

**Open Academy Newsletter – 19 April 2024**

Dear parents, carers and students.

I can't remember an earlier Easter than the one we had right at the start of the Easter break. We saw trees begin to grow new leaves that week. Now we are back the trees are full of life and growing again. The summer term is always a very exciting one in schools. We prepare to welcome new students into Year 7 and 12. Our students in Year 11 and 13 can demonstrate what they have learned in their GCSE and A-level exams. Students in every year group are preparing to move upwards towards ever increasing independence. It was a delight to welcome back the students this week. Students came back happy and ready to learn. Uniform was in good order in most cases. Where there are issues with sourcing items please contact your child's assistant head of year. It is important that we maintain our standards on uniform, attendance and use of mobile phones to mirror the expectations in most workplaces.

The month of April marks a global awareness event known as Earth Day. This annual event, now in its 54<sup>th</sup> year, will be celebrated on 22 April 2024. The focus this year is a commitment to ending plastics for the sake of human and planetary health. Reducing our plastic footprint is crucial for both environment and human health reasons. Microplastics, being so pervasive in our environment, pose significant risks to ecosystems and human health alike. I was surprised to find out how much damage microplastics do. I was even more surprised to find them in products like facial washes! The 'Planet vs Plastic' movement is demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2024. Individuals can take practical steps to reduce their plastic footprint by following simple steps like those below:

1. Use reusable containers and water bottles
2. Choose plastic-free packaging
3. Avoid disposable plastics
4. Support plastic-free initiatives by choosing brands that prioritise sustainable packaging and practices
5. Dispose properly of plastic waste by recycling whenever possible to prevent them from entering waterways and ecosystems
6. Participate in clean-up effort such as those on beaches, parks and water bodies
7. Spread awareness by educating others
8. (taken from the Individual Action Toolkit – Plastics - <https://www.earthday.org/individual-action-toolkit/>)



The Earth Day website <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/> has a wealth of information, resources and activities to get involved with. Whether you are looking for individual, group or corporate initiatives the website has everything from quizzes, toolkits, factsheets, petitions and volunteering opportunities.

Due to the cost and environmental impact of producing the knowledge organisers we will be producing an electronic version henceforth. This should over time reduce our paper use as well as the ink and electricity cost. The online version will try to be as close as possible to the original paper version. We are trialling making it possible for students to access it easily on their phones / laptops / tablets for when they are doing homework. I hope this initiative helps us protect our planet for the young people.

Kevin Ward  
Vice Principal

## 1. Homework

Thank you for supporting us throughout the year in encouraging as many students as possible to complete their homework. We're happy to report that homework rates have increased in Year 8, 10, and 11 which is a great achievement. It is particularly crucial in Year 9 and Year 10, as GCSEs are coming up, and mock exams are approaching. Students must practice and revise the content they learn during the school day.

As we approach the summer term, we want to ensure that all students are recognised and rewarded for their hard work when homework is completed and when they're excelling at it. We believe that resilience and respect are essential when it comes to homework and students will receive achievement points from their teacher or head of year.

It is important to acknowledge, highlight and celebrate the hard work of our students.

We also understand that some students may struggle with homework and might need help. Students can catch up on their homework in their year's homework Hub on Monday (Year 7 and 8) or Tuesday (Year 9 and 10). We are always here to help students succeed and complete the work set.

Mr Fisher  
Assistant Principal

## 2. German Trip

A reminder for parents of students going to Germany that there is an information meeting for the trip on Thursday, 25 April at 6pm in the lecture theatre. Could parents/guardians bring their child's/ward's passports and GHIC cards with them. Thank you.

Mrs McEvoy  
Teacher

## 3. Fund Raising

It is just over one week until me and Mr Bradshaw are running the Norfolk marathon on Sunday, 28 April. For this we are asking for any donations for the thankfulness fund to support our students in the academy. If you wish to donate, a page has been made on the Parentpay app. Thank you for those that have already donated.

Mr Lambert  
Teacher

## 4. Year 7

I hope everyone had a great Easter holidays, ate too much chocolate and took advantage of some of the good weather. Its lovely to see all the Year 7s back in the Academy and it has been a very calm week with all engaging in lessons across the school.

Uniform is looking very good at the minute, so a big thank you from Mrs Roe and I for your support with that, just a reminder that their shoes must be all black and polishable, Nike air force ones are allowed as they are classed as a shoe and are polishable, we must not have anything that are fabric.

Camp is not too far away and we still have a considerable number that have not paid. If students do not attend camp they will be in the Academy in normal lessons in full uniform. The week of camp is by far the best week of the year and I would like to see all Year 7s there. If you are having any issues with paying for camp, please use the link below.

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

<https://www.norwichcharitabletrusts.org.uk/>

On Monday after school until 4.30pm there are charity football matches that Year 7 and 8 have been invited to play friendly games against themselves. They must pay £1 to watch or £2 to play, which is available through the Parentpay app. This is to raise money for Macmillan cancer support.

Congratulations to Respect for the best attendance as well as winning the tutor challenge quiz.

The top 10 for achievement pints this week are: Sarah O, Ellie-Amanda M, Teja M, Kaylen A, Ellie-Mae B, Alessia P, Pheobe B, Morgan S and Ayo T.

Teacher praise:

Had a great lesson this week in PE with both boys' classes. We played a game of indoor rounders due to the weather and the engagement and enthusiasm by all was brilliant to see, unfortunately Mr Wilkinson's team won the game against mine with a score of 24-23.

Well done to all the Year 7s who came to rounders practice, we will be announcing fixture dates soon. Only those attending training can play – Mrs Pearsall

Praise for work with fractions of an amount for Elise S, Ella Mai P and Morgan S – Mrs Marsham

I asked Alfie to do the reading task instead of me, He was really focused and read the story to the rest of the group. He was great at it. Well done Alfie – Mrs Joyce

All of 7P and 7E excellent German this week – Mr Blanchflower

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)  
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

## 5. Year 8

The Year 8s have had a great first week back after the holidays and seem enthusiastic for the beginning of the summer term. Just to confirm that summer uniform will not be starting until later in the summer term when the weather is much warmer so all students should still be bringing and wearing blazer throughout the day.

Mr Hawkins has noticed a real improvement in students not trying to use their mobile phones at break and lunch and when asked to put them away they are doing so immediately. A real positive!

Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Chakib L	80
Zinedine O	70
Issy D	70
Callum B	70
Lincoln W	70

Shouts outs this week:

The following students produced some amazing insect drawings using the symmetry method : Stella R, Elysia C, Ethan T, Charlee M, Ollie Y & Destiny O – Mr Walters

In English, 8P & 8H have started reading Lord of the Flies and have been having some really interesting conversations about what attributes create a good leader. They have all engaged really well.

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)  
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

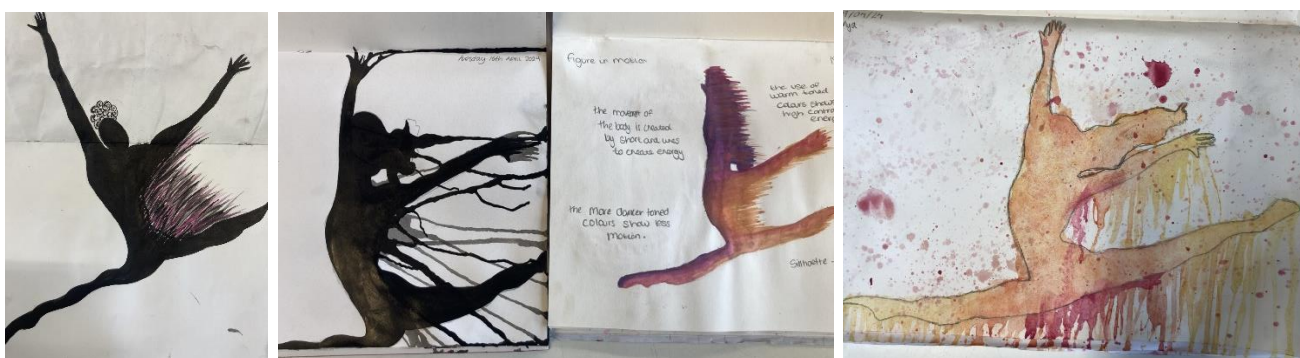
## 6. Year 9

A busy week back for Year 9 and they have been very settled and engaged well. The options process is completed and students will know what options they have before the end of the summer term.

Just a reminder that students must be in correct uniform and still have their blazers on. This is always reviewed as the temperature increases.



A group of Year 9 student visited UEA this week with Mrs Edwards and Mr Wilkinson, part of the skills-based workshop was designing a university. They represented the school well and have a follow up session on Monday.



Fantastic figures in motion paintings from Mya, Annalee, Esme T and Kaitlin W this week in Art. The students used watercolour and ink to try to suggest a sense of movement on figures they had drawn – Mr Walters

Top achievers this week are:

Oliver N, Annalee R, Kiera P, Eliza S, Rianna A and Harry B.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)  
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## 7. Year 10

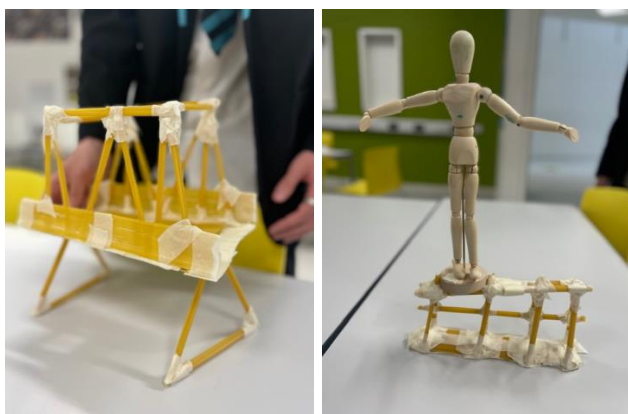
This week our behaviour focus has been on mobile phones. We accept that students may need their phones to and from school, however, in school they are a source of distraction and at worse used to bully other students. All this takes away from the primary purpose of school, which is learning in a safe environment. As a reminder, if staff see students with a phone, they will be asked to put it away, if they refuse or have to be asked on a second occasion, the member of staff will ask for the phone to be put in the school safe until the end of the day. Refusal to hand over their phone will incur a 30 min detention and an incident will be logged. If 3 incidents are logged then students may be issued with a ban. This will mean either leaving their phone at home or handing their phone in at the start of the day to be collected after school.

Shout outs:

Well done Jessie T and Lily G in art this week - Mr Walters

Good work Jackson C in BTEC Sports - Miss Trail

Year 10 have been working on structures for their mini products looking at strength to weight ration and surface area of materials. They built bridges from spaghetti using weaving and combination techniques and we tested them to see if they could withstand the weight of a person (mannequin). Shout outs to Jackson, Oscar B, Theo, Alex, Dorian and Amelie for consistently good effort and attainment. - Mrs Rednall



Well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week - Bubacarr T, Ayo T, Amelie DC, Chelsea B and Luke J.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)  
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## 8. Year 11

Back again for the final term of the school year and the final term at Open for many of our fantastic students. The big news is the GCSE exams are now upon us. They do not get fully going for a couple of weeks but there is just a matter of days left available to our students to put all their effort into their learning. With that said it is important to remember that constant work/revision is not helpful. Students still need to make time to relax throughout their day and have plenty of sleep.

A little reminder for Year 11s who are re-sitting their health and social coursework that the deadline is Thursday, 2 May. This is to enable adequate marking time for the teacher. Well done to those who have already completed it.

Revision tip for health and social care:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

The Tutor2U livestreams on YouTube are an excellent way for your child to revise. They are interactive and engaging and cover all of the topics that might come up on the exam. If your child misses the lives, then they can still access the video's via YouTube. Below is the link to take you to the platform. Make sure they are only accessing videos named with component 3:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp8BSCLLWBUBEKyZMjBaT4v0dlunPHu2w>

All students should have a CGP revision guide as this were given to them in Year 10, this really breaks the content down. They can use this to create mind maps, flash cards and posters. Students can also now take their exercise books home to revise from. They have access to all the class PowerPoints that have been used throughout the year. The health and social care exam is Tuesday, 7 May.

Learnt points:

For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 197. Well done everyone and a great improvement on last week.

The following students have had a great week filled with achievements:

Xhesika D, Thomas W, Billy B, Star C, Lucy E, Mayling T, Joel W, Amelia R and Lewis R.

Positive praise:

Massive thanks to those fantastic students who spent their Sunday, 7 April helping out with Open's first ever car and bike show. They helped us to raise over £300 for the prom.

Year 11 business a massive shout out for their fantastic engagement in class this week, they have worked so hard on exam content and have demonstrated our LEARN values every lesson!

Deagan W, Gemma S and Lily E for making excellent progress in English.

Lily E, Elisa K and Lucy E all turned up for Easter revision and Hub yesterday in Geography, working hard with revision.

Well done to Year 11 who completed their DT coursework yesterday. A great final push to achieve some high quality outcomes. Shout outs to Ben, Reece P, Ariya, Kieran, Ara, Emmy, Ellie, and Ashton for exemplary work ethic and independent study.

Congratulations to Izaak T and Suzy L for completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh. A wonderful achievement and something they can now talk about in any future interviews, well done.

Fantastic extension work completed by Lilly T in German.

I'm so proud of the Year 11 drama students who stepped out of their comfort zones and pitched their ideas for their wonderfully creative and inventive production ideas. They all did so well to clearly communicate their ideas to Mrs Tyler and the Year 13 business students. Just one more hour of controlled conditions to go and then they are done! Well done everyone.

It is only with your help that each student will make the most of their time at Open. Thank you for your continued support of the learning of your son/daughter, it shows itself every day.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

## 9. Free Parent Workshops

These are all free parent workshops from the Educational Psychologist Specialist Support service which may be useful. There is support on these which cover a range of mental health and neurodivergent areas.

<https://www.nsfh.nhs.uk/parent-workshops>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childhood-neurodiversity-the-benefits-and-problems-with-using-technology-tickets-796770200117?aff=oddtcreator>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-our-young-people-with-self-harm-tickets-846914352627?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman  
SENCO

## 10. Chaplain's Update

### Care for the Family

Please see below a link to a really supportive website dealing with family issues and family life amongst other things:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/parent-support/>

### Thought for the Week



**SENDfest** 2024

**QR Code:** SIGN UP HERE

**Dates** – Saturday 1st June 2024 'Chilled Vibes'  
 Sunday 2nd June 2024 'Festival Vibes'  
\* Families are able to book one day only that best suits their individual needs

**Location** – Easton College

**Timings** – 10:00am until 3:00pm

**SENDfest** will bring together children and young people, and their families.  
 Choose your vibe from either a more chilled day with quieter activities or a full-scale festival style experience - have it your way! Both days will feature workshops, exploration activities and a picnic in the park with a retro feel.

- ➔ Track & Play
- ➔ DJing
- ➔ Shadow Puppetry
- ➔ Football Fun Factory
- ➔ Yoga Rap
- ➔ Circus Skills
- ➔ Deaf Rave
- ➔ Baking
- ➔ Board Game Cafe
- ➔ Sound Bath
- ➔ Floristry
- ➔ Plus loads more...

**Logos:** Norfolk Music HUB, Arts Council England, Norfolk County Council, Easton College, flourish, Vital Signs for Children

**Picnic** in the Park

- ➔ Bring your own picnic or explore our food village
- ➔ Big stage with screens
- ➔ Saturday Chilled Vibes - Puppetry, Circus and Magic performances
- ➔ Sunday Festival Vibes - Musical feast including a Big Sing and Special Guest
- ➔ Mystery 'Guest Author' on both days
- ➔ Fully signed performance

**'This is inclusion'**  
 SENDfest participant 2023

**SENDfest**

**Logos:** Norfolk Music HUB, Arts Council England, Norfolk County Council, Easton College, flourish, Vital Signs for Children