



FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS | NO.1

PARENT BULLETIN

2 May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic start to the new term here at MEPA Academy! It's been wonderful to see our students return with such enthusiasm and focus. Attendance for the first week was over 96% – a brilliant achievement that sets a positive tone for the weeks ahead. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school and ready to learn each day.

Our Year 11 students are now in the final stretch as they prepare for their GCSE exams, which begin on 2nd May 2025 with Art and Design. They've been working closely with their teachers, engaging in revision sessions and practice assessments to build confidence and deepen their understanding. We're proud of their dedication and encourage them to keep up the momentum.

Year 10 students have embarked on a new challenge this week, by completing a weeks placement with an employer. These placements were sourced by the students and their parents and give them a valuable opportunity to develop transferable skills that they can take to any type of employment. It also gives them the starting point of their CVs.

During lunchtimes, students have been enjoying visits to Brenchley Park, taking the opportunity to get some fresh air, stretch their legs, and enjoy the spring sunshine when it makes an appearance. These moments of relaxation and connection are just as important as their academic progress.

There's also a real buzz in our vocational classes, where students are currently working on exciting projects for their end-of-year showcase. We can't wait to share their creativity and hard work with you soon – it promises to be a highlight of the term!

Thank you for being such an important part of the MEPA Academy community. We look forward to keeping you updated as the term progresses.

Best wishes

Mandy

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Parent Evenings
17 May 2025	Dance World Cup Fundraiser at Studio 6 Tickets at www.studio6maidstone.co.uk/book-online
26-30 May 2025	Half Term
30 May 2025	Quiz Night (Dance World Cup Fundraiser) Tickets at www.mepastudios.com/book-online
27 & 28 June 2025	Term 3 Academy Showcase Tickets at www.mepaacademy.com/book-online
29 June 2025	Academy Prom Please let us know if you are coming by completing the book online form on www.mepaacademy.com/book-online
2 July 2025	Sports Day at Mote Park
7-11 July 2025	Academy Closed due to Dance World Cup
14-18 July 2025	Additional week added due to DWC closure.
18 July 2025	Last day of the Academic Year 2024-25

PRIVATE LESSONS

Thank you to all our parents/carers that have begun using our new system for booking private lessons. Private lessons are now bookable via our new booking system. Use the link below to book private lessons.

Click this link to book a private lesson: <https://www.mepaplus.co.uk/private-lessons>

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Students are to be expected to be in correct uniform at all times at MEPA Academy. All uniform items are to be MEPA branded and footwear is to be plain black.

Day wear includes:

- T Shirt
- Jumper
- Joggers/Leggings
- Black Shoes

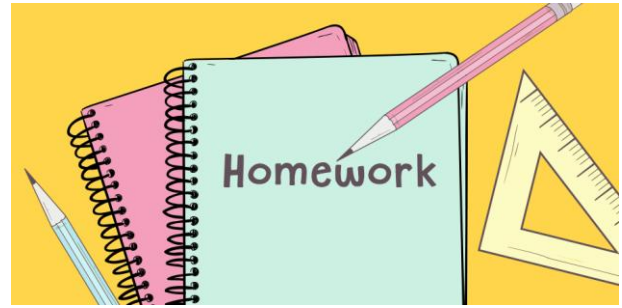
T-shirt, Jumper and Joggers/Leggings should be MEPA branded only.

If any student does not have MEPA branded leggings or joggers, they will be permitted to wear plain black non-branded leggings or joggers until MEPA branded items have been purchased.

YEAR 9 & 10 HOMEWORK

This term Year 9 and 10 students have begun being issued with Math, English and Science homework to support long term revision and recall.

This work is set on Seneca Learning. All students have been set up with an account. Teachers will share on ClassDojo the assignments that have been set and their due dates.



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

REPORTING ABSENCE / LATENESS

Absences or late to school are to be reported via email to info@mepaacademy.com each day. For any medical appointments, medical evidence is required.

