

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

“Take courage”

MATTHEW 14:27

19 June 2026

Dear Open Academy families

This fortnight in our Collective Worship sessions, we have been exploring the value of service, reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan, where a traveller stops to help a stranger in need, even though it would have been far easier to walk past. It is a story that challenges us all to look out for one another, especially when it is not the easiest path, and it felt fitting alongside this week's Rewards Evening for our KS3 students, where prizes were awarded both for academic achievement and through our whole-school awards celebrating personal qualities such as kindness, respect and service to others. Congratulations to all of our winners, and a particular thank you to Mrs Halliday, who organised the evening and made it such a special occasion for our young people and their families.

As the weather continues to warm up, please could you ensure your child brings a drink and some sun cream with them each day, ready for breaks and lunchtimes.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be rolling over to our new timetable, which also marks the start of our [new school day structure](#). Lessons will now begin straight away each morning, with form time moving to the end of the day. We have made this change to maximise learning time when students are at their freshest, while still protecting a dedicated space at the end of the day for form time and reflection together as a school community.

This timetable change also sees our new Year 10 students get underway with an early start to their GCSE courses and option subjects, giving them a real head start as they move into the next phase of their learning journey. Alongside this, our new Year 11 students will be sitting their mock examinations next week. We know this can feel like a big step, and we would ask families to support your children in getting good rest, eating well and arriving ready to do their best. These mocks give students and staff a clear picture of where things stand, so we can target support precisely where it is needed in the run-up to their GCSEs.

As ever, thank you for your continued support and partnership - it is genuinely appreciated.

With best wishes for a warm and sunny weekend!

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Year 9

Well done to the students below who got the most LEARNT points this week:

Johnson, Harvey, Angel, Stefan, Sophia, David-James, Alfie H, Bianca, Ellie-Amanda and Brogan.

It was great to see so many Year 9 students last night collecting their rewards for their amazing contributions over the last year, I have handed out any certificates to students that were unable to make the rewards evening.

As you are aware today is your child's last day in Year 9, from Monday they will be starting Year 10 and their option lessons, I am sure they are as excited as I am to be going in to KS4.

It is imperative students arrive on time to the academy for 8:30 as period 1 starts at 8:35am, they must also bring in their mobile phone pouch even if they are not bringing their phone in.

Mr Lambert and Mrs Hindry
Year 9 Team

Year 10 English

A reminder that Year 10 (new Year 11) exams begin next week and that students should be revising Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth and A Christmas Carol for Tuesday's exam.

Suggested sites:

- GCSE Bitesize
- Sparksnotes
- SaveMyExams

Miss Roberts
Head of English

Fashion Show

Open Academy Fashion Show to support The Hamlet Charity's life-changing work across Norfolk!

Students at Open Academy are inviting the Norfolk community to support a special Fashion Show, raising funds for The Hamlet Charity, a local organisation that has transformed the lives of people with disabilities for more than 50 years.

On 25 June 2026 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, students at Open Academy, Norwich, in collaboration with the Hamlet Charity, will host a circus themed Fashion Show dedicated to supporting The Hamlet Charity and raising awareness of the incredible work it carries out across Norfolk.

Tickets now available on Arbor.



Music Trip



The Year 10 GCSE and Year 9 future GCSE Music students had a fantastic opportunity to see the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra perform at the Snape Maltings Concert Hall. Also, special guest Rory Kinner, who narrated the Benjamin Britton Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra. This exciting performance had been specially designed for young audiences and will offer students an inspiring opportunity to experience a professional orchestra and choir in one of the country's most prestigious concert venues.

Mr Corfield
Teacher

Chaplain's Reflection

I just want to encourage you with the below story.

The Broken Bell

In a small school, there was an old bell that had stopped ringing properly. It made a dull, uneven sound that many people ignored. Some even suggested replacing it.

But the caretaker refused. "It still works," he said, and each morning he rang it anyway.

Over time, something unexpected happened. Students began to recognize that familiar, imperfect sound. It became part of their routine, the signal that a new day of learning was beginning.

One day, a new bell was finally installed, bright and clear. But on its first morning, a few students paused and said quietly, "It doesn't feel like school yet."

They had grown used to the old bell, not because it was perfect, but because it had always been there.

Being around today matters more than perfection. Even when you feel ordinary, dull down or hurting, you are the difference to some one's life. You are part of the fabric of this world, you make all things brighter; you belong, you are priceless and you are loved.

In closing, God says these words to us

"You are precious and honoured in my sight, and I love you." — Isaiah 43:4

God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND