



## Introducing Making Education a Priority (MEaP)

### *Who are we?*

We are a consortium of African and African Caribbean-led supplementary schools called MEaP (Making Education a Priority). We were constituted in 2015 and our company number is 09660017. Our website can be found at [www.meap.org.uk](http://www.meap.org.uk)

### *What is our background?*

We came together as a consortium of schools in 2013 after a Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) conference called Making Education a Priority, at which Diane Abbott was the keynote speaker. Since then, we have focused on how we can raise the teaching standards at our schools by sharing best practice but also with the development of a MMU Level 7 PG Cert in Teaching and Learning that upskills our teachers in Learning, Teaching and Assessment, as well as School Leadership and Management skills. For our partnerships, please see our biography.

### *What do we do?*

We deliver KS2, KS3 and KS4 classes in English, Maths and Sciences. We also deliver KS3 French. Each of our schools delivers their classes on Saturdays between 10am and 4pm. However, since we established our twice-weekly Twilight School at the Brooks Campus at Manchester Metropolitan University between 5.30 – 8pm, many of our schools have decided to use these weekly session for their academic teaching, leaving their Saturday sessions open for high quality extra curricula activities.

### *What are our plans?*

We are currently looking for a venue in South Central Manchester to house all of our educational activities. We are also looking at expanding our current **Alternative Provision**. In our Alternative Provision, we are currently working with 11 to 16 year olds who are currently at risk of being excluded from school. Due to the higher rates of permanent and temporary exclusions of young people from Caribbean, Irish and Roma backgrounds, our emphasis will be on the "whole child" approach, as we will focus on:

- **Attendance** – with outreach strategies in place that will ensure that we improve attendance as a pre-requisite for improved learning
- **Multicultural competency training** for all – teachers, support staff and students. This will provide the foundations within our school that will frame and strengthen our commitment to citizenship and reinforce our distinctiveness as a school
- **Special educational needs and disability** – we recognise that many young people that we support will have SEND needs and we will ensure that we will develop a SEND-



supportive culture across the school, through effective staff training and the involvement of relevant specialist practitioners

- **Motivational deficits** – we know that there are a range of factors that undermine motivation and we aim to develop a culture in which learning is celebrated, achievements are acknowledged and the wider community as well as family can be harnessed to play a part in the development of a culture of achievement.
- **Encouragement of excellence** – equally we know how important it is to provide stimulus, challenge and opportunity to children who are excelling – whether displaying academic or intellectual ‘gifts’ or demonstrating ‘talents’ in other areas of activity and learning. We will be clear about the culture, activities, pace, approaches to learning, support and resources required to encourage students who are performing at high levels.
- **The family context** - we know that poverty, exclusion, racism and weak familial support networks (of many forms) can play a very real part in framing low expectations, undermining confidence and affecting behaviour. Our network of learning mentors and strong pastoral support programme will provide the highly personalised support needed to fully understand a young person’s needs.



## **Biographies**

### Making Education a Priority (MEaP)

We work very closely with the MMU's Faculty of Education and its Faculty's Partnership Development Team with whom we designed the PG Cert in Teaching and Learning for Supplementary Education. We are also members of the Society of Education and Training, with whom our teachers have achieved Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status. We also work closely with MMU's Critical Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster with whom we conduct research into the efficacy of supplementary education and community education's impact on mental health and employability skills (Manchester Community Central (MACC) and Central Manchester CCG). Our mental health work in education also links us very closely to Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN) via the work of one of our Directors who also sits on CAHN's board of Directors. We also work closely with University of Manchester's (UoM) The Works, as we are exploring the co-delivery of apprenticeships through our lifelong learning activities and UoM partnership. We work very closely with the Widening Participation teams of both Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. We work closely with the Manchester Museum with whom we coordinated high quality extra curricula projects using their exhibitions. Our extra curricula work has also included partners with the BBC Philharmonic and the Rio Ferdinand Football Foundation. Finally, we work closely with Manchester City Council's quality assurance team for supplementary schools along with the Manchester Supplementary School Network (MSSN), with whom we have written policy recommendations for the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper.

### Directors

Dr Ornette D. Clennon is a Visiting Research Fellow and a critical race scholar in The Research Centre for Social Change: Community Wellbeing, Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), where he leads the Critical Race and Ethnicity Research Cluster. Ornette also leads MEaP's research and engagement strategies in addition to managing their research relationship with MMU. Ornette is also Visiting Professor at the Federal University of the Amazonas. Ornette writes for Media Diversified and openDemocracy UK and is a Public Engagement Ambassador for the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) and is also a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Associate of the London College of Music (University of West London) and a Licentiate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Ornette is a community activist at local, national and international levels and works with the Ubele Initiative, Locality, Alci Matos Community (Manaus, Brazil), MACC, Making Education a Priority (MEaP), Black British Academics and the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education. Ornette's enterprise and activism work has been recognised with the 2011 NCCPE Beacons New Partnerships Award. Ornette is widely published and his books include *Alternative Education and Community Engagement*, *Urban Dialectics*, *The Market and Youth Engagement* and *The Polemics of CLR James and Contemporary Black Activism*.

Henry Ngawoofah is co-founder Grace Incorporation Faith Trust (GIFT) a network of social enterprises that came together in order to build strategic partnerships and utilise resources to support local people into education and employment and self-employment. Henry leads our enterprise initiatives at MEaP. Achievements include setting up an Open Awards Accreditation Training Centre, Supplementary School and Life Long Learning Service, Mentoring and Mediation Service. Henry has developed accredited Business Enterprise Employability training (BEET) programme, which supports those who are long term unemployed to employment and self-employment. Henry has a track record of designing bespoke training and capacity building programmes to help organisations to achieve nationally recognised accreditation, kite marks and quality assurance systems. Key achievements includes successfully securing substantial funding bids on behalf of Education and Social Enterprise programmes, to access statutory, trusts, Lottery and European funding. As Director of MEaP, Henry continues to develop professionally and academically currently undertaking his Masters in Teaching and Learning at the Manchester Metropolitan University.