

**Mr D Bell**

MEA Principal &amp; CEO of Altius Trust

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Dear Parents / Carers,

As always, it's been a busy term! Our newsletter, which we will send home next week, demonstrates the rich variety of life at MEA. Before that however, I just want to make you aware of a few things to ensure that the many events we have planned for next week go smoothly!

**Monday:**

- Y7 Parents' Forum
- Y10 Photography visit
- Y9 & 10 Trampoline attendance and ATL rewards trip
- Hairspray dress rehearsal

**Tuesday:**

- Hairspray dress rehearsal

**Wednesday:**

- Y9 Gurdwara visit
- Y11 Spanish breakfast reward
- Y10 & 11 Hair and Beauty workshop
- Hairspray – dress rehearsal and evening performance

**Thursday:**

- Christmas Jumper Day – 50p charitable donation
- Academy Christmas Dinner
- Y7, 8 & 11 Trampoline attendance and ATL rewards trip
- GCSE Film project - on location
- Hairspray – matinee performance to primary students and evening performance

**Friday:**

- Non Uniform Day – 50p charitable donation
- Y7 & 8 reward performance and celebration assemblies
- Attendance 12 Days of Christmas prize event
- **Early finish – 1pm**

The academy re-opens to students on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

On a personal note, I would like to thank students and parents for their support over the last four terms as I have combined the role of Principal at MEA with leading the Altius Trust. From January we are joined by Ms Bradbury who will take the role of Principal. I will still be largely based at MEA, but Ms Bradbury takes over the leadership of the academy. Ms Bradbury has already met many of the students, and will meet remaining students next week. An introductory letter from Ms Bradbury is overleaf.

Enjoy the festive season,

Mr D Bell  
 Principal MEA & CEO Altius Trust

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, I am joining MEA as Principal from January 2020.

First of all, I would like to say how excited I am to become part of this fantastic school community. I have visited the academy several times over the last few weeks and on each occasion I have been incredibly impressed by the polite and positive students, and by the skilled, committed, and enthusiastic staff. I would like to assure you that I will work tirelessly to ensure that the young people here have the best possible preparation for their lives and careers. Examination results are vitally important, but they are not the whole picture: social, personal, and employability skills are also essential, as is an understanding of the wider world and society.

I will spend much of my first few weeks getting to know staff and students, and setting out my expectations for behaviour and progress. I am also speaking to all year groups in assemblies before the end of this term, so that they hear a few key messages as follows:-

1. From January, students will only be able to use mobile phones in social spaces and during social times. Phones must **not** be visible on corridors or in classrooms. If they are visible, they will be confiscated.
2. In addition, inappropriate use of mobile phones will also result in confiscation and a possible permanent ban. This includes filming of staff or students on site as well bullying and harassment.
3. I have also explained that my expectations for behaviour on corridors, at social times, and on the way to and from the academy are exactly the same as for behaviour in lessons.
4. Finally, I have told students that we will be reviewing the academy behaviour and reward systems during the spring term. As a part of this, I will be introducing consequences for students who do not compete sufficient work in lessons, or whose work is not of a sufficient standard.

I would like to wish you all the best for the festive season, and I very much look forward to meeting you in the future. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling the main academy switchboard or emailing my PA, Ms Ratcliffe, on [j.ratcliffe@meacad.org.uk](mailto:j.ratcliffe@meacad.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



**Ruth Bradbury**