

- Next week is week beginning 04/11/2019 (Week B)

- 19 November - Year 10 Parents evening

Newsletter

Next Week

Tuesday, 5 November - Y8 Parents evening with tutor (4-7pm)

Monday, 11 November - Parent Forum (5-6pm)

Message from the Principal

My last few weeks introductions have been quite weighty as we were planning the fairly major change to the timetable and lunchtime so I hope to be able to keep things a little shorter for a while now as the changes 'bed in'. There is a significantly calmer atmosphere across both lunch times in the Academy and we are working hard to iron out any teething issues with the new system, but so far so good.

If you had children in Year 11 or 13 last year, please note that we will shortly be sending out invitations to this year's Certificate Evening on Thursday, 28 November. We have decided to focus this celebration on the Year 11 and 13 students as the Academy has recently grown significantly and covering all year groups might be quite a squeeze. For current pupils, we will be holding a celebration and awards evening in the summer term to celebrate their progress and achievements.

Finally, can I remind you to complete our parent survey that you should have received a letter about this week. We try hard to listen to and respond to feedback and this is our main source of parent voice so do please let us know what you think through the survey. On that note, I would also like to raise awareness of our next 'Parent Forum' meeting which will take place on Monday, 11 November from 5pm to 6pm. Do come along and meet a senior member of staff and tell us how things are going from your point of view in person.

Careers Information

Hello, my name is Lucy and I am a higher education champion with NEACO (Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach). I work with students in year 9 and above to support with next steps, and exploring higher education choices. I am based in Open Academy at least one day a week and as well as supporting activities within school and am always happy to meet parents/carers and students. Look out for me at parents' events, or please do contact the school, via Mrs Davies, if I can support in any way.

Further information about us can be found here - <https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/>

This term, I know many year groups are studying in preparation for exams. I just wanted to pass on some thoughts to aid this:

- Plan ahead! Work out when that piece of homework/essay/exam is due and work backwards so that you have plenty of time.
- Split up tasks so that you know exactly what you are doing in the time you have - don't try and revise a whole subject/research and write an essay in one go.
- Plan in regular breaks – it will keep you motivated and alert.
- Work out how you study best, try different methods and use what works for you.
- Keep motivated – work out your goal and remember the positives.
- Ask for help when you need it – people will be happy to help you.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay (Higher Education Champion UEA)

Year 7 News

A warm welcome back from the Year 7 team, even though the weather has turned cooler!

- We appreciate 'tis the season for coughs and colds, but our attendance rate currently stands at 96.82%, so well done to those students who have been in all week!
- 600 achievement points gained this week and congratulations to Joel Walker with the highest amount so far!
- Lastly, following Mr Ward's assembly on Monday, we wish all our students a safe and happy time during the fire works season!

Miss Lines (Head of Year 7) and Miss Moss/Mrs Edwards (Assistant Heads of Year 7)

Year 8 News

Welcome back to our second half term.

- Congratulations to Corey Sorrento who has been chosen to play korfbal for the England Korfbal Squad in Belgium this month. We wish you lots of luck and well done on being picked – fantastic achievement.
- Congratulations to Kelsey Holman who won the attendance lottery w/c 18/10/19. An Amazon voucher has been awarded to her.
- Please book appointments for our Year 8 Parents evening next Tuesday, 5 November with form tutors in the library. Appointments should be made via your child's form tutor.
- We've had a busy week on the football pitch for the Year 8 boys. On Wednesday evening we won against Notre Dame 5-1 with Ollie King scoring 4 goals! On Thursday we played against Sprowston and it was a close game 1-1. Well done boys and Demi.
- Our attendance this week is 94%.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8) and Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

Year 9 News

- Congratulations to those students who have achieved 100% attendance rate last half term and have kept it up this week. Attendance is at 95.09%
- We have started a new lunch time. It is split in two halves now. With this in mind our Year 9 Prefects will be supporting the Senior Leadership Team in managing support during the lunch time period.
- Year 9 Head Boy and Head Girl will be supporting an event, Viscount Nelson Education Network Secondary Network Meeting, on Tuesday, 19 November which will be happening at Open Academy. They will be giving tours of the school and promoting and representing Open. This is a fantastic opportunity.
- Year 9 have settled in well the first week back from half term.
- Achievement points 794 – Year Group Weekly Total. Top 8 Students there was a tie for 5th place: Well done!

