



**Manchester Academy**

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Part of United Learning

# Newsletter

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **Principal's Message**

Dear Parents and Carers,

There are so many exciting things going on in Manchester Academy – work with the Universities, local Art Galleries, sporting triumphs and excellent academic work but I know that the Coronavirus situation is on everyone's minds and is causing everyone concern.

### **Coronavirus Update**

Last night the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that schools in England will continue to remain open. We are continuing with the everyday business of learning and Y11 this week come to the end of their final Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). We will keep you updated regarding the situation and if the government in the future decides schools need to close we have already prepared work packs for every year group to complete at home.

### **The advice from the Department of Education regarding the Coronavirus is:**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
  - before leaving home
  - on arrival at school
  - after using the toilet
  - after breaks and sporting activities
  - before food preparation
  - before eating any food, including snacks

- before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

### **Key Messages from the Department of Health:**

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. This action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home.
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home.
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible.
- sleep alone, if that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible.
- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

### **Why staying at home is very important**

It is very important that you stay at home whilst you have coronavirus (COVID-19). This will help to protect your friends, colleagues and the wider community and will help control the spread of the virus.

We realise that staying at home may be difficult or frustrating, but there are things that you can do to help make it easier. These include:

- Plan ahead and think about what you will need in order to be able to stay at home for the full 7 days.
- Talk to your employer, friends and family to ask for their help to access the things you will need in order to successfully stay at home.
- Think about and plan how you can get access to food and other supplies such as medications that you will need during this period.
- Ask friends or family to drop off anything you need or order supplies online, but make sure these are left outside your home for you to collect.
- Make sure that you keep in touch with friends and family over the phone or through social media.
- Think about things you can do during your time at home. People who have successfully completed a period of staying at home have kept themselves busy with activities such as cooking, reading, online learning and watching films.
- When you are feeling better, remember that physical exercise can be good for your wellbeing. Look for online classes or courses that can help you take light exercise in your home.



## While you are staying at home, make sure you do the following things:

- Stay at home
- You should remain in your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis. You cannot go for a walk.
- You will need to ask friends or relatives if you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication. Alternatively, you can order medication by phone or online. You can also order your shopping online. Make sure you tell delivery drivers to leave items outside for collection if you order online. The delivery driver should not come into your home.
- At home, try as best you can to separate yourself from the people you live with
- You should aim to stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened. Try to keep the window open as much as possible to enable ventilation and air flow as this will help to keep clean air moving through your room.
- Try to separate yourself from other people in your home and keep the door closed. If you cannot stay in a separate room aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from the other people in your house. We understand that this can be particularly difficult for parents of small children, people with other caring responsibilities or those living in studio apartments, for example.
- Further advice can be found below. Try to keep yourself separated from other people as much as possible, and make sure everyone regularly follows the steps in this document (washing your hands, not touching your face, cleaning surfaces etc.).
- Use your own toothbrushes, eating and drinking utensils (including cups and glasses in the bathroom and bedroom), dishes, drinks, towels, washcloths or bedlinen.
- If you have your own garden it is fine to use it as long as you keep two metres away from other members of your household. If possible they should use the outside area separately.

## Use of shared spaces if you live with others

- Minimise the time you spend in shared spaces such as kitchens, bathrooms and sitting areas as much as possible and keep shared spaces well ventilated.
- Aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from people you live with and sleep in a different bed where possible. If you can use a separate bathroom from the rest of the household. Make sure you use separate towels from other people in your house, both for drying yourself after bathing or showering and for hand hygiene purposes. Ask your family or the people you live with to remember to use their own towels.
- If you do share toilet and bathroom, it is important that you clean them after you have used them every time (e.g. wiping surfaces you have come in contact with). Another tip is to consider drawing up a rota for bathing, with you using the facilities last, before thoroughly cleaning the bath, sink and toilet yourself.
- If you share a kitchen with others, avoid using it whilst others are present. Take your meals back to your room to eat. If you have one, use a dishwasher to clean and dry your used crockery and cutlery. If this is not possible, wash them using your usual washing up liquid and warm water and dry them thoroughly, remembering to use a separate tea towel.
- We understand that it will be difficult for some people to separate themselves from others at home. You should do your very best to follow this guidance and everyone in your household should regularly wash their hands, avoid touching their face and clean frequently touched surfaces.

## What if I am living alone with my children?

- Keep following this advice to the best of your ability however we are aware that not all these measures will be possible.



- What we have seen so far is that children with COVID-19 appear to be less severely affected. It is nevertheless important to do your best to follow this guidance.
- If your child develops symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from the onset of their symptoms.

## Important messages home

We have introduced a school App, Weduc. This allows parents to be kept up to date with all school communications and pay for their child/s school lunches rather than passing money onto your child or leaving it at reception. Letters, emails and text messages have been sent with each parents enrolment details.

Please ensure you download the App, Weduc so you can be kept up to date with all school communications. Please feel free to visit the school reception for help to download Weduc.

If you need to update any contact numbers, home addresses or provide us with an email address please contact the school main office on 0161 232 1639 to update.



Mr J Eldon, Principal

## Year 7 Update

Since my appointment as Director of Character and Culture for Year 7, I have enjoyed celebrating lots of exciting achievements with the year group. The Year 7 football team are on a winning streak, having won their last two matches with Roman and Tyler being our top scorers! In the latest ATL capture, the number of Year 7's at ATL1 has increased and we are now at 76%! I took great delight in awarding some students their first ATL1 badge and praising them for their hard work in improving their attitude to learning. This week, Year 7 are on the up with behaviour in lessons improving and attendance is the highest in the school, proving Year 7 really are the best they can be! I have enjoyed watching the Award Winning Fiction Programme in action and seeing so many students engaged and using their bookmarks to track the text; Year 7 show excellent active listening skills! In the coming weeks we have Big Tests, which will start on the week beginning 16th March and therefore it is essential students are revising at home in order to show their true potential in these tests.

Miss Tregelles



## Year 8 Update

Dear parents and carers,

First of all, thank you so much for all the parents and carers who attended the Y8 parents evening last Thursday. It's such a pleasure to meet so many lovely families. I am sure you have had a productive discussion with the class teacher to help you understand better your children's learning and progress. Starting from this week, we will have a "MarioKart Attendance" competition. Please ask your children about the competition and discuss about their attendance. One more thing, big congratulations to Mohammad Asmati from our Y8, who teamed up with our Y7 and Y9 students competed in the UKMT Team Challenge Regional Final. They have achieved amazing results. Well done!

Dr Zang

## Year 9 Update

Last week marked the third phase of our ATL awards within year 9 and our ATL 1 badges have been distributed to all the students who have shown excellent attitude to learning throughout the last half term. I am very pleased to say that 63% of our Y9 cohort are working at ATL 1 with many more on cusp of reaching the highest level.

This week the year 9 students have been introduced to their Options booklet. Within this booklet students will find information on every subject that they are eligible to choose for their GCSEs. We suggest that the students choose subject that they enjoy and would like to pursue after their school lives.

The students will need to complete page 12 of the options booklet and return their forms to either Mr. Hurst or Mrs. McMullen with their full name and form at the top of the page please. Thanks to all the Y9 families for the brilliant turn out at last night's Options Evenings – your support was much appreciated.

Mr Thomas

## Year 10 Update

Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself to you all. I'm Mrs Henzell and have been working at Manchester Academy for the last two years as Head of Year 9 and an English teacher. After Ms Tempest decided to focus on her classroom and subject practice, Mr Eldon asked me if I step up to year 10 to continue the strong leadership she has shown over the last two years. I'd like to personally thank Ms Tempest for being so supportive in ensuring the handover has been as smooth and disruption free for students. Most of your children already know me as an established and visible member of staff and having been taught by me, either in past years or currently, and have been fantastic in their acceptance and attitude – they really are a joy to be around and I look forward to getting to know you all over the next 18months.

I will be working with Mr Eldon and the KS4 behaviour team to ensure that pupils standards reflect my own; of an incredibly high standard. This is vital during this crucial time as we prepare for year 11 to move on and we step up to being the Leaders of the Academy. We have work to do and I look forward to the challenge. Have a great week!

Mrs Henzell

## Year 11 Update

Countdown- 6 weeks to go for our year 11's before the exam season begins!



As we reach the midpoint of the final spring term, our year 11 students have shown resolve and vigour in completing the final round of pre public examinations. The feedback has been very positive from the Academy's senior leadership and exams teams. Therefore, I would like to take the opportunity to commend the YR 11 cohort for a successful final run ahead of the first GCSE summer exam on the 11th of March.

Students will have six more opportunities to come together as a group before the Senior Vice Principle Mr Rogers and myself in the assembly hall. The focus will be exam preparation, formulating revision schedules and managing time effectively. The Academy has invested in a highly recommended guide for all students to support these key messages that will be delivered in assemblies and form time. Alongside this the year 11 teaching team have a bank of resources and revision material to support home learning leading up to the exams.

Period 6 learning is compulsory for all students and will make the difference come summer.

A round up of last terms Attitude to Learning has seen an increase of 10 students achieving an ATL score 1. A total of 155, 65% of the year group. To drive this our Hi 5 initiative will continue monitoring a select group to support in achieving their potential.

I had the pleasure of an invitation to the Drama exam where students performed in front of a live audience, including Mr Eldon. A variety of pressing issues were brought to life! Well done to all the students who overcame nerves and delivered under pressure.

The theme is changes and they are addressing issues surrounding: sexism, gang culture, racism, homophobia, family loss and other ideas yet to be discovered within their rehearsal process.

Mrs McLellan

- A group of Year 11 students visited Manchester College to gain an insight of college life at the campus. College staff also participated in a Q/A directed at specific educational needs.

Sport

Year 11's took on the Year 10's in football. A big thank you to Mr Wilkinson for arranging and officiating the fixture.

- Thank you to Mr Sealy for all his hard work with the Year 11 cohort. Mr Sealy has been an important figure when ensuring the high standards have been met from the start of the academic year right through to the spring term.

Mr Clarke

