

Principal's Bulletin – 30 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to share a number of highlights from another positive and purposeful week at the Academy.

First though, a reminder to parents and carers of our Year 7 students that Parents' and Carers' Evening is approaching on Tuesday, 10 February. In addition to the opportunity to meet subject teachers, the evening will also include short talks from Mrs Halliday about the Year 7 summer camp. This is an exciting part of our enrichment offer, and we look forward to sharing more details with families.

I was extremely proud to see our students represent the Academy at the Holocaust Memorial Service held at St Peter Mancroft on Tuesday. Students conducted themselves with dignity and maturity, and we received a great deal of positive feedback from other schools and members of the wider community. This was a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance, respect and standing up for shared values.

Our student leaders enjoyed an excellent visit to County Hall on Thursday, where they were able to see democracy in action. Students learned more about local government and will be taking part in Youth Parliament elections next month. It was particularly exciting to discuss how students in Year 8 will be eligible to vote in the next general election, reinforcing the importance of civic responsibility and engagement.

During the visit, students also benefited from a talk delivered by a representative of the Integrated Care Board, exploring careers within the NHS. In addition, we heard from Penny Carpenter, Cabinet Member for Children's Services. Students asked thoughtful and challenging questions about life in public service before delivering their own speeches in the council chamber.

A huge well done to Theo, Jess, Neveah and Dea, Ruby, Summer and Ellie, Ashanti, Philip and Ella, Chakib and David, Ayo and Lily, Corbyn and Ella who all presented with real passion and confidence. Mr Dilley commented that the speeches demonstrated excellent oracy skills.

A special congratulations to Corbyn and Ruby, whose speeches were selected as the best by Norfolk County Council members of staff.

Weeks like this are a powerful reminder of the opportunities our students are given to grow in confidence, character and community engagement.

With best wishes for the weekend

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Student Leaders

Holocaust Memorial Service



On Tuesday this week our Student Leaders were invited to St Peter Mancroft church in the city centre to take part in this year's Holocaust Memorial service, led by the Lord Mayor of Norwich.

Demonstrating our respect and support for those who have been affected, or lost their lives in the Holocaust, and those that have followed, is something very important to our community and it was therefore a real privilege to represent you all and play an active part in the service, carrying out readings and lighting a candle in remembrance. We were also able to take part in a Q and A with members from the Jewish community, most of whom had relatives affected directly by the horrors of the Holocaust.

A massive thank you to all Student Leaders who came and represented the community so well. We are very proud of the students for the respect, leadership and empathy they demonstrated during the trip, with adults from other schools taking the time to praise our students for their contribution and behaviour.

Special mentions go to:

- Chakib, David, Theo and Leo who took an active part in the service, giving readings and lighting the candle.
- Leo, who was praised for his leadership by the special guest speakers and teachers from other schools, for organising all the students in preparing for the Q and A session in the Octagon.
- Chakib and Leo who were praised by the organisers for their insightful questions/thoughts in the discussions.

Student Executive Visit to the Heart of our Democracy



On Thursday this week the Student Executives were invited to a special visit to County Hall. We were given a tour, had the chance to quiz a local councillor and then were allowed to hold a full executive meeting in the main chamber. Needless to say, this was an incredible opportunity for the students to explore the heart of democracy in our county. All students behaved impeccably and were a credit to their families and our school.

As part of the trip, we held a special competition giving the students the chance to write and present a speech to the chamber during the executive meeting, expressing a "big idea" for the future of Norwich. The take up was incredible and we were treated to a range of speeches that demonstrated the creative skills, passionate views and developing oracy skills that left the staff at County Hall incredibly impressed.

We were so incredibly proud of how passionately and confidently they expressed themselves and the judges found it very hard to judge a winner. However, they did and I am pleased to say that Ruby and Corbyn were the winners. Congratulations to you both - a £10 Amazon Voucher each is winging its way to you - well done!

Mr Dilley
Head of Year 7/Student Leadership

Year 9

Shout outs this week to:

- The Year 9 football team for beating City Academy in the quarter final of the league cup 7-0.
- Teja, Tyler Wilkes, Ameera and Eva, working so well in lessons, super focused and always trying their hardest.
- Bea B for her excellent support of her peers during the Lego therapy intervention.

Mr Lambert
Year 9 Team

Year 10

It has been a solid start to the term for Year 10 and we are seeing lots of commitment in lessons and excellent standards of behaviour. The following students have achieved the most LEARNT points this week. Congratulations to the following:

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| Muhammed | 20 |
| Talula | 20 |
| Zinedine | 20 |
| Aaliyah | 15 |
| Callum | 15 |
| Jasmin | 15 |
| Isabella | 15 |

Mr Walters and Mr Dunne recently took the majority of the year group to Cambridge for the day as part of their art and science curriculum.

We visited the museum of Zoology and the Botanical Gardens and learned about some of the amazing creatures and plant specimens they have. All students conducted themselves brilliantly and represented the Academy extremely well.



We have also had some individual comments from teachers:

- Jacob Chaplin and Hannah Toms for fantastic achievement in their recent PPEs – Mr Stephen
- I have been really uplifted as a teacher by the effort that some of the Health and Social Care students have been putting in. Many of them go above and beyond to make sure they are achieving the best grade they can, with lots of them taking their books home to add more notes or do further research around the topic. Those who have been consistent in their attitude to learning since the start of year 10 are:

Misha P, Elizabeth C, Hanna K, Lucy H, Isabella D, Bella H and Matilde B.

