

Principal's Bulletin – 13 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to share a number of important updates and celebrations from across the Academy.

Two-Week October Half-Term Consultation

Thank you to those families who have already engaged with our consultation regarding the proposed two-week October half-term. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us make decisions that best support students, families and staff. If you have not yet shared your views, please do take the opportunity to do so before the consultation closes by [following this link](#). We are keen to hear from as many parents and carers as possible.

Year 7 Parents' and Carers' Evening

A sincere thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Year 7 Parents' Evening this week. Events like these are a key part of our partnership between home and school. They allow us to celebrate successes, identify next steps and ensure that students receive consistent support both in lessons and at home. It was great to see teachers talking you through your child's work and recent assessments - strong communication between families and school makes a real difference to students' progress.

Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening – 3 March

Our next key event is the Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening taking place on Tuesday 3 March. This is an important milestone as students begin to think carefully about their Key Stage 4 pathways. Please look out for communications from Mr Fisher, which contain full details and guidance to help families prepare for the evening.

Celebrating Learning – Year 7 Languages

I was especially pleased this week to see the excellent progress being made by our Year 7 students in Languages. A particular congratulations goes to Melissa, Dea and Zoe in Mrs McEvoy's class, who have demonstrated a fantastic attitude to learning. Positive attitudes, effort and resilience in the classroom are exactly the qualities that help students thrive as they move through the Academy.

Celebration Breakfast – Attendance and Behaviour Success

This morning we held a special celebration breakfast to recognise students who exemplify our high expectations. The breakfast was for students who have achieved:

- 100% attendance this half-term, and/or
- Zero negative behaviour incidents

I am delighted to congratulate all 371 students, representing 70% of our school population, who are consistently in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing — and doing so in the right uniform. This is a significant achievement and reflects the strong culture we are continuing to build together as a community.

Looking Ahead to Half-Term

As we reach the end of a busy half-term, I want to wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable break. For our Year 11 students in particular, this is an important opportunity to balance rest with focused revision as we move closer to the summer examinations.

A reminder that school resumes on Monday, 23 February.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Open Academy, and the high standards we set together for our young people.

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Free School Meal Vouchers

We have received information from Norfolk County Council that the Free School Meal Voucher scheme (Government's Household Support Fund HSF) comes to an end on 31 March and will be replaced by a new Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). Entitlement to free school meals within school will not change.

This change means that families who currently receive Edenred vouchers, through the HSF scheme, will receive their last vouchers in March. If families have any unspent vouchers, we encourage them to redeem them as soon as possible and for the March vouchers to be redeemed within the three-month timeframe to ensure they do not expire.

Although HSF is coming to an end, there will be ongoing support for families in crisis. We would encourage people to visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving which will be kept up to date with any help on offer.

If families are in difficulty, we would encourage them to contact our Family Hubs services www.norfolk.gov.uk/familyhubs where there is broader support on debt and welfare rights.

Please see the link below for more information:

https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/article/75843?dm_i=7MOA,2IM6F,3UPYVB,5F8SJ,1,0,0,0

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

Maths

Congratulations to our students who received certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Your achievement reflects not only strong mathematical ability, but also perseverance, logical thinking, and the confidence to tackle complex problems. What makes this especially impressive is that you were competing against students across the UK, including many in Year 11. On behalf of the maths team, well done!

Silver:
Thomas W, Ethan T, Elizabeth H and Hannah T

Bronze:
Logan E, Shanelli K, Jensen O, Samuel R, Sav M and Cameron S

Mr Phillips
Teacher

Drama



It was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome 2 representatives from the National Theatre into the Academy on Monday. We started with an engaging talk to the whole of Year 10 on the subject of stories and considered why they are told and what we would like our story to be.

The Year 10 drama students then had the opportunity to develop their storytelling skills in a 60 minute workshop, which has given them lots of ideas they can use in their devising projects. It was great to see students being so respectful and engaged throughout.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

Year 7

Today Year 7 celebrated a vast range of achievements over the half term. Congratulations to all those who were rewarded for academic achievement, 100% attendance, progress in literacy and for the highest achievers in LEARNT points! It really has been an incredible, successful half term.

Academic awards:

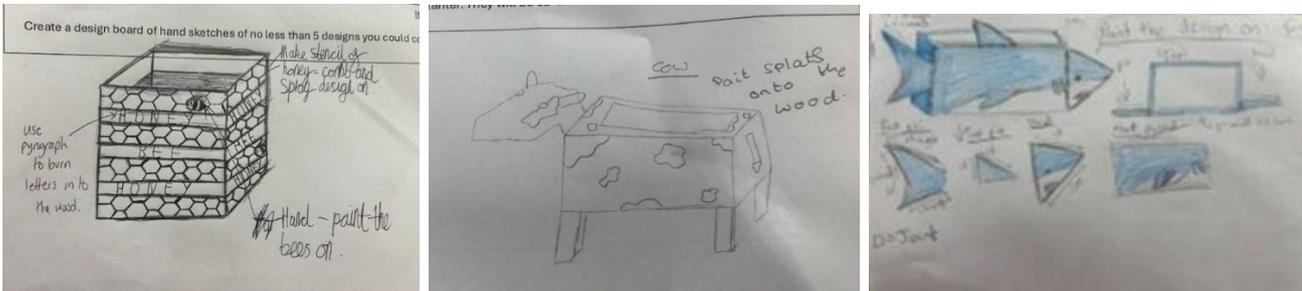
Marley, Melissa, Ella-Mae, Leo, Jack, Harry, Charlie, Samuel, Ariana, Bailey, Aoefe, Ruby, Melissa, Evangeline, Bailey, Ava-May, Ella, Jack, Immy, Ariana, Aurora, Freddie, Dea, Salma, Isobel, Sammy, Evie, Dea, Mason, Isla, Phoebe, Dea, Kurtis, Frankie, Harper, Poppy, Aurora-Ann, Evie-Jane, Ethan, Isobel, Mason, Ruby, Isla, Jacob, Freddie, Emily, Luca, Isabel, Tia, Isabella, Harper, Ariana, Evie, Jane, Harper, Poppy, Emily, Shelby, Isabella, Dami, Djara, Immy H, Aurora, Tia, Ruby, Wilfred, Philip, Phoebe, Kian and Bella.

Top ten LEARNT points:

Dea, Ruby, Immy, Willia, Ella Louise, Melissa, Tommy, Kurtis, Emily, Ilsa-Lily.

Year 9

An email was sent to all parents and careers this week about parent and options evening on the Tuesday, 3 March. This important event marks the of your child's KS4 option process, I hope to see you all there.



Year 9 have been working hard on their sustainability project using reclaimed pallets to make garden planters! There are some amazingly creative designs and we have been looking at how we can translate their initial designs into geometric shapes. Shout outs to Evie A, Theo L, Pheobe B, Megan K and Esme for their great measuring and designing skills. We are now starting to assemble the bottom layers using box joints for a professional finish.

Well done to Sabine, Emily B, Jess H and Amalie T for working together to get apart a particularly stubborn pallet! They demonstrated great health and safety with hand tools as well as resilience and teamwork to get to the finish. I particularly loved the cheers of encouragement and high fiving when each other had succeeded – Mrs Rednall

Well done to all our Year 9 students for making such delicious lasagnes. They continue to improve their cooking and develop their practical skills, and every student produced a fantastic dish - Miss Luter



Maxine, Jessica s, lily B, Alessia, Evie P Lili all amazing in art lessons last few weeks. Also to Rital and Abir who have made a great start in art – Mr Walters

9R worked fabulously this week starting their garden planter project. It was a lovely atmosphere in the workshop. Keep up the great attitude to learning! – Mrs Rednall

Kaylen A - for consistent fantastic results in his tests. Harvey B, Charlie S - for their engagement in blood brothers, reading the parts brilliantly – English

Jess H, Rose N and Esme T. All three have done exceptionally well in their end of topic tests so far with me getting 80% or above in each and they just work super hard – Miss Hargreaves

Year 10

Just a reminder that we have now started early English and maths intervention sessions with Year 10 during Thursday tutor times so please can you support us if your child has been selected for this. The purpose of these is to prepare students for their PPE exams in June.

The following students had the most achievement points this week. Well done for showing such commitment:

Callum B – 25
Muhammed A – 20
Ruby P – 20
Callum E – 15
Hollie G – 15
Elizabeth K – 15
Sav S – 15
Charles M – 15
Rosie N – 15

Individual praise from teachers:

The whole of Year 10 did really well with the National Theatre guest speakers on Monday, but notably Ava L for her excellent contributions - Miss Ormosi

We would like to congratulate the Year 10s in how they are approaching getting work experience placements. Many have already got these secured which is fantastic to see at this stage. Please continue to talk to your child about this – Mr Walters and Dr Davies

Positives from science:

Ashton - really getting the hand of this current physics topic, and producing some great homework which shows how much hard work he has put in.

Ava - working really well the last few lesson. Well done!

Kim - a big up to Kim for being our chief lung dissection juice cleaner! What a girl! She's also generally pretty awesome at science!

Alfie L - grasped the physics topic really well, and was a great help to others around him when they needed it - Mrs Molloy

Year 11



As we approach the February half term break, we want to take a moment to highlight how important this stage of Year 11 is for all students. With GCSE examinations drawing ever closer, this break represents a crucial opportunity to *maintain momentum* and continue building confidence across all subjects.

Importantly, after this break, students will have their PPE2 examinations and only one full half term remaining before their GCSE exams begin. Time will move very quickly from this point onward, and the hard work they put in and good habits they build now will make a significant difference to their outcomes.

Half term provides two equally important opportunities:

A Well-Deserved Break

Year 11 is demanding, and students have been working extremely hard. Rest is essential for maintaining focus, motivation and wellbeing. Encouraging your child to take time to recharge, whether through family time, hobbies, fresh air or simply catching up on sleep, will help them enter the final half term of Year 11 in the best place to face the challenges ahead.

A Valuable Revision Opportunity

February half term is a key chance for structured revision in a calm and proactive way. Short, focused daily sessions make a significant difference over time. Starting revision now helps to:

- Reduces stress and pressure later – Starting revision early prevents last-minute cramming and helps students feel more in control as exams approach.
- Improves long-term memory – Revisiting topics over time strengthens retention and makes it easier to recall information in the exam.
- Identifies gaps in understanding – Early revision highlights weaker areas, giving students time to seek support and practise before it is too late.
- Builds confidence and momentum – Small, consistent successes boost self-belief and create positive study habits heading into the final weeks.

We recommend creating a simple revision timetable that balances work and rest. For example, 2-3 focused sessions per day (30–45 minutes each) with clear goals can be highly effective, while still allowing plenty of time to relax.

Maintaining momentum over half term is not about working constantly; it is about staying consistent. Small, regular effort now will ease pressure in the final half term and help students approach their exams with confidence.

Please remember that students have the revision resources given to them earlier in the week to support their revision as well as all the strategies and websites that their class teachers have directed them to.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together, we can help our Year 11 students make the most of the time remaining and enter the final stage of Year 11 feeling prepared and resilient.

Finally, we would like to recognise students who have been highlighted by class teachers for their outstanding effort towards their studies. Showing consistent hard work with excellent attitudes to revision and homework.

Art	Sasha-Mai P and Martha W
Business	Riley W, Ayo T and Luke S
Computer science	Martina V
D&T	Kieran S and Max S
English (ERO)	Matina V and Kate S
English (SCO)	Elise W and Mya P-G
English (JCL)	Riley W and Dylain B
Food	Deacon B, Riley B and Hayden T
German (ALB)	Eliza S, Martina V and Martha W
H&S	Trixie B
History (BCR)	Hannah S, Lena W, Esme W and Martha W
History (HPI)	Tiffany S and Alfie H
History (KWE)	Dylain B and Ryan B
Maths (JKE)	Lena W, Martha W and Riley B
Maths (ABD)	Esme W, Riley W and Eliza S
Maths (RPH)	Mia P, Mel S and Tiffany S
Photography	Noam M and Nikita S
Science (JDU)	Lena W and Esme W
Science (LMO)	Elise W, Paige W, Max S and Alfie S
Science (NST)	Jenson L and Natacha F
Science (NHA)	Owen B and Caitlin P
Textiles	Elise W, Esme W and Hannah S
Sport	Tyler A, Elise W and Reece Y

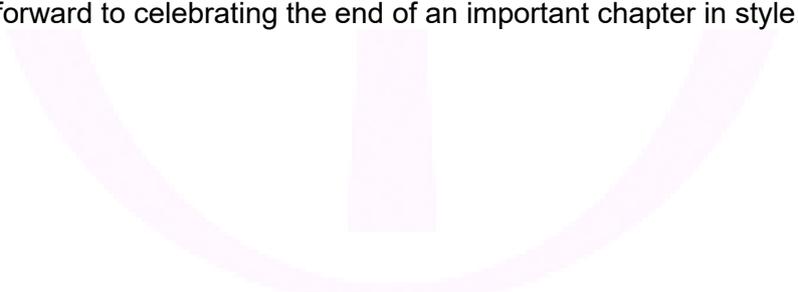


A huge congratulations to our Year 11 students who were nominated for subject awards. We are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and hard work shown across all subjects – your effort has not gone unnoticed and is thoroughly deserved.

A special thank you to Bread Source for kindly supplying a well-earned treat of cake to help us celebrate. The students thoroughly enjoyed it – a perfect way to recognise their achievements.

Next half term, we will be running an Easter Egg Raffle to raise funds for Prom. If you are able to donate an Easter egg, we would be extremely grateful for your support. Donations can be brought into school after half term.

We are delighted to confirm that Prom will be held at Black Barn Farm on Wednesday, 24 June. We are very much looking forward to celebrating the end of an important chapter in style.



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