EQUIPMENT REMINDERS

A reminder regarding student equipment. Students should be prepared for their lessons and need to ensure they have the following items as part of their equipment. Comments are issued for lack of equipment.

- Maths Set (to include) - Calculator, Compass, Protractor
- Pencil Case (to include) - Pens (Black/Blue, Green and Red), Pencil, Pencil Sharpener, Rubber, Ruler, Highlighters, Glue Stick.



PARENT'S EVENING

We are pleased to be holding out second parent's evening of the year for Year 7-10 parents. Parent's evening will be taking place on Wednesday 14 May 2025 from 5:00-8:00pm at Earl Street.

Year 11s are not expected to attend, as they will be focusing on their GCSEs, if any parents/carers would like a progress update, please email info@mepaacademy.com and we will get this arranged for you.

Please use the form (button below) to indicate the times you are available for. Appointment times will then be arranged and sent home prior to parent's evening

<https://forms.office.com/e/8PYB5q0XsC>

YEAR 8 VACCINATIONS

Dear Parent / Carer of year 8 students

03/06/2025 - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination at MEPA Academy

We are inviting your child to be vaccinated against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The HPV vaccine helps protect boys and girls against certain cancers which can be caused by the HPV infection. These include:

- Some mouth and throat cancers.
- Cervical cancer.
- Cancers of the penis and genital area
- Genital warts.

The HPV vaccination is now given as a single dose which gives long-lasting protection. Further information about this vaccine is available from <https://family.kentcht.nhs.uk/teenimms>.

An automated email will be sent to you on completion of the e-consent from school.immunisations@nhs.net. If this does not come through, please check your junk email or contact the Immunisation Service.

If you have any concerns or would like to withdraw your consent, please contact the Immunisation Service on the telephone number or email below.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

Your child should have received two doses of the MMR vaccine for full protection. If not, and you'd like them vaccinated, please complete the MMR consent form and we will give your child both vaccines at the same time.

Visit <https://family.kentcht.nhs.uk/teenimms> for more details of the MMR vaccination.

Kind regards

Immunisation Service

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Any questions? Contact us via kchft.cyp-immunisationteam@nhs.net, call 0300 123 5205, Live chat with us now Text chat us now: 07700 140385 or visit family.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms for more information.

YEAR 11 EXAM TIMETABLE

DAY	SUBJECT
FRIDAY 2 ND MAY FRIDAY 9 TH MAY	AQA ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN
MONDAY 12 TH MAY	AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE Shakespeare and the 19 th century novel
TUESDAY 13 TH MAY	AQA BIOLOGY PAPER 1
WEDNESDAY 14 TH MAY	AQA GEOGRAPHY Living with the physical environment
THURSDAY 15 TH MAY	EDXCEL BTEC PERFORMING ARTS Component 3
THURSDAY 15 TH MAY	EDXCEL MATHEMATICS (NO CALCULATOR)
THURSDAY 15 TH MAY	EDXCEL MUSIC Component 1&2
FRIDAY 16 TH MAY	EDEXCEL HISTORY Thematic study and Historic Environment the Warfare and British Society and London and WWII
MONDAY 19 TH MAY	AQA CHEMISTRY PAPER 1
TUESDAY 20 TH MAY	AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE Modern texts and poetry
THURSDAY 22 ND MAY	AQA PHYSICS PAPER 1
FRIDAY 23 RD MAY	AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE Creative reading and writing
WEDNESDAY 4 TH JUNE	EDXCEL MATHEMATICS (CALCULATOR)
THURSDAY 5 TH JUNE	EDXCEL HISTORY Period Study and British Depth Study are the Henry VIII and Superpower Relations
FRIDAY 6 TH JUNE	AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE Writers viewpoints and perspectives
FRIDAY 6 TH JUNE	AQA GEOGRAPHY Challenges in the human environment
MONDAY 9 TH JUNE	AQA BIOLOGY PAPER 2
WEDNESDAY 11 TH JUNE	EDXCEL MATHEMATICS CALCULATOR
TUESDAY 10 TH JUNE	EDXCEL HISTORY Modern depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany
THURSDAY 12 TH JUNE	AQA GEOGRAPHY Geographical applications
FRIDAY 13 TH JUNE	AQA CHEMISTRY PAPER 2
MONDAY 16 TH JUNE	AQA PHYSICS PAPER 2
MONDAY 16 TH JUNE	EDXCEL MUSIC Component 3

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, children are almost certain to encounter exam stress, which can cast a shadow over their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimate that a staggering 87% of pupils suffer from exam stress – highlighting the urgent need to minimise its impact on children's health and happiness.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build up to exam season is such a busy and pressurised time in a child's education that it can be difficult for youngsters to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Encourage them to consider whether their current workload is realistic and allows them sufficient time to relax and recharge. Work with them in crafting a revision timetable that's manageable and includes breaks and occasional days off.

2 ADVISE CLEARING THE CLUTTER

A disorganised work environment is proven to negatively affect our ability to focus, as well as our emotional state. Encourage children to keep their desk, notes and revision materials tidy – creating a dedicated, well-kept study space to promote maximum focus. Foster their creativity by suggesting they incorporate vibrant colours, mind maps and even quirky drawings into their revision notes.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS TOGETHER

Revision seems far harder when a child is uncertain where to begin or what sources to consult. Support them in confirming revision materials with their various teachers – emphasising the importance of gathering a range of resources to get a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. Feeling more prepared should nurture the child's confidence and help to dispel some of their anxiety.

4 RECOMMEND CREATIVE NOTE-TAKING

Writing out notes in full – rather than simply bullet pointing – can be a strong start to a child's revision. Reinforce this idea, encouraging the use of flashcards (featuring shorter versions of previously taken notes) for effective repetition and memorisation. Discuss the power of regularly reviewing notes to help them stay in the child's memory.

5 USE VISUAL AIDS AND MNEMONICS SMILE

Encourage the use of visual aids like videos and sticky notes to enhance learning. Some children find these resources far more useful than simply reading their notes as written. Explore creating mnemonics for a fun and effective study approach – and it's also worth noting that the strategic use of colours is a proven means of triggering recall during exams.

6 GATHER A 'TECH TOOLKIT'

Technology can be a huge advantage in exam prep. Educational YouTube channels and revision websites like BBC Bitesize can be immensely powerful resources for helping children to expand and retain their knowledge. You could also recommend the use of flashcard apps and educational podcasts for revision and reminders when young people are on the go.

7 KEEP IT FUN

Revision tends to go far more smoothly if children are having fun in the process. Injecting some humour into their notes, for instance, can make details more memorable – as can relating information to their real-life experiences. Try to encourage a variety of study methods, such as incorporating physical activity (even simply taking a walk) into their revision routine.

8 SUGGEST ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

Make sure children are aware of different study techniques. You could emphasise the effectiveness of spaced repetition by reviewing material regularly over time to reinforce learning and improve retention. Discuss the benefits of active recall methods – such as self-testing or explaining a concept aloud – in identifying where their strengths and weaknesses lie.

9 ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE MINDSET

It can be easy for children's thoughts to fall into a downward spiral when they're stressed about exams. Try to foster a growth mindset by emphasising the importance of giving it their all rather than aiming for complete perfection. Positive self-talk and the use of affirmations can build confidence and reduce anxiety, while visualising success and setting realistic goals can help them stay motivated and focused.

10 HELP THEM TO SEIZE THE DAY

There are lots of things children can do on the day of their exam to reduce stress and increase their focus. Talk them through some helpful exam-day strategies – such as arriving early, reading the instructions and the questions carefully, and pacing themselves during the test. Suggest some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualisation, to help them manage any nerves before and during the exam.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School.



