

Open Academy Update 26 February 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to report that your children will be back in school soon! We have missed them so much and can't wait to get them back as quickly and safely as possible.

I'll try to remain brief this week as there is a lot to take in as we share the plan for our return to full time teaching for all.

It is important to note that the risks are still significant, so, as we return, it is vital that we take the extra steps we have been advised to keep everyone in the community as safe as possible.

The two main changes for risk reduction are:

- 1.** We will be asking that from when students return next week, until Easter, everyone – staff, students and visitors in the academy - **wear a face covering at all times - even in lessons.** There will be no issue for those who can't but with the majority sticking to this, it will benefit all of us.
- 2.** As students return, **we will conduct 2 lateral flow test device (LFTD) COVID-19 tests.** After the first, students will return straight home. The majority of these first tests will take place in the afternoons as per the timetable I am sharing below. The second tests will generally take place in the mornings, and, on receiving a negative result, we will allow students to return to face to face education in the academy immediately.

Obviously, it is impossible to get through everyone immediately, so as per guidance, we will be staggering the restart by Year group, prioritising the examination years and older students first, then, working up from Year 7, (according to the amount of schooling missed by the youngest years before Christmas). Effectively it means that after 2 negative tests:

- **Y11 & 13** will be back in the academy from **Monday, 8 March**
- **Y10 & 12** will join them from **Tuesday, 9 March**
- **Y7** will join them from **Thursday, 11 March**
- **Y8** will join them from **Friday, 12 March**
- **Y9** will be the last year group to restart with their second test on **Monday, 15 March**

Everyone will have been tested twice and be back in school by the morning of Monday, 15 March.

To stick to this tight timeline, it will be necessary to complete the first tests for **Key Stage 4 and 5** students **next week - on Thursday, 4 and Friday, 5 March.** We have checked and can confirm that attending the academy for their first LFTD test will not be a breach of lockdown rules!

The other thing that is vital for this to work, is that we receive your completed consent forms so that the students can have their tests.

Please complete the Consent Form here! (if you haven't done so already)

[Link To Open Academy COVID Test Form](#)

I am amazed and **delighted to report that after an initial communication just yesterday, already over half of all parents in all Year groups have completed the simple online consent form!** That is a fantastic response, and fills me with hope that we can get the rest completed by early next week as we plan the testing slots.

A few thoughts that might answer some of your questions:

- The consent form will answer many questions you may have and is quick and simple to complete
- An instruction leaflet is attached which explains how to do the test and posters are displayed in the test centre
- The students who come in for critical worker childcare have been experiencing regular testing for weeks now without any kind of issues or problems
- We only have capacity to run a certain number of tests per session and due to capacities for cleaning and space management, we cannot run every session every day
- We know one individual test, on its own may have a low accuracy rate, perhaps as low as 50%, however, when re-tests are conducted 3-5 days later, that accuracy jumps to over 90% of asymptomatic cases detected. This is why our plan involves two negative tests before return
- We will NOT be using the tests for close contact testing, as information shows the test is ineffective for this purpose. If we get a positive test once we re-start, it will be as before regarding isolating close contacts
- It is therefore vitally important that if you have any worries about whether your child may have symptoms - **KEEP THEM AT HOME!** We can send you a full PCR test kit if their symptoms appear to be COVID-19. Please DO NOT send them in any way for their test. The tests are for people who are not showing symptoms!
- We have split the days into a number of sessions to keep the numbers in the test centre manageable so, please send your child to arrive for their correct time slot. We expect the process to take around 30-60 minutes and then, if it is their first test - LFT1 - we will send them home immediately after they have completed the swab test
- If you have any worries or queries, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's Assistant Head of Year
- We have been working on a restart curriculum, so the students will have between 3 and 5 re-orientation and restart lessons as they return. We have done this once - incredibly successfully - we can do this again!
- Hubs will restart for the same students as before from Monday 15th March. We will then review who needs extra for the summer term over Easter
- It is likely that testing will switch to home testing from the second week back for all students. I won't go into that any further at this time, except to say that the aim is that before Easter, all students will have experienced 3 or 4 tests under supervision in our test centres, so should be experienced to complete the home tests once we can issue them

One final big effort around safety will hopefully get us back to face to face teaching, and then safely on to Easter, and hopefully a normal restart to the summer term thereafter.

Thank you all so much for your patience and understanding as we try to do all we can to get through this last challenge of the pandemic. The future re-starts here and I for one cannot wait!

A couple more general items from me. Firstly, I apologise that we are having to postpone the Year 9 Parents' Evening until the last week of this half term. More details will follow but there is just too much going on with the return to guarantee a good experience on the scheduled date. It will give the students a chance to complete their assessments and to see their teachers where many students could chat about options in person ahead of the evening.

Finally, please be aware that from Wednesday next week, most learning will be pre-set DARES or LOW STAKES testing, designed to either prepare students for their return, or to diagnose what learning they have and have not succeeded with during this lockdown. We are very keen that they complete all the tasks set but as we restart the academy, the live offer will be greatly diminished to make way for the LOW STAKES testing. The testing will be computer based and will inform staff where any gaps in learning may need to be addressed in HUBS after Easter. The students in HUB after Easter will change. For Year 11 and Year 13, these tests will not form the substantial part of the teacher assessments for GCSE or A-level unless there is no other evidence.

Here is a summary of our LFTD testing programme. Please ask your child to find their form group and make sure they know what time slot they need to turn up for!

Testing Timetable By FORM GROUP is shown below.

Lateral Flow Test Device (LFTD) test1 is in Yellow. The students will return home as soon as the test is taken

(LFTD) test2 is in Green. The students will return to face to face lessons once their result is negative

LFTD Testing Timetable By FORM GROUP:

Date	Day	SLOT	Session TIME	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
04/03/2021	Thursday	A	08.40-10.00	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	All 13
04/03/2021	Thursday	C	12.30-13.30	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	C11 TSM D11 MKN	HOME	HOME
04/03/2021	Thursday	D	13.30-14.30	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	I11 SRE R11 CSM	HOME	HOME
05/03/2021	Friday	A	08.40-10.00	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	All 12	HOME
05/03/2021	Friday	C	12.30-13.30	HOME	HOME	HOME	C10 KMU D10 RHA	HOME	HOME	HOME
05/03/2021	Friday	D	13.30-14.30	HOME	HOME	HOME	R10 NST I10 ERO	HOME	HOME	HOME
08/03/2021	Monday	A	08.40-10.00	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	I11 SRE R11 CSM	HOME	All 13
08/03/2021	Monday	B	10.30 - 11.45	HOME	HOME	HOME	HOME	C11 TSM D11 MKN	HOME	IN AC
08/03/2021	Monday	C	12.30-13.30	C7 ABR D7 NWA	HOME	HOME	HOME	IN AC	HOME	IN AC
08/03/2021	Monday	D	13.30-14.30	I7 RBR R7 SNA	HOME	HOME	HOME	IN AC	HOME	IN AC
09/03/2021	Tuesday	A	08.40-10.00	HOME	HOME	HOME	R10 NST I10 ERO	IN AC	All 12	IN AC
09/03/2021	Tuesday	B	10.30 - 11.45	HOME	HOME	HOME	C10 KMU D10 RHA	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
09/03/2021	Tuesday	C	12.30-13.30	HOME	C8 SDD D8 LGA	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC

09/03/2021	Tuesday	D	13.30-14.30	HOME	I8 RPH R8 CDI	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
10/03/2021	Wednesday	C	12.30-13.30	HOME	HOME	C9 TTH D9 ATH	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
10/03/2021	Wednesday	D	13.30-14.45	HOME	HOME	I9 BLU R9 AED I9 SMC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
11/03/2021	Thursday	C	12.30-13.30	I7 RBR R7 SNA	HOME	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
11/03/2021	Thursday	D	13.30-14.30	C7 ABR D7 NWA	HOME	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
12/03/2021	Friday	C	12.30-13.30	IN AC	I8 RPH R8 CDI	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
12/03/2021	Friday	D	13.30-14.30	IN AC	C8 SDD D8 LGA	HOME	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
15/03/2021	Monday	A	08.40-10.00	IN AC	IN AC	I9 BLU R9 AED I9 SMC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC
15/03/2021	Monday	B	10.30 - 11.45	IN AC	IN AC	C9 TTH D9 ATH	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC	IN AC

- Students should attend in full uniform for both LFTD Tests so they do not get into trouble for breaking lockdown restrictions.
- Students should arrive as close to their allocated time for testing as possible.
- They should be wearing masks and be socially distanced from others.
- On arrival, students should go straight to the tennis courts where further guidance will be given.
- Students must not travel in groups and any transport should continue to observe social distancing and mask advice.

Important note regarding devices issued

Students who have been issued with laptops during lockdown or prior to this are asked to return these to the Academy when they arrive for their second LFTD test.

Finally, please see the note later in this newsletter regarding the OAKC critical worker childcare and how it will continue through the re-opening phase.

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive antigen LFD or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

Kindest regards

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. OAKC

Key workers provision from Thursday 4th March - Friday 15th March.

As you are aware to open the academy, we must test students and staff, consequently with the extra demands on staffing we will only be able to offer places for key worker students from Thursday, 4 March. As students receive their second test, they will attend school as normal. Please refer to the return plan attached with the newsletter for details of the different return dates for the different year groups. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year.

Mr Wilkinson
Assistant Principal

2. KS3 Design and Technology

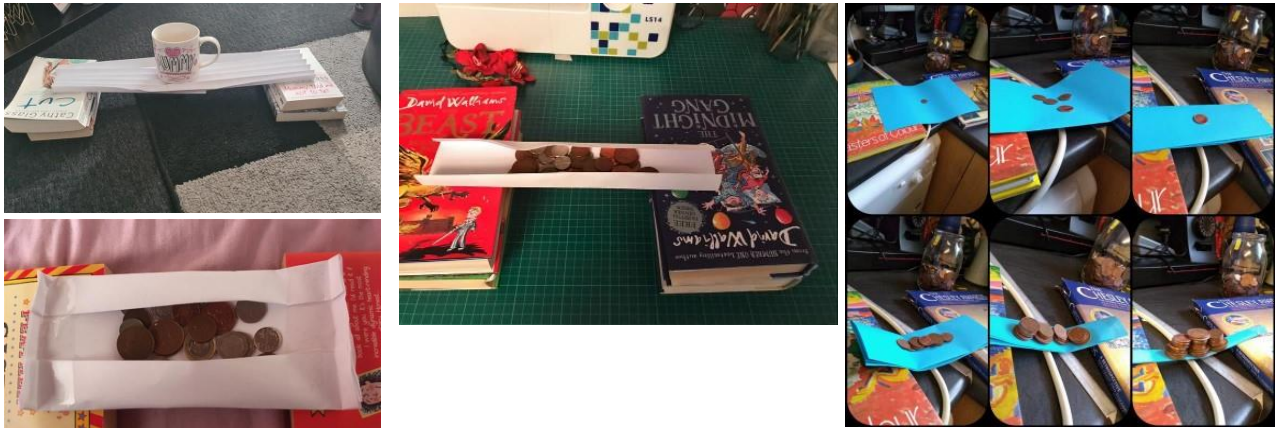
Years 7, 8 and 9 students have risen to their Design and Technology challenges during this latest lockdown. Thank you parents and carers for providing the cardboard, tools, space and support to allow our students to make some incredible models, some of them life size! Students were encouraged to investigate how structures are made stronger, how mechanisms create movement and how materials can be manipulated to improve strength. Through model making students experienced hands-on learning, were

away from their computer screens and could play with materials. Model making is an important part of Design and Technology where ideas can be tried and tested without the pressure of creating a final product and this is when creativity and innovation begins.

I hope you enjoy the photos of their wonderful creations.

