

Principal's Bulletin – 14 November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been an important one for reflection, remembrance, and looking ahead.

On Monday, we marked Armistice Day with a service at the war memorial in Eaton. Our Head Students, Leo and Chakib, represented the Academy with great dignity as they laid a wreath on behalf of our school community. I was particularly proud of Ewan, our talented Standard Bearer, who serves as the Royal British Legion County Youth Standard Bearer. Ewan also performed at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday and took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade in Norwich. His contribution to these significant national events is truly remarkable, and we are incredibly proud of him.

We were also delighted to welcome a delegation of teachers from China to the Academy this week. Their visit was an opportunity to share best practice, discuss education in the UK, and showcase the wonderful work happening at Open Academy. Our visitors spoke highly of our staff, students, and facilities.

Next week, our Year 11 students begin their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). We wish them all the very best - this is an important opportunity to demonstrate what they know and identify where further support may be needed ahead of the summer exams. Thank you in advance for all the encouragement and routines you help establish at home; it really does make a difference.

On Wednesday, staff took part in training on Go4Schools, a new system that will strengthen how we track and monitor academic performance across all subjects. This will allow us to target support and challenge with even greater precision. Once the system is fully embedded, we will be running a small trial for parental access. If you would be interested in taking part, please contact the school office.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Dan Bagshaw
Principal

PE



Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who played in the basketball tournament on Wednesday against Sprowston and Broadland.

Jessica S was awarded MVP for Open, she was nominated by the Iceni Ladies who were running the tournament.

Well done to Bianca, Jess, Ameera and Megan K for excellent contribution to Year 10 and Year 11 Netball games on Tuesday. All girls played exceptionally well even though they are out of age.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Trail
Teachers

Year 7

Congratulations to all Year 7s receiving praise from staff this week. Year 7 have made a wonderful start to life in their new school and we are so proud of their progress. Special mentions go to...

- Example of good homework from a year 7 - Dea G – Mrs McEvoy
- The whole of Year 7 have been working really hard in preparation for their house drama performances. Currently 7D have worked with excellent commitment, but 7R are great with their collaboration skills. 7C have been getting top marks for creativity, whilst 7I are clearly communicating their story - it's going to be a tough competition to judge – Mrs Omosi
- Shelby B, Alice J and Lorelli MW for consistently good behaviour and effort in English lessons – Miss Roberts
- Dami R and Evie Jane M for outstanding effort in class, completing work and helping others who need support – Mrs Marsham
- Terrell, Dea, Frankie and Jaxson for history. Ruby, Dea, Harper and Melissa for art. Harvey, Jack, Immy, Damang, Isobel and Finn for Spanish – Mrs Llorret-Blackman
- Junior K and Aurora-A F for engagement/contributions in English – Mrs Napthen
- Chakib, Theo, Lily, Ella, Ellie, Leo, David, Summer, Mackenzie, Caitlyn who have all been enrolled on the Youth Leader Award and are now working on their first project.

Mr Dilley
Teacher

Year 8

Shout outs this week:

- India H for during starter question, explaining and sharing methods to use to answer sentence questions in maths.
- Samuel K, Ebony C, Aiden G, Mason C and Ripley H for having a great lesson in Spanish.
- Summer B, Taras M, Jenson C, Mohammed M, Charlie B, Izabelle W and Isabella C for working hard in maths.

Mr Pickup
Teacher

Year 9

Shout outs this week:

- 9D, 9I and 9D for being phenomenal in their EA1 History assessment – Mr Pickup
- Elise S showing understanding of math methods with excellent working out.
- Teja M for fantastic contributions in English lessons.
- All my form who have been delightful all week: Dymtro, Joel, Jess, Sabine, Matthew, Phoebe, Lily, Esme, Daniel, Rose, Ellie, Megan, Amalie, Ayo, Emily, Edward and Kaylen – Mrs Lloret-Blackman
- Great work in my Year 9 rugby class for their final lesson on rugby – Mr Lambert

Mr Lambert
Teacher

Year 11

Supporting your child in their PPE

With PPE1 next week, we know this can be a challenging time for students. Your support at home can make a huge difference to their confidence and performance. Here are a few practical ways you can help:

1. Encourage a balanced routine
Help your child plan a realistic revision timetable that includes breaks, healthy meals, and enough sleep. Short, focused bursts of revision are far more effective than late-night cramming.
2. Talk positively about the mocks
Remind your child that mock exams are an opportunity to learn, not something to fear. They help identify strengths and gaps so teachers can give extra support where needed. It's a chance to build good habits for revision and get used to what sitting the GCSE will feel like.
3. Offer encouragement and reassurance
Celebrate effort, not perfection. A simple "You're doing well" can go a long way in reducing stress and boosting motivation.
4. Support with organisation
Ensure they have basic equipment (pens, calculator, ruler, etc.) and know their exam timetable. Being prepared helps reduce anxiety on the day.

5. Promote healthy habits

Hydration, regular movement, and early bedtimes with good amounts of sleep all improve focus and memory. In the morning, please ensure they have a good healthy breakfast to fuel their mind.

6. Being Punctual

Ensure students are in school on time so that they are not rushing around and panicking and can ensure they are in the right mindset to approach the exam with the best attitude.

If you have any concerns or feel your child needs additional support, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Hindry or myself. Together, we can help every student approach their mocks with confidence and with the best chance for success.

Year 11 Shoutouts

- Caitlin for maths for doing lots of work in lessons and in intervention – Mrs Power
- Max for smashing the bleep test! Amazing effort in fitness testing Tyler, Rodrigo, Jayce and Elise – Miss Trail
- Martha, Elise, Esme and Rodrigo for a fantastic attitude towards revision and their English PPE – Mrs Roberts
- Evie, Alfie and Jasmin for an awesome attitude towards their maths lessons and getting ready for their PPEs – Mr Phillips
- Charlie, Caitlin and Mia for excellent work in revision lessons in science this week – Mr Stephen
- 11M2 for their superb attitude and efforts in maths on a really challenging topic this week – Mr Bradshaw
- Tyler, Ross, Reece, Brandon, Riley B, Kayden, Olivier, Rodrigo and Sam for a brilliant attitude in preparing for their German PPE. Well done! – Miss LLB

Mr Bradshaw
Teacher

Christmas Hampers 'Random Acts of Kindness'

This year we are giving out Christmas hampers as random acts of kindness to our community again. Students are aware of this in school, but we would appreciate your support in this too. Below/attached is an item list of goods that can be donated for the hampers so please feel free to send items into the academy with your child.

Please note, it is very important that we stick to the hamper list. Perishable good vouchers can be given as well as donations. The last day for items/donations will be Tuesday, 16 December. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/ Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes



Open Academy Celebration of Christmas 2025-Save the Date

We want to welcome you all to our annual Celebration of Christmas Carol Service. This will be a great night of festive cheer for the whole of our community. There will of course be carols, student performances, snacks, and a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere.

We would love everyone in our Open Academy community to come and to invite friends and family too.

The date is Thursday, 4 December at 6.30pm and it's a free event.



Remembrance Service at St Francis Church

This Sunday, 9 November, at our Remembrance Service at St Francis Church, we remember Frank Armes who grew up in Heartsease, attended Heartsease High School, and dreamt of joining the Navy. He sadly

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lost his life in the Falklands conflict aged 21 years. Join us at 10.30am when we remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community, their families and of the emergency services and reflect on innocent civilians who have lost their lives. All are welcome.



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND