

Newsletter

Friday, 28 February 2020
Issue 7

Week beginning
02/03/2020 (Week A)

Diary Dates

Friday, 28 February – Y7 and Y8 Disco (6.30-8.00pm)
Tuesday, 3 March – Y9 Parents' Evening (4.00-7.00pm)
Thursday, 5 March – World Book Day
Thursday, 5 March – Y10 Study Skills Evening (5-6pm)
Wednesday, 11 March – Y8 Immunisations
Week beginning 16 March 2020 – Y10 PPEs and Y12 & Y13 PPE2s

Trips & Visits

Thursday, 5 March – Y10 Norfolk Skill & Career Festival Trip

Message from the Principal

As there is some key information regarding the rapidly developing Coronavirus situation, I will keep my message brief. Please do however see the letter attached to this newsletter regarding our approach. Essentially at the moment we are following the advice that is issued by the government which is constantly checked and updated via the Trust. If urgent information comes out I will ensure that we share it with you, but for the time being I will note any changes to advice via this newsletter.

I will just draw to your attention the notice for Year 9 later in the newsletter as next week is an important one for Year 9 students in that we will be kicking off the subject preferences process. The curriculum is always changing and this year is no exception. It has become clear that the government expectation that all secondary schools teach a broad balanced curriculum means that the majority of students should be studying a core of English, Maths, Science, PHSE/RHSE, RE, a humanity and a language up to the end of Key Stage 4. This change does impact on the choices the student gets in that languages are an expectation for most and one choice is restricted to either History or Geography. This is in keeping with the expectation that students at Key Stage 4 are continuing to build a broad platform of knowledge and skills from their school experience. (PHSE/RHSE is Personal Health and Social Education/Relationship Health and Sex Education).

Finally, I would like to highlight our focus on mental health this week. The YMCA outreach team have been in assemblies in all years this week talking about positive mental health and encouraging to help and support each other. We explored that everyone has mental health in the same way we have physical health. We looked at the five areas to do each day that can keep your mental health strong and talked a little about some key types of mental health disorder. Over the coming months we will be responding to student questions and concerns in form time and in PHSE lessons and signposting helpful resources like the No Panic website, which aims to support those suffering from anxiety or the Young Minds mental health charity, which has a parent helpline too.

Mr Ford (Principal)

Internet Safety

Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online. As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. For more information please see the link below:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Mr Thompson (Teacher)

World Book Day

World Book Day takes place next Thursday, 5 March. We are celebrating with a “Dress up as a Book Character” day. Students who would like to take part can dress up as a book character of their choice for a £1 donation (if they are not taking part, they are expected to be in normal uniform.) We encourage students to create outfits from clothing and items they already own - there is no need to go out and buy anything - you can find ideas on the [World Book Day website](#).

The money raised will go back into the school library to create a much-requested reading area with bean bags! We will also have activities taking place at school including a form tutor competition, lunch time story share and announcement of our 500 words competition winner. Plus, teachers will be sharing books and stories with students throughout the school day. Your child will also receive a £1 book token next week. This entitles them to [one of twelve books written especially for World Book Day](#). This can be redeemed at any bookshop or your local supermarket.

Finally, this weekend is your last opportunity to write a story for our 500 word competition - the deadline is Monday, so get writing!

Miss Ling (Librarian)

Year 7 News

No update.

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

Year 8 News

Welcome all Year 8s back and hope they had a great half term and ready and raring to go for the next half term.

Our overall attendance is 93.2% which we would like to see start to rise. I know there are a lot of bugs around at this time, but if they are able to get into the Academy please do.

The school disco is tonight for Year 7 and Year 8. Details included in this newsletter.

Our top 10 students with the most achievement points awarded over the half term are: Luke Copping, James Hoyer, Sophie Swatman, Ahmed Tsinev, Ollie King, Colm Snelling, Lucy Birkett, Kimora Alexander, Tyrone Hale and Zac Duckett.

A reminder that Football B team has a semi-finals game on Tuesday, 10 March against Sprowston B, please come and support our team.

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

Year 9 News

Welcome back to the second half of our Spring Term. We've had 335 achievement points so far this week. Less than usual, but we're sure that everyone is just hotting up for a fantastic half-term!

Students with the most achievement points this week are:

Kamile Reginaite	15
Freddie Goodson	14
Jessica Wicks	13
Sugar Chapman	11
Jessica Ramm	10

Well done - keep this great work up!

We're entering an exciting time for Year 9, as they are deciding on their option choices. Attendance up until now has been quite strong for Year 9, but moving forward it is imperative that no school is missed unless absolutely necessary. We want all the students to start their GCSEs in September having learnt all the skills they need to ensure they are very successful. A minimum of 98% attendance is expected.

We look forward to seeing you at the Year 9 Parents' Evening on Tuesday, 3 March.

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

Year 10 News

Welcome back! We hope you all had a refreshing break and are ready for this short but jam-packed half term.

Our total number of achievement points this week is a slightly disappointing 222. Our top six students for achievement points this week are as follows: Jess Roll, Archie Davison, Lilia Colledge, Lottie Sanderson, Lucy Moscrop and Taylor Plant. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!

Congratulations to the following students for completing at least one piece of homework to an 'above and beyond' standard this week: Rosario Furia, Jeya Kandola, Edward Lincoln, Amelie Orr, Jess Roll, Lottie Sanderson, Ben Ashby, Tilly Butcher, Lilia Colledge, Daisy Holman, Ruby-Mae Mann, Shadrak Mushengezi, Calvin Smith, Alfie Sorrento and Lola Thompson. As always, the Learning Hub is available for all students every evening from 3-4pm in the atrium where students will receive support and guidance to complete their homework.

Save the date! We are delighted to confirm that on Thursday, 5 March from 5-6pm, we will be running a study skills evening for parents and students in preparation for their second round of Pre-Public Exams, starting week commencing 16 March. Based on feedback from students, it is clear that students would benefit from further support regarding revision strategies and exam stress management in preparation for all future exams and assessments.

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday for the Study Skills evening. It is incredibly important that even if you cannot attend that you encourage your child/ward to. The evening will be providing students with support and revision materials for the upcoming PPE assessments and will be invaluable to them moving forward.

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

Careers & Work Experience

Students in Year 10 will be attending the Norfolk Careers and Skills Fair at the Norfolk Showground on the morning of Thursday, 5 March. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to talk with all the education and training providers in the County and also meet a wide variety of employers who offer apprenticeships and industry placements. Students should wear smart school uniform for this trip.

Students who have not organised and submitted their summer work experience forms yet should do so as soon as possible, preferably before the Easter holiday. All placements have to be authorised by Norfolk County Council and this can take a while, particularly if the employer has not offered work experience before. I am available in my office on the second floor (S12) to give advice and supply replacement forms if necessary.

Mrs Davies (Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form)

Year 11 News

The PPEs are now finished and that is students last formal practice before the real exams in the summer term. I think students have realised what a tiring experience exams can be and how important it is to do preparation in advance. Hopefully they have also realised the importance of a good sleep pattern, healthy diet and maintaining their mental health.

Today we had a guest in from the YMCA who did an assembly about mental health and how to look after it. She spoke about 5 key points that should be practiced regularly (daily where possible) when we are well to keep us well, 'be active, stay connected, sleep well and eat well, be giving and keep learning'.

Teachers are now busy marking the papers and the results will be given to students and parents on 13 March.

We have now put in the order for the leavers' hoodies and expect them to arrive by Easter. Information regarding the Prom will follow next week.

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

6th Form News

Welcome back everyone. I hope you had a relaxing half term.

Please can you all ensure that your child has access to school emails and are checking them regularly. If they have forgotten their log in details please ask them to see the IT Technician and he will be able to help them regain access. Most teachers will communicate via email so it is very important that they are able to access this.

Most of Year 13 have now made their firm and insurance choices with regards to their UCAS offers. Please ensure that if your child has not done so yet, that they make their choices as soon as possible. Please also remember that they have the option of applying through UCAS EXTRA as of this week if they have not been successful in any of their five choices:

<https://www.ucas.com/events/2020-entry-extra-opens-348831>

On Monday, 30 March I will be running an **Apprenticeship Day** with Clare Gillham from UEA. She will be running some workshops to familiarise students with what an apprenticeship is and how to apply for one. This event is for all Year 12 students. Those Year 13 students that are also interested in

applying for an apprenticeship will be asked to attend. Clare will then be around until 1pm for students to drop in and chat to her on a one-to-one basis. More information will be emailed to students nearer the time.

Year 12 and 13 PPE2 exams will be running over a two-week period starting Monday, 16 March. Year 12 will sit their exams in lessons. Year 13 will be given their mock exam timetable within the next week or so and these exams will be sat formally in an allocated room.

It is now even more important than ever that students keep an eye on their attendance and make sure they are spending all private study periods getting ready for their PPE2s. We still have a number of students that are not emailing me as well as their teachers if they are absent – it is important that they do this so that we are aware of the reasons for their absence. Many thanks.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Thought for the Week

Integrity

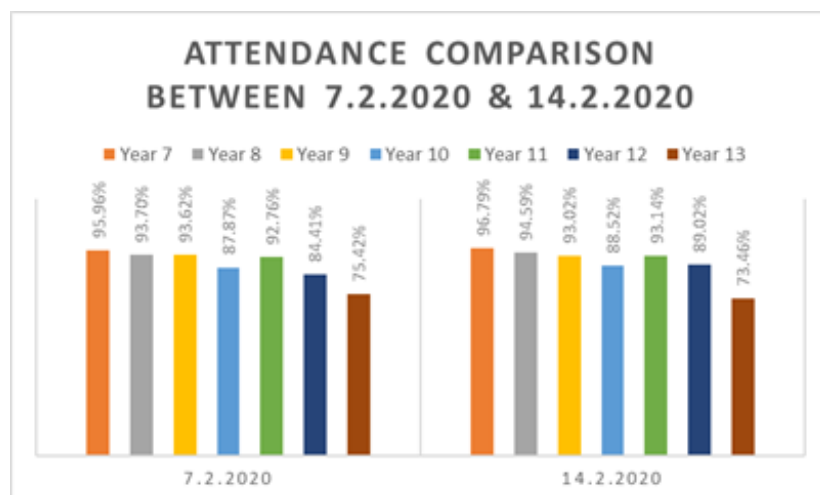
Our integrity or who we are is revealed when we're faced with a decision to do what we know is right, even if it is at war with what we want. Our thought for the week at school is this. "Integrity isn't a destination, it is a way of life. It is an internal guidance system that will never guide you astray". **Kelly Kosow**

Often times when we are faced with situations that call upon our integrity, its best to listen to what our hearts have to say to us. That "gut feeling" will always lead us in the right direction and influence us to do the right thing, even when we are faced with moral dilemmas that this world throws at us.

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

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance



Week Ending 14.2.2020

Year 7	96.79%
Year 8	94.59%
Year 9	93.02%
Year 10	88.52%
Year 11	93.14%
Year 12	89.02%
Year 13	73.46%

Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 14.2.2020.

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 14.2.2020 was 93.22%, which is an increase on last week. Well done all!



The whole school attendance, including 6th Form, for week ending 14.2.2020 was 91.83%.

Attendance Lottery – Many congratulations to Luke Copping, tutor group: R8, who has won a £5 Amazon for having 100% attendance for week ending 14 February 2020. Well done Luke!

For week 10.2.2020 to 14.2.2020, we had an amazing 436 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. This is an increase compared to the previous week's figures. We also had 33 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

For any absences, please contact Reception or student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)

About Family Action

Family Action is a national charity marking its 150th anniversary in 2019 and is committed to building stronger families by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people. We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.



FamilyLine

A free helpline, befriending and counselling service for all family members over the age of 18 across England and Wales*

Family Action
34 Wharf Road,
London,
N1 7GR

T: 020 7254 6251
E: info@family-action.org.uk

www.family-action.org.uk



Building
stronger
families
150 years



Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no: 264713. Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no: 1206.
Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales: 01068186.
Patron: Her Majesty the Queen. Chair: Mary Fullon. Chief Executive: David Holmes CBE
Vice Patrons: Christine Davies CBE. Dr Andrew McCulloch. Dame Denise Platt DBE. Katie Vannock-Smith.
Professor Harriet Ward CBE.

* We will refer anyone under the age of 18 to the relevant services required.

www.family-action.org.uk



Family
Line

FamilyLine

Free support and guidance on all aspects of family life to all family members over the age of 18 across England and Wales*.

Helpline, Befriending and Counselling support via telephone, email and text message.
Mon - Fri 9am to 3pm then 6pm to 9pm.

The helpline will be covered by our text crisis line outside of these hours including weekends and bank holidays.

Call: 0808 802 6666

Text: 07537 404 282

familyline@family-action.org.uk

www.family-action.org.uk/familyline

Live Chat available on our website

* We will refer anyone under the age of 18 to the relevant services required.



Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no: 264713. Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no: 1206. Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales: 01068186.