

Principal's Bulletin – 6 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

World Book Day

This week we joined schools across the country in celebrating World Book Day, and it was fantastic to see so many students engaging with reading in different ways across the academy. The library hosted a range of activities throughout the day, including a *"Pets Caught Reading"* display where students tried to match mystery staff pets to their owners, as well as a reading scavenger hunt where students searched for staff wearing "Ask Me What I'm Reading" badges. There were also a number of quick competitions in the library, including a *Where's Wally?* hunt and a *Guess the Book Character* challenge.

Events like these help remind us that reading should be something students enjoy as well as something that supports their learning in every subject.

I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Rogers, our librarian, for the energy and enthusiasm she brings to the library every day. Her hard work helps make reading an important part of life at the academy.

Mobile phones in school

I would also like to begin sharing some early information about a change we will be introducing later this school year regarding mobile phones in school.

Like many schools, we have seen how mobile phones can sometimes distract students from their learning. At times, issues from social media outside school can also spill into lessons and disrupt valuable learning time. Our priority is always to make sure classrooms remain calm, focused places where students can learn well.

For this reason, we will be introducing secure mobile phone pouches. Students will place their phone into a pouch at the start of the school day and keep the pouch with them until the end of the day, when it will be unlocked as they leave the academy.

Many schools that have introduced similar systems report improvements in behaviour, engagement and focus in lessons.

We are sharing this information early because I believe it is important that parents and carers are kept fully informed about developments at the academy. Over the coming weeks we will provide more detail about how the system will work and answer any questions families may have.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Open Academy.

With best wishes for the weekend,

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Safeguarding

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping students safe online, we would like to remind families about the importance of responsible behaviour when sharing or viewing images on phones, social media, and messaging apps.

Young people often communicate through images and videos. While this can be a positive way to connect with friends, it is important that students understand the risks and responsibilities involved.

Key messages we encourage parents to discuss with their children:

- Think before sharing: Once an image is sent or posted online, it can quickly be shared with others and may be difficult or impossible to remove.
- Respect privacy: Students should never share images of others without their permission. This includes photos taken at school, in social settings, or online.
- Avoid inappropriate content: It is illegal for anyone under 18 to create, send, or possess sexual images of a person under 18, even if the image is of themselves or shared between friends.
- Speak up: If a student receives an image that makes them uncomfortable or seems inappropriate, they should not share it and should tell a trusted adult or a member of school staff.
- Report concerns: Social media platforms have reporting tools, and the school can also support students and families if issues arise.

How parents can help:

- Have regular, open conversations about online behaviour and digital respect.
- Encourage your child to come to you if something online worries them.
- Remind them that being a good digital citizen means treating others with kindness and protecting their own privacy.

If you have any concerns about online safety or would like advice on supporting your child, please contact your child's pastoral team.

Together, we can help young people develop safe and responsible habits online.

www.ceop.police.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-ofabuse/grooming/

www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abusesafety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Lead

World Book Day



World Book Day brought a wonderful buzz to the academy this week, with students and staff celebrating books together throughout the day.

One of my highlights was seeing so many staff getting involved, with a fantastic group arriving dressed as their favourite book characters. From The Mad Hatter and Katniss Everdeen, to a host of characters from The Wizard of Oz, the costumes brought a real sense of fun and helped spark conversations about favourite stories across the school.

It was lovely to see so many students and staff visiting the library and enthusiastically taking part in the day's activities, and even better to hear so many conversations about books happening around the academy.

Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the day such a joyful celebration of reading.

Mrs Rogers
Librarian

Drama Production – 24, 25 and 26 March



Jensen C in Year 8 has created our poster for the forthcoming production.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

PE

The Year 7 rugby team went away to Norwich School for their first ever rugby tournament/fixtures. They won two games and lost two, which is a really good start for a group of students who have never played a rugby fixture before.

Zac A, Wilfred A, Bailey B, Damang A and Freddie W all scored tries across the day. Well done to all that attended and we look forward to the next one!

Mr Wilkinson
Teacher

KS3 Updates

Year 8

A total of 80 Year 8 students had their HPV vaccination on Wednesday, this represents 76 % of the year group.

If any students missed the vaccinations and would like to have them, parents can contact the vaccination team on 0300 555 5055 (option 2) and book a clinic appointment with them.

Year 9

Shout outs this week to:

- Sofiia, Daniel and Dymtro for excellent effort and work in Spanish.
- Eva, Teja, Gracie, Logan, Ben, Ameera, Abir, Rital, Kyle, Hattie, Jess S, Lily M B, Alessia, Maisie, Chloe, Ella and Evie P all consistently brilliant in Art and have shown huge increase in their skills this year.
- The big shout out to the majority of Year 9 boys that played netball this week for interhouse competitions, I think they would all admit that netball is a lot harder than they thought. A separate shout out for Demarco, Matthew, Shamim and Finley for getting MVP for their efforts.
- Lily H for outstanding attitude to learning, Amalie T for effort with homework, Rital A for consistent effort with classwork, Teja M for outstanding contributions to class discussion - Miss Roberts

KS4 Updates

Year 10

Along with the improvement in the weather, it has been good to see some improvements in Year 10 attendance this week. I would still like a little more but it is encouraging. Can I once again stress the vital importance of your child being in school every day as it directly impacts their progress in their GCSEs.

Can I also draw your attention to the website in regards to correct school uniform. Please ensure your child is in correct uniform for school as this is a vital part of them being prepared. If there are any problems with an aspect of the uniform please don't hesitate to contact the year team.

Some individual praise from teachers:

- Noah C for consistent effort in lessons and Ashton M for improved effort with homework - Miss Roberts
- Excellent effort in art for Noah, Lizzie K, Connor P, Elysia C, Shanelli, Elizabeth H and Jasmin C – Mr Walters
- Charles M for excellent verbal responses in class – Mrs Clayton

Year 11

Well done to all of the Year 11 for their engagement in their recent PPE exams:

- Kieran S and Rianna A for their work in English.
- Praise for Caitlin P and Trixie B for consistent effort in English. Well done.
- Evie D for Some amazing revision work, beautifully presenting and a perfect example to others

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- Mya P for an outstanding improvement in attendance and effort in all lessons.
- Martha for effort with revision.
- Esme and Lena for making great progress.
- Natacha and Eliza for being so proactive about preparing for their mock exams.
- Charlie J for progress.
- Harry B for effort with his homework.
- Annalee, Natacha and Esme for consistent effort and attainment in art.

Our next fundraising events for Prom this term, organised by our Year 11 Student Leaders, will take place on 20 March and 27 March.

On Friday, 20 March, we will be holding a bake sale during break times. If you and your child are able to donate any homemade bakes or shop-bought treats, we would be extremely grateful. Items can be brought into school on the morning of the sale. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Year 11 Prom.

On the last day of term (Friday, 27 March), we will be hosting our Easter Egg Raffle. We would really appreciate any donations of chocolate eggs to help make this a success. Students will be able to purchase raffle tickets at break times for the chance to win an egg just before the Easter holidays.

All of the students have the opportunity to purchase a leavers' hoody. It is essential that their orders are placed in plenty of time so that they don't miss out. There will only be one order; students will not be able to place orders after 29 April 2026.

To place an order, please visit the following website:

<https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

Our School Unique ID is: 30479YR11

You must place an order before 29 April 2026. I cannot stress this deadline enough, as we do not want anyone to be disappointed. The school will not be ordering any spare hoodies, so if your child later wishes they'd ordered one once they see other students with theirs, unfortunately it will be too late! So please don't miss out.

All orders will be delivered direct to school for you to collect. We will advise when this will be in due course.

Chaplain's Update

On Saturday, 7 March between 9.00-12.00 you can get your bike checked out for free by a qualified cycle mechanic at St Francis Church, 96 Rider Haggard Road, NR7 9UQ. Minor repairs are free and advice if it is more serious. Refreshments are available while you wait.

Reflection

In the Bible, a guy called Moses in Exodus 17 had some enemies to defeat. God told Moses that as long as he held up his staff in the battle, his army would prevail. During the battle his arms grew tired and started to drop down, the victory began to slip away from them.

Aaron who was the brother of Moses and Hur a member of his leadership team noticed and instead of standing by, they stood with him. They held up his arms until the sun went down and a great victory over their enemy was achieved.

Moses had the calling, but he still needed support. The victory came not from one leader's strength, but from shared strength. The strength of a community

As a community, we all have moments when our arms feel heavy with burdens that we carry, difficult situations, unexpected challenges, and general stuff. This story reminds us that we are not meant to carry the weight alone. Sometimes we lead. Sometimes we hold up someone else's arms. Both roles matter significantly.

When we support one another, encourage one another, and step in when someone is weary, we create victories that none of us could achieve alone.

May we continue to lift each other up and in doing so, strengthen our entire community.

All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Hoopstars Easter Camp



We are so pleased and excited to announce that we have partnered with Active Norfolk again to be part of the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme. This means our holiday camp days during the Easter holiday will be **FREE** for those children who receive means-tested school meals, which also includes a free hot or cold lunch and snacks on each camp day. We will also have paid spaces for those who aren't eligible for the free spaces.

We have taken the last few months as an opportunity to redesign our holiday camps and are so excited to launch our new and improved camp days which will include basketball skills, drills and stations as well as game time. We will also be including elements of nutritional education and STEM activities such as smoothie making, meal planning and Basketball Maths games and food bingo.

Alongside this we will be introducing our TUNE SQUAD POWER BADGES where players can earn their badges by completing skills throughout the camp programme.

Our camp programme for Easter is across 2 venues on the dates below:

Open Academy:

- Tuesday 31st March – Year 1-6
- Wednesday 1st April – Year 1-6
- Tuesday 7th April – Year 1-6
- Wednesday 8th April – Year 7-13
- Thursday 9th April – Year 1-Y6

- Monday 13th April – Year 1-Y6

The timings for the camp days are 9am until 3.30pm for the mainstream camps and 9.30am until 1pm for the SEND camps. The camp is £30 for anyone not eligible for the free spaces plus £8 if you would like lunch included.

To book either the free spaces or a paid space please click on the links below:

Year 1-6 @ Open Academy - <https://eequ.org/book/basketball-camp-year-1-6-open-academy-with-norfolk-hoopstars-24488>

Year 7 - 11 @ Open Academy - <https://eequ.org/book/basketball-camp-year-7-11-open-academy-with-norfolk-hoopstars-24490>

[Paid Spaces Booking Camp](#)

Please also use the link here to read the guide to how to book for the free spaces: [Booking Guide for BNHF Free Spaces](#)

Best wishes

Claire Harper-Black

Director

Norfolk Hoopstars C.I.C

www.norfolkhoopstars.com

07570560226





Hamlet

£22 education ticket offer

Following its five-star run in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) returns to Norwich Theatre Royal from 10 - 14 Mar 26 with a 'scintillating new staging' (Financial Times) of Hamlet.

Ralph Davis (RSC's Tamburlaine, Timon of Athens, Richard III and King John) is Hamlet, as Shakespeare's world-famous family drama of deceit and murder takes to the high seas, set aboard a doomed ocean liner in 1912.

Offer code: **HAMLETEDU**

This code can be used by parents/guardians to bring a young person(s) to experience the show at the schools ticket price of £22 each. Valid on band B-D seats for performances on Tue 10 Mar and Wed 11 Mar. Tickets at this price are limited. Max 4 tickets per customer. Book online or by calling the box office.

See Norwich Theatre website for content warnings. Offer subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply.



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