

Principal's Bulletin – 28 November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another purposeful and uplifting week at the Academy.

On Monday, I met with our Student Executive group, who continue to impress with their maturity, creativity and commitment to improving our school community. Their ideas around fundraising and supporting local causes were particularly positive, and I am delighted that we will be acting on their first recommendation by hosting a Year 7 Christmas Disco on Wednesday, 11 December which promises to be a fantastic event for our newest students. Thank you to Mrs Hindry for taking the lead on organising!

Today we were pleased to welcome representatives from the Gideons, who visited the Academy to offer a Bible to all Year 7 students. We are grateful for their continued partnership and for the thoughtful way they support our work as a Church of England school.

On Wednesday, we also welcomed the CEO and senior leaders from the Trust for our first Academy Improvement Review meeting of the year. This was an important opportunity to reflect on the progress we are making and to test the strength of our improvement plans. I am pleased to share that the feedback was very positive, particularly around the actions we are taking to ensure all young people here can secure the best possible outcomes for their future.

Finally, we are looking to strengthen our Local Governing Committee by appointing additional parent governors. The role is an important one and offers a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the Academy. If you are interested in finding out more or would like an informal conversation about what the role involves, please contact me directly via patotheprincipal@open-academy.org.uk.

With best wishes for the weekend!

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Keeping Your Child Safe While Enjoying Time in the Community – Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

Having fun and hanging out with friends is an important part of growing up. We want all children and young people in Norfolk to feel safe and confident about spending time in the community without parental/adult supervision when the time is right for them.

As parents and carers, it can feel challenging to give them independence while ensuring their wellbeing. Here are some helpful tips to consider:

- Know the basics: Do you know where your child is spending time and with who? Encourage them to stick together and look out for each other in a place they feel safe.
- Spot the signs: Talk about recognising red flags in other people's behaviour and what to do if something feels wrong. You can find out more on our dedicated website: [Home | Know the Signs](https://knowthesigns.info/) (<https://knowthesigns.info/>)
- Plan for support: Make sure they know how to seek help for themselves or a friend if needed. It is also important for you as a parent or carer to ensure that your child has safe transport to and from places, and if this is by public transport to make sure, they have enough money for their return trip.
- Stay connected: Is their mobile phone charged to ensure they could contact you if they needed any help? Consider using a location-sharing app like Life360 or check your phone provider's safety features.

- Open conversations: Regularly talk about online and offline risks, including grooming and exploitation, and reassure them they can come to you without fear of getting into trouble.

A little preparation goes a long way in helping your child enjoy their independence while staying safe. As a parent or carer, it is important for you to talk to your children about all potential risks that could be posed to them when out in the community, to ensure they are able to make informed choices around their own and their peers' safety.

You can find lots of further information and websites under the support section of our website: [Support | Know the Signs](https://knowthesigns.info/help-and-support/support/) (<https://knowthesigns.info/help-and-support/support/>).

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Lead

Attendance and Lateness

Please see the attached letter.



Getting Your Child to School Really Matters

Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Mr Richardson
Assistant Principal

PE

Big praise to a number of Year 8s who took part in the football smash-up on Tuesday.



Mr Lambert
Teacher

Year 7

Shoutouts this week for:

- Jaxson wrote the most beautiful poem in English the other day, it was very heartwarming! He used some lovely similes and has in general been working really hard in English lessons the last few weeks, so really pleased with him – Miss Doe
- Harper for her resilience and hard work – Mrs Wright
- Aoife for excellent effort and using resources to support her learning in Maths – Mrs Marsham
- Harley D for superb effort and attitude in English - so polite, so hard working, asks how he is doing in lessons and homework is in on time and done to a very good standard – Miss Roberts
- A brilliant team work ethic this week in the workshop for 7R who are reaching the close of their key hook project. They showed great organisational skills colour mixing and being responsible for their own work benches. 3D relief and colour has brought their animal designs to life and their hard work and resilience over the past few weeks has paid off. I am loving seeing the progress in attainment but also confidence and smiles in the workshop. Photos to follow next week – Miss Rednall
- Wilfred A, Damang A, Ethan C, Sophia T, Shelby B, Harper B, Jacob T, Charlie L, Alfie W, Luca K and Joshua C for showing excellent effort in maths – Mrs Power

Year 9

Shout outs this week for:

- Lincoln for excellent effort in Spanish – Mrs McEvoy
- Well done to all of Year 9 who are producing some amazing screen prints in the style of Banksy and Andy Warhol. Shoutouts to Gracie C, Lily B, Hattie, Pheobe, Demarco, Lili, Ashanti and Ella P for not only their brilliant outcomes, but for being great team players and helping others with holding screens, drying and washing equipment. A lovely environment to be in – Mr Walters
- My English class have been really impressive this week getting stuck into the Gothic literature unit and produced some beautiful Gothic short stories. I'm particularly pleased with the efforts of Michael S, Sarah O, Riley L, Tyler W and Esme T who all seem to be really enjoying the genre – Miss Doe

Library News



We're celebrating Young Poet's Week in the library!

The National Literacy Trust have launched a brand-new competition to find their next Young Poet Laureate, and students aged up to 14 are invited to take part. To enter, students simply need to write their own poem and submit it to the library by Monday 19th January 2026.

Next year, 12 young poets will be selected as regional Young Poet Laureates. These students will receive mentoring from professional poets and gain opportunities to write for commission and perform at events, joining the national Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, in championing the power of poetry in public life.

To mark Young Poet's Week, we welcomed the wonderful local poet Lewis Buxton, who delivered an engaging, interactive talk to the whole of Year 7 on Tuesday. We're also running special poetry lessons in the library throughout the week, where students are exploring poems about themselves, their backgrounds, their families, and their heritage, hopefully leaving some feeling inspired and confident enough to submit their work to the competition.

To finish the week, we'll be hosting a Blackout Poetry activity during Friday break and lunch, open to all students, along with our Sticky Note Poets Society display where students can add their own poem (or a favourite poem) to the wall.

Midwinter Tales

Join us for an enchanting evening of storytelling under the stars! Our Midwinter Tales event will take place on Monday, 15 December, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

Gather around the fire to listen to some traditional winter, festive, and ghost stories told by our wonderful storytellers. Winter has long been a time to huddle by the fire and share stories, bringing communities closer together. This event celebrates that tradition, offering students, as well as their families and friends, a chance to enjoy the warmth of stories.

Hot chocolate will be available, with a break to toast marshmallows over the fire.
Tickets are just £2 each (available on the Arbor app).
Friends & family are welcome.

All proceeds will go towards new books for the library.



Mrs Rogers
Librarian

Open Academy Celebration of Christmas – Thursday, 4 December

We want to welcome you all to our annual Celebration of Christmas Carol Service. This will be a great night of festive cheer for the whole of our community. There will of course be carols, student performances, snacks, and a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere.

We would love everyone in our Open Academy community to come and to invite friends and family too.

The date is Thursday, 4 December at 6.30pm and it's a free event.



Remembrance Service at St Francis Church – Sunday, 9 December

This Sunday, 9 November, at our Remembrance Service at St Francis Church, we remember Frank Armes who grew up in Heartsease, attended Heartsease High School, and dreamt of joining the Navy. He sadly lost his life in the Falklands conflict aged 21 years. Join us at 10.30am when we remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community, their families and of the emergency services and reflect on innocent civilians who have lost their lives. All are welcome.



Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday, 11 December

We are pleased to let you know that our academy will be taking part in **Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday, 11 December**.

This year, instead of asking for a £1 donation, we kindly request that students wearing a Christmas jumper bring in an **item for our Christmas hampers**. These hampers will be given out as Random Acts of Kindness to our local community during the festive season as we continue our annual tradition of thinking of others at this time of year.

Suggested items **include perishable food vouchers, stuffing, Shloer/red or white, custard, savoury snacks, tin of chocolates, biscuit/shortbread tin/packets, Christmas crackers, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, mince pies, cranberry sauce, gravy granules, crisps and tinned fruit, peas, or potatoes.**

Students will be able to hand these items in during their tutor time on the day.

If students wish to take part, they are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper over their normal school uniform**. Please ensure that the correct uniform is worn underneath, as this is not a non-uniform day. To ensure we are all in the festive spirit, hoodies and other non-festive jumpers aren't allowed.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. We look forward to celebrating this festive time together.

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/
Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes



HURCH
GLAND

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday, 17 December

Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday, 17 December. Free school meal students will be entitled to this using their usual allowance. The only food alternative on this day will be cold deli, consisting of sandwiches and baguettes.



Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The poster is framed by a string of colorful Christmas lights. At the top left, there is a circular logo featuring a tree with colorful leaves and the text "All Seasons Makers Fayre". To the right of the logo, the text "Open Academy" is written in a large, teal, serif font. Below this, the address "Salhouse Road, Norwich, NR7 9DL" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background of the poster shows a photograph of the Open Academy building. The main title "Makers Fayre" is written in a large, white, serif font on a teal background. Below the title, the date "30th Nov" and the time "11am - 2pm" are written in a large, white, serif font. On either side of the date and time are two snowman illustrations wearing black top hats and blue scarves. At the bottom, a line of text provides contact information: "Email allseasonsmakers@gmail.com Want to be a stallholder? Email or call 07757665387".

Open Academy

Salhouse Road, Norwich,
NR7 9DL

Makers Fayre

30th Nov

11am - 2pm

Email allseasonsmakers@gmail.com Want to be a stallholder? Email or call 07757665387

OF ENGLAND