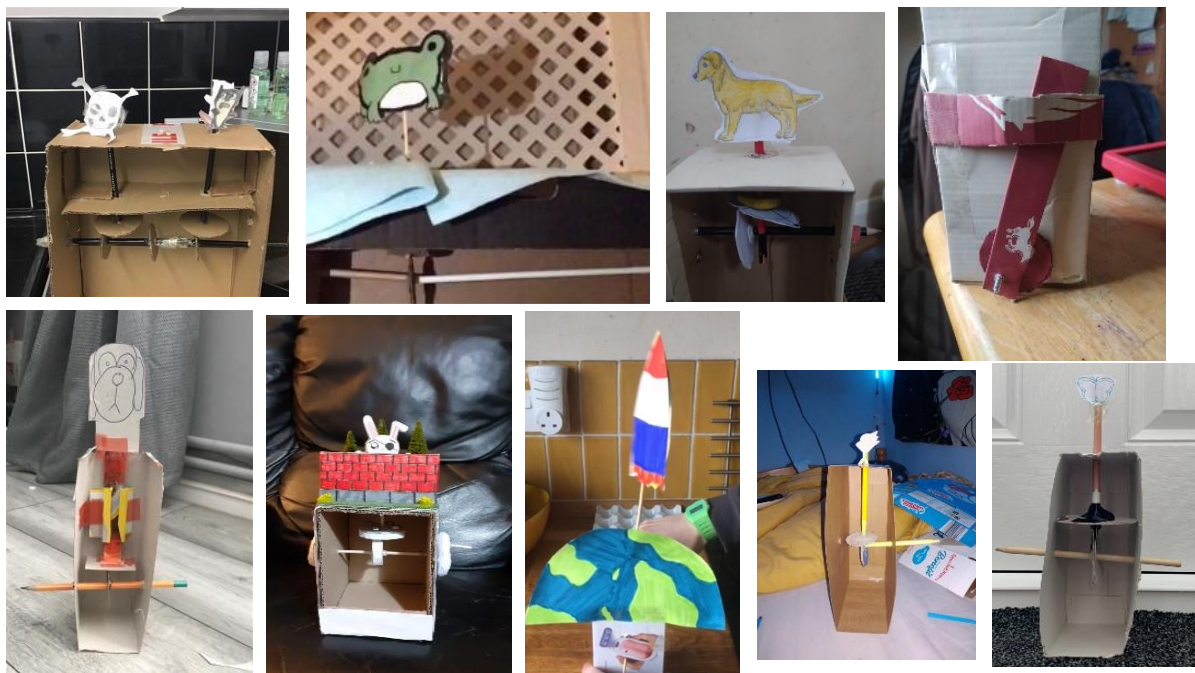
Year 7 had a challenge to build a bridge made from paper to hold coins and then a bag of sugar:

Year 7 STEM -Bridge Building



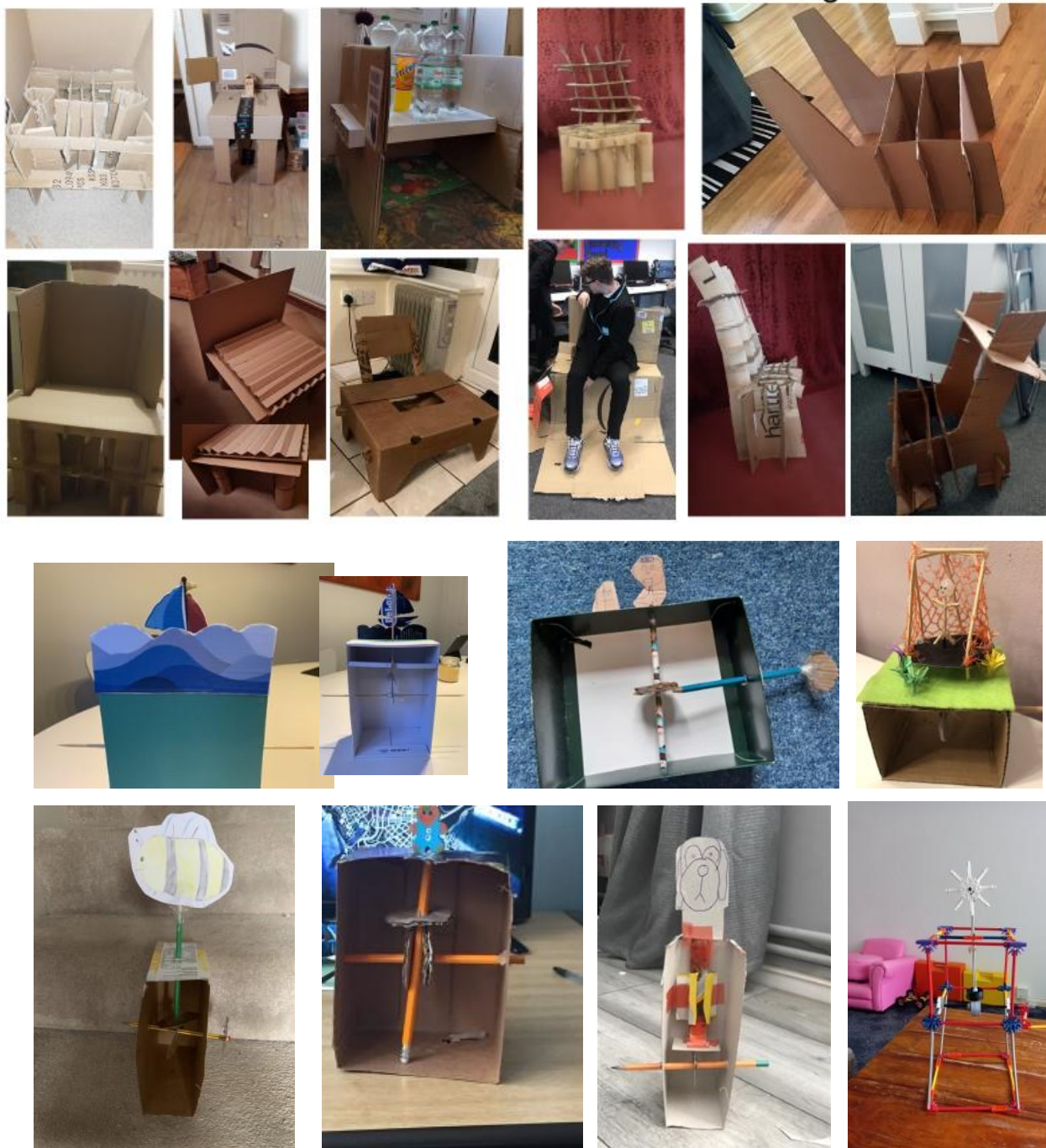
Year 8 are investigating how CAM mechanisms create movement:

Year 8 D&T –CAM mechanisms



Year 9 explored ways to manipulate and join cardboard to make a life size chair:

Year 9 D&T – Cardboard Chair challenge



Mrs Reynolds
Teacher

3. Year 7 News

Welcome to the first newsletter of this half term, we hope you all had a good week. As we turn towards Spring it brings a new beginning the air is full of positivity, the weather is getting brighter, the birds are singing and flowers are blooming, we have hope on the horizon. We are looking forward to welcoming the students back into school for the new term over the coming weeks.

As we plan the safest possible reopening all staff and pupils will be tested for COVID twice at least 3 days apart as they return. To ensure your child does not miss out on these tests it is important that you complete this quick and easy consent form by following this link:

[Open Academy COVID Test Form Link](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Lamb or Mrs Hewitt-Coleman and we will be happy to email or mail you a printed copy for students to come in with for their allotted appointment time.

Shout outs this week:

Miss Stickland- German

Harrison Young – Great work throughout lockdown – especially ThursDAREs.

Miss Jennings – English Tutor

Brandon Parfitt and Madison Gray - Tried really hard and worked really well in their English tutoring.

Miss Clayton – English

Jessie Thomas & Roman Taylor for excellent written analysis in English.

Mr Bradshaw – Maths

Big shout out to Harrison Young and Maizi Youngs for consistent excellent efforts through out the whole of lockdown.

Thank you to parents/carers for your support over the last few weeks. The Year 7s have produced some amazing work during lockdown and we are extremely proud of you all.

Mrs Hewitt- Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb – Assistant Head of Year 7

4. Year 8 News

Just a brief word from the Year 8 Team as we appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest about the return to school. Please return the consent forms for testing as soon as possible in order to make the transition as smooth as it can be and ensure that all students (unless medically exempt) are bringing masks to school in order to keep the community as safe as possible.

We're very excited to welcome students back into the academy, but if there are any unconsidered concerns not mentioned in the wider plan, please contact Mrs Smith or myself via email or phone call ahead of the 8 March.

A couple of quick shout-out's for excellent work and effort this week go to:

Hollie Smith for amazing work on percentages in Maths (Mr Phillips)

Harvey Walters for wonderful work in History (Mr Dilley)

Norah White for not missing a single piece of work since lockdown began – incredible! (Mr Gazzard)

Gemma Smith and Kai Mann for making a wonderful first impression in tutor time (Ms Cheung)

Max Lofty for his fantastic creative transformation of Hamlet this week (Ms Hatley)

Looking forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks!

Miss Lines - Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 8

5. Year 9 News

Welcome back to you all. We hope you had a restful half term break and ready to carry on with online learning for just a bit longer now and then all back together again before the Easter holidays. Thank you again to all parents, carers, siblings etc for supporting your child throughout this pandemic. We really do appreciate everything you do to support your child's learning.

As we plan the safest possible reopening all staff and pupils will be tested for COVID twice at least 3 days apart as they return. To ensure your child does not miss out on these tests it is important that you complete this quick and easy consent form by following this link:

[Open Academy COVID Test Form Link](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Lambert or Mrs Roe. We will be happy to email or mail you a printed copy for them to come in for their allotted appointment time. In all lessons students are required to wear face masks to make the site as safe as possible for everyone, this excludes any that have a medical reason not to do so.

The Year 9 scavenger hunt has been rearranged for Monday at 3 pm on Teams – get yourselves ready for a bit of chaos! Please feel free to join in with your child. Should be fun.

Shout outs this week:

From Miss Lines to Georgina Barnes, Angelos Chatzopolotos, Alfie Skerritt, William Orr, Sade Woollard, Klaudia Baranowicz, Toby Thompson, Jamil Ali, Ryan Howes, Ronan Orr and Lauren Aldous in our listening studies of Film Music.

From Mrs Clayton to Kelsey Holman, Lucy Birkett, Luke Copping, Gera Dergacovs, Jude Abramson, Ryan Howes, Teyla Young & Toby Thompson for excellent written analysis in English.

Dalia Rosca, Jamil Ali and Hannah Jordan from Mr Dilley for Drama (before half term) for really contributing well in last live3 lesson of half term - insightful comments and ideas contributed.

Big shout outs to Klaudia and Gera who have been completing some fantastic maths recently!

Klaudia Baranowica and Gera Dergacovs from Mr Bradshaw for completing some fantastic maths recently.

Well done to Hannah Jordan (again) for her painting. It featured in the DNEAT newsletter last Friday.

Please find the link below:

[Unity and inspiration in online learning A student from the Open Academy created a piece of artwork for an online lesson with a message for us all during the pandemic.](#)

Any questions or queries please contact either myself at sean.lambert@open-academy.org.uk or rachel.roe@open-academy.org.uk or on 07810 515978.

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

6. Year 10 News

As we near the end of our second time in virtual school, I've been reflecting on how remarkable most of the students have been working at home. They have shown real determination not to let the disturbance of the last year get in the way of their futures and the start to their GCSEs. I am truly in awe of how they have all worked and I'd like to thank you for your continued support in helping them to do so. I am so looking forward to greeting them all back.

We are planning for the safest possible return to school, therefore all staff and students will be tested for COVID twice at least three days apart as they return. To ensure that your child does not miss out on these tests, may I remind you to complete and return the consent form as soon as possible please, if you haven't done so already. If you are having issues accessing the form, please let us know and we can arrange for a printed copy for you that your child can return when they come in for their first test. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Roberts.

In order to ensure that our return to school is as safe as possible, may I also remind you that students will need to wear a mask at all times, unless they are eating. If you think this poses an issue for your child due to a medical condition etc. then please let us know. We found last term that on occasion students were losing or breaking their masks throughout the day, so we would be grateful if you could send them with a spare in their bag please.

As usual we have had some excellent examples of engagement and effort in students' work this week, but an extra special shout out to:

Miss Lines: Can I just make a big shout out to my whole Music class for their effort and contributions so far this week!

Mrs Clayton: Joseph Sizer for some outstanding language analysis. Alex Money, Brandon Alden, Callum Pearce, Kye Cooper, Mia Baxter, Noah Scott, Ollie Broom, Scarlett Taylor, Sophie Smith, Lauren Duff and Riley Hogarth for Engagement.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

7. Year 11 News

We are very much looking forward to students returning to school. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible and follow government guidelines we will be offering every student 2 lateral flow tests (LFT) before they return to full time in school education. Year 11 will be first to return and you will be notified of the times they need to come for testing, they will be coming in before the 8 March in preparation.

I have had the LFT every week since 4 January 2021. The first time I did it, it was a little uncomfortable, not painful but not that pleasant, now it doesn't bother me at all. I take the test because it keeps my family safe and it keeps other families safe. We have a number of students who are themselves vulnerable and/or have family at home who are. So can I please encourage you, if you haven't signed the consent form for your child, to please consider the safety of all our families and complete it asap.

When students return we expect that they will wear a mask, again this is not only to protect themselves and their family, but also the families of their friends and classmates.

We will also be expecting students to have full school uniform, line up outside the building in their tutor group and remove coats etc before being admitted. This is a reminder of what we were doing before lockdown.

It may also be worth spending some time this weekend checking if their uniform still fits, with the extra sleep and fridge raiding in our household, both my children have grown and I have to order new shirts and trousers for them.

As a staff we are really excited to welcome your children back into the academy and we will be doing everything to keep them safe and educate them as effectively as possible.

Mrs Pearsall - Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton - Assistant Head of Year 11

8. Sixth Form News

Happy first week back after half term, and happy last full week of online learning (we hope!).

Restrictions are starting to ease, we are making plans for returning to the academy, Spring is around the corner, and everything just seems lighter and brighter somehow



Safety of our return

Mr Ford will be sharing with you all the plans for returning to the academy and dates that he would like you to come in for your lateral flow tests. Students will be having two of these tests each week once we return to the academy. This will help to keep us all safer once we are all back in the building together. As well as this new change to our return, we would also like students to be **wearing their mask at all times** around the academy; this includes inside lessons and in the futures area. You can take off your masks when you are sat down and eating, but they should be popped back on afterwards. We realise that this is a big change, but this is all to keep staff and students as safe as possible. As always, we will really encourage all Sixth Formers to all try and keep a safe 2 meter distance between each other at all times. Most of our Sixth Form students have part time jobs outside of the academy and this means that they are of course going to be exposed to more people, and by keeping a 2 meter distance, we hope to reduce any risks even further.

A Level exam grades

It comes as no surprise that the majority of emails and communication that I have had from students is with regards to how their A Levels will be graded. Below is what we know so far as this stage. Please note that any assessments once we are back in the Academy will likely take place after the Easter break so that students have plenty of notice and time to revise.

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

ofqual

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement  Not graded by an algorithm  School and college assessments can continue  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence  Non-exam assessment should continue  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	 Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August  If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website  www.gov.uk/ofqual

Virtual work experience:

Please see attached a PDF that outlines some really exciting virtual work experience opportunities. Year 12 students would massively benefit from engaging with as many of these as they can, in order to start building up things to include in their UCAS personal statements.

Foodie Friday

In my never ending quest to be young and cool (I know...I don't need to try, I'm already there..!), I decided to jump on the TikTok bandwagon yet again in the kitchen and make the baked feta and tomato pasta.

Guys...this is a winner. Super easy, and super tasty. Give it a try!



Shout outs

This week's shout out is going to go to all of our Year 12 and 13. Yes, all of you! **You are an amazing bunch.** You have lived through probably THE most bizarre year that most of us adults have ever experienced, and you have done it with determination, perseverance, and mostly with a smile on your face! It has been tough, but so are all of you! The 6th Form team are immensely proud of you all and we cannot wait to be back in the academy with you all very soon!

Mrs Molloy, Head of Sixth Form

9. Career News

As we come to the end of February and the sun is shining, this is our last week for Sector of the Month - Sport and Leisure. This is a broad area which not only covers careers within professional sport, but also encompasses exciting roles within the leisure industry such as personal fitness training, event management, sports journalism and photography. We are lucky to have on the staff former Norwich City star Cedric Anselin, who runs our Sixth Form Football Programme, and he will tell you that many of our sports students have gone on to exciting careers in the world of sport both closer to home and across the Atlantic. There is considerable interest amongst younger students about careers and courses in this sector.

For a taster of the sector including links to some brilliant videos please go to: <https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/sports-leisure-35/>

National Careers Week takes place between 1-5 March and as we prepare to come back into the academy it is the perfect time for students to look at their Unifrog accounts and explore new interests and opportunities. Unifrog is recognised as the best online careers platform available and contains a wealth of up to date careers information and advice. The service can currently be accessed by students in Years 9-13 by going to unifrog.org and signing in with their Open Academy email address. From next week this opportunity will also be open to Years 7 and 8 and students in these year groups should look out for an email inviting them to create a password and set up an account. Any questions about Unifrog should be addressed to me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

10. Library News & Updates

World Book Day- Thursday, 4 March

Next Thursday is World Book Day. This is a fantastic opportunity to start up a conversation at home about books and reading, and maybe even set aside some family time to read. There will be reading related activities on offer throughout the week as well as a special ThursDARES competition. For all the detail- plus information on how to get your free £1 book - please see the World Book Day document attached to this newsletter.

Library Books at Home (and returning to school)

As students return to school over the next couple of weeks it is really important that they have a reading book as part of their equipment. We would strongly encourage all students to reserve a book using our Library Click and Collect service - students log in online and reserve a book which will then be delivered to them once we are back in school. Spending some time to browse the books next week, and reserving a book before our return, will mean they are all set to go once we are back in the academy. If they have any previous library books at home from last term, please also collect these together so they can be handed in on their return. Students can contact me on Teams or by email if they need any further support.

Students can access our click and collect website here: <https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/>
A user guide for using the online library catalogue can be found by [clicking here](#).
Alternatively, if a student is not sure what they would like to read, they [can fill in this form to request a book](#), and we will use their answers to select a book for them.
Students can also access our eBook platform to keep on reading while at home. Available anywhere, and on any device, log in here with their Microsoft email and password: <https://openacademy.eplatform.co/>

Staff Read A Long

We have started a new staff read-a-long. Each day a new chapter of our staff read is released and this term we have a sure family favourite - Peter Pan by J M Barrie.

Listen to the first few chapters here: <https://bit.ly/3uy22Le>

If you have any questions or would like any further support with reading please so contact me.

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Attendance

I hope you are all keeping well. Please remember you can continue to use the student.absence@open-academy.org.uk email to inform us of any illness of your son/daughter during this lockdown or if they are self-isolating. Many thanks.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Chaplain's Reflection

This week's reflection:

<https://youtu.be/84z1oPlkOmU>

Everyone Needs Kindness

[Everyone Needs Kindness. 25/2/21](#)

Living with the people around us with kindness and tolerance.

[youtu.be](#)

Last week we reflected on kindness and how life changing it can be. There is another word that travels directly beside kindness and that is tolerance. The ability to put up with behaviour or something that we dislike or disagree with.

This is very challenging and can bring out the worst in us if we are not careful. To be real with you, the other day I was on my way home from the academy traveling on some narrow roads. I saw a car in the distance and I thought, I will pull over and let them pass by. To be honest, it took an age for them to get to me and I started to get a bit impatient or intolerant. To top it all off, as the person went past me, they didn't say thank you, or wave or even acknowledge my act of kindness. Plus, they looked so miserable too. I'm ashamed to say, the look on my face revealed my intolerance, I was really put out and continued to mutter to myself for the rest of the way home.

On reflection of this, which is something I try to do for every aspect of my life, some sobering thoughts hit me. What if that person I was intolerant to was going through a bereavement or had just been told some bad news? Maybe they had just had an argument with a loved one or were facing a horrible situation. I didn't know anything about this person, and felt awful, but it taught me a valuable lesson "again" to never judge anyone.

This quote has had a big impact on my life. **"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about"**. These words are so true and let's be encouraged by them this week.

In closing, Jesus is a great example of tolerance. He never judged any one, always treated them equally. It didn't matter the state of their life, their race, culture or position. He loved them all the same.

Be kind to the people around you, even if they don't acknowledge it because you will be all the better for it.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers

God bless you

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain