

MEA Community News

Keeping us connected during the Academy closure

05 June 2020

Welcome to the latest edition of our parent newsletter **MEA Community News** where we keep you up to date with important information in relation to the Academy and your child's education as well as providing other articles and tips we hope you will find interesting during these strange and challenging times.

Keep safe & stay well – **Ms Bradbury & the MEA Team**

MEA Consolidates – Microsoft Teams

This week we have launched our online learning platform MS Teams. To log into Teams students need their school email address Firstname.Surname@meacad.org.uk and the password for this email account. If your child cannot remember their password please email teamsupport@meacad.org.uk and we will reset it for you - please note this is not an automated system so it may take a day or two for us to respond.

Details about how to log in to and use MS Teams, along with FAQ's and a video tutorial can all be found on our website under the *School Closure* section.

Work for all subjects will be set on MS Teams every 2 weeks, with an assignment for each subject. To help manage their time, we recommend that students note down the deadlines for each assignment and complete the work in the order it is due in.

It is really important that students use MS Teams to complete their work, as they are able to ask for help if needed. Teachers will also provide feedback on the assignments they set. **Workbooks should only be requested if students do not have an internet connection**, as otherwise work can be completed on paper, photographed and uploaded via mobile phone to Teams to enable students to receive feedback.

Top Tip

The **Keep GM Moving** campaign is sharing ways you and your family can stay healthy and active, this week they have shared a YouTube home workout video <https://youtu.be/T-JfFRJNT7s> that is suitable for everyone, no matter your ability or level of mobility



MEA Loves Reading

This week we launched a new section on our website **MEA Loves Reading**

<https://www.manchesterenterpriseacademy.org.uk/1621/mea-loves-reading> dedicated to reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure has been shown to have many benefits for young people, not just increasing their literacy skills but also improving wellbeing and increasing social awareness. We couldn't recommend more that all our students spend some time reading books they enjoy whilst they are unable to attend school.



Visit the page on our website for information on where you can download or listen to books for free and if you are looking for inspiration as to what to read, you will find Ms Smith reading the beginning of **Wonder** by **R.J.Palacio** for you!

MEA Xtras @ Home



The **Imperial War Museum** is releasing a series of short documentary films with experts discussing their favourite **Adventures in History**. Those already released include 'Life Under the Sea' and 'Cakes made from Carrots' and can be found on their website <https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources>. Check back every Wednesday for the latest release!

The site also contains a wealth of resources on all things historical – there's sure to be something of interest to everyone.

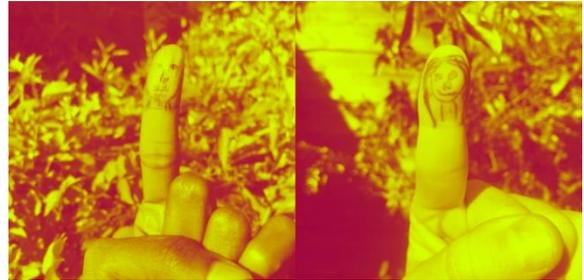
More than 100,000 people visited **Dippy the Dinosaur**, who used to stand guard in the atrium of London's Natural History Museum, in Rochdale before the exhibition was put on hold due to the UK's lockdown.

Organisers have teamed up to create an online walkthrough of the exhibition, meaning you can now see Dippy without leaving your own home. Visit <https://www.visitrochdale.com/dippy-on-tour> to take a **virtual tour** of the huge diplodocus skeleton.



Tell Me is a game from **HOME** to play at home. It's about how much we know about each other, and how much we make up. About how it feels to be seen by other people, and how it feels to be invented by them.

It's designed to be played by two friends, but it can be played by more. You don't need anything apart from you, a friend, and a way of writing down your answers to some questions. You don't even need to be in the same room. Details of how to play can be found online at <https://homemcr.org/production/tell-me/>



Health & Wellbeing - Returning to school after someone has died

How your child's return to school is managed is very important in helping them settle back in after a difficult time. Here are some tips:

Talk to the school: Before your child goes back call the school and ask to speak to either the child's Form Tutor, Manager of Character and Culture or Wellbeing Lead. Tell the school what your child knows. It's important that we understand what your child knows about the death and also who else knows. It may be that other children have heard about the death if it's been in the media or is known about in the community. This is particularly important if the death was traumatic or the cause of death has not been determined.

Speak to your child: Tell your child that you have spoken to the school, reassure your child that they are not being talked about but that other people need to know because they care and want to help them.

Come in a little earlier on the first day: On the first day back to school try to come in early so that you can avoid being part of a crowd outside school, this also gives you a chance to discuss any of your concerns with a teacher. If your child is feeling unsteady about returning you can bring them to school and ask to speak to their Manager of Character and Culture or Wellbeing. We will highlight to them safe places in school where they can receive support if needed.

Keep in touch with the school: On your child's first day back it can be useful to ask us to give you a call if we're concerned or to just let you know how your child has been. It's really important that we pass positive messages as well as constructive messages.

Keep the school informed as times goes on: Let the school know if there are any changes to circumstances at home or if your child seems to be struggling more than usual, this way we can keep a look out for any changes in behaviour as well as be understanding of your child's circumstances.

Don't expect too much: We will let your child ease back into schoolwork, even though we always challenge our students academically, we will accommodate for their loss. We will set achievable targets. By home and school working together and communicating well, we will ease any distress for you and your child, additionally easing pressure they may be feeling around schoolwork.

Going back to school after someone has died can be difficult for everyone. For more guidance or support, please contact our Wellbeing Lead via the Academy.

Manchester Adult Learning are offering a virtual drop-in session for families that are struggling with challenging behaviours at home in these difficult times. If you would like to learn how to help your children, please do join this supportive drop-in which will be led by Tania Lopez from Family Learning, and meet other parents who are in a similar situation to you and share your dilemmas and ideas. The **Parenting Support Virtual Drop-in** is being held on **Wednesday 10th June at 2pm**; join the Zoom meeting with the details below:

<https://zoom.us/j/91890636408?pwd=S0N3OGorQm5KR25JdzZESU9DRDFjQT09>

Meeting ID: 918 9063 6408 Password: 8mAFpZ

Keep in Touch



If you have a recipe idea, book recommendation or an activity you've enjoyed whilst at home, e-mail the details to admin@meacad.org.uk and we'll include some each week in the newsletter so everyone at MEA can try them out!

NHS Thank You Wall

MCRactive are creating a Thank You Wall to show gratitude for the NHS's continued hard work at the **Rest & Relaxation Centre** created for NHS staff at the Etihad Campus so they can exercise, grab lunch and relax and are asking for Mancunians to submit photos, pictures, messages or poems to info@mcractive.com to be featured on the wall.

