

Newsletter

Friday, 31 January 2020
Issue 4

Week beginning
03/02/2020 (Week B)

Diary Dates

Thursday, 6 February - Harry Potter Library Event (4.30-6.30pm)
Tuesday, 11 February – 6th Form Parents' Evening (4.00-7.00pm)
Friday, 14 February – Non Uniform Day (£1 voluntary contribution)
17-21 February – Half Term

Trips & Visits

Tuesday, 4 February – Cambridge University Trip
9-12 February – Battlefields Trip
Monday, 10 February – UEA Sports Park Trip

Message from the Principal

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

At this crucial time of year for study and revision I am still recovering from a nasty cold myself, I thought I would just pick up on some health and safety messages this week.

Health

Health wise I can share that at this time of year we re-double our efforts to keep viral infections to a minimum. We double clean all door handles and rails to minimise the risk of passing bugs on and strongly encourage students to wash their hands with soap and water when they use the toilet. Apparently, many cleansing gels and handwashes do kill bacteria but viruses can survive them, whereas good old soap and water washing gets rid of them down the sink! I've been a bit slow on the 5 a day too as, apparently vitamin C helps our immune system, so, the fruit bowl is back in my office, and fresh fruit is available every morning as part of our free breakfast program (OK and so were some Krispy Kreme donuts for the students in Year 11 on the mentoring programme but that was a one-off treat!). Over 130 students regularly have breakfast here and there is no limit if other wish to join in so do bear it in mind.

Safety

Safety wise I am appealing to all parents and carers whose children cycle to school to talk to your children about safe cycling. I am currently investigating a report of an awful incident this week where a student has hit a toddler on a pavement ending up with the bike on top of a two-year-old little one. Obviously, we will follow up on any incident as we can, however I would ask that, if your child comes to school on a bike, if you would please remind them that the pavements are for pedestrians and that safe cycling on roads and cycle ways is a must – preferably with a helmet. I would also note that it is wise to report any incidents that occur to us in school for us to follow up and check everyone involved. For instance, in the recent incident it would be helpful if the person responsible were to come forward and take responsibility, rather than us having to track them down. I am sure that taking responsibility will make this appear more like a genuine accident when we pass details on to the police.

On a lighter note to finish, students are often asking for non uniform days, which we try to keep to a minimum for a range of reasons, including cost and disruption. However, that time of the year is coming when Year 11 start to think about Prom (when they should be thinking about exams) so we have agreed to a non uniform day on the last day of half term with proceeds to the Prom fund to keep the costs manageable – we do this every year so eventually everyone benefits.

I have also had a request for World Book Day fancy dress (dress up as a character) day which I have agreed to and will share more information about next week

Mr Ford (Principal)

Library News

A reminder that our Harry Potter Book Night celebration is taking place next Thursday, 6 February between 16.30-18.30pm. We do still have a few remaining places. If students would like to attend, they must return a permission slip which can be collected from Miss Ling in the library.

Miss Ling (Librarian)

Year 7 News

Congratulations to Michaela Browne, Elisha Jones and Brooke Craven-Andrews for earning 100 achievement points between them of the 900 earned by Year 7 this week – what a fantastic effort!

Our attendance is on the up, even amidst the coughs and sniffles going around this time of year, so well done to everyone who has powered through – achievement postcards will be sent out this week to celebrate those students!

Mini equipment shops are being run in tutor time as of next week, so if your child has lost or forgotten pens, pencils, rubbers or rulers for the day ahead, they can ask their tutors to supply equipment for a bargain price of 5p per item, but please do encourage them to check their pencil cases/bags every evening or morning.

Finally, as part of National Storytelling Week, each tutor group will enjoy a morning in the library next week to experience the thrills of adventure and human emotion through storytelling! We also have a Harry Potter themed evening happening on Thursday.

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

Year 8 News

It's been a hard-working, positive week in Year 8 with a total of 981 achievement points being issued to students.

Our top 10 achieving students this week are: Oliver King, Colm Snelling, Lucy Birkett, Ahmed Tsinev, Mia Crowe, Toby Cane, Luke Copping, Summer MacCormack, Harry Robinson and Isaac Newrick.

Attendance for Year 8 this week is 94.55% which is an increase again. Thank you for making the effort to come into school. We have another Year 8 attendance lottery winner this week – congratulations to Gera Dergacovs who will receive a £5 amazon voucher for 100% attendance week ending 24.01.20.

There are lots of after school and lunchtime clubs going on in school. All students are welcome to attend. We have some girls' basketball fixtures coming up and need more players. They can come along on a Tuesday after school if they are interested.

The Year 8 football A team has a semi-final match against Ormiston Victory Academy at home on Wednesday, kick of a 3.30pm. Please come along and support our team for their biggest game of the season.

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

Year 9 News

Well done to all those students keeping their attendance above 98% - keep up the good work! Total achievement points for the week was a total of 612 points. The Top 5 Students for achievements points are:

Chloe Warner	31
Amber Cleverley	22
Jack Teasdale	19
Jessica Waterfield	19
Dominique Benga-Bante	15

Excellent work!

The quality of homework is really starting to improve, however, there are still too many pieces of homework not being completed for the Year Group. If students are struggling to complete their homework, then they should be attending Learning Hub which runs every day in the atrium 3.00-4.00pm. We would ask all parents to check the SIMs app, so they know what their child needs to be completing for homework and when it is due.

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

Year 10 News

Our top five students for achievement points this week are as follows; Tilly Butcher, Kelsey Wellard, Jessica Cassama, Layla Parfitt and Lilia Colledge. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!

This week I had the privilege of accompanying four students to Villiers Park for their Norfolk Scholars residential; Lilia Colledge, Bayley Squires, Shadrak Mushengezi and Josh Stagg. All students learnt a great amount from this trip and were fantastic ambassadors for the Academy.

We have noticed a rise in the number of Year 10s attending the Learning Hub which is brilliant. The Learning Hub is a supportive environment designed to encourage students to complete any work that will help them to progress in their studies. The Learning Hub is available for all students every evening from 3.00-4.00pm in the atrium.

Unfortunately, our attendance is still very low. Please can we remind you that we expect all students to have a minimum attendance of 98%.

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

Year 11 News

Since parents' evening, I am absolutely delighted that attendance for after school for revision has dramatically increased. It is clear that the personalised feedback given from teachers has had a motivating impact and thank you to parents for encouraging your child to attend.

In addition to improved attendance at revision, Year 11 attendance overall has improved too. We are now at 92%, which is lower than our target of 98%, but hopefully all the winter germs are on their way out. Please encourage your child to attend when they can, every lesson really does make a difference at this point.

The 'Advice and a Slice' session held last Friday was also a tremendous success, with families and students getting help with creating a revision timetable and revision techniques, all over a lot of pizza. It was such a positive evening we are planning another on stress management and will let you know the date when it is confirmed.

Please ensure your child returns their Leavers' Hoodie letter and payment by the 10 February, any issues with payment please let me know.

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

Science Revision

Well done to Year 11 students for their attendance at Wednesday's science revision sessions. This week we had 50 students!

Mr Murray (Head of Science)

6th Form News

The reports for the PPE1 exams will be sent out to parents before half term – please look out for those.

Many of our students have now had all of their UCAS offers in. Please don't forget that they need to make a FIRM and INSURANCE choice. If your child needs any help with this, please ask them to speak to their tutor. Claire Gillham will also be organising a number of drop in sessions for students to speak to her about Apprenticeships. I will keep you posted of when she will next be in.

There is an amazing FREE opportunity for Y13 Maths students to attend a 2 day UEA Maths Revision Bootcamp in April. Please ask your child to get in touch with Mrs Davies if they would like more information.

Wroxham FC Open visited Sudbury Academy in the ECFA National Knockout trophy yesterday. WFC Open battled well and had a few chances during the match, but unfortunately lost 4-0 to a very good Sudbury team. On Friday we are back in cup action but in the ESFA National cup. We host Luton Town Development team in the last 32 round. Kick-off is at 1pm at Open Academy.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Careers Information

Time Management

Whatever year your child is in, time management and procrastinating by putting off tasks can be a common theme. Whether it is making sure that homework is in on time, finding time to research that work experience placement, or planning revision, time management can feel like a difficult task. I wanted to share with you some thoughts to help this:

- Work out a deadline and work backwards to this. Look at when the essay is due/first exam is/work experience form is due.
- Categorise tasks – split them according to importance and urgency and do these first. Is every task on the list necessary?
- Break down tasks – they are much more likely to succeed if they complete the bigger task into manageable sections. For example, they could research on essay on one day, plan on another, and break down writing each part of the essay.
- Motivate themselves by looking at what you have achieved. Some people like to cross off tasks on a 'to do' list. Others have a 'done' list so that they can see what is complete.
- Try and avoid distractions. Set up a space to work in, so they don't spend time putting off the task by tidying a space or finding paper and pens.

If you or your child would like further information or support, this is available in school or I can be contacted through Ms Davies.

Ms Reynolds-McKay (Higher Education Champion Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach)

Thought for the Week

Hard Work

We often hear the phrase “go the extra mile” dotted about. How often do we take note and actually go the extra mile in our work but most of all for the people directly around us or in our communities?

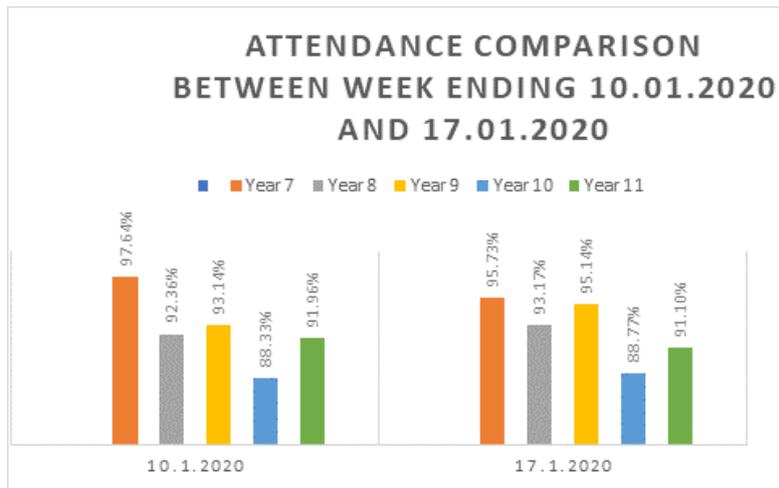
Going the extra mile means working as hard as we can at everything and then some more. There is a certain joy and fulfilment that we feel when we go above and beyond the normal “that will do” way of life. The receiver of the “over and above” is made to feel valued and blessed. Our next-door neighbours went the extra mile for us while we were visiting family abroad over Christmas. When we were away, they had washed and cleaned our car for us. We came home feeling some sadness about saying goodbye to loved ones, but arrived to a sparkly car sitting on the drive. It made our day and lifted our spirits. What made it even more special is we know that our neighbours are busy, hard-working people.

Let’s go the extra mile in everything we do, it makes a big difference.

Have a wonderful week, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance



Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 24.01.2020. Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 24.1.2020 was 93.53%. This is an increase on last week's attendance.

The whole school attendance, including 6th Form, for week ending 24.1.2020 was 92.11%. Again, this is an increase on last week's attendance.

Attendance Lottery – Many congratulations to Gera Dergacovs, Year 8, who has won a £5 Amazon Voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 24 January 2020. Well Done Gera!

For week 20.1.2020 - 24.1.2020, we had an amazing 435 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7-11. We also had 34 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Days off school means lessons and learning missed Student Attendance (%)	Number of days off school a year	Number of actual lessons missed
95%	10 days absence	60
90%	19 days absence	114
85%	29 days absence	174
80%	38 days absence	228
75%	47 days absence	282

Please discuss with your son/daughter the importance of good school attendance. For any absences, please contact Reception or student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)



Migrant Help

EU Settlement Scheme advice and guidance

Migrant Help can explain the scheme and assist with completing the application to vulnerable EU citizens. We will help you ensure that your rights are protected.

We will be holding drop-in sessions near you:

THETFORD Riverdale Centre Tanner Street Thetford IP24 2 BQ Mondays 10am – 3pm To book please call or text 07483 083 483	NORWICH St Clements House 2-16 Colegate Norwich NR3 1BQ Wednesdays 10am – 4pm To book please call 01603 496 623	GT YARMOUTH 2 Stone Cutters Way Great Yarmouth NR30 1HF Thursdays 10am – 3pm To book please call or text 07483 083 483
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For further information please contact:
judith.omasete@migranthelpuk.org | 07483 083483 | www.migranthelpuk.org