I would also like to shout out Connor B, who focused on feedback today and made good progress towards his assessment. – Mrs Halliday

- Congratulation to the following students for moving up a set in maths: Jessica H, Caitlyn N and Alexus W - Mrs Marsham
- Samuel, Cameron, Freya, Shanelli, Elysia and Hannah for consistently doing their best – Mrs Blackburn

- Ruby P and Sam R - consistent hard work every lesson – Mrs Napthen
- Alfie L, Ashton, Cody, Ava, Callen – all smashing the current physics equation unit. – Mrs Molloy
- The Year 10 drama students have been working really well on their devising projects. Well done. – Mrs Ormosi
- The following people are doing really well in music: Jasmin C, Logan E, Kaiden G, Hollie G, Corbyn H, Sav M, Charles M and Rhyley R. However, everyone is doing really well especially Jess who turned up to her drum lesson so well done to her for showing perseverance - Mr Corfield

An early heads up but the Year 10s have their first official PPE exams in June in the sports hall and are stressing the importance of revising for these exams as they will determine predicted grades in Year 11. Can we ask that you support your child in this and ensure that they are checking their homework and attending all intervention sessions they are assigned to.

Mr Walters and Mr Hawkins
Year 10 Team

Year 11

We are now at an important stage in Year 11 with 11 school weeks before exams start where consistent revision is key. The work students complete over the coming weeks will have a clear impact on both confidence and final GCSE outcomes.

The most effective revision is:

- **Short, sharp and focused** – smaller sessions help maintain concentration
- **Planned** – students know what they are revising and what they are improving
- **Focused on next steps** – targeting gaps and exam technique
- **Regular** – ideally taking place most evenings
- **Little and often** – building knowledge gradually and sustainably

Immediately after the February half term, students will complete their PPE2. It is an important checkpoint for them to see the progress they have made, but vitally what they still need to improve on. The timetable is attached.

Core subject PPEs will be sat in the sports hall, providing valuable experience of formal exam conditions and helping students feel more confident and prepared. Other subjects will complete in-class assessments to minimise disruption to really valuable lesson time.

It is really encouraging to see some very positive signs across the year group with an increasing number of students clearly recognising the importance of revision and are well underway with completing it. It has also been great to see many students showing increasing independence and ownership of their own learning, taking the right steps to improve their outcomes. Please continue to encourage these habits at home, as consistency and support play a vital role in maintaining progress.

Finally, teachers would like to give particular praise to the following students for their excellent approach to revision and learning:

- Martha, Rusne, Eliza, Sam HJ, Ross and Martina for their amazing work in German – Mrs Lloret Blackburn
- Kate S and Riley W for their effort with revision and homework in English – Mrs Roberts

- Tiffany S & Nikita S for attending all the science hubs and effort in science intervention in tutor time as well. Charlie J for his recent effort in normal lessons in science – Mr Stephen
- Excellent work from Riley B and Deacon B who have worked hard to get their coursework up to date. Well done to all the Year 11s for completing a fabulous dish on Tuesday with a special shout out to Mariia for her incredible presentation. Well done to Kayden who has been revising for food tech by creating mind maps and flash cards, it paid off in his PPE! - Miss Luter
- I would like to say a big well done and thank you to Erica, Sasha and Evie who this week have completed their homework with a real focus on wanting to get it right. They have discussed it with me and have shown a great work ethic towards child development. – Mrs Halliday
- Paige who has been working extra at home on her art sketchbook this week – Mr Walters
- Elise, Max, Mariia, Rianna – super focused week – really trying their hardest in lesson with a tricky new topic. – Mrs Molloy
- Year 11 textiles have been experimenting with mark making and developing samples for their exam. They really got stuck into it today and worked so productively! Lena and Mya loved experimenting with the heat press. Kiera for focussing on decaying organs and experimenting with new paints and processes. Esme for her work on architecture theme, experimenting with textures and colours. Elise who is showing such confidence in her work. Hannah for doing really well in her interview and working amazingly hard. – Miss Rednall
- Alfie E, Riley W, Max S, Martha, Eliza, Olivier K, Kieran S and Sam HJ all for showing such amazing progress in their DT work because of their amazing hard work. – Miss Rednall
- Our top 3 achievers this week for consistent work across all of their classes were Annalee R, Esme W and Elise W.

Mr Bradshaw and Mrs Hindry
Year 11 Team

Chaplain's Reflection

Forgiveness is one of the quiet strengths of our community. It often begins in difficult moments when things do not go as planned, when words or actions hurt, or trust is broken, or when expectations are not met. These moments are part of being human, but how we respond to them really matters.

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring harm or pretending that pain does not exist. It asks us first to acknowledge what has happened and how it has affected us. From there, forgiveness becomes a choice: to release resentment, to seek understanding, and to allow space for healing and growth.

Forgiveness can be offered to others, but it is also something we must give to ourselves too. We all make mistakes. We all have moments we wish we could manage differently. When we practice self-forgiveness, we give ourselves permission to learn, to grow, and to begin again.

In our communities, forgiveness strengthens relationships, it encourages honest conversations, restores trust, and reminds us that no one is defined or remembered by a single moment or mistake. It teaches patience, empathy, and resilience which are values that reach far beyond any one situation.

Forgiveness is not always easy, and it does not always happen quickly. Sometimes it requires time, reflection, support, and lots of conversations. But when forgiveness is practiced with patience, sincerity, and care, it opens the door to understanding, release and renewal.

In closing, Jesus is a perfect example of forgiveness. When on the cross during that terrible time of crucifixion, Jesus spoke powerful words, not of anger or revenge but of love and compassion in saying “forgive them Father for they know not what they do.”

God's words in the book of Colossians say this too. "Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." May we continue to choose forgiveness, not because it is simple, but because it allows us to move forward with compassion, hope and a free life.

God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



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OF ENGLAND