



## FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS | NO.4

# PARENT BULLETIN

27 June 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our Parent Bulletin. As we near the end of another vibrant academic year at MEPA Academy, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, partnership, and encouragement throughout the year.

It has been an extraordinary term, filled with achievements, performances, and proud moments. From our students' inspiring efforts during exam season to the brilliant performances showcased at the Central Theatre, the MEPA spirit continues to shine through in all that we do.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events, including the Term 3 Showcase, Sports Day, and the Prom — a true celebration of all our students have accomplished. As always, we remain committed to fusing education with the arts, nurturing each child's unique talents and aspirations.

Thank you for being a valued part of our MEPA community.

Best wishes

Mandy

# DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
27 & 28 June 2025	Term 3 Academy Showcase Tickets at <a href="http://www.mepaacademy.com/book-online">www.mepaacademy.com/book-online</a>
29 June 2025	Academy Prom Please let us know if you are coming by completing the book online form on <a href="http://www.mepaacademy.com/book-online">www.mepaacademy.com/book-online</a>
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](mailto:info@mepaacademy.com) each day. For any medical appointments, medical evidence is required.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION

Please can we ask that parents/carers direct all communication to reception as a first point of contact. This includes any queries and questions that you may have around school life.

If you have any concerns that need the attention of the senior team, please contact them directly using the email addresses below.

**Mandy Ellen**  
Principal Director  
[Mellen@mepatraining.com](mailto:Mellen@mepatraining.com)

**Emma Finch**  
Vice Principal  
[EFinch@mepatraining.com](mailto:EFinch@mepatraining.com)

**Lewis Muir**  
Head of Academy  
[LMuir@mepatraining.com](mailto:LMuir@mepatraining.com)

If you have subject specific queries or questions and would like to get in contact with any subject teachers, please see below their email addresses:

SUBJECT	TEACHER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Mathematics	James Huggins	<a href="mailto:jhuggins@mepaacademy.com">jhuggins@mepaacademy.com</a>
English Language	Lucy Benardout	<a href="mailto:lbenardout@mepaacademy.com">lbenardout@mepaacademy.com</a>
English Literature	Lucy Benardout	<a href="mailto:lbenardout@mepaacademy.com">lbenardout@mepaacademy.com</a>
Science	Vicky Grant	<a href="mailto:vgrant@mepaacademy.com">vgrant@mepaacademy.com</a>
History	Lucy Benardout	<a href="mailto:lbenardout@mepaacademy.com">lbenardout@mepaacademy.com</a>
Geography	Lewis Muir	<a href="mailto:lmuir@mepatraining.com">lmuir@mepatraining.com</a>

SUBJECT	TEACHER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Performing Arts	Emma Finch	<a href="mailto:efinch@mepatraining.com">efinch@mepatraining.com</a>
Spanish	Silvia Jackson	<a href="mailto:sjackson@mepaacademy.com">sjackson@mepaacademy.com</a>
Art and Design	Casey Brett	<a href="mailto:cbrett@mepaacademy.com">cbrett@mepaacademy.com</a>
Enterprise	Lewis Muir	<a href="mailto:lmuir@mepatraining.com">lmuir@mepatraining.com</a>
Music	Chris Huntley	<a href="mailto:chuntley@mepaacademy.com">chuntley@mepaacademy.com</a>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 11 STUDENTS



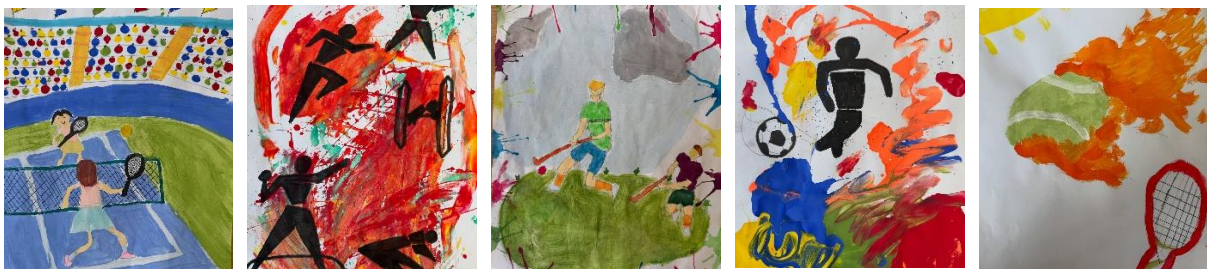
We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students!

Words cannot express how proud we are our Year 11 students who have completed all their GCSE examinations! During the exam season, they have not wavered in their motivation and optimism for each and every exam.

From all of us at MEPA Academy, we are so proud of each and every one of you and wish you all the best with your futures!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

This week Year 7 & 8 students entered the ISA Sports Magazine Cover competition - each choosing a different sport to represent!! Well done to our students for their entries! Watch this space for when the winners are announced!



# SHOWSTOPPING MOMENTS WITH MEPA

We are incredibly proud of our MEPA Academy students who lit up the stage with their Matilda medley at the Central Theatre yesterday in Showstopping Moments with MEPA!

A huge well done to everyone involved — your talent and hard work truly shone through!





## MEPA ACADEMY EXPERIENCE DAY



### FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS

**10AM - 2PM**

We cater for children from ages 11 - 16 years old and blend a varied academic timetable with vocational training aimed at young people with ambitions to make a career in the performing arts industry.

Join us for a taster day at MEPA Academy! Meet teachers and students in both Academic and Vocational lessons.

To book visit our website and book your space today! Experience days are £30 per student.

Timetable of lessons will be confirmed closer to the time. The timetable will be made up of two Academic lessons and two Vocational lessons.



WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025

WWW.MEPAACADEMY.COM/BOOK-ONLINE



## MEPA ACADEMY SHOWCASE

27 & 28 JUNE 2025

WWW.MEPAACADEMY.COM

### FUSING EDUCATION WITH THE ARTS



STUDIO 6, ROCKY HILL,  
LONDON RD, MAIDSTONE  
ME16 8HS











# 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 EMOJIS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌧️ (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🍷 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like [emojipedia.org](http://emojipedia.org) or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.



## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'                       |
| 😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless       | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold  |
| 🔥 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement | 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)                               |
| 🙄 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered              | 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference                       |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great        | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 🌽 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌧️ (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness      |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine            | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'                      |
| 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use                          | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm         |
| 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis          | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil         |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse               | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudges ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of [emojipedia.org](http://emojipedia.org), the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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