

Open Academy Update 12th June 2020

For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Welcome to our latest update.

I will start this week with a huge thank you to everyone who has been promoting our new and more rigorous approach to the Virtual Academy. Many of you recognise how vital it is that the students need to maintain a regular work pattern and along with our uplift in expectation for work setting – we have seen very good improvements in the amount of work being completed, so to all of you who are promoting and supporting their students working from home – brilliant work – well done!

From next week we will be meeting in person where possible all of our year 12 students – invitations should be on the way shortly, where we will review how they have got on with the work set, how they are coping and what they need to do between now and September to be ready for year 13. We know these may be challenging conversations for some, however we encourage everyone to take part as they will be held from a supportive point of view and to plan the way ahead.

We will then be doing the same for year 10 students from the week beginning 22 June where the 1 to 1 conversation will examine what has been done, how well the students have engaged so far and how we will support them to catch up and or keep up from then on.

Then from the 29th Onwards we hope to be offering all year 10 and 12 one day in the Academy per week of subject specific support and teaching to help them keep up with their virtual schooling too.

There is so much in the press about schools and teachers and what should or shouldn't happen and the reality is now that we have got a very strong offer for home learning, until government advice changes, we will do all we can with you to keep the students going as well as we can. It will be small steps at first returning to the Academy, but the school work and teaching is largely in place now – so thank you for helping your children access it

Finally, another milestone moment passes for year 11 as this would have been the last day for many. Whilst we do wish you the best of luck for your future we are still very keen to bring you all together for a prom as and when it becomes possible. Obviously we hope to see many of you again soon for our virtual transition to 6th form but for now I will say go well to all!

Please note I have left in last week's well being and welfare notices after feedback saying how useful they were

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1. OVA Update

As I said at the start – great work on the increased expectations for studying from home – we are now seeing over 70% of students fully engaging in their online curriculum and more are joining in all the time.

We are now focussing our development efforts on returning work to students with feedback on how they got on, so hopefully things will become more and more 'two way' as we get further into the term

After talking to a parent around their child's experience of home learning, I know that one issue is that it can be difficult to know how to ask for help. As each subject/class your child has on their timetable has its own TEAM I would encourage them to post a brief 'I'm stuck on xxxxx' type of comment on the TEAM chat area for that group. The teacher will then either respond directly or in the next live session. Please try it out and see if it helps!

2. Partial re-opening plans Step 2 – face to face with year 12 and 10

Year 12 face to face meetings will happen next week. Invitations to a specified appointment have been emailed out and we look forward to welcoming the students in from Monday. Any questions or concerns please email Mrs Molloy

Year 10 appointments are being finalised this week and will be sent out next Wednesday and Thursday for the following week. Our plan is still to get a day of teaching per week for each year 10 and 12 student starting the week beginning the 29th June – you will get more information when you come in for your 1:1 meeting

3. Year 7 News

Hello from the Year 7 Team

A reminder to students that if they have not already watched Mrs Wenlock's assembly, which has been shared with them by their tutors, please do so by Monday so that they are aware of our expectations as a virtual academy and how they can access support. It's really important that students and parents are engaging with the work being set by the school and in order to facilitate that, myself, Miss Moss and Mrs Edwards will be inviting students and their parents to personalised meetings via Microsoft Teams throughout the coming weeks to discuss the successes and challenges they are facing. If you should receive such an invite, we would be most grateful for your confirmation as soon as possible.

As mentioned last week, we have lots of students to celebrate this week! They are:

Harvey Walters for excellent engagement in Drama

Ben Coe for superb science work

Keisha Smith for amazing attendance and effort in multiple subjects

Keira Wyat and Norah White for excellent work in Languages

Suzy Langley for great engagement in Music

And a big belated shout out from Mr Thompson to everyone who attended the End of Term Quiz in Computer Science!

Finally, our student council are meeting again this Friday and we have some exciting news to share with you next week so keep your eyes peeled for any clues being dropped in Monday's assembly!

Wishing you all well, Miss Lines, Miss Moss and Mrs Edwards

4. Year 8 News

Please carry on with all the good work and keep an eye on Microsoft Teams for live lessons it really important that as many students attend all your live lesson as this will give them the support they may need to complete their work, it will also be nice for them the hear voices of friends within the class. Any queries or problems then please contact your teacher or let myself or Mrs Roe know.

Reminders to year 8's they will be having live tutor meetings once a week where the tutors will use the time to talk about anything within the virtual academy, Also there's opportunity to do some quiz's, tutor challenge and socialise with their peers.

It was great to see so many of you attend the Sexual health presentation on Wednesday run by Positive Pathways (CSF). Every student that attended were excellently behaved, asked very sensible questions and were very respectful to each other. The recording is in the Year 8 channel if anyone missed it and would like to have a look.

Year 8s have been working hard this week. Special shout outs to the following:



Excellent weaving by Lucy Birkett.

PE – Mr Lambert

Dalia Rosca for her PE reflection

Science – Mr Lambert

Ahmed Tsinev, James Hoye, Harry Robinson and Luke Copping for their Molecule presentation

Food Technology – Miss Luter

Alfie Skerritt for his Chilli con carne

Religious Studies – from Ms Toppil for brilliant engagement and work

Hayden Purvis, Gera Dergacovs, Toby Thompson.

English – from Mrs Roberts for analysing texts

Harry Robinson and James Hoye.

Science – Mr Gazzard

Toby Thompson and Tommy Bluett.

Science – Miss Matthews

Georgina Barnes for excellent work on pressure.

PE – Miss Matthews

Toby Thompson for excellent research into catching and fielding. What a week Toby has had – well done!

Tutor – Mrs McEvoy

Hayden Purvis

Commitment to learning:

Ella Iftimie-Hau, Isaac Newrick, Tommy Taylor, Gera Dergacovs, Samuel Yellop, Josh Wilsea, Isla Gardener, Jake Folkes, Ahmed Tsinev, Dylan Scott and Toby Thompson.

5. Year 9 News

Hello, from the Year 9 Team!

Summer 2 has started off really well for the Year 9s with many regularly participating in their Teams work. So far this half term the new Teams system seems to be working really well and all students are being offered a Live Support Session for each subject each week. I would encourage attendance at these Live Support Sessions, as it's a fantastic opportunity for students to have some 'live' interaction with their teachers, so they can ask any questions they may have and any complicated aspects of their work can be fully explained. Students are receiving invitations to these via their Teams calendar, so ask them to show you what sessions they have throughout the week.

As always I have 'shout outs' for those students who are working to the best of their ability at home:

Maisie Squires - great poster on American instruments and excellent research into catching and fielding in PE

Gabe Morgan, Tom Walker and Ellie Wilson - consistent hard work and good efforts on the recent Maths lessons.

Kye Cooper – working consistently well in all lessons – excellent work!

As ever if you have any queries or problems please do not hesitate to email me.

Mrs Clayton

6. Year 10 News

Hello!

Kicking off another week with our Year 10 superstars for this week, who are as follows:

- Jess Roll for producing some outstanding artwork during lockdown.
- Lucy Moscrop, William Read, Lilia Colledge, Lottie Sanderson, Rahat Miah, Lola Thompson and Jess Roll for excellent engagement with the live support lesson in Art.
- Charlie Ramm for consistently completing his English work to a good standard.
- Lilia Colledge and Edward Lincoln for their narratives in English (good enough to be published said Miss Roberts!)
- Archie Davison for completing extra Maths work, including 14 minutes on TT Rockstars in ONE day.

- Victoire Mushengezi for excellent effort shown in BTEC Sport.
- Dylan Skitmore for great engagement in Business.
- Alfie Sorrento, Daniel Swatman and Harrison Foster for excellent effort shown in Maths.

Well done and congratulations to you all! Keep up the incredible efforts and engagement.

Hopefully, you all received the update from Mr Ford on 5th June regarding the return of Year 10s to the Academy. Here is a quick summary for you;

- Week commencing 22nd June: Year 10 face-to-face academic tutorials. During this week, your child/ward will be offered an appointment time to attend the Academy where they will spend time discussing their work, their challenges and their successes with a member of teaching staff.
- Week commencing 29th June: Assuming successful face-to-face meetings have taken place as addressed above, we will be ready to start small group tutoring. Students will be assigned one day per week to attend the Academy where they will receive academic support for English, Maths, Science and one of their option subjects.

Finally, before we go, please could you encourage your child/ward to log-in and register on the Careers website Unifrog. They should head to unifrog.co.uk, enter their Open Academy email address and click 'forgotten password'. They will then receive an email from Unifrog with a link to reset your password. One of the first things they should do is complete the Personality Test which will give them lots of ideas about careers which would suit their interests and strengths. Also, encourage them to check out the section on Post-16 options: this has loads of information about Sixth Forms and Colleges in this area.

Thank you again for your unwavering support during this continued period of uncertainty. From speaking to parents, it is amazing to hear so many of you taking a keen interest in your child/ward's education.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, you are more than welcome to contact either of us at emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk or debbie.lamb@open-academy.org.uk.

Many thanks,

Miss E Matthews (Head of Year 10) and Mrs D Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

7. Year 11 News

So yes, today would have been the last exam for many of you today – so the day you would have said goodbye to friends and peers – how far are we away from what we expected to be doing?

This week I have been taking some online mental health training and it has been very helpful both for work and for family life too. One of the main things that I got for this week's sessions is that if we have good mental health then we can bounce back from the curve balls that life throws at us, we are able to manage and regain our footing. Good mental health doesn't mean we can't feel sad or low for a period of time but if we can't shake it then we must seek

help. The training also emphasised the need to maintain mental health just as we understand we need to maintain and work on physical health.

So during the week I have placed a greater emphasis on maintaining my family's mental health. We have been taking time to do things we really enjoy, not always all together but making time for a physical work out, a Facetime cuppa with a friend, a trip to the park. I have read a book, normally I wouldn't take time out to do this but I feel so much better, I feel more resilient and able to manage when that curve ball does come my way.

Take care and please email us if we can help at all.

Mrs R Pearsall and Mrs M Middleton

8. Sixth Form News

Hello everyone!

Y13

I will keep it brief for Y13 this week. Please do not forget that the deadline for accepting your firm UCAS choice is 18th JUNE. Please do get in touch with myself or Ms. Davies if you are feeling worried or need some advice about what to do.

Y12

On Thursday I sent the following email to all students with regards to their return to the academy. I thought it would be useful to share it with parents as well:

Next week (week beginning 15th March), we will be inviting all of Year 12 into the academy for a 30 minute one-to-one meeting with a teacher. During this meeting, your teacher will have all of your TEAMS data and be able to discuss with you where you are in terms of the work that has been sent home for you.

It is compulsory that everyone attends this meeting. Please note that those of you that have been working at your part time jobs during the day, will need to make sure that you prioritise your education and learning over your daytime shifts.

Mon	LWK	1pm Kayleigh, 1:30 Joshua, 2:00 Ruby,
	CAN	1pm Adam, 1:30 Barry, 2:00 Ethan, 2:30 Harry,
Tues	IFI	11am Tyler, 11:30 Lewis
	JTH	12pm Emily, 12:30 Ellie, 1:00 Mia
	CAN	1pm Aidan, 1:30 Denham, 2:00 Charlie, 2:30 Billy
Weds	ATA	10:30 Cerys, 11:00 Abbie,
	NST	12.00 Elliott, 12:30 Karma, 1:00 Matt, 1:30 Emily, 2pm Leona
Thurs	LWK	1pm Sam, 1:30 Carlton, 2:00 Leah, 2:30 Keelie,
	CAN	1pm – 3pm training Adam, Barry, Ethan, Harry
Fri	CAN	1pm – 3pm training Aidan, Denham, Charlie, Billy
	LWK	1pm Amelia, 1:30 Marni, 2:00 Cissie

(Football Academy boys will start training on Thursday 18th June)

Further to this meeting, all Year 12 will start back at the academy on the week beginning 29th June. Please note that you will be split into 4 different bubbles, and each bubble will be timetabled to come in ONE DAY PER WEEK ONLY. I will be sending out this timetable as soon as it has been finalised.

During this one day per week that you are in, you will have up to 5 teachers available in your bubble. At least one of these teachers will be a subject teacher for one of your chosen courses. The remainder of the day will be spent in your bubble in the 6th form area completing work that has been set by other teachers and myself.

Please note that you will need to remain in school from 8:45 until 3:00 on this day, and you cannot sign out prior to the end of the day. This is an excellent opportunity to catch up on work and start researching for your UCAS / apprenticeship applications. As we are nearing the end of term, you will have a maximum of four days in the academy before the end of the summer term, so it is really important that you attend all of these in order to be up to date with your work prior to us returning in September.

I am aware of 2 students that are shielding due to being high risk or living with someone who is high risk, so they have not been included in the timetable at the moment. If there is any reason that you feel that you cannot return to the academy, it is absolutely essential that you let me know ASAP. Ms Davies will also be calling your homes in the next couple of days, so feel free to speak to her if you would prefer.

I should reiterate that the Academy team have made lots of changes to the academy whilst we have been on lockdown, and they have put lots of safety measures in places to keep you as safe as possible once you return.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions. I know there is a LOT of info to take in on one email!

9. Wellbeing reminders

Please see the attached information regarding wellbeing. This week I am including information on a number of different levels from the very accessible Joyful June Action for Happiness poster, through Ten Top Tips for coping with change to the more in-depth Coronavirus research bite 1 self-management of anxiety paper. I hope one or more of these is useful to reflect on for you and your child during this extended time of turmoil.

For parents in years 10 and 12 I have included a poster on managing anxiety as we return to school and below you will find links from Mrs O'Kelly to some fantastic resources, one a website, the other a YouTube video which help explore the concerns you might have as we start thinking about a partial return in the next few weeks

<https://www.acamh.org/blog/helping-parents-and-teachers-deal-with-apprehension-and-anxiety-when-returning-to-school/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H96X6zw7rgE&feature=emb_logo

10. Free School Meals important information re. vouchers

Free School Meal Vouchers

Edenred will be carrying out some scheduled maintenance work to improve their systems at the following dates/times:

Start time: 8am on Saturday 13th June

End time: 7pm on Sunday 14th June

This means that parents/carers will not be able to access the www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk website during this time.

11. Free Sanitary Products - Challenging period poverty

- We know during these challenging times that some will be struggling to provide sanitary products for their children. We have always tried to ensure that students have ready access to any products they require, however as students are not in, it is hard to know how to do this as efficiently and discreetly as possible.
- Our approach is therefore going to be to supply sanitary products as a matter of course in our Free School Meal Hampers and any deliveries we make to all female students. Feel free to leave them here when you collect your hamper, or return them as we deliver if they are not required.
- For students not on free school meals we will operate a drop-in collection service - and will have carrier bags of products available for collection at all times in the reception area of the Academy so that they may feel free to come and collect a bag without having to discuss it.
- Finally, you or your child can drop a text to Mrs Roe on 07810 515978 to say what you need and she will arrange either to have some dropped off or some ready for collection.

In this way we hope no one will struggle in this area of basic necessities.

12. Library News and Activities

Secret Garden Staff Read-a-Long

Our Secret Garden Read-a-long continues and we are approaching the final chapters! Catch up with the latest chapters here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-895185797/sets/the-secret-garden-open-academy>

Y11 and Y13 library books and textbook return

This week students currently in year 11 and year 13 have been contacted asking them to return any library books and/or textbooks they have on loan from the school. A drop off point has been placed in reception and books can be dropped off throughout the school day (9am-3pm). If you have any queries about this process or regarding the books you have on loan please contact Miss Ling, the school librarian.

Library Clubs

The following library clubs are running in Teams and it's not too late to join in! Students who are interested should contact Miss Ling to be added to the groups in Teams.

Manga Club: Monday 3-4 pm

Book Club: Tuesday 12:30-1pm
Library Live (Carnegie Book Award): Wednesday 3:15-4pm

13. Careers Update

Our Sector of the Month for June is Energy. I thought that this would be a particularly relevant choice, as during lockdown we have probably taken for granted the reliability of our energy and waste management services which have continued as normal throughout it all! Broadly speaking, the sector covers the sourcing and provision of our energy supplies and the management of renewables and waste. As an industry companies in the East of England lead the way in the production of wind, gas and nuclear power as well as innovations in recycling. It is therefore a really important area of future employment for our students to consider. I have put together a number of resources which are listed in the attachment (which the principal has remembered to include this week!) and can be used in the classroom or for independent research into particular career or study opportunities.

The Speakers for Schools schedule for the week commencing 15 June includes an appearance by historian Dan Snow on Tuesday 16 June at 10.00am. Some of you will have seen Dan on Youtube discussing uniform, equipment and warfare tactics during World War 1. This time he explores the importance of studying History and what we can learn from it. Other speakers cover aspects of film production, the benefits of doing an apprenticeship and 'what makes us who we are'. A full list of speakers and times can be found at <https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

Upcoming Vtalks - Speakers for Schools

Speakers for Schools are excited to present our weekly VTalks schedule! This schedule will be updated weekly and talks will be targeted to different age groups and is accessible via the links below. To view anonymously, click the on Vtalk link in the schedule below and select: (Watch on the web instead > Join anonymously). Watch how to join the VTALK www.speakersforschools.org

International accountancy and financial services company are offering the KPMG WorkReady programme now as a home learning resource which teachers and parents can share with students whilst schools are closed. KPMG had such a fantastic time with Open Academy Year 9s on the face to face programme earlier this year and it would be great if more students could benefit from their own homes. Another benefit is that they have made the resource suitable for all year groups, so it doesn't just need to be the year groups who originally took part. The KPMG link and others including Barlays Life Skills can be found at <http://talentfoundry.org.uk/Free-Resources/>

Year 10 Students - Finally this week – I emailed the following out to year 10 students this week and I thought I reminder might not go amiss here...

Dear Year 10 students,

I have received a few queries about how to log in to the Careers website Unifrog. Many of you have already done so, which is brilliant but for those of you who are unsure -

Go to unifrog.org.uk
Enter your Open Academy email address
Click 'forgotten password'

You will then receive an email from Unifrog with a link to the website homepage. One of the first things to do is complete the Personality Test which will give you lots of ideas about

careers which would suit your interests and strengths. Also check out the section on post 16 options: this has loads of information about Sixth Forms and Colleges in this area.

14. Mark's Chaplain's Reflection

The link to Marks video reflection is here...

<https://youtu.be/gp3aGZ1ZJiw>

Just recently the government has laid out more plans for the loosening of lockdown measures from this Monday. With these plans and the receding of covid 19, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This fills us with hope for the future and provides encouragement to our hearts.

We have been through a lot recently and have experienced the feelings that accompany that. Feelings of fear, frustration, loneliness and loss have been present in our community and country for a while now. In regard to this, how has it changed us as people? Are we different now to when we entered lockdown, or will we carry on the same. I read this story the other day and it really challenged me.

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot.

He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the boiled eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to his daughter he asked, "what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity which was the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. "Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Maybe this week we can spend some time in reflection and ask the same question of ourselves. Let's be determined to come through all of this as better people, to create something new and not to go back to old ways.

The Bible says this. “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love”.

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

God bless you all and have a fantastic week.

Mark