



**Ms R Bradbury** - MEA Principal

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26<sup>th</sup> August '20

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope that you and your families have had a good summer break, despite the challenges that we are all facing. I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the start of the new academic year, and to provide some additional practical detail.

### Arrangements for the start of term

As I outlined before the holidays it is very important that we welcome all students back safely and with plenty of time for them to get used to the new school arrangements. Therefore, students will be returning on a phased induction for the first two weeks of the autumn term as shown below. Please note that induction days are for **the stated year group(s) only** and all other students should remain at home.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Staff induction and training – <b>closed to students</b>
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> induction day 1
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> induction day 2
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Year 7</b> plus <b>Year 11</b> induction
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Years 7 &amp; 11</b> plus <b>Year 8</b> induction
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Years 7 &amp; 11</b> plus <b>Year 9</b> induction
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Years 7 &amp; 11</b> plus <b>Year 10</b> and <b>Sixth Form</b> induction
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Full timetable begins for <b>all students</b>

### Uniform

Students in years 8 to 11 should wear full uniform, including blazers. The only exception to this is their year group tie, as these will be issued free of charge during induction.

Students in Year 7 will be provided with a blazer and a tie on induction, and they should attend in full uniform except for these items

### Masks

As you will be aware, the government has recently changed its guidance to schools on the wearing of masks. We are currently reviewing this change, and will contact you again before the start of term to confirm what our policy will be.

### Reducing Contact

In order for us to comply with government guidance and minimise the risk of coronavirus we have allocated separate entrance and exit points for each year group, these will be as follows:

Year 7	The back MEA gates on Greenwood Road
Year 8	MEA Gates on Simonsway
Year 9	MEA Gates on Simonsway
Year 10	The bus entrance gates on Simonsway
Year 11	The bus entrance gates on Simonsway.

**Students should only enter and exit school via the designated gate for their year group.**



Gates will open at 8.40am and once inside the premises, students will be asked to wait in designated **outdoor** areas for their year group until 8.50, when they will enter their specific area of the building in a safe and supervised manner. Period 1 lessons begin at 8.55am.

Our free **breakfast club** provision will continue in the Atrium from 7.30 am to 8.30am every day. However, as this is open to all year groups, numbers may need to be limited to allow us to maintain social distancing where possible. We will review this after our initial induction period. Students can access breakfast club via the back gate on Greenwood Road and will need to remain inside the Atrium until 8.30 when they will then join their year group in their designated outside area.

Students will also take their breaks and lunches in separate social areas for their year group. They will receive full guidance on this and how to move around the building safely, during their induction day.

### **Staffing update**

Mr. Fox, the Vice Principal for Character and Culture, left MEA at the end of the summer term to take up the post of Vice Principal at another Manchester academy. I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs. Snowdon has been appointed Interim Vice Principal for Character and Culture until at least the end of this term. Mrs. Snowdon has worked at MEA since September 2016, most recently as an Assistant Vice Principal. She will take over responsibility for behaviour, attendance and personal development, and I am sure that you will join me in congratulating her on her appointment.

### **Communications**

To minimise contact during COVID-19, we are requesting that no parents/carers visit the MEA site without a prior appointment. If you need to speak urgently to a member of staff, you should first call the main MEA switchboard on 0161 499 2726.

I hope that the information in this letter is clear. We understand that some parents and students may be anxious about the return to full time education, and if you have any concerns I would encourage you to contact us on 0161 499 2726 or email [admin@meacad.org.uk](mailto:admin@meacad.org.uk)

In addition, up to date government information on the return to full time education is available at [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool), and a recent statement from the Chief Medical Officer on school reopening can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening>

Yours sincerely



**Ruth Bradbury**  
Principal