

## Principal's Bulletin – 27 March 2026

Dear Open Academy Families

As we reach the end of a busy and full spring term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly special week before wishing you all a very happy and restful Easter break.

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### **Bugsy Malone — A Night to Remember**

This week, Open Academy held its school production of *Bugsy Malone*, and what a production it was. I am incredibly proud to say that this was, without doubt, the biggest and most successful production ever staged at our school — and it will be a memory I carry with me for a long time.

A truly enormous thank you must go to Mrs Ormosi and Mr Corfield, whose dedication, patience, and belief in our students made the whole thing possible. What they gave our young people went far beyond rehearsals and staging. They helped students discover something in themselves — the courage to stand in front of an audience, to own a moment, to trust their own voice. For many of our young cast, stepping onto that stage will have been one of the most stretching and rewarding things they have ever done, and that is a direct result of the safe, encouraging environment that Mrs Ormosi, Mr Corfield and a team of staff who have volunteered their time, created. Their investment in our students' confidence is something that will stay with those young people long after the curtain has come down. I am deeply grateful to them.

We were also privileged to host the production at Soul Church, and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the team there — particularly to Gareth, Oli, and Harrison — for their extraordinary kindness and generosity in welcoming us into their space. Their warmth and willingness to support our school community meant everything, and we are incredibly grateful. It was a wonderful partnership and a beautiful venue for such a special occasion.

To every single member of our cast and crew — you were remarkable. I was proud of every one of you.

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### **Easter Uncovered — Year 7**

Earlier this week, our Year 7 students were joined by Gwil and the team from Norwich Youth for Christ for *Easter Uncovered* — a series of interactive and thought-provoking sessions walking students through the story of Easter. The engagement from our young people was genuinely impressive; they asked brilliant questions and entered into the sessions with real curiosity and openness. It is always wonderful to see our students engaging so thoughtfully with the bigger questions of life, meaning, and hope — values that sit right at the heart of who we are as a school. A special thank you to our wonderful Chaplain, Mark, for organising this visit and for continuing to nurture the Christian ethos and spiritual life of our community with such care and commitment.

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A reminder that students return to school on Tuesday, 14 April. We hope you enjoy the time together as families and that the holiday brings rest, sunshine, and a chance to recharge. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Open Academy.

Dan Bagshaw  
Principal

## **Canteen Menus**

Please see attached the new menus for after Easter. These will also be on our website:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/parentcarers/catering-and-menus>

Mrs Appleby  
Business Manager

## **Attendance Tips**

How can I help my child attend school regularly?

- Ensure they pack their bag the night before.
- Ensure that their uniform is ready, especially after the holidays or weekend.
- Get them to bed at a reasonable hour so that they get a good night's sleep. Don't let them take their phone to bed.
- Set the alarm clock early enough to allow plenty of time to get ready properly.
- Make sure they have some breakfast.
- Remind them to set off in the car, the bus, or start walking early enough so that they are not late: punctuality is important (students should be on site by 8.30am).
- Check to make sure they have everything they need – essentials are pens, reading book, PE kit, water bottle.
- Talk to your child about what they did in the academy today.
- Ensure your child has completed any homework or revised for any tests (as this can cause undue anxiety if not completed and can lead to non-attendance).
- If you are at all worried about your child's attendance please contact their tutor, year team or the attendance team as soon as possible so that we can offer support.

Mrs Richardson, Ms Barron and Miss Muscroft  
Attendance Team

## **PE**

Massive praise for the Year 9 football team for getting to the final. Unfortunately, we lost 2-0 to Sewell Park, we were always in the game up until the last minute where we conceded the second goal as we were pushing for an equaliser. Onto next season where we can hopefully go one step further.

Mr Lambert  
Teacher

## Drama



A massive thank you to all who came and supported the school's performance of Bugsy Malone. It was an incredible experience to be so warmly welcomed to Soul Church, I cannot praise the cast, crew and band enough who did such a fantastic job of being able to adapt to the venue and perform so well over all 3 nights.

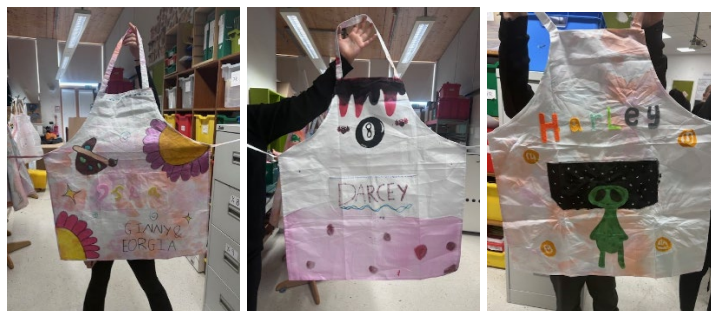
I hope everyone enjoys a well deserved break - they have earned it!

Mrs Ormosi  
Teacher

## Year 7

Shout outs to:

Well done to Year 7 who have completed their textiles project and finished their aprons. We have used all different types of surface pattern design such as applique, fabric paints, stamps, die cutting and the new Cricut machine to cut out and apply shapes to their aprons. They have shown huge progress in terms of designing and thinking about the composition and layout of a product. We are now moving on to electrics and making dinosaur USB lamps – Ms Rednall



## Year 9

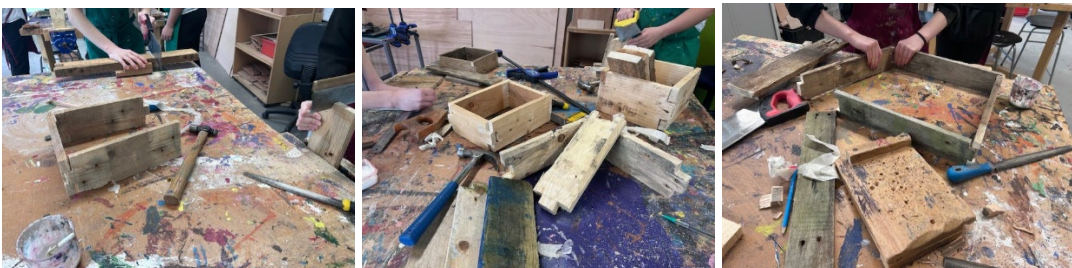
We had a wonderful assembly presenting certificates on Wednesday celebrating student effort in lessons, 100% attendance, top 10 for LEARNT points, as well as a special praise from the Pastoral and SLT team.

Today 18 Year 9 students went on a school trip to Thickethorne to view the A47/A11 construction site. Student were able to view the site from a platform, go on VR headsets, have a go on a mini digger and truck driving simulators. It was a great day to see all the work that is involved in a project so large, the Year 9s were also very excited to receive a number of free pens and a snood.



Shout outs to:

9R have worked brilliantly this week constructing their layers of garden planters. We have been focussing on quality control and measurements making sure that they are accurate and will lead to a functional product. Two more layers and planters will be finished ready to take home for planting strawberries and tomatoes – Ms Rednall



## Year 11

With less than two months to go until exams begin, the Easter break is a critically important time for revision. We strongly encourage all students to attend the Easter revision sessions, which begin promptly at 9:30am each day, to make the most of this focused support from staff. Students should be

designing and using a revision timetable to help them structure their time and should be completing small amounts of revision each day to build confidence and reduce stress ahead of the exam period.

### Easter Revision Sessions 2026

Subject	Date	Time	Teacher(s)	Notes
History/Geography	Mon 30 March	9:30– 12:00	Mr Mundy, Miss Wenlock	All history groups welcome to Miss Wenlock's session
English	Tue 31 March	9:30– 12:00	Miss Roberts, Mr Coyne	
Maths	Wed 1 April	9:30– 12:00	Mr Bradshaw, Mr Phillips	Higher with Mr Bradshaw, Foundation with Mr Phillips
	Thu 2 April			
	Fri 3 April			School Closed
	Mon 6 April			School Closed
Science	Tue 7 April	9:30– 12:00	Mrs Molloy, Mr Stephen	
English	Wed 8 April	9:30– 12:00	Mrs Clayton	
Revision Session	Thu 9 April	9:30– 12:00		
Revision Session	Fri 10 April	9:30– 12:00		

We are also delighted to share that prom information has now been circulated. Prom will take place on 24 June at 6:00pm – an exciting event and a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate the end of their exams together. We look forward to marking this special occasion with them. It was super to see many of Year 11 invited to the rewards breakfast this morning which was to celebrate 100% attendance and excellent behaviour.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fantastic effort and commitment shown by so many of our Year 11 students. A number of students have been nominated by their class teachers in recognition of their hard work, positive attitude and determination as they prepare for their final exams. We are very proud of the way they are approaching this important period and encourage them to keep up the excellent work.

Art	Esme W and Rusne B
Business	Riley W, Alfie S and Zena A
Computer Science	Ross B and Ryan B
D&T	Martha W and Riley W
English	Sasha-Mai P, Mya PG, Harry B, Elise W, Kiera P and Riley W
Food	Kaitlin W and Mason F

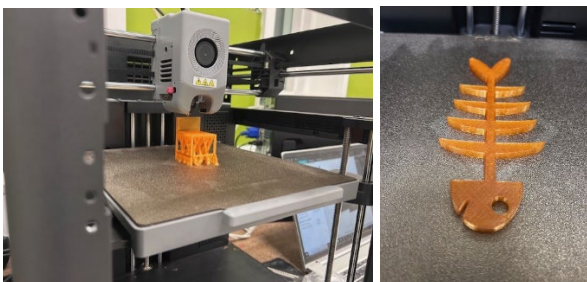
Geography	Eliza S and Sasha-Mai P
German	Riley B, Olivier K, Kayden SH, Kate S and Esme W
Child Development	Sasha-Mai P
History	Martha W, Esme W, Lena W, Hannah S, Martina V, Kayden S-H, Ayo T, Dylain B, Ryan B, Riley W and Max S
Maths	Kieran S, Riley W, Esme W, Melita S and Trixie B.
Photography	Oliver N and Kieran S
Science	Martha W, Hannah S, Jayce B, Oliver N, Annalee R, Rianna A, Natacha F, Lily A, Dylain B, Brandon S, Owen B, Caitlin P and Erica JJ
Textiles	Natacha F, Hannah S and Esme W
Pastoral	Mya PG and Kiera P
Religious Studies	Hayden T, Mariia T and Kaitlin W
Sport	Jayce B, Rianna A, Alfie E, Elise W, Tyler A, Reece Y, Rodrigo F and Evie D

Shout outs to:

This week, Year 11 textiles have been making block prints using cardboard and textile adhesive foam as well as using heat pressing to image transfer and experiment with textures. We used acrylic paint and rollers to apply acrylic paint to our block prints, experimenting with how different application techniques resulted in varied mark making. We tested changing all different variables to alter our layered outcomes – Ms Rednall



Year 11 have finished their coursework this week, we have been looking at adding the final touches and details. We have been using the new Flash Forge 3D printer to print design elements, looking at size, scale and how to produce a final model ready for printing. Also experimenting with supports and the workings of CAD. Year 11 have over Easter to complete their written portfolios, then we start revising the content for the final exam so please encourage students to spend time refining their final drafts of portfolios – Ms Rednall



Mr Bradshaw and Mrs Hindry  
Year 11 Team

## Update from Anguish's Educational Foundation

We are now accepting applications for school uniform grants for the next school year. We encourage parents to apply early as we get extremely busy with applications over the summer months.

Our income thresholds from 1 April 2026 will be dependent on family size, with higher thresholds for bigger families.

We can supply you with 'flyers' to distribute to parents. I am attaching electronic copies of our flyer and poster. If you would like some 'hard' copies of the flyer please let us know by emailing me or alternatively, you can email [info@norwichct.org.uk](mailto:info@norwichct.org.uk). We will deliver them to you.

Our applications for school uniform and school residential trips are on-line. Parents will need to contact us for the instructions and the appropriate link. They can contact us either by phone on 01603 621023 (and leave a message, someone will call them back) or by emailing [info@norwichct.org.uk](mailto:info@norwichct.org.uk).

If parents are struggling to complete their on-line application, they should let us know as soon as possible and we will help them. Please do not complete the on-line form on their behalf, because the application must be associated with the applicant's email address.

If you have any queries or questions, please get in touch at either [jean.browne@norwichct.org.uk](mailto:jean.browne@norwichct.org.uk) or [info@norwichct.org.uk](mailto:info@norwichct.org.uk)

Jean Browne  
Grants Officer  
Anguish's Educational Foundation



## Chaplain's Update

### Easter Uncovered



On Thursday of this week, we welcomed in Norwich Youth for Christ and volunteers from Soul Church to run an event called Easter Uncovered with our Year 7s.

Easter Uncovered tells the Easter story with visits by students to 6 interactive bases to learn about the days leading up to and the death and resurrection of Jesus. Students got to experience what it may have been like to see events unfold, what it may have been like to see Jesus praying in anguish in the garden, to being arrested, crucified and then finding the tomb empty.

We would like to thank Norwich Youth for Christ and Soul church for their time in putting on this great event for our academy.

### Reflection

On the Sunday, 2 days after Jesus died, some of His followers went to his tomb to anoint his body which was custom in those days, but when they turned up, the stone had been rolled away. An angel was there saying, He is not here, He is risen. The tomb was empty.

As with the followers of Jesus, we often stand before our own "tombs," so to speak, places in life that feel sealed, heavy, and final. Like the stone rolled across the entrance, our problems can seem immovable. This can be fear that will not lift, pain that won't ease, or situations that don't seem to change.

The resurrection tells a different story. The stone was not just moved; it was already gone before anyone arrived. What seemed like the end with no hope had already been transformed into new beginnings. In the same way, the obstacles we face are not always as permanent as they appear.

I want to encourage you; change can be unfolding even when we cannot yet see it and "He is not here" is a reminder that the situations that we face, no longer have the final word.

"He is risen" is the promise that life, hope, and a fresh start are still possible. Sometimes, the stone moves when we least expect it, and everything changes.

My prayer for you this Easter is that when you expect to come across problems, that they are not there.

I also pray that you and your families have a wonderful Easter break and may this be a time of rest hope and peace for you all.

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

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain