

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

"Take courage"

MATTHEW 14:27

11 SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Families

It has been a busy and positive start to the new term, and there is lots of news to share below, along with some important dates for your diary.

This Week's Focus: Take Courage

In our assemblies this week, we have been reflecting on our school vision and values through a well-known story from the Bible, found in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 14.

Peter saw Jesus walking towards him on the water during a storm. Jesus called out to him, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Peter found the courage to step out of the boat, and when he began to sink, Jesus reached out straight away and caught him.

This story reminds us that courage does not mean feeling no fear. It means moving forward even when things feel uncertain, and trusting that support is there when we need it. We have linked this message to our three core values of Aspiration, Perseverance and Respect, and we are encouraging every student to take courage this year: to aim high, to keep going when things are hard, and to treat others well along the way.

Great Work Postcards

We are excited to launch our new Great Work Postcards this term. The postcards feature original artwork designed by our own Year 11 students, and staff will use them to recognise pupils who work hard, produce great work and consistently do the right thing.

Postcards are given out sparingly, so that they really feel special. If your child receives one, you will also get a short email from their teacher explaining exactly what they did to earn it. We hope you will enjoy celebrating these moments together at home.

Dates for Your Diary

Year 7 Camp: Parent and Carer Information Meeting

Tuesday 15 September 2026, 5:00–6:00pm, at Open Academy.

Come along to find out everything you need to know about Year 7 Camp, including activities, the itinerary, what to pack, costs, and how it supports your child's growth, confidence and friendships.

Any questions? Please contact Miss Luter: bobbie.luter@open-academy.org.uk

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School Photographer

Wednesday 16 September 2026

Our school photographer will be visiting Open Academy next week. Please ensure your child comes to school looking their best on the day. Further details about ordering photographs will follow separately.

Around Open Academy

A Fantastic Start for Year 7

Well done to our new Year 7 pupils for a brilliant first week at Open Academy! Staff have been really impressed with how positive and enthusiastic they have been since joining us. There have been a few small teething problems, such as finding their way to lessons, but pupils have settled in quickly and have not been afraid to ask for help when they need it. A wonderful start to secondary school.

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Thank You, Year 11 Parents

A big thank you to all parents and carers of our Year 11 pupils. Since the start of term, Year 11 has achieved a fantastic average attendance of 93%. Your support in getting your child into school makes a real difference, as good attendance is one of the biggest factors in making good progress. Thank you for helping to set strong foundations for a successful final year at Open.

Phone Pouch Replacements

If your child needs a replacement phone pouch, orders can now be placed through our dedicated Phone Pouch Replacement Portal, using the QR code or web address below.



store.schoolphonepouch.co.uk/openacademy

Chaplain's Reflection

This week in school we have been focusing on our Christian vision and values, through the story of Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water. It took great faith and courage for Peter to do this, and he broke through his fear to do the impossible.

When Peter took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink. But Jesus reached out straight away and led him safely back to the boat. As soon as they stepped in together, the storm stopped and peace was restored.

I love how Jesus caught Peter and walked him back to safety. We all walk through stormy waters in life from time to time. Do we have people around us who can help guide us to safety and peace? If not, I would encourage you to ask someone to be that person for you. And in turn, are we willing to be that person for someone else, just as Jesus was for Peter?

Jesus really is the Prince of Peace, and He is only a prayer away.

God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott, Chaplain

With thanks for your continued support

Dan Bagshaw

Principal