

## Principal's Bulletin – 8 May 2026

Dear Families

It has been another full and purposeful week at The Open Academy. From students exploring the Norfolk countryside on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, to Year 11 rising to the challenge of their GCSE examinations — the determination and resilience of our young people has been on full display.

### **Duke of Edinburgh expedition**

Students are currently completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition, based around Reepham in Norfolk. The three-day expedition runs from Thursday to Saturday, with students camping overnight, preparing their own meals in tent groups, and completing supervised walking routes each day.

A very special thank you must go to Mrs Pearsall, Mr Stephen and Mrs Halliday for giving so generously of their time and expertise to make this expedition possible. Building independence, teamwork and perseverance are exactly the skills we are proud to develop in our students.

### **GCSE examinations**

These are now well underway and our Year 11 students are showing great focus and determination. We are proud of the effort they are putting in and the mature, professional approach they are bringing to this important period.

A reminder that next week begins with English Literature Paper 1 on Monday morning. Please support your child by ensuring they have a good night's rest, a proper breakfast, and arrive punctually. Any student who is unsure of their timetable should check with the Exams Office as soon as possible.

We continue to wish all of Year 11 the very best. We believe in each and every one of them.

### **Trust visit**

This week we were pleased to welcome visitors from the DNEAT Trust into school. The purpose of their visit was twofold: to review the quality of teaching and learning across the academy, and to explore the progress we are making in embedding our Christian ethos throughout school life.

We are delighted to report that our visitors were very positive about what they saw. This is a real testament to the hard work of our staff and students, and reflects the direction of travel we are on as a school community. We remain committed to providing the highest quality of education within a values-driven, inclusive environment, one where every student is known, valued and supported to flourish.

### **A distraction free school**

I hope that parents and carers have had the opportunity to read my recent letter regarding the introduction of mobile phone pouches at Open. This is an important step in our journey to becoming a distraction-free school, an environment where students can focus fully on their learning and build the habits of attention and engagement that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. I hope you and your families have a restful weekend.

Mr Dan Bagshaw  
Principal

## 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 - SENDIASS
- Autism / ADHD Support Service 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 or link below:

[Parent Coffee Morning](#)

We look forward to welcoming you!

### Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for academic achievement, social-emotional development, and future opportunities, with high attendance directly linked to better test scores and a smoother transition into adulthood. Consistent presence helps students stay on track, build essential, long-term friendships, and develop crucial habits like, responsibility, punctuality, and resilience.

#### Academic Benefits

- **Higher Achievement:** Regular attendees are more likely to excel in exams, with data showing a strong link between high attendance and achieving expected standards.
- **Better Comprehension:** Continuity of learning makes it easier to understand new concepts, while absences create knowledge gaps.
- **Improved Performance:** Students with good attendance make better progress and find schoolwork easier to manage.

[open-academy-principals-bulletins](#)

### Social and Emotional Development

- Lasting Friendships: Consistent attendance helps children build positive peer relationships, improving social skills and emotional well-being.
- Increased Confidence: Regular social interactions with classmates and teachers foster higher self-regulation and confidence.
- Extracurricular Engagement: Being in school allows students to take advantage of clubs, sports, and additional learning opportunities.

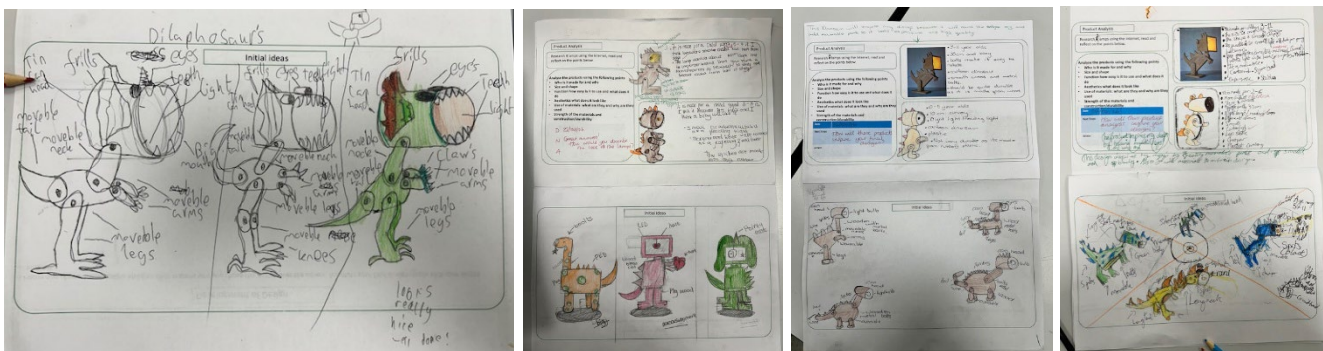
### Future Success and Well-being

- Career Preparation: Good attendance demonstrates to potential employers that a student is reliable and disciplined.
- Essential Life Skills: Students learn to build routines, manage time, and navigate challenges.
- Health Benefits: School attendance offers a stable environment and pastoral support, which protects, physical and mental health.

### Year 7

Shout outs to:

Year 7 have been working hard on their electronics project where we are making wooden dinosaur LED lamps with a tin can head! We have analysed existing products to discuss their positives and negatives in terms of function, aesthetics and target market then produced a range of initial technical drawings. Student will now make their templates and begin to solder their circuit boards – Ms Rednall



### Year 8

Shout outs to:

Year 8 have finished making Gumball machines and decorating them with their chosen retro theme. Shoutouts to Charlie B for his CR7, Harvey E for his axolotlle and Harriet for her vending machine – Ms Rednall



## Year 9

Shout outs to:

Year 9 are reaching the end of their sustainable garden planter project and there are some amazing outcomes! Our focus of the last two lessons has been accuracy and thinking about how to create a high quality outcome. Students have grown in confidence using complex maths based techniques to ensure their box joints fit together and function. Shoutouts in particular to Charlie S, Ezio, Elias, Pheobe, Leela, Elise and Brogan who have all been awarded a Curriculum Award this week for their attitude to learning, politeness and achievement. Don't they look fabulous? Shoutouts to Ella-May P and Bea for their ladybird and Lily B and Jess for their Bee. There are some wonderful outcomes to now find homes in gardens – Ms Rednall



Elijah S and Michael S for good effort in Spanish – Mrs McEvoy

Congratulations to the top ten for LEARN'T points this week, they were given a skip the queue pass for lunch today: Evie, A, Ella Mai P, Hattie, Rowan, Alfis H, Riley L, Johnson, Stefan, Leela E and Vlad – Mr Lambert

## Year 10

Shout outs to:

A massive well done to the Year 10 performing arts students who have now completed 30% of their qualification. They needed to devise their own performances based on the challenges that young people face, which they then performed to some of our KS3 students. This was accompanied by a staggering amount of coursework, with some students producing over 6000 words to explain the process that they had undergone. A brilliant effort by all and some well deserved results. Well done – Mrs Ormosi

## Year 11

Shout outs to:

The Year 11 students had their Art exam last week. The standard of work produced was extremely high and the work rate and dedication of all students was fantastic to see – Mr Walters



### Chaplain's Reflection

I saw this quote and it both encouraged and challenged me:

“The river carves stone not by force, but by persistence” (author unknown)

It is a reminder to us all to keep pushing through life's journey with steady and repeated perseverance. Many of the things we hope to achieve are not changed in a single moment of effort, but through consistency. Sometimes we stumble and fall and can feel that we are not getting anywhere fast. Progress may feel slow or invisible at first, but persistence has a calm way that force hasn't. What seems small or impossible today, can over time grow into something far greater than expected.

I am reminded of the Artemis 2 mission to the moon last month. Looking at that giant rocket on the launch pad left me wondering, how on earth is that huge piece of machinery going to get up there. Then the main engines fire and the solid rocket boosters ignite and the ground shakes. The rocket then begins to inch off the launch pad very slowly, not straight to thousands of miles per hour in velocity immediately. We ask ourselves this question for a short time, is it going to make it. Then it clears the tower and persistency helps it overcome gravity, speed builds, and then orbit arrives.

This reflection encourages patience with both us and our journey. It suggests that strength is not always about pushing harder, but about continuing especially when results are slow are not immediate.

I want to encourage you today, keep going, keep persisting and I know you will make it.

“Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.” Micah 7:8

God bless you all

Mark