



**Ms R Bradbury** - MEA Principal

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Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

I am writing to give you an update on the current situation in relation to COVID-19.

We are now almost two weeks into the new term and, as has often been the case, many of our plans have had to change very quickly. I would like to thank you and your children for being patient and understanding during this time. We appreciate that these are very uncertain and difficult circumstances, and I hope you understand that we are doing our very best to communicate with you.

I am sure you would want to join me in thanking all MEA staff for the monumental effort they have put in to ensure that we could adapt quickly to the circumstances. Within four days of the Prime Minister's announcement, they have set up timetables for remote learning, including a wide range of live lessons. They have also organised on-and off-site learning for vulnerable students and the children of key workers, as well as setting up a COVID-19 testing hub for staff and students who are attending the Academy regularly.

#### REMOTE LEARNING

Following recent government guidance the Academy is closed to all students except for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers.

Students should follow their remote learning timetable of live lessons and work on Microsoft Teams, more information and timetables can be found here:

<https://www.manchesterenterpriseacademy.org.uk/2136/remote-learning-1>

Topics covered in remote learning are those that we had planned to teach on site this term, and a summary of the content can be found on Big Pictures for each year group. For more information and copies of the Big Picture documents see our Curriculum Overview section of the website at

<https://www.manchesterenterpriseacademy.org.uk/330/curriculum-overview>.

#### PROVISION FOR VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND THE CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS

We currently have a number of students attending site each day, where they are doing the same remote learning as those students who are working at home.

Due to the extreme infectiousness of the new variant of COVID-19, we are keeping student numbers on site as low as we possibly can. However, if you wish your child to attend this provision and you have not yet contacted us, please call the main MEA switchboard on 0161 499 2726 or email [admin@meacad.org.uk](mailto:admin@meacad.org.uk)

Further information about who is eligible for this provision can be found on the gov.uk website here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

#### SAFEGUARDING AND ONLINE SAFETY

At this time, it is more important than ever that students and their parents / carers understand how young people can keep themselves safe online. There are a range of resources in the 'online safety' section of our website, including advice on the safe use of Zoom and social media, and these can be accessed from the main menu on the homepage at <https://www.manchesterenterpriseacademy.org.uk>. There is also information on the website about what to do if you have any safeguarding concerns.



**WELFARE CALLS**

We are contacting the families of **every** child by telephone during term time, fortnightly. This is simply to check that your child is doing OK, and to see if there are any questions or concerns that we can help you with.

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

We have made some changes to parent events as a result of the continuing COVID-19 measures. Events scheduled for this half term will be conducted online, and will take place as shown below. More detailed information will be issued shortly to the parents/carers of the relevant year groups.

- **Year 11 Parent Information Evening**      Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 7 Progress Evening**                      Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 9 Options Evening**                      Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

As you may already know, the government is re-launching the national voucher scheme from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January until at least Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February to families whose children are entitled to free school meals. The first £30 voucher will cover the period 18<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January, and the second £30 voucher will cover the period 1<sup>st</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February.

The scheme is being run by **Edenred**, who are a separate company with a national government contract to operate for the voucher scheme. Vouchers will be sent from them by email, and it is important that (a) we have a current email address for you, and (b) that you check your junk folder regularly in case the voucher has ended up there by mistake.

We are unsure how long it will take for Edenred to process the first vouchers, and we will therefore send out a separate text message to all parents whose children are entitled to free school meals, to ask if you wish to collect an individual lunch parcel for next week in addition to the voucher.

**EXAM YEAR GROUPS**

If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13, I will be writing to you separately next week with an update on what we know so far about how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded. In the meantime, I am asking that you reinforce the message to them they **will** be returning to the Academy this year, and that the amount and quality work that they do over lockdown is likely to influence their final examination grades.

Yours faithfully



**Ruth Bradbury**  
Principal