



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome back our students this week. I have especially enjoyed being able to lead their first assembly of the year which focused on how remarkable our students are and the importance of grit. Students were shown that perseverance and determination is the best predictor for future success. This research and thinking is heavily aligned with our three guiding principles of self-worth, engagement and purpose and I wanted to share with you why these are so integral to our daily lives at the academy.

Self-worth begins when we experience a sense of belonging and feel like we are part of the Magna community. When students are recognised and appreciated for their efforts they are more likely to develop a sense of accomplishment which helps to develop perseverance when things become more challenging.

To use engagement means we are emotionally, intellectually and behaviourally engaged in our learning and work. When we are emotionally engaged, we tend to enjoy learning more, which helps to foster inquisitiveness and encourages students to challenge themselves, not afraid of trying new things or the risk of failure.

Developing a sense of purpose is a great motivator. Exploring possibilities about what the future may bring and how to build a successful and rewarding life encourages students to work with intention and commitment. With purpose, students are more responsible, accountable and confident. To develop purpose, we provide vital knowledge and skills through our futures and personal development curriculum as well as providing many leadership opportunities.

Food

With less covid restrictions we are now able to offer a full hot meal service to students in all year groups. We are pleased to inform you that our catering company has taken on board recent feedback and have worked hard to establish a healthy, tasty and nutritionally balanced menu.

From Monday 20th September, Breakfast Club will start in the Food Hall each day between 8:00am and 8:27am. Students will be able to buy a breakfast consisting of cereal, toast

and other items. At break times, students will be able to buy a hot snack and at lunch a variety of hot and cold choices will be available.

Students who are entitled to free school meals will be able to have a free breakfast consisting of cereal and toast. Break time, they will have a free snack and a piece of fruit. Lunch will be our meal deal for that day.

Parents of our new Year 7 students have been given ParentPay usernames and passwords this week, in order to activate their accounts. If you need reminding of your username or password please contact Reception on 01202 604222 or email office@magna-aspirations.org for assistance.

Uniform

Students have returned to the academy looking incredibly smart. Thank you for your continued support in this and for your feedback that the video explanation and links to the website made it easier to access information before the summer holiday. I would like to reiterate that in years 7 to 11, facial piercings are not allowed. This includes clear plastic studs. Students may wear one plain, round, gold or silver stud in each ear.

E-scooters

In June I wrote to parents and carers regarding students travelling to and from the academy safely. Please can parents/carers ensure that their child does not use an E-scooter to ride to and from the academy. They are classed as powered transport and it is illegal to ride one on public land, this includes roads and pavements. Any student that does so will have the E-scooter confiscated until we have been able to discuss this with their parents/carers and an agreement reached that they will not use this mode of transport to travel to or from the academy.

Covid-19

We have continued with our control measures such as high standards of hygiene, enhanced cleaning, ventilation and the option for staff and students to wear a face covering in communal areas if they wish to do so. In my letter dated 16th July, I explained that education settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents or carers of the positive case to identify close contacts. Please find a [link](#) to that letter if you are unsure of the details.

Since the 16th August Government guidance states that under 18's and fully vaccinated adults identified as close contacts of a positive case will no longer legally need to self-isolate but should take a PCR test. There is no requirement to self-isolate whilst awaiting the PCR test result but if the individual returns a positive test result, they should self-isolate and not attend their education setting. Students that have symptoms of Covid must not attend the academy and must take a PCR test. If this returns a negative result the student should return to the academy as normal.



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Home testing will continue this term and we ask that your child is tested on a Sunday and Wednesday evening or before attending the academy on Monday and Thursday mornings. Please report to us if a test returns a positive result and book a PCR test to confirm. Students should remain at home until the result has been received and follow guidance on self-isolation if confirmed as positive.

Enrichment

As always, staff have been incredibly enthusiastic about the roll out of enrichment activities this term. As restrictions continue to ease the opportunity for our students to learn outside of the classroom increases. A full programme of activities will be uploaded to our website shortly.

Wolfson Foundation Update

We are incredibly excited to announce that Magna Academy has secured funding to renovate the drama hall into a state of the art performing arts studio. Miss Bennett (Head of Drama) has been working closely with myself and the Aspirations Academies Trust, throughout the application process to The Wolfson Foundation, an independent grant-making charity with a focus on research and education.

As part of the renovations, the newly refurbished studio will include a fully sprung professional dance floor, with accompanying mirrors and barres as well as professional sound and lighting equipment. This will enable our students to experience a wider curriculum offer within performing arts throughout their time at Magna Academy.

Work on the new performance studio is due to begin in this term, with the reopening of the new performance studio planned for early December. We look forward to keeping you updated along the way on our [Magna Academy Performing Arts Twitter page](#).

Futures and STEM Newsletters

Please read about all the enrichment activities that our students had the opportunity to take part in to support their futures and STEM education in our attached newsletters.

Finally, it was fantastic to meet with Sixth Form parents and carers earlier this week. I very much look forward to meeting with parents and carers of other year groups over the course of this year.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Ullah
Principal

Useful calendar dates

Monday 13th September	Year 7 GL Assessment week
Wednesday 15th September	Year 8 Space Dome Visit - all day
Thursday 16th September	Year 7 Expectations Evening 6-8pm
Monday 20th September	Year 8 GL Assessment week
Monday 20th September to Wednesday 29th September	Year 12 Baseline Assessments
Thursday 23rd September	Manga Academy Open Evening from 5:30pm
Thursday 30th September	Year 11 Raising Attainment Evening 6-7pm
Thursday 7th October	Year 12 Progress Evening
Thursday 21st October	Sixth Form Open Evening 6-8pm



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