



FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS | NO.3

PARENT BULLETIN

6 June 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final stretch of this academic year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous energy, commitment, and achievements across our MEPA Academy community. From the hard work of our incredible Year 11s sitting their GCSE exams, to the exciting upcoming events like our Academy Showcase, Sports Day, and of course, the Prom—we have so much to be proud of and to look forward to.

It's also been wonderful to see our students continuing to achieve excellence in both academic and creative fields. A special congratulations goes to MEPA alumnus Andrew Parfitt, who has joined the ensemble cast of *The Lion King*—a shining example of where passion and perseverance can lead.

Our commitment to fusing education with the arts remains at the heart of everything we do, and I thank you for your continued support in helping your children thrive in this unique environment.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are here for you and your child every step of the way.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Mandy

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
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

**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.

PARENT'S EVENING

Parent's evening has been rescheduled for the 25 June 2025 from 5:00pm-8:00pm.

Please confirm your attendance using the link below:

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



ATTENDANCE

Well done to all our year groups for maintaining their attendance above 95%. Our goal for the end of year is to push our whole school attendance over 96%. Let's do this!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
97.99%	96.68%	96.46%	97.17%	95.05%	95.82%

ALUMNI CATCH UP



ANDREW PARFITT

ENSEMBLE

We are proud of Andrew, who is joining the cast of The Lion King as Ensemble. Andrew graduated MEPA Academy in 2022. Since graduating MEPA Academy, Andrew continued his professional training at London Studios Centre.

You can find out Andrew by visiting The Lion King website:

<https://www.thelionking.co.uk/andrew-parfitt>



SUBJECT UPDATE



GCSE UPDATE

This week marks a huge milestone for our Year 11 students as they begin their GCSE exams.

To say we're proud would be an understatement — they've shown incredible dedication, focus, and determination in their revision and classwork.

A massive well done to our Year 11s on a fantastic first week! Keep going — you've got this!

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


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.

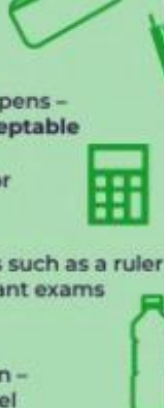
Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- 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)
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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
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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.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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