

Principal's Bulletin – 16 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all those who attended our Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening this week. It was a pleasure to see such a high level of engagement and to hear the purposeful conversations taking place between families and staff. At this crucial stage in the academic year, it is particularly important that the work students complete at home effectively supplements what is happening in lessons, and your support in reinforcing this message is greatly appreciated.

This week, Miss Wenlock has been leading assemblies focused on New Year's resolutions, encouraging students to think carefully about setting meaningful goals and committing to the habits needed to achieve them. The emphasis has been on focus, resilience, and sustained effort—qualities that will serve our young people well both in school and beyond.

As we begin the new term, I would also like to reiterate our whole-school message about the importance of strong attendance. Every day in school matters: students who attend regularly are far more likely to make strong progress, build positive routines, and feel confident in their learning. We recognise that there will be occasions where students are genuinely unwell, but we ask families to carefully consider whether absence is necessary. For helpful guidance, please refer to the NHS advice titled **"Is my child too ill for school?"**, which offers clear support around common illnesses and when children should stay at home.

Looking ahead to next week, we are very much looking forward to our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Awards Evening. This will be a valuable opportunity to celebrate the hard work, commitment, and success of our students, and I am sure it will be an evening filled with well-deserved pride as our young people receive recognition for their outstanding achievements in learning. With best wishes for the weekend,

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Year 7 Camp

It is still not too late to sign up for camp. We really want every Year 7 to have the opportunity to attend this year's residential trip, so please sign up via Arbor. If you have any questions regarding payments or any other concerns regarding camp, please email me - bethany.halliday@open-academy.org.uk where I will be happy to support you.

Mrs Halliday
Associate Assistant Principal - SEND and Whole School Rewards

Year 11

Homework

As we move into the final 12 weeks of school before exams begin, this is the point in the year where urgency really matters and every minute counts. Now is the time for revision routines to be firmly in place and for students to be fully engaged with their learning every day.

Teachers across all subjects are setting vital exam-focused homework. This work is carefully designed to practice exam-style questions, strengthen subject knowledge, and identify any remaining gaps while there is still time to address them. Because of this, homework has never been more important.

More than ever before, we are asking students to:

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- Spend dedicated, distraction-free time on their homework and revision
- Focus on producing good quality work, not rushed or incomplete attempts
- Actively respond to feedback and seek help when they are unsure

Short, superficial effort will not be enough at this stage. Consistent, high-quality practice over the coming weeks can make a significant difference to final exam outcomes. Recognising the importance of homework and supporting this we will be setting lunch time detentions for students who have not completed their homework.

Parents and carers can support greatly by encouraging regular revision at home, checking that homework is completed carefully, and helping students to build calm, structured routines. Working together, we can ensure every student gives themselves the best possible chance of success in the summer exams.

Shout Outs

It has been fantastic to hear so many positive things from teachers about their Year 11 groups and the positive attitude they are showing towards their lessons, homework and revision. Please see the shout out's below:

- Rodrigo and Elise for receiving a Level 2 Distinction in their Component 2 pieces of coursework which means they're both on track now for a Level 2 Distinction star overall. This is the highest grade you can achieve in BTEC Sport. Well done to both students! – Miss Trail
- Kate for her fantastic work in German – Mrs McEvoy
- Olivier, Reece, Kayden and Ryan for a really good and improved attitude to learning in 2026 – Mrs L-B
- Zena A, Alex C, Riley W, Ayo T, Oliver K, Ollie L, Max S for helping to lead learning in our history lessons this week with lots of questions answered and asked. – Miss Wenlock
- Alfie S – excellent focus and perseverance in every single lesson.
Harvey R – wonderful achievement in PPE and great work in lessons.
Evie D – takes real pride in her work, always willing to ask questions to improve her work and understanding - Mrs Molloy
- Annalee, Rusne, Esme and Natacha F, all outstanding commitment to their work – Mr Walters
- Natacha F and Kaitlin W with amazing effort in science this week. I'm expecting great things from them! – Mr Stephen
- 11Maths2 as a collective group have been incredible this week showing such a focus and drive towards their lessons whilst tackling some very challenging maths – Mr Bradshaw
- Katie, Mia, Alfie E for stand out work on a challenging topic of Standard Form – Mr Phillips

Chaplain's Reflection

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.

–Howard Thurman

Whatever comes up this year, and we believe for a great one, lets continue with the above words in our hearts and minds going forward.

This is my prayer for you. "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and give you his peace"

God bless you all.