Scarlett Taylor	21
Chloe Warner	20
Alfie Deadman	19
Mackenzie Culley	18
Amelie Treacy	17
Joseph Sizer	17
Lauren Duff	17
Mary-Jane Hammond	17

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 9) and Mrs Johnston (Assistant Head of Year 9)

Year 10 News

- Our total number of achievement points this week is 505. Students with the highest number of achievement points this week are; Archie Waters, Tilly Butcher, Dominic Kubiesa, Ben Ashby and Bailey Dukker. Congratulations, keep up the fantastic work!
- I need a hero!! Next week observes the second instalment of our work with 'Humanutopia'. As you will recall, all of Year 10 took part in a 2 day workshop with Humanutopia towards the end of the last academic year. This experience offered our students the opportunity to become a 'hero'. We have had a number of applications, however, we are still in need of some more! Next week the Year 10 heroes will work with Humanutopia, receiving all necessary training and the tools and resources needed to deliver the experience they received to our Year 8 students.
- This was mentioned in my last newsletter item before half term, however, a date for your diaries is the Year 10 Parents Evening which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 19 November from 4-7pm. It would be great to see as many parents there as possible, taking this opportunity to speak to your child's subject teachers and find out how your child has settled into KS4.
- Unfortunately, our attendance is still very low. Please can we remind you that we expect all students to have an attendance of 98%.

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

Year 11 News

Congratulations to students for their conduct during the PPEs. This has been a a great opportunity for students to practice for their summer examinations in a very realistic setting. The PPEs will allow students and staff to see where the gaps in knowledge and exam techniques are and to implement interventions and targeted revision.

Attendance is at 91%, this is lower than our target of 98%. Every lesson in class is essential, well done to many of our students who still have 100% attendance.

Revision sessions after school have now started and we would like to see all students attend. With the exception of Tuesdays, there is a session running every evening. These sessions are run by teachers and include subject knowledge, but also support with exam techniques and how to answer questions.

Mrs Pearsall (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 11)

6th Form News



This week Year 12 had a very successful last day on the NCS project. One group held an assembly about mental health and invited in a speaker from the charity Mind to talk to year groups 7-10. They then carried out a sponsored walk into the city where they handed out Random Act of Kindness cards with positive quotes. They raised a further £60 by selling badges and Mind colouring in books to the general public.

The other group spent the day at Woodside Care Home where they helped the residents carve pumpkins and use them as planters in their garden by planting flowers in them. They then finished their afternoon with them by playing a game of sensory football with the residents.

Year 12 have now completed the NCS programme and will get their certificates at an awards event later on in the year. They have gained masses of confidence, knowledge, and experience from this programme.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Attendance

Week Ending 18.10.19

Year 7 98.02%
Year 8 93.86%
Year 9 95.69%
Year 10 91.28%
Year 11 93.60%
Year 12 93.05%
Year 13 82.64%

The attendance for all Years 7 to 11 for the period 4 September 2019 to 18 October 2019 is 93.99%.

Please do continue to encourage your son/daughter to have good attendance and punctuality and please remember to contact Reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us if they are absent from school. Should they be absent for a period in excess of three days, please provide us with medical evidence ie. Prescription, appointment card, off the counter medication etc. Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact your son/daughter's Assistant Head of Year.

There are an increasing number of students arriving to school late, please could you encourage your son/daughter to get to school by 8.30am in time for tutor time.

Attendance Lottery – Many Congratulations to Kelsey Holman, tutor group D8, who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 18 October 2019.

Parent Questionnaire

Your child should have brought home a parental questionnaire this week for us to receive your views about the Academy. If you haven't received one please let us know or collect one from our Reception. We would be grateful if the questionnaire could be completed and returned by Friday, 8 November.

Mrs Appleby (Business Manager)

Thought for the Week

This up and coming week we remember and honour those who payed the ultimate price of giving their lives in the great wars. Men and woman who gave everything to serve the cause they were fighting for which was our freedom. Through this we are reminded of how powerful and life changing serving others is. A simple act of kindness, to doing something for another, brings certain freedom to a person. This can vary from a heavy work load lightened by help or a person's heavy heart lifted by an encouraging word.

The history of the world and our lives were changed forever because of the brave people who gave everything for us. A challenge can be issued to all at this highly important time. Whose life history can we change today by acts and attitudes of service.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)