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On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

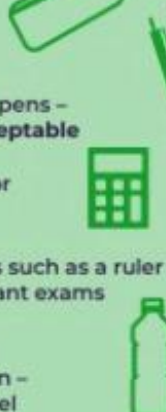
Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you cannot take into exams:

- any type of phone
 - revision notes
 - any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- 

What you will need:

- a clear pencil case
 - at least two black ink pens - blue pens are **not** acceptable
 - an approved calculator for relevant exams
 - appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
 - a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in - it **must not** have a label
- 

Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent - talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

Contingency sessions:

- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable - the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

TERM DATES 2025-26

Term 1a

First Day	Monday 8 September 2025
Y10 & 11 Info Evening	Wednesday 24 September 2025
CYD Super Convention	11 & 12 October 2025
Last Day	Friday 17 October 2025

Term 1b

First Day	Monday 3 November 2025
Year 11 Mocks	Week of the 3 & 10 November 2025
Term 1 Assessments	Week of 10 November 2025
Academy Showcase	27 & 28 November 2025
Last Day	Friday 12 December 2025

Term 2a

First Day	Monday 5 January 2026
Parents Evening	Wednesday 28 January 2026
Last Day	Friday 13 February 2026

Term 2b

First Day	Monday 23 February 2026
Term 2 Assessments	Week of the 2 & 9 March 2026
Move It 2026	Friday 20 March 2026
Staff Development Day	Monday 23 March 2026
Academy Musical	26, 27 & 28 March 2026
Last Day	Thursday 2 March 2026

Term 3a

First Day	Monday 20 April 2026
Y10 Work Experience	27 April – 1 May 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Parents Evening	Wednesday 12 May 2026
Last Day	Friday 22 May 2026

Term 3b

First Day	Monday 1 June 2026
Term 3 Assessments	Week of the 22 & 29 June 2026
Sports Day	Wednesday 8 July 2026
Last Day	Friday 10 July 2026
Academy Showcase	10 & 11 July 2026
Graduation & Prom	Sunday 12 July 2026

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding - Overarching Principles

1. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and duty
2. We rely on all those working with children to take any suspicions, allegations or concerns about a child seriously.
3. Always assume 'it could happen here'.

Safeguarding Team

The MEPA Academy Safeguarding Team has been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent, or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Emma Finch – Vice Principal

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)

Lewis Muir – Senior Management

Jemma Capon – Student Welfare Officer

Student Support

Daniel Greenway – Teacher of Dance

Casey Brett – Teacher of Art

Mandy Ellen, the Principal, also holds the advanced level safeguarding qualification and oversees all safeguarding arrangements at MEPA Academy.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.





MANDY ELLEN KIDS AGENCY BOOKS ARE OPEN!

ME Kids Agency is a well established successful agency representing children in all aspects of the West End, UK tours, European tours, modelling and TV work including commercials

Take a look at some our client's achievements:

- 'Matilda' West End - Tilly Cook / Hortensia
- 'Matilda' West End - Lottie Cook / Alice
- 'Billy Elliot' West End - Allannah Martin Judge / Ballet Girl
- 'Billy Elliot' UK Tour - Tilly Cook / Tracey Atkinson
- 'Billy Elliot' UK Tour - Gabby Ellis / Ballet Girl
- 'Billy Elliot' UK & European Tour - Tilly Cook



- Singing in the Rain - Callum Wilsher Young
- Argos Christmas Advert - Olivia Liu
- Vauxhall Advert - Cody Cook and Logan Bull
- CBBC Kids Breakout - Jordan Shephard
- Dream a Little Dream by Robbie Williams - Official Video - Tilly Cook

Email efinch@mepatraining.com to register your interest

WWW.MEPASTUDIOS.COM/ME-KIDS-AGENCY



MEPA ACADEMY
GRADUATION &
AWARDS EVENING
2025

JOIN MEPA ACADEMY FOR A CELEBRATION
EVENING TO GRADUATE OUR YEAR 11 LEAVERS
AND CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES OF ALL
STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL AWARDS



STUDI6

SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2025 | 7:00PM START

WWW.MEPAACADEMY.COM