

# ***MEA Community News***

## **Keeping us connected during the Academy closure**

26 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**

### **Home Learning – Microsoft Teams**

Students have just completed their second cycle of remote learning via MS Teams and we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the students who are communicating with teachers and completing their classwork and assignments. Students have been really engaged and are really enjoying being able to 'talk' to teachers about their work!

Our final cycle opens **on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June when staff will set revision activities for students** before releasing **their end of year assessment via Assignments on 6<sup>th</sup> July**. We would encourage ALL students to complete these so we have an accurate picture of what students can and cannot do in order for us to support them and meet their needs.



If you are having trouble accessing MS Teams please let us know during our Welfare Calls and we will help you get connected. MS Teams can be downloaded from an App Store or found by doing an internet search for 'Microsoft Teams.' Students log in using their school email [Firstname.Surname@meacad.org.uk](mailto:Firstname.Surname@meacad.org.uk) and the password they use to access school email account. Passwords can be reset by emailing [teamsupport@meacad.org.uk](mailto:teamsupport@meacad.org.uk)

If you need more support, visit our website and click on the 'School Closure' tab then the 'Microsoft Teams' page where you will find a link to a video tutorial that shows you how to navigate Teams.

### **Year 10 and Year 12 provision**

Over half of our Year 10 and Year 12 students are attending the Academy for subject lessons, a Fantastic Futures session, and an Independent Study tutorial. Those who have been in have all found the sessions really useful in helping them access their remote learning via MS Teams. We look forward to seeing you all again next week, and **encourage all students to attend**. It was lovely to see you all, and teachers really enjoyed being able to teach you again!

### Summer 'Catch Up Curriculum'

We recognize that students have not attended taught lessons at the Academy for some time and want to support them to make a smart start to their next academic year. In order to do this, we have designed the **MEA Catch Up Curriculum**, a series of weekly activities for each subject, which students can complete in order to secure the key skills and knowledge needed for each subject next year. The Catch Up Curriculum will be released via MS Teams every Monday for five weeks over the summer holidays. More detail on the content of the curriculum will be released in the coming weeks.

### Y11 Future Destinations Survey

As the situation with COVID-19 remains ever changing, we would like students to tell us their concerns about moving on to College in September. Perhaps some students have few or no worries about this, but still, we would like to hear from you by completing a short survey open to all Year 11 students so we can make the necessary arrangements to ensure students feel less anxious and instead, more confident with moving to a new destination in the midst of a very strange time.

The survey will be open until early July so you can let us know how you are feeling and if you have any specific worries or concerns. We will read your feedback and have discussions with the organisations or people that we need to.

We would appreciate if parents and carers could encourage their child to complete the survey and use the narrative box at the bottom to add your thoughts. The survey can be found via this link <https://bit.ly/312HDle>

We will feed back the results to Post 16 providers to improve your experience. If you do wish to talk through any of this, or you need further guidance please contact Miss Neary on [e.neary@meacad.org.uk](mailto:e.neary@meacad.org.uk).

### Transition to Trafford College



Is your child in Year 11 and starting at Trafford College in September? If so, the college now have a section on their website '**Are you College Ready?**' where students can find information about the courses they will be taking, learning activities and videos to assist students with the transition from school to college. Help your child to feel ready by taking a look.

<https://trafford.ac.uk/school-leavers/school-leavers/collegeready>

### Health & Wellbeing

**EduCare** have produced a useful resource to help you identify and understand different types of anxiety and support young people experiencing anxiety, which can be found on our website along with a number of other resources to support health and wellbeing

<https://www.manchesterenterpriseacademy.org.uk/1116/health-and-wellbeing>

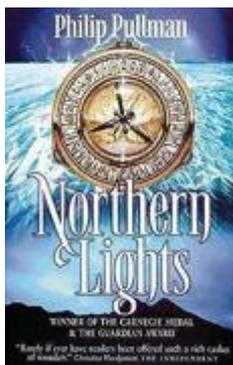
## Wellbeing Survey

Your child will receive a survey via Teams next week. This is to help us understand how best we can support students' mental health and wellbeing. We would appreciate if you can ensure your child completes this as soon as possible.

We appreciate your ongoing support and if you have any queries about the survey please do not hesitate to contact our Wellbeing Lead, Ms Evason, via the Academy.

## Family Learning Science Drop-in

**Manchester Family Learning** are offering a virtual drop-in session on **Tuesday 30 June at 11am** if you would like some tips on how to support your child with science activities. Sign up to the session via this link <https://forms.gle/LsnvLGrS8X39sMVb8>



## MEA Loves Reading

This week's chosen novel is **Northern Lights** by **Philip Pullman**; you can find a member of staff reading the first chapter of this, and books from previous weeks, on our website along with links to download an audio or pdf copy of all of the chosen books so you can enjoy the rest of the stories for yourself!

## MEA Maths @ Home

This week's update is from the Maths department, with details of activities they have been conducting remotely.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge



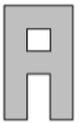
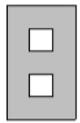
Every year lots of students at MEA complete the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in school. Fortunately, this year, the UKMT moved the Challenge online so that our students have still had the opportunity to take part in the Challenge.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, almost 100 Year 7 & 8 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge either at home or whilst attending our on-site provision. They worked incredibly hard to solve some tricky problems.

We are **so proud** of all the students that completed the Challenge and look forward to receiving the results on the 8<sup>th</sup> July!

Here's an example question from last year's Maths Challenge for you to try!

Which of the following five shapes can be cut into four pieces by a single straight cut?

A  B  C  D  E 

### Virtual Maths Club



This week has seen the launch of our Virtual Maths Club on Microsoft Teams for Year 9 and 10 students. The Virtual Maths Club has been a chance for students to get stuck into mathematical problems, refining their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills, and there has been some excellent work already!

Every Friday, we will have a 'Live Hour' on Teams, where the students are able to discuss their solutions and solve some more problems. If you would like to join the Virtual Maths Club, get in touch with your Maths teacher!

Here's a puzzle for you to try!

A boy has as many brothers as sisters, but his sister has only half as many sisters as brothers.

How many brothers and sisters are there all together in this family?

### Top Tip

**Ticketmaster** have put together a comprehensive guide to streaming theatre at home. Take a look and you are sure to find something your family would enjoy, from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Sound of Music*, to performances from the National Ballet and Shakespeare plays.

<https://discover.ticketmaster.co.uk/theatre/our-guide-to-streaming-the-best-theatre-at-home-49832/>



### MEA Xtras @ Home



**Manchester's Festival of Nature** is taking place virtually this year on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**. Follow all the action on their Twitter page @MancNature with live events and screenings running throughout the day between 11am – 5pm.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM

Do you have a football mad member of your family? If so, the **National Football Museum** have a range of family-friendly stay at home activities from a weekly creative writing challenge to designing your own football club crest. Full details can be found on their website

<https://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com/communities/stayathome/>

### 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](mailto:admin@meacad.org.uk) and we'll include some each week in the newsletter so everyone at MEA can try them out!

### National School Diversity Week (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June)

## BLACK LIVES MATTER



As **School Diversity Week** comes to an end and the **Black Lives Matter** campaign gathers momentum around the world, there's never been a better time to talk to children about prejudice, diversity and inclusion.

With the recent news dominated by images of mass demonstrations, children are likely to have questions about what they have seen and heard. Parents and carers can play a key role in starting the conversation which can shape their child's worldview and help to build a more inclusive and aware society.

As Frederick Douglass, prominent American social reformer and abolitionist, said "It is easier to build stronger children than to repair broken men."

No one can be expected to provide all the answers to such a complex issue and racism is far from a one-conversation topic, but it's important to take the first steps. Fortunately there are many resources – both online and off – available to support you as you talk about the issue.

#### Getting started

According to America's **National Museum for African American Culture and History** (NMAAHC), the number one question people have asked since it opened in 2016 is how to talk about race, and they offer plenty of online help.

Their introductory video offering **Five Things Everyone Should Know About Racism** is a good starting point for parents and older children in explaining some basic concepts and terminology.

