

The *Open* Way

COURAGE IN EVERY STEP, FAITH IN EVERY JOURNEY

"Take courage"

MATTHEW 14:27

18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Families

We have plenty to share from the Academy this week, including some proud moments from our Year 10 artists and important news about our student leadership elections.

This Week's Focus: Belonging and Community

In Collective Worship this week, we have been thinking about finding our place in our Open Academy family. We have talked about what it means to truly belong to a community, and why it matters that we value the presence of everyone around us, whatever they bring.

Our school value this week has been Respect, and our scripture comes from Ecclesiastes, chapter 4: "Two are better than one... if either falls, one can help the other up." It is a simple but powerful message: we are stronger together. Whether in the classroom, on the playground or at home, we hope every child in our school family knows that they belong, and that they are surrounded by people who will help them back up when things get hard.

Electing Our School Leaders

Mr Dilley has been building on this message of togetherness in assemblies this week, launching the process for nominations for our school leaders. We have had some excellent candidates put themselves forward, and we are really proud of their willingness to represent their peers.

Head Student Elections

Friday 25 September 2026.

Next Friday, students across the school will vote for their Head Students for this academic year. We look forward to sharing the results with you soon after.

Art Spotlight: Natural Forms

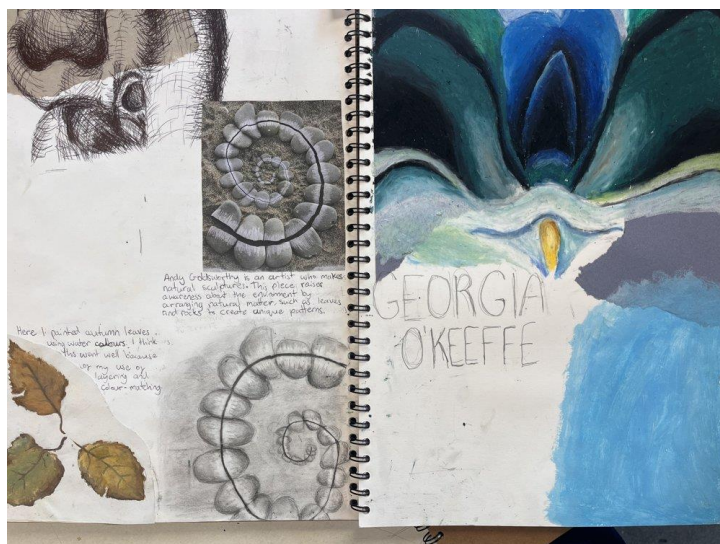
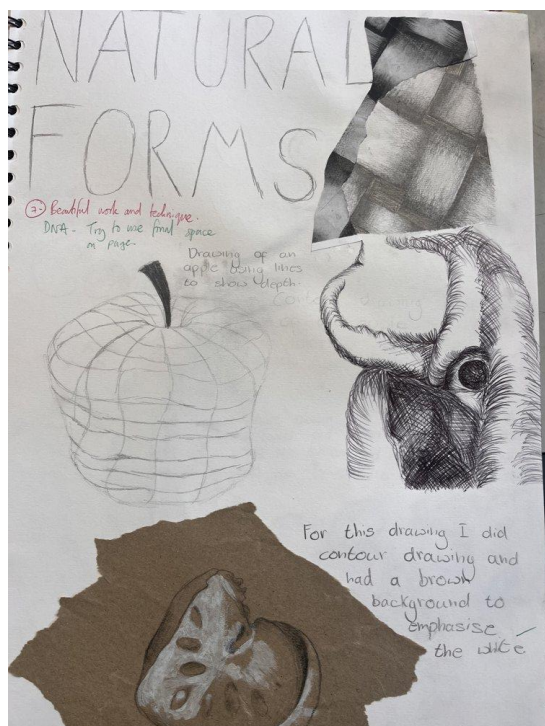
We wanted to share some beautiful presentation and tonal work from Sabine, Esme, Maxine and Amelie in Year 10 this week, produced as part of their introductory unit on Natural Forms. Their sketchbooks show real care in how they have researched artists, experimented with materials, and reflected on their own progress — exactly the kind of thoughtful, independent learning we love to celebrate.

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Year 11: Building on PPE Results

This week, our Year 11 pupils received back their Practice Public Examination (PPE) results, sat before the summer break. These results give pupils and staff an early, honest picture of where things stand as the year begins.

We would encourage all Year 11 parents and carers to talk to your child about their results, and to support them in making full use of our after-school hubs to maintain momentum this term. Consistent attendance at these sessions makes a real difference, and our staff are on hand to help pupils turn these results into strong progress ahead of their final examinations.

Around Open Academy

Celebrating Year 10

It has been great to hear so many positive comments from teachers about the fantastic work and attitude shown by Year 10 pupils since returning this term. Particular mentions this week go to Charlie Si, who has been fully engaged in his topic work, produced some great paintings, asked for help when needed and supported others in his class, and to Charlie Sm, for excellent engagement in Religious Studies. Well done, Year 10, for your amazing work and attitude across the board.

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Dates for Your Diary

Year 6 Open Evening

Thursday 8 October 2026.

We will be welcoming Year 6 pupils and their families to the academy for our Open Evening. We are looking for current pupils to volunteer as subject helpers or tour guides for the evening — it is always an enjoyable night, and a great opportunity for pupils to represent our school.

If your child would like to take part, please ask them to see Mr Richardson for a permission letter for you to sign.

Chaplain's Reflection

There are two times in the Bible when Jesus calmed a storm. In one, Jesus was in the boat with his disciples when a storm broke out, and he stopped it almost immediately. In the other, Jesus walks towards the boat through a raging storm, rescues Peter who has climbed out in faith, and only calms the storm once they are back in the boat together. That storm went on for quite a while.

We can compare these stories to the storms of life we all go through. Sometimes a difficulty passes quickly; sometimes it seems to last forever, and we have to find a way through it. Sometimes our circumstances change, and often they do not — but we find the strength, support or perspective to carry on. Notice that at the end of both stories, the storm was calmed and peace was restored.

Whatever storm you are in at the moment, hold on. It will not last forever. Trust in the One who will always be with you and will never forsake you.

God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott, Chaplain

With thanks for your continued support

Dan Bagshaw
Principal