

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

“Take courage”

MATTHEW 14:27

Dear Families

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I wanted to write to you with a few final updates before the summer break, including arrangements for our last day of term and our return in September.

Our Theme for the Final Two Weeks: Aspiration

Our whole-school focus for these last two weeks of term has been Aspiration, encouraging every student to look ahead with hope, confidence and a sense of purpose as they finish the year and, for some, prepare for the next stage of their journey. In Philippians 3:14, St Paul speaks of pressing on toward the goal set before him. It is that same spirit of purposeful hope, of striving forward rather than simply looking back, that we want our students to carry with them into the summer and into September.

Curriculum Enhancement Week and Sports Day

This week our students have taken part in Curriculum Enhancement Week, enjoying a wide range of trips and in-school events that have taken learning beyond the classroom. Thursday's Sports Day was a wonderful occasion, with students competing with real energy and school spirit.

A big thank you to all staff for their hard work in planning and delivering such a rich and varied week of activities for our students.

Trust Awards Ceremony

It was a proud week for Open Academy at the Trust awards ceremony. Congratulations to Mr Pimlott, who deservedly won the Community Award, recognising his outstanding contribution to our school and wider community.

Congratulations, too, to Mr Davis, who was shortlisted for an award following his nomination. Several other members of staff were also nominated by colleagues for the difference they make every day, and it was wonderful to see Open Academy so strongly represented at this Trust-wide event.

Last Day of Term – Friday 17 July

To allow us to close the year well, the school day will finish earlier than usual on the last day of term. The arrangements are as follows:

Time Arrangement

12.00 – 12.30pm Lunch

12.30 – 1.00pm Final lesson of the day

1.00pm Students dismissed, following registration

Please could you make arrangements for your child to be collected, or to travel home, from 1.00pm on Friday 17th July.

Return to School in September

Please note that we will have a staggered start to the new academic year:

Date Who returns

Thursday 3rd September Year 7 and Year 11 only

Friday 4th September All year groups return

Thank You and Best Wishes

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term. However you spend the coming weeks, we wish you and your families a happy and restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming students back with courage and hope in September.

With every good wish

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Chaplain's Reflection

Just want to start my reflection by saying these few words. We are who we are because of the heat we go through.

An analogy is that of a blacksmith forging steel. Steel is heated until it's pliable, then hammered and cooled repeatedly. Life's journey can feel a bit like that with all the circumstances that we face. Sometimes it gets so difficult, we feel literally hammered and knocked down.

Maybe you are feeling this hammering at the moment and that life is hard. I just want to encourage you with this. There is something wonderful and amazing that comes out through this process of heating. Going back to the analogy, without the heat and shaping process, structures wouldn't develop the strength needed to form their purpose.

Similarly, life's trials can strengthen our character, not because hardship automatically improves us, but because of how we respond to it.

Rather than fearing difficulties, we can see them as opportunities for growth, knowing that every challenge has the potential to prepare us for completeness.

Hang in there, you have great purpose.

In closing, James 1 verse 2 says this.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

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

Mark Pimlott

Chaplain

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND