

# The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

*“Take courage”*

MATTHEW 14:27

12 June 2026

Dear Open Academy Families

From a remarkable act of community recognition to the milestone of our Year 11 students completing their time with us, this has been a week that embodies everything we hold dear at Open Academy. Our theme of Respect feels deeply fitting: respect for one another, for the community we serve, and for the journey every young person is on. This is perhaps best summed up by the scripture we see in Galatians 3:28, “All one in Christ.”

This captures the breadth of what respect truly means — not just courtesy, but a genuine honouring of every person we encounter. It is a quality I see demonstrated daily across our school community, and the stories in this bulletin are wonderful evidence of that.

## Year 11: A Final Day to Celebrate

Today is the last official school day for our Year 11 students. After months of hard work, revision, and examinations, it is time for them to step back and reflect on an extraordinary journey. Our Leavers’ Assembly saw staff, students, and the wider community mark this milestone properly, a celebration of everything our Year 11 cohort has achieved and the values they have carried throughout their time here. My thanks to Mrs Hindry for leading this!

To every member of our Year 11 cohort and their families: we are incredibly proud of you. Courage in every step.

## Timetable Rollover — Monday 22 June

From Monday 22 June, we will be rolling over to our new timetables across all year groups. This is a planned and positive step as we prepare for the 2026–27 academic year, and students will move into their new classes, subjects, and timetable structures ahead of September.

We want to ensure this transition is smooth for everyone. If you have any questions about your child’s new timetable once it has been shared, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

## **Year 9: Options Confirmed**

We are delighted to share that Year 9 students have received confirmation of their GCSE option subjects this week. This is an exciting moment — the choices they have made will shape the direction of their studies as they move into Years 10 and 11, and we have been genuinely heartened by the enthusiasm across the year group. Students will commence their studies from our timetable rollover date on 22 June.

## **A Recognition to Be Proud Of**

This week, Year 10 student Chakib and Mr Dilley had the privilege of attending a lunch with the Bishop of Norwich — a wonderful occasion that brought together members of our church school community.

During the lunch, Chakib was formally presented with a certificate by Bishop Graham, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and the values he embodies within our school community. This is a truly special honour and one that reflects Chakib's character beautifully. Congratulations, Chakib. You are a credit to yourself, to your family, and to Open Academy. We could not be more proud.

## **The Big Future — A National Survey for Students**

All students will shortly receive an email containing a link to a survey called 'The Big Future'. This survey has been commissioned by the Children's Commissioner and offers our young people a genuine opportunity to have their voices heard at a national level.

The Children's Commissioner has said: "At a time of significant change for children and young people, it is more important than ever that their views are reflected in policy making. Through this survey, I can take the voices of your students directly to the centre of government."

We would encourage all students to take a few minutes to complete the survey thoughtfully. This is a meaningful chance to contribute their perspective to decisions that will affect young people across England, and it is precisely the kind of active citizenship we want to foster at Open Academy.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Dan Bagshaw  
Principal

## Year 7

Congratulations to Evangeline, Immy, Emily, Jack B, Terrell, Jacob K, Luca, Phoebe, Shelby and Isobel who achieved 95% in their Spanish Homework quiz. And thank you to the over 100 students that took part - Miss LLB

Well done to Hannah, Arda, Cameron, Sam, Gabriel, Lincoln, Shanelli, Jess and Tallulah for doing everything they can to do well in their first Spanish PPE, including lots of homework - Miss LLB

## Bishop of Norwich School Ambassadors Lunch



On the 9 June, the Open Academy were invited to the Bishop of Norwich School Ambassadors Lunch at the Bishop's residence in the centre of Norwich, to celebrate the work of students in the Church of England community who have gone above and beyond in their work as School Ambassadors.

Our very own Head Student, Chakib was nominated for and received an award for his many contributions as Head Student. From organising and leading charity and house events to chairing meetings and supporting the mentoring system, Chakib has shown he is developing into an exceptional leader and a great representative of our values here at Open.

Congratulations Chakib!

Mr Dilley  
Head of Year 7 and Student Leadership

## Press Release

The following article appeared in the Norfolk and Suffolk Careers Newsletter this week:

### Norfolk Highlights

#### Stereotype & Careers Myth Busting at Open Academy

The recent Stereotype & Careers Myth Busting event at Open Academy in Norwich brought together representatives from a wide range of industries to challenge perceptions and open up honest conversations about careers.

Year 7 students took part in an activity where representatives described their roles without using job titles. Rick Notely, Director of marketing firm Rimano, described his role as *"helping businesses understand how to get and keep people's attention,"* which led to some interesting assumptions based purely on appearance, before questions began to dig deeper.

The students were well prepared by Dr Caroline Davies, Careers Leader and Chris Dilley, Head of Year 7. Chris's enthusiasm on the day, alongside other staff in the classrooms, encouraged some excellent questions from students, and a few from staff too.

As the session progressed, students moved beyond first impressions, asking thoughtful questions and making stronger connections to areas such as AI, design and social media. Even on a hot Friday before half term, their curiosity and engagement stood out.

A key theme throughout the morning was the reality of career journeys. As reflected by Rick and others involved, success is rarely about a straight path. **Soft skills, trying new things and building experience over time** were highlighted as just as important as qualifications.

Feedback from the school highlighted the impact of the session. As Caroline shared:

*"A huge thank you all who gave up their time to take part and engage with Open Academy students. Staff and students alike had a great time and it's genuinely fantastic to hear your feedback and understanding of how events like these really have such a positive and lasting impact on young aspirations and ambitions!"*

Events like this show the impact of bringing employers into schools. Sometimes it only takes one conversation or new perspective for something to click with a young person.

## 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.



## Chaplain's Reflection

The below poem is such an encouragement for this journey of life.

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.  
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.  
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.  
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,  
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed  
that during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from  
anguish, sorrow, or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you,  
you would walk with me always.  
But I have noticed that during  
the most trying periods of my life  
there have only been one  
set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most,  
you have not been there for me?"

**The Lord replied,**

**"The times when you have  
seen only one set of footprints,  
is when I carried you."**

***Mary Stevenson***

Maybe things are difficult at the moment, but be encouraged that through everything, you are supported, carried, and loved.

**Hebrews 13:5**

For God has said,

"I will never fail you; I will never abandon you."

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain