

Open Academy Update 11 December 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the year and the last substantial one as we start to prepare for the festive season.

This week has seen a momentous occasion for Open Academy - the formal restarting of our Open Voice student council. Each year group now has a student council made up of representatives from each form group and the students leaders, prefects and ambassadors. Each of these groups chose a representative and along with the Head Boys and Girls from each year group came together in the Open Voice council meeting held on Wednesday morning.

We believe it is important that students are fully prepared to play a full part in the democratic life of our country as engaged citizens, and in order to start training them in the more formal elements of representational democracy it is important that we model it for them in school.

The year councils and whole school council will meet half termly and much of our meeting this week was aimed at deciding our terms of reference - what we should aim to achieve as a student council, and what we would like to focus on this year.

The students made some great suggestions, and we will be formally working on a number of areas for student representation for the rest of the year including the topics of bullying, equality, improving the academy and supporting students to success post COVID.

At our next meeting we will be deciding whether we will publish the agenda and minutes in this newsletter or whether we should be producing a student version of a weekly communication which will include this information.

Overall though I am delighted that another strand of our student leadership focus is now up and running, along with the visible prefects and ambassadors who are doing great work helping us on duty and showing guests around, and another great example of how our students are central to our improvement work in creating the best academy we can.

You have already had a couple of communications from me in the last couple of days regarding COVID-19 so I will not say anymore, apart from once again to thank you for your continued efforts to help us keep this community safe.

There will be no Hubs next week to allow our IT system to update.

Oh and finally - Mr Rainbird was keen to share the following link with Year 7s who are having to self-isolate [Microsoft Boot Camp](#) as there are lots of great activities to work through if you are getting bored at home - I'm sure they may be of interest to many others too!

Don't forget students finish earlier on Friday as term ends at 12.30 and despite the closeness of the festive season it is key that they remain as focussed as possible for this last week as there is still much to catch up.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the students for their patience and understanding yesterday. Parents/carers we would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and swift response for those students who we had to send home. It wasn't an easy task, but with your support we were able to have all the students who needed to self-isolate off site within a couple of hours.

We have had our first virtual learning for those students self-isolating. It is great to see so many of the students joining in the lessons. We know this is fairly new to you all and are impressed by those who have taken to it in their stride and adapted so quickly. We know you're an amazing group and we are very proud of you all. A reminder to students - you only need to spend the same amount of time on the work set as you would in a normal lesson. We are not expecting students to spend more time than normal on the work, if students haven't managed to complete all the work set within the lesson please don't worry, they should go to their next lesson as they would in school.

Useful information for logging on:

Office 365: <https://www.office.com/>
Username: firstname.surname@open-academy.org.uk
Password: Is the student's password for the school computers

Sam learning: <https://platform.samlearning.com/>
Centre ID: NR70A
User ID: Date of birth followed by two initials – first name then last name
Example: 010805DJ for David Jones born 1 August 2005
Password: Same as User ID

MathsWatch: <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>
Username: firstnamelastname@openacademy
Password: Mathswatch

If any students who are self-isolating do not have access to a computer/PC/laptop can you please let the year team know.

Congratulations to Isioma Onuchukwu and Madalyn Pirie for winning the decorating competition, they have both won a selection box. There will be more chances to win next terms competition.

Students with the most achievement points this week:

Jacob Delf
Larisa Margiean
Jayden Alden
Grace Sawicki
Amy Toms
Layla Downes
Ashs Kandola
Megan Perriton
Katy Sutherland
Keeley Youngs

The tutor group with the highest achievement points this week is D7 – well done to Mr Walters and all in D7.

Special mentions to Lily Marie Holmes and Areen Mohammed Ali for their fantastic work in German, and to Callum White for his helpfulness and hard work in Food Tech.

If any student needs a school jumper we have a small supply in school that they can try.

As usual we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, thank you for your donations for the Christmas hampers. The hampers will be delivered in the community next week.

Please see today's pictures from the Year 7 groups remaining in the Academy - we are still hard at work.



Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7
Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

No update.

Miss Lines - Head of Year 8
Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

We are nearly there, one more week to go!

Christmas lunch is on Wednesday next week. The tutor group room decoration competition will be judged on Thursday after school.

The door decorating competition will be judged at some point next week.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Georgina Barnes, Rhy-Lee Dawson, Freya Graysmark, Alfie Kay, Atanas Kyurkchiev, William Orr, Lola Pauling, Alfie Skerritt, Dalia Rosca and Samuel Yellop. Well done to you all.

Praise club members this week are:

Angelos Chatzopoulos, Lola Pauling, Hayden Purvis, Kimora Alexander and Alfie Skerritt. Well done for being chosen.

There will be no Hubs next week after school and they will continue after Christmas. Thank you for your support with attendance at these.

For those who are involved in the Sports Project I will be introducing the course to them on Wednesday at 3pm for about 20/30 minutes, I will be expecting all 30 Year 9s to be there. The Kin-Ball has been ordered and hopefully be with us for the first week back in January so I can introduce the new sport to the Sports Leaders and Academy.

Food tech students have been making delicious lasagne this week. We hope you enjoyed them!



Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9
Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

Mr Ford has led an assembly about leadership and we are very pleased with the Year 10 leadership team and the effort they are already putting into their roles. We will be providing them with support to develop in their roles and are excited to see their skills progress. Each leader has been given a lanyard and yellow card so that they can easily be identified.

Christmas lunch will be available on Wednesday, 16 December. Students should have made their choices and let their form tutor know. There will be no other hot options this day the only alternative will be baguettes and sandwiches.

Unfortunately, we still have a number of students who are not wearing their face masks correctly. Please can you remind your child how important it is to wear these in the correct way for both their own and others safety.

We are very thankful to all the students and their families who have made contributions to the Christmas hamper collection. These hampers will be delivered in the community next week and will as always be very gratefully received – THANK YOU!

This has been a very long term but our students are still working hard, our top ten achievers are:

Amber Mawby, Maisie McCormack, Jessica Ramm, Sebastian Breckons, Mackenzie Culley, Leo Hughes, James Scoones, Izzy Taylor, Tia Lawson, Bonnie Billington-Howes.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

5. Year 11 News

No update.

Mrs Pearsall - Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton - Assistant Head of Year 11

6. 6th Form News

The penultimate newsletter before Christmas!

I can't stop congratulating all students at the moment for their resilience and hard work in what has been an exhausting half term. You have shown real maturity at a time when it was needed most.

This week we also had our first ever virtual parents evening. Many thanks for those that joined it, it was lovely to see and hear so many of you!

A few reminders:

UCAS – most students have now completed the application, although a few still remain to finish. It is absolutely imperative that everything is finished and paid for by Tuesday, 15 December at the latest. Students need to pay by credit or debit card for their application (you will see where to do this on the UCAS application). Those students that have a bursary will be able to get their application paid for via the finance department. Please can students go and see Mrs Bell in the Finance office ASAP to get their application paid for.

Post 6th Form advice – please remember that students can book their own one to one sessions with Lucy if they need advice on what direction they would like to take after 6th Form.

Have a wonderful and restful weekend.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. Weekly Organisation

Whatever year your young person is in, they will be having to think about their week, taking into account activities such as homework and its deadlines, looking into next steps after GCSEs or sixth form, and leaving time for their own preferred activities.

It can be helpful for your young person to plan out the week, so they have enough time to complete tasks, and time for their own activities. This is especially relevant if your child is in sixth form, where they will need to plan their use of study and 'free' periods to complete independent work.

Your young person could use a check list of their activities, or plan out their week using a planner like the one below. They could write in their tasks, making sure there is free time included too. Or they could write activities on strips of paper or post it notes, meaning tasks can be removed when complete or moved to another day if the unexpected occurs.

As mentioned in previous weeks, your young person could also break down tasks, giving them time on different days. For example, an essay might be planned on one day, and paragraphs written on different days. Your young person might find they work best by concentrating for shorter periods of time. For example they could work for 25-30 minutes, take a short break and begin again.

If you or your young person has any questions, school have support or I can be contacted via Ms Davies.

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun

Lucy Reynolds-McKay
 Higher Education Champion, NEACO

8. Free School Meals

For those students in receipt of Free School Meals we will be arranging for free school meal vouchers to be sent to you during the Christmas holidays to cover the two week period.

Mrs Appleby
 Business Manager

9. Library News & Updates

Library Click and Collect- Making the most of our online library services

We are running a virtual click and collect service to allow students to continue to borrow reading books from the school library. The library website can be found here:

<https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/> and students log in with their school email address.

We will not be sharing a new feature this week, but encourage you to look back at the last few weeks updates, if you missed them, to find out about recommended book lists, how to check a book is available and writing book reviews.

Keep on reading over the holidays

As we are approaching the winter holidays we would also like to encourage students to keep on reading and to take Accelerated Reader quizzes for the books they have read. We are currently running a tutor competition (with a prize of chocolates on offer for the winning group) for the most engaged and highest achieving tutor group. Students have until Thursday for their quizzes to be counted.

We will also be extending our borrowing limits over the holidays. As long as students do not have any overdue books, they will be able to borrow up to 6 books over the Christmas holidays. We would also encourage families to make use of Norfolk Libraries digital services where you can access e-books, audiobooks and a range of popular magazines. You can find out more here:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/find-an-item/ebooks-and-audio>

Library Clubs and After School Access

Book clubs for Year 7, 8 and 9 will be taking place during lunchtimes next week. It is not too late to join, so if you love books and want to share your opinions with other readers we would encourage you to come along and give it a go. Year 7 book club takes place on Wednesday and Year 8 and 9 book club takes place on Monday.

The library will be open after school next week between 3-4pm, however this will only be for independent use/ study. There will not be any after school clubs next week. If your child would like to attend, please confirm their place by filling in our [sign-up form here](#). Thank you.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance

Attendance Lottery – Unfortunately, the name drawn for week ending 4 December did not have 100% attendance for the week, so there will be a rollover next week, when a student will have the chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher.

Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 11 December.

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 11 December was 92.42%. Well done all!

The whole school attendance, including 6th Form, for week ending 11 December was 92.60%.

For week 30 November to 4 December, we had an amazing 424 students who achieved 100% attendance from Years 7 to 11. We also had 43 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

Perseverance

Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In the Christmas Story we have several examples of perseverance. The three wise men in their quest to follow the star to visit and present gifts to the baby Jesus. For them the journey was very perilous, as King Herod an evil king of that day, was trying to use them to get to Jesus and kill him. They didn't give up, they gave their gifts to Jesus and didn't tell Herod a thing about it. A wonderful act of bravery.

Another time of perseverance was when Joseph and his heavily pregnant wife Mary were trying to find a place to give birth to the baby Jesus. Everywhere was full up because a census was taking place and there was nowhere for them to go. They didn't give up and eventually found a stable to lodge in.

Today we might be at a time in our lives where there seems to be nowhere to go. Trapped and overwhelmed by the trials and stresses of life and trying hard to find some peace and a place to find refuge. I want to encourage you to keep going, keep persevering. Just like Mary, Joseph and the three wise men reaching the hope that was Jesus, you will arrive at the hope of better things and a change in your circumstances too.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

12. MIND

Although many people look forward to the Christmas break, not everyone feels this way and this year may be especially difficult for some. MIND has some great information, advice and support on

- difficult feelings about Christmas and Coronavirus
- ideas for celebrating Christmas during coronavirus
- Spending Christmas alone during coronavirus

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-and-mental-health/>

Mrs Wicks
Teacher