

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

"Take courage"

MATTHEW 14:27

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026

A Word from the Principal

Dear families,

This week our theme has been **Respect**. In collective worship we have been thinking about Psalm 139:14:

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

This verse reminds us that every person carries God's fingerprints. Nobody is an accident. Nobody is ordinary. When we really believe that, respect follows naturally. We listen to each other. We choose kind words. We value people who are different from us.

I have seen this kind of respect all around the school this week – from Year 10 historians listening carefully in their lessons, to the warm welcome our students gave to visitors at Open Evening. You can read about some of the highlights below.

Open Evening: Welcoming Our Future Students

A lovely evening

This week we held our annual Open Evening for Year 6 families. It was lovely to meet so many young people who are excited about joining secondary school.

Our visitors took part in activities all around the school. It was great to see them getting stuck in, asking questions and having a go. We hope they went home with a real sense of what makes Open Academy special.

Thank you

Thank you to every member of staff and every student who helped. You showed our visitors what Aspiration, Perseverance and Respect look like every day. If you know a family with a child in Year 6, please tell them about us – we would love to welcome them.

Applying for a Year 7 place for September 2027?

The closing date for secondary school applications is **Saturday 31 October 2026**. Families apply online through the Norfolk County Council website.

Year 7 Science: Scientists at Work

Looking closely



Year 7 have been learning to use microscopes. They looked at a very thin slice of a blood vessel on a glass slide. Under the lens, they could see the thick wall of the vessel and the tissue around it.

Using a microscope takes patience. You have to turn the focus slowly and carefully until the picture becomes sharp. It is a skill that real scientists use every day, and our students are learning it from the very start of Year 7.

Feeling the heat



Year 7 also investigated melting points. They warmed a solid in a beaker of hot water and checked its temperature every 30 seconds, using a thermometer and a stop-clock.

They wrote their results neatly in a table so they could spot the moment the solid turned into a liquid. Careful measuring, accurate recording and looking for patterns – this is how real science works. Thank you to our Science team for sharing these photos.

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Year 10 Food: Pasta From Scratch

Rolling it out



Year 10 made their own fresh pasta this week, completely from scratch. They mixed and kneaded their dough, then fed it through a pasta machine to roll it into long, thin sheets.

Next, they cut the sheets into ribbons. It takes a steady hand and lots of practice to get the dough just right – not too sticky and not too dry.

A sauce of their choice



Students then chose and cooked their own sauce to go with their pasta. Some made a creamy sauce with ham. Others made a rich tomato sauce with red onion. The results looked (and smelled) delicious!

Star cook: a special well done to **Angel C** for making a delicious pasta dish – fantastic work! Thank you to Miss Luter for another brilliant practical lesson.

Year 10 History: Going Green

What is green pen work?

After an assessment, students use a green pen to improve their answers. They read their teacher's feedback, then correct and add to their own work. It is one of the best ways to make real progress.

Well done, 10His1 and 10His4

Mr Lambert, our Head of Year 10, has been seriously impressed with these two classes. They have completed **outstanding green pen work** on their 9-mark History assessments.

They have been brilliant in their green pen lessons: listening, focusing, putting in loads of effort and working really hard to improve. That is Perseverance and Respect in action.

Quiz them!

These students are fanatical about their topic, Medieval crime and criminals – and they would love to be quizzed about it. If you have a Year 10 historian at home, why not ask them what a “hue and cry” was, or how trial by ordeal worked?

Support for Families: Growing Minds

We are sharing information about Growing Minds, a service that supports children, young people and their families.

Autism assessments – launching January 2027

The waiting list is **now open**. Assessments are available face-to-face in Norfolk, or online across the UK. The process includes questionnaires, two appointments with a clinician and a team meeting with a psychologist. Families then receive a full report in line with NICE guidelines.

Therapy

Growing Minds also offers one-to-one support for children and young people. This can help with anxiety and worries, confidence and self-esteem, managing emotions, friendships, coping with change and understanding neurodivergence.

Please note: Growing Minds is an independent service and is not part of Open Academy. We share this for information only. Please contact them directly to find out more, including any costs. If you have any concerns about your child's needs, our SENDCo is always happy to talk with you.

Find out more about Growing Minds

Email: hello@growingmindssupport.co.uk

Website: www.growingmindssupport.co.uk

Chaplain's Reflection

In the academy this week, we have been looking at how we are **fearfully and wonderfully made** in our collective worship.

Sometimes we can label ourselves by the situations or problems we face in life. I know in my own mind the labels life tries to give me when things don't go according to plan. In all this, **Psalm 139:14** reminds us: *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

Fearfully means **with awe and reverence** – we are made in a way that is remarkable.

Wonderfully means **uniquely and amazingly** – there is nobody exactly like you.

Our problems may be part of our story, but they are not who we are. God sees beyond the labels of life and the words we give ourselves. He sees our value, our potential, and the person we were created to be.

I want to encourage you: never let your circumstances define your identity. You are more than your problems, your labels, or anything life throws at you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You are precious. You are priceless.

God bless you.

Mark Pimlott, Chaplain

Thank you, as always, for your support, have a restful weekend.

With every blessing,

Dan Bagshaw

Principal, Open Academy