



Dear Parents and Carers,

The long cold weeks of January have passed and we are all waiting for the return of Spring and some warmer weather. Years 7 to 10 have completed their Big Tests and Y11 are working hard to be ready for their crucial PPE2 exams. Alongside the academic hard work, we have hosted mock interviews for Y10 who are busy finalising their work experience placements. An amazing Y8 girls' team were runners up in a national competition to make cities more sustainable and we are preparing for this year's debating competition with Debate Mate. Our Global school work has now established powerful links with schools in Morocco and Gambia which gives our students an opportunity to discuss issues which matter to them with students in other parts of the world.

There has been a lot of coverage recently regarding mobile phones in schools. Manchester Academy is a phone free school – if a mobile phone is seen in the Academy it will be automatically confiscated until the end of the school day. If a student fails to comply with this request, this is a serious breach of our behaviour policy. We would ask for your support with this, if you need to urgently contact your son/daughter, please contact the Academy and we can pass on the message or collect the student for you. Our phone free policy hugely reduces problems in the Academy and means, at break and lunchtimes, students play and talk together rather than looking at screens.

This Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, is a Staff Planning Day and the Academy is therefore closed to students. Please see below a list of key dates for your diaries to help with planning:

- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** - Staff Planning Day 6<sup>th</sup>, Academy closed to students
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 9 Options Evening, this is a key night for Y9 families where you will receive information regarding the Options Process and also academic parents' evening
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Staff Training Days, the Academy is closed to students. We hope these days will allow our families who celebrate Ramadan to have a lovely family celebration
- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 11 PPE 2 Examinations
- Year 11 PPE2 timetable - Y11s will receive their PPE2 timetable before the Feb HT so they enough time to prepare for their final set of PPE exams

It's busy as always, but we are all working hard to ensure our students are well supported and get the very best opportunity to succeed.

Finally, I am delighted to share the news that Mrs Green, who has been with MA for many years, has been appointed as Head of School to support me in leading the Academy. Some days, I am supporting other schools who are looking to transform in the way Manchester Academy did and during those days Mrs Green will lead the Academy. The majority of my time remains at MA and it is my priority. I have never stayed as long in the same school but there is something captivating about our school which I love. Mrs Green will be working closely with me to ensure that we continue to make Manchester magic.

Thank you as always for your loyal support and backing – we hugely appreciate it.

Best wishes

Mr J. Eldon Executive Principal

**M A G I C**  
Motivated Academic Global Inclusive Community

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