deserves a shout out of thanks for working so hard on this!

In addition to the online learning we have been lucky enough to be selected for some online, one-to-one tuition for Maths and Science! Dr Zang is leading on this and has selected 50 students to participate! Letters have been sent to those lucky students and I ask that you please make sure your children are making the most of this opportunity!

The English department are running a poetry competition this week, I'll send an email to your children with the details separately but I really do hope we can have lots of entries for year 10; prizes to be won!

Sending you all love and very best of wishes as always,

Mrs Henzell.

Year 11

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Patrick and Ms Khanom for their continued support with our Year 11 pupils.

Ms Khanom reached out to a number of our year 11 students by inviting them to take part in a remote forum with Ms Patrick and myself. The aim was initially to check in and survey how the pupils are coping and if there was anything more the Academy could offer during this unprecedented time. Key outcomes of this discussion include; feedback linked to college communication and engagement, availability of resources, pupils' own view on how the Academy is performing via the different channels. Reflection upon their time as a student at Manchester Academy, and how as a provider we can further improve. Current affairs such as lockdown and the Black Lives Matter campaign.



From a personal perspective, I found the forum useful and informative, valuable feedback that will be actioned and passed on to the Senior Leadership team and Mr Eldon. I would like to thank all students who took the time to participate.

Ms Patrick has continued weekly contact with students expressing how proud she and the Academy are of the year group.

'As your journey at Manchester Academy comes to a close, I look back on all the memories we have created along the way and the challenges we have had to face, especially during these strange times. Remember to keep working hard and follow your dreams, as you can achieve anything you put your mind to!'

A detailed document has been shared with students earlier this week offering support and guidance for all eventualities for now and the next phase of year 11.

All students should have received an email regarding college offers, and consultations with Ms Patrick will continue over the next few weeks. If you are unsure about your college place or have not received an email, please get in touch with Ms Patrick or myself via email so your child's next steps can be supported:

Cassandra.patrick@manchester-academy.org

darren.clarke@manchester-academy.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM CONNELL COLLEGE

The Connell pre-enrolment process is now closed. We accepted all late responses up until this morning, but we have now hit our capacity.

Any student who did not complete the process in time will be able to try to enrol with us as a walk-in in August. Often, students who have applied to us end up actually enrolling in other colleges. This means we may have free spaces on some of our courses, which are then offered out to walk-in enrollees.

We don't know exactly what the walk-in process will look like yet, as we are awaiting advice from the government about social distancing etc. All information will be posted on the website when we know more, so please let students know to keep an eye out for it.

Stay safe,

Mr Clarke.

