

## Principal's Bulletin – 20 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a truly special week at Open Academy, and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

### **Holy Week Assemblies – A Message of Forgiveness**

This week we marked the forthcoming Holy Week — one of the most significant weeks in the Christian calendar — through a series of assemblies that I hope will have given our young people much to reflect upon.

I was delighted to be joined in these assemblies by Reverend Bryant from St Francis Church, whose presence and contribution added a wonderful depth to our collective worship. It was a real privilege to welcome him into school, and his involvement is a reminder of the strong and valued relationship we share with our local church community.

The assemblies centred on the theme of forgiveness, drawing on the Easter story and the words of Luke 24:6 — “He is not here; he has risen.” — to explore what forgiveness really means. We considered the story of Corrie ten Boom, a remarkable woman whose extraordinary act of forgiveness in the most unimaginable of circumstances offered our students a powerful and moving example of what it means to choose strength over bitterness.

We reflected together on how forgiveness is not about forgetting or pretending something did not happen — it is about refusing to let anger define us. As we discussed with students, communities, including our school community, are always stronger when people are willing to forgive and start again. This aligns deeply with our school motto: Courage in every step, faith in every journey.

### **Comic Relief – Student Leaders Shine**

It has been wonderful to see our student leaders take real initiative in organising Comic Relief fundraising activities across the school. From planning to delivery, these young people have shown exactly the kind of leadership, creativity, and community spirit that we are so proud of at Open Academy.

The events they organised brought genuine joy and laughter to our school day, whilst raising vital funds for an incredibly important cause. Seeing students come together — across year groups, backgrounds, and friendships — is a powerful reminder of what makes our school community so special.

I am immensely proud of every student who played a part, and I want to extend a particular thank you to our student leaders for their hard work and enthusiasm. Moments like these are what truly define a school's character, and they reflect the values of hope, community, and compassion that sit at the heart of everything we do here.

## Attendance – Thank You for Your Support

I also want to take a moment to thank you sincerely for the support you have shown in ensuring your child attends school regularly. Good attendance is one of the single most important factors in a young person's progress and wellbeing, and your partnership in this makes a real and measurable difference.

We are delighted to report that school attendance has improved noticeably over recent weeks. This is a real achievement and a direct reflection of the effort that both families and students are making — and it does not go unnoticed.

To celebrate this improvement together, we have launched our new 'Freddo Fridays' initiative, through which we recognise and reward students who are demonstrating strong attendance each week. It is a small but meaningful way of saying: we see your effort, and we are proud of you. We look forward to this becoming a much-loved part of our school week.

We have one week left of term as we approach the Easter break. Thank you in advance for making sure it is a positive, well attended one!

With best wishes.

Dan Bagshaw  
Principal

## Student Leaders smash Comic Relief and Prom Fundraiser!



Today student leaders and staff from across the Academy took part in a four piece event extravaganza raising money for Comic Relief and Year 11 Prom!

A non-school uniform day, a 6 hour bike ride, a best stand up joke competition and a bake sale ran throughout the day with student leaders planning, arranging and then running the events - raising a great amount of money for a wonderful charity and cause.

The results...

- Non-uniform raised £223.00
- 200K Challenge - TBC - if you would still like to support this incredible 6 hour feat, there is a chance to sponsor £5 on the Arbor app - any further donations would be very gratefully received.
- Bake Sale - £232.90

Mr Dilley  
Head of Year 7 and Student Leadership

## Attendance

Good school attendance can support your child's future.

Your child may be experiencing emotions that make them feel nervous about attending school. Worries about friendships, learning difficulties, bullying, schoolwork and exams are common.

[Young Minds](#) provide practical tips and advice from young people, as well as information on getting the support they need. It is important to know they are not alone.

Mrs Richardson, Ms Barron and Miss Muscroft  
Attendance Team

## Drama Production – 24, 25 and 26 March



The cast and crew of Bugsy Malone have been working incredibly hard as we prepare to move rehearsals into Soul Church ready for next week's performance.

Tickets are available in the Arbor Shop for those wanting to come and support.

Mrs Ormosi  
Teacher

## PE

A massive congratulations to the Year 9 football team for winning their semi final on Wednesday, with goals from Demarco and Ky (actually an own goal).

We showed great courage with scoring the equaliser with the final touch of the ball, then managed to keep our nerve and win 3-2 on penalties with a great save from Amalie T and Charlie Sw scoring the winning penalty. The final will be on Monday from 3pm against Sewell Park.

Mr Lambert  
Teacher

## Chaplain's Reflection

In the Easter Story, Good Friday reminds us that there are moments in life when things feel dark, confusing, uncertain, and painful. For the disciples of Jesus and all that followed Him, Friday looked like the end. Their friend was gone, their dreams seemed crushed, the future felt empty and all hope was gone.

But the Easter story tells us that Friday is never the final word.

Between Friday and Sunday there is waiting, confusion, and grief. Yet God was still at work. What looked like defeat became the pathway to resurrection.

“Friday is bad, but Sunday is coming” reminds us that even when we face disappointment, loss, or uncertainty, hope is not lost. God can bring new life out of what seems broken. The cross was not the end of the story; resurrection was and that promise of new life is at the heart of Easter.

So, when life feels like Friday, I want to encourage us to hold on to faith, courage and remember that Sunday is coming.

God bless you all, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND