

Principal's Bulletin – 17 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It is wonderful to have our students back with us and to see the energy and positivity they have brought to the start of the summer term.

I also want to take a moment to extend my sincere thanks to the members of our teaching staff who gave up their own time during the holiday to run revision and exam preparation sessions for our Year 11 students. This dedication is a true reflection of the commitment we have across the school to supporting every young person to achieve the very best they can. Please do join me in recognising and appreciating their efforts.

Year 11 — The Final Stretch: Revision at Home is Now Vital

With just a few weeks remaining before our Year 11 students sit their GCSE examinations, this is the most important period of their school career so far. Whilst we will continue to provide targeted support, intervention, and revision opportunities in school, the work that students do at home between now and their exams will make a genuine difference to their results.

We strongly encourage all Year 11 students to:

- Set aside regular, dedicated revision time each evening — even 45 minutes of focused, structured revision each night will have a significant impact.
- Use revision resources provided by their teachers, as well as trusted revision platforms such as Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize.
- Revise actively — making notes, testing themselves, using flashcards — rather than simply re-reading their books.
- Get plenty of rest and maintain a healthy routine, particularly in the days and evenings leading up to each paper.

If your child is feeling anxious or overwhelmed, please do encourage them to speak with their form tutor or a member of our pastoral team. We are here to support them.

Exciting News: Our Strengthened Morning Offer

We are delighted to announce a significant enhancement to the start of the school day at The Open Academy, and we hope you will be just as excited about it as we are.

From Monday, students are warmly invited to arrive from 8:05am each morning to take advantage of our new and improved Morning Offer. Every student who arrives through our doors from 8:05am will be able to enjoy a warm bagel, served fresh in the Atrium — a brilliant way to start the day, fuel their learning, and settle in positively before lessons begin.

But that's not all. Alongside breakfast, we are offering a range of enrichment activities for students to enjoy between 8:05am and 8:25am:

- Sport — in the Sports Hall, supervised by staff
- Homework Club — in S56, for students who want to complete or check work before the day begins
- Quiet Space — in the Library, for those who prefer a calm, settled start
- Board Games — in S16, for fun, social connection, and a positive community feel

All activities are on a first come, first served basis. Students should make their way to their chosen activity from 8:05am and will line up ready to go to form time at 8:25am.

The full timetable for the Morning Offer is as follows:

Day	Breakfast	Sport	Homework Club	Quiet Space	Board Games
Monday	Atrium	Sports Hall	S56	Library	S16
Tuesday	Atrium	Sports Hall	S56	Library	S16
Wednesday	Atrium	Sports Hall	S56	Library	S16
Thursday	Atrium	Sports Hall	S56	Library	S16
Friday	Atrium	Sports Hall	S56	Library	S16

We have introduced this offer because we genuinely believe that a warm, welcoming, and stimulating start to the school day makes a real difference — not just to how students feel, but to their punctuality, their engagement, and ultimately their outcomes. We want every student to feel that Open Academy is a place they are excited to arrive at, and this is one of the ways we are making that a reality.

We would be very grateful if you could share this with your child and encourage them to take full advantage of what is on offer. The more students who arrive early, engaged and ready to learn, the stronger our school community becomes.

Attendance — Thank You: Our Best Week of the Year So Far

I am absolutely delighted to share some brilliant news with you: this week, our whole-school attendance has been at its highest level of the entire academic year. This is a truly outstanding start to the summer term, and it would not have been possible without your continued support in making sure your child is in school, on time, every day.

Attendance matters enormously. Research consistently shows that students who attend regularly achieve better outcomes, build stronger friendships, and develop the habits and resilience that will serve them throughout their lives. Every single day in school counts.

We know that keeping children attending regularly isn't always straightforward, and we genuinely appreciate the effort many of you put in to make it happen. Please know that this makes a real and lasting difference to your child's future.

This is a fantastic start, but we must not let the momentum slip. Our goal for the summer term is to build on this week and to finish the year strongly together. If your child is experiencing any barriers to attending school — whether that is anxiety, health concerns, friendship difficulties, or anything else — please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Our attendance and pastoral teams are ready and willing to help.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are making a real difference for our young people.

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Parental Consent to Administer Paracetamol

If you would like your child to be given school-supplied paracetamol when necessary, please complete the relevant consent form using the link below. Alternatively, please accept via the Arbor Parent App.

Please note that staff are unable to administer any medication without prior written parental consent. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students.

[Parental consent form for administration of school paracetamol – Fill out form](#)

Mrs Wilkinson
Data Manager

Parent Coffee Morning – 13 May 2026

Open Academy Parent Coffee Morning

When: Wednesday 13th May, 9:15–10:30am

Where: Open Academy, Norwich, NR7 9DL

Come along for an informal chat, ask questions, and find out more about the services available to you and your child. We look forward to welcoming both current and future parents of children at Open Academy.

Services present:

Family Action -
Autism / ADHD
Support Service

SENDIASS

Kids Norfolk Charity

Open Academy's SENCO



Please scan the QR code
to register your
attendance to this event

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming Parent Coffee Morning at Open Academy on Wednesday, 13 May, 9:15–10:30am.

This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, chat with staff, and get a feel for our school community in a relaxed and friendly setting.

This event is open to:

- Parents of children currently attending Open Academy
- Parents of children in Year 5 or Year 6 who will be joining us in the future

Please sign up using the QR code on the poster. We look forward to welcoming you!

Mrs Halliday
Associate Assistant Principal

Year 9 and 10

On Wednesday, a group of students went to the UEA for a future forward trip. Shout out to Evie A, Lincoln T, Kyle R, Ellie A, Freya S and Talula E who completed various campus challenges such as a scavenger hunt in a student flat, and a task on the silent floor of the library finding books with specific words in the title.

The whole day was focused around teamwork, communication, and resilience - which all the students displayed beautifully. We were particularly impressed with how the students conducted themselves around campus and represented Open wonderfully. They even won chocolates for winning multiple campus challenges throughout the day!

Dr Davies and Miss Hamill

Year 11



It was a pleasure to join our Year 11 geography students on their recent trip into Norwich city. The weather was lovely, and it was great to see students engaging so well throughout the day. During the visit, students explored the city and observed the Anglia Square redevelopment site, helping to bring their classroom learning to life.

With formal exams now less than two weeks away, please find the final examination timetable attached for your reference. Once exams begin, students move quickly from one paper to the next, so the revision completed now is vital.

We have been really pleased with the positive attitude to learning shown by the vast majority of students in lessons. However, this must now be matched with consistent and focused revision at home to ensure they are fully prepared. The efforts they make now will have a significant impact on their final outcomes. Students should also seek support from their class teachers for anything they are unsure about or worried about—staff are keen to help in this final stage.

A reminder to parents/carers to please respond regarding the Year 11 Prom as soon as possible, as Black Barn Farm require confirmed numbers. This promises to be a fantastic evening and a well-deserved celebration marking a significant milestone in our students' journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mr Bradshaw and Mrs Hindry

Chaplain's Reflection

Just to encourage you with a few thoughts this week from a powerful Bible story. The disciples of Jesus were out in a boat and were caught up in a storm. They naturally became fearful for their lives. The Bible says that Jesus came out to them walking on the water and as he got near, the disciples saw him. Peter, one of the disciples said to Jesus, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." Jesus told him to go for it. Peter climbed over the side of the boat onto the water and walked towards Jesus.

The Bible says that Peter took his eye off Jesus and began to sink when seeing the storm around him. Jesus then took hold of his hand and rescued him.

When Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water, it wasn't certainty that held him up, it was courage rooted in faith. For a short while, he did the impossible. Not because he was exempt from fear, but because he trusted enough to take the first step.

We all face moments like that, where comfort ends and stepping out into the unknown begins. The following words are here to encourage and remind us that:

- Courage doesn't mean you won't doubt or be afraid.
- Faith doesn't mean you won't struggle.
- Every step taken in faith and trust moves you forward.
- You are loved, cared for, and supported through life's journey.

In every storm that we face, Jesus says these words to us, "Take courage. Do not be afraid — I am here."

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

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

OF ENGLAND