

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

“Take courage”

MATTHEW 14:27

26 June 2026

Dear Families

It has been a busy and uplifting week here at Open Academy, with the theme of Service running through everything we have done together as a school community.

This Week's Theme: Service

Our Collective Worship sessions this week have explored Service, through the lens of Leviticus 19:33-34. In this passage, God instructs His people to treat anyone living among them as one of their own, loving them as themselves and remembering what it means to be an outsider. It is a powerful reminder that true community is built not on who we already know, but on how we welcome, include and care for those around us. Our students have had the chance to put that message into action this week.

Fashion Show in Support of The Hamlet Charity

On Thursday evening, our student leaders, many of whom are working towards their Archbishops' Young Leader Award, hosted a fantastic circus-themed Fashion Show in partnership with The Hamlet Charity, a local Norfolk charity that has spent more than 50 years transforming the lives of children, young people and adults with disabilities across the county.

The evening was about far more than fashion. It raised both funds and awareness to help the charity renovate and improve its facilities, including upgraded activity spaces and modernised environments for the people it supports. It was a brilliant example of our students using their creativity and leadership to make a genuine difference in their community. For me, this was service in action, and a fitting tribute to this week's worship theme.

Thank you to everyone who came along, bought tickets or supported the event in any way, and a particular thank you to Mr Dilley for his leadership of our Student Leadership team in bringing the evening together.

Timetables Roll Over: A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome for Year 11

This week also marked an important point in our school calendar, as our timetables rolled over for the remainder of the summer term. Our new Year 11 students have begun their first full round of Post-Public Examinations (PPEs), an important step as they build towards their GCSEs next year.

At the same time, we said a fond and proud farewell to our outgoing Year 11 cohort at their Prom this week. Huge thanks to Mrs Hindry for organising such a special send-off; we wish every one of our leavers every success as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Thank You for Your Resilience This Week

It has also been a week of high temperatures, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to students, staff and families alike for the patience, flexibility and good humour shown throughout the heatwave.

Looking after one another in hot weather is its own quiet form of service, and our community has done this brilliantly.

The forecast looks cooler from Monday, so normal summer term uniform expectations will resume, with students expected to be back in their ties.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. With best wishes for the weekend ahead.

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

Royal Norfolk Show – Carnival of Cultures



It is always a joy to see our young people immerse themselves in the arts, and the last two days have been truly exceptional. Our 15 students involved in the *Bugsy Malone* production had the incredible opportunity to perform at the Royal Norfolk Show, taking to the stage in front of the Princess Royal as part of a specially commissioned piece titled *Umoja*. What a proud and memorable moment for everyone involved.

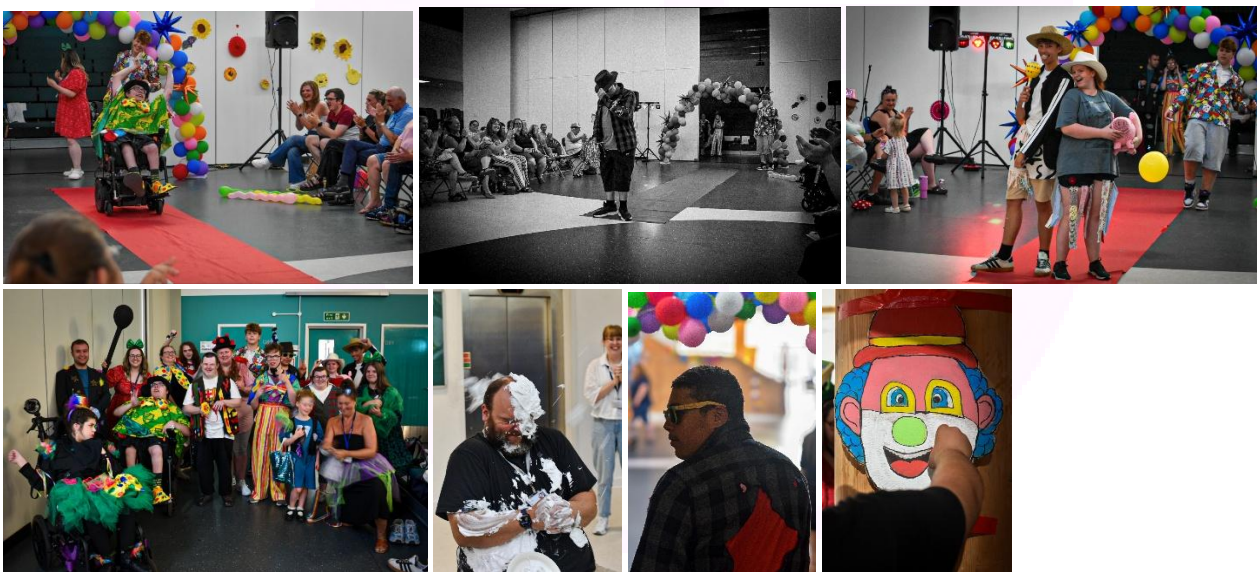
We were also delighted to welcome the Norfolk African Choir into our school, where they led an inspiring and enriching workshop for our students. This experience has been nothing short of

remarkable for those involved in the Carnival of Cultures — not only performing for such a distinguished audience, but in doing so with determination and spirit during the challenges of the summer heat.

Their resilience shone through and they performed beautifully alongside the Norfolk African Choir. We are incredibly proud of what they have achieved. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Ormosi and Miss Hawthorne for their support over these unforgettable days.

Mr Corfield
Teacher

Fashion Show Triumph at the Open Academy



60 members of the local community last night witnessed a true celebration of diversity and inclusion at the Open Academy. In collaboration with the Hamlet Charity (a local organisation doing incredible local work supporting both children and adults with disabilities), a group of student leaders helped plan, make items for, organise and lead a fashion show extravaganza, promoting adaptive clothing for people with disabilities, as part of their National Youth Leader Award.

Guests were welcomed with a variety of carnival games, baked goods and a particularly popular chance to splat the teacher. Then came the main event - a fashion show, MC'd by our very own Head Student and compare extraordinaire Leo C where both students from the academy and recipients of support from the Hamlet Charity, modelled in spectacular fashion a range of adaptable clothing.

Seeing the community brought together in this way was an incredible sight and would not have been possible without the dedication, creativity and organisational flair of the Hamlet Charity. Led by Bryony and Hannah who gave our student leaders an incredible opportunity to develop their leadership skills, understand more about the community we live in and be part of something truly

unique and special. Thank you so much to the Hamlet Charity for making this possible, your work is essential to the community and having the opportunity to work with you is incredibly special and important.

A final thank you to Mr Corfield as musical director and Ms Wenlock and Mr Richardson for their support on the night.

Mr Dilley
Head of Student Leadership

Year 10

It has been lovely to see Year 9 students move into Year 10 and start their options classes. I have numerous responses from staff praising so many students, please read below:

- Art was superb – Mr Walters
- Amazing work by so many in their first textiles lessons – Miss Rednall
- Great engagement in PE – Mr Lambert
- Too many names to mention individually, but a very positive start in general from 10His1 this week – Mr Crawford
- Definitely a shout out students for their brilliant and speedy work in maths solving multi-step equations – Miss Hamill
- Fab and mature answers to the class debate in history today – Miss Hamill
- Shout out to all of the Y10 DT class for their great attitude to learning in their first GCSE DT lesson. Their behaviour was great and they were really engaged in the new topic – Miss Rednall
- I am so impressed with my business class - their attitude and their work ethic has been exceptional, and I am so glad they all chose the subject – Mr Dilley
- Excellent start to their sets in science – Mr Stephen
- An amazing start to the Year 10 geography course by literally every student in the class. Fantastic presentation work in their new books, pie graphs, notes and diagrams all to a high standard and many students were involved asking or answering questions throughout. Well done all – Mr Mundy

Mr Lambert and Mrs Hindry
Year Team

Battle of the Houses

We are looking forward to inviting friends and family into the academy on Thursday, 2 July to watch the hotly contested *Battle of the Houses*. The evening's performance promises to showcase some of the musical, singing and dancing talents within the school as well as seeing which house is victorious overall.

Doors will open at 5.45pm with the first house to perform starting at 6pm. There is no charge for this event, however we will be asking for donations for refreshments.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

Gardening Club

The flowers are thriving in our allotment garden despite the weather, but we need more students on the watering rota!

If you are interested, please come and see me.

Miss Lloret-Blackburn
Teacher



Chaplain's Reflection

Just to encourage you this week. You make a difference in this world, you are loved and you are valued. I read this story and it encouraged me.

The Starfish on the Shore

One morning, after a storm, thousands of starfish were stranded on a beach. As the sun rose higher, they began to dry out.

A young girl walked along the shore, picking up starfish one by one and gently throwing them back into the sea.

An older man watched her for a while and then said, "There are thousands of starfish here. You can't possibly save them all. What difference does it make?"

The girl picked up another starfish, tossed it into the water, and watched it swim away.

Then she turned to the man and said, "It made a difference to that one."

Never ever underestimate who you are. You may not change the whole world, but you make a difference. Go into this week knowing with all that you face, you are life changers. The world needs you.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Galatians 6:9

God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND