

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

“Take courage”

MATTHEW 14:27

22 May 2026

Dear Families

Our Fortnightly Theme: Courage

As we reach the close of this half-term, I write with a deep sense of pride in our school community. This has been a week in which the fortnightly theme of courage has been lived out, not in words, but in the way our students have carried themselves — with dignity, with respect, and with maturity beyond their years.

The Frank Armes Memorial Service

Today, Open Academy was honoured to host a memorial service for Frank Armes, a former student of this school during its time as Heartsease High School. Frank went on to serve his country with distinction, and it has meant a great deal to us as a community to be able to gather and remember him.

We were privileged to welcome Dr Andy Wood, His Majesty’s Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, who joined us as the King’s representative in the county. We were also honoured by the presence of representatives of 809 Naval Air Squadron — the Immortals — based at RAF Marham here in Norfolk, who carry forward the legacy that Frank was so proud to be part of. Their attendance was a powerful act of remembrance, and we are deeply grateful to them.

Our Chaplain, Mr Pimlott, planned the service with great care and thoughtfulness. It included prayer, reflections, the laying of wreaths, and a silence in which our entire school community — every student, every member of staff — joined together as one. That act of unity was, for me, one of the most moving moments I have experienced in my time as Principal.

The scripture chosen for the service was from Psalm 91. Verses 14 and 15 of this tell us:

The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them”.

Respect: Lived Out by Our Students

Today's service was also a profound expression of our core value of Respect. Respect for a life given in service. Respect for a family's grief. Respect for the traditions and protocols of remembrance. And, importantly, respect shown by our young people for one another and for our guests.

I cannot overstate how proud I was of our students this morning. The silence was complete. The attentiveness throughout was exemplary. The maturity with which our students greeted visitors, listened to reflections, and carried themselves around the site spoke volumes about the culture we are building together. Several of our visitors took the time to comment on this directly, and I want to pass that praise back to our students and to you as their families. Respect is not something that can be taught from a script. It is something that is modelled, practised, and lived. Today, our students lived it beautifully.

As our school vision reminds us, *Courage in Every Step, Faith in Every Journey*, today we saw both. The courage to stand still and remember. The faith to believe that a life of service matters, and is worth honouring.

May Half-Term Break

School closes today for the May half-term break. I hope every family is able to find some rest, some time together, and some sunshine over the week ahead. Our Year 11 students will of course continue with their GCSE preparation as examinations resume after the break, and they remain very much in our thoughts and prayers.

Students return to the Academy on **Monday 1 June 2026**, with line-up at the usual time. Please support your child to be well-rested, in full uniform, and ready for the second half of the summer term.

Phone Pouches: Launch on Monday 1 June

Monday 1 June will also mark the launch of our phone pouch system. **Every student will be issued with their own pouch on their first day back**, and the system will be in operation from that point onwards. Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and tutors will support students through the routine during morning line-up.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and partnership you have shown in the lead-up to this launch. The conversations we have had with parents and carers either in person, by email, and in response to our bulletins, have been overwhelmingly positive. Your backing of this change matters enormously. It is a real example of school and home working together for the wellbeing and focus of our young people.

Once students receive their pouch, **it is theirs to keep and look after while they are on roll at the Academy**. Please support us by reminding your child to bring their pouch into school every day and to take good care of it just as they would any other essential piece of school equipment. Pouches that are

lost, damaged through misuse, or left at home will need to be replaced or managed through alternative arrangements at the year office, and we would much rather avoid that for any family. A small daily habit, putting the pouch in the school bag the night before, will make all the difference.

Further detail and reminders will be shared in the first week back, and our pastoral teams will be on hand to support students as they settle into the new routine.

Closing Thoughts

It feels fitting that this half-term should close on a day of such significance. We have remembered a former student who showed the very highest courage. We have witnessed our current students show respect, dignity, and maturity. And we look ahead to a final half-term in which Year 11 will complete their examinations, our new whole-school routines will embed, and our community will continue to grow stronger together.

Thank you, as always, for your trust and your partnership. Have a restful, happy half-term, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 1 June.

With every good wish

Mr Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Attendance

Attending school provides foundational knowledge, essential life skills, and social development necessary for future success, including critical thinking, career preparation and increased confidence. It fosters independence, offers extracurricular opportunities for personal growth and builds social skills.

Here are 10 key reasons to attend school:

1. **Gain Essential Knowledge:** School provides foundational skills like reading, writing, and mathematics required for daily life.
2. **Develop Critical Thinking:** It teaches students how to analyse information, solve problems, and form their own ideas.
3. **Prepare for the Future:** Education prepares individuals for future employment and higher education opportunities.
4. **Social Interaction and Growth:** School is a primary place to learn how to interact with peers, build friendships, and understand social dynamics.
5. **Build Self-Confidence:** Achieving academic goals and mastering new skills increases a student's belief in their abilities.

6. Discover Passions and Interests: Through various subjects, students can identify what they love and want to pursue as a career.
7. Extracurricular Opportunities: Schools offer sports, clubs, and arts that promote physical health and teamwork.
8. Develop Discipline and Structure: Attending school teaches time management, reliability, and responsibility.
9. Foster Independence: It allows young people to navigate situations away from parents, fostering autonomy.
10. Networking and Community: School helps build a sense of community, providing support from teachers and mentors

Year 7

Shout outs to:

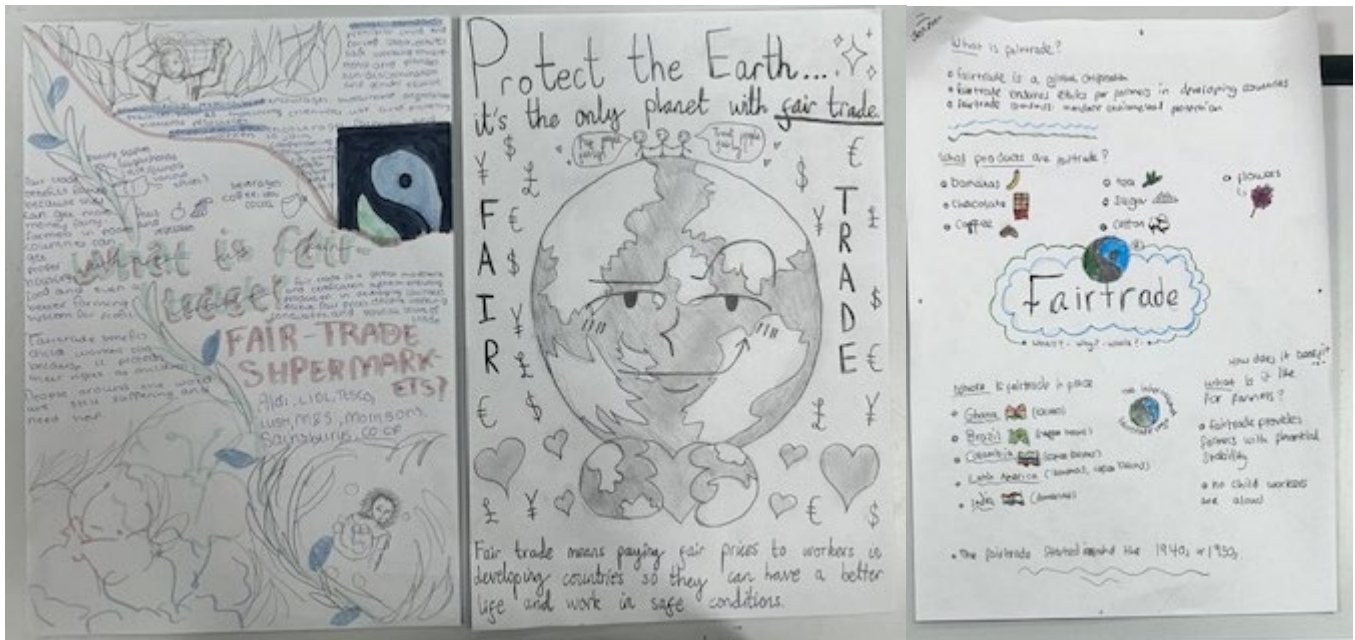
Year 7 have begun construction of their Tin Can Dinosaur lamp this week! Today's work of the day for 7R was 'wastage' and learning to create a lay plan fit for the design industry. They completed their final technical drawings and then translated these into a paper template. We then arranged them on to sheets of 9mm ply in a lay plan that used as minimal space as possible saving on wastage and cost. 7R were a delight to teach this week, being patient, helping each other out and using tricky spatial awareness skills. Shout outs this week to the whole class, Mrs Wright for amazing organisation of students and Will for cutting the wood. This was a military organisation to get everyone finished and all students showed exemplary behaviour and manners – Miss Rednall



Year 8

Shout outs to:

Year 8 have started their summer sustainability project and we are making bird boxes from reclaimed wood. We have done a lot of design work looking at social and cultural issues and one focus was fair trade. Shout outs to Delilah, Jenson C and Nma for their amazing presentations shown below.



DT Curriculum Award

This half term, we have seen an array of outstanding work and effort put in by Year 8 students. Curriculum awards have been given to the following students for their consistent effort and wonderful attitude to learning:

Charlie B, Nylah C, Harriet F, William P, Oliver W and Honey Mae B

Year 9

Top 10 for LEARN T points for:

Aureja, Harvey, Sophia, Riley H, Ellie-Amanda, Brogan, Michael, Elise, Alfie H, and Zuzanna.

Chaplain's Reflection

I read this the other day and it really encouraged me.
 Jesus spoke of birds once, how they wake without certainty and still sing.
 How flowers bloom without striving and still become beautiful.
 Not because life is easy, but because creation knows what we forget.
 There is something wonderful in the way birds sing before they know how the day will unfold, and in the way flowers open without forcing themselves to grow.
 Creation or nature seems to live with a quiet trust that it will be sustained and all will be well.
 Perhaps worry comes when we forget that same truth, that we, too, are held by God who cares for every sparrow and every field in bloom. We are also held by those around us and those who love us too.
 In closing, whatever you are concerned or worried about today, you are held and you are loved.

Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

He is only a prayer away. God bless you all.



Making Change!

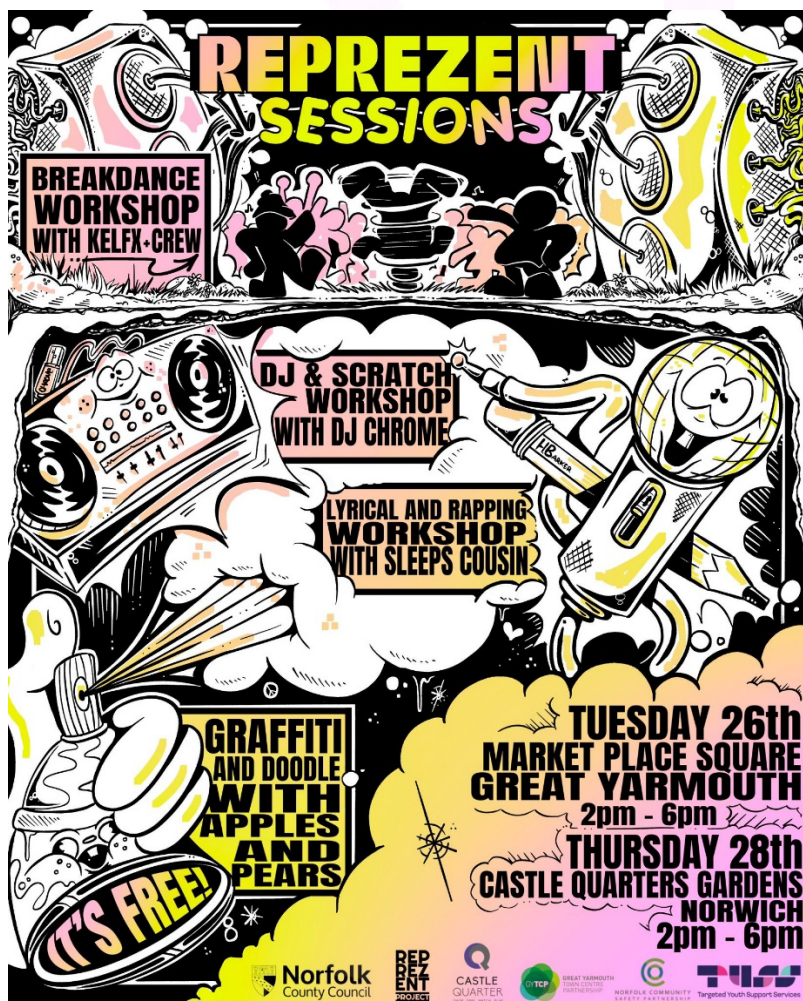
APPLY NOW

SUMMER SCHOOL

Are you aged 16-18 and living or studying in Norwich North? Do you want to learn how to make a real difference in your community? This summer, your local MP Alice is offering an exciting, hands-on opportunity to do exactly that.

FOR 16-18 YEAR OLDS | NORWICH NORTH | 20-25TH JULY 2026

Alice Macdonald MP
Norwich North



REPRESENT SESSIONS

BREAKDANCE WORKSHOP WITH KELFX-CREW

DJ & SCRATCH WORKSHOP WITH DJ CHROME

LYRICAL AND RAPPING WORKSHOP WITH SLEEPS COUSIN

GRAFFITI AND DOODLE WITH APPLES AND PEARS

IT'S FREE!

TUESDAY 26th
MARKET PLACE SQUARE
GREAT YARMOUTH
2pm - 6pm

THURSDAY 28th
CASTLE QUARTERS GARDENS
NORWICH
2pm - 6pm

Norfolk County Council | REP REZ ENT PROJECT | CASTLE QUARTER | GREAT YARMOUTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP | NORFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP | TUS Targeted Youth Support Services

Now accepting applications for 2026-27!



What is Future You?

Future You brings together young people from across East Anglia with experience of care to gain information and insight into university life, and to explore their options about Higher Education.

Who can apply?

Future You is for young people who are care-experienced or known to a social worker and in Year 9-11, and unaccompanied asylum seeker children in Year 9-13.

Activities coming up:

- ★ University and College Campus Tours
- ★ Subject Taster Days
- ★ Study Skills Workshops
- ★ Post-16 Pathways and Apprenticeships sessions
- ★ English and Maths Tutoring

FREE sessions!

Transport provided

Sign up:

Any questions? Email:
futureyou@admin.cam.ac.uk



Delivered by NEACO University and College partners. Developed in consultation with Norfolk, Suffolk, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Virtual Schools.

neaco

King's College, Cambridge | Saturday 27th June 2026

future
you

SUMMER CELEBRATION EVENT

FREE event
+ travel

Come along to experience student life:

- ★ Tour of King's College, Cambridge
- ★ Brunch in the historic dining hall
- ★ Education and Apprenticeships pathways workshop
- ★ Creative spoken-word session from The Rap School
- ★ Meet Student Ambassadors and fellow Future You'ers!

Sign up by June 1st:

Any questions? Email:
futureyou@admin.cam.ac.uk



For care-experienced young people. Carers and guardians welcome!
Student Finance and Support session for carers delivered by Become.

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