

Newsletter

Friday, 13 March 2020
Issue 9

Week beginning
16/03/2020 (Week A)

Diary Dates

Week beginning 16 March 2020 – Y10 PPEs and Y12 & Y13 PPE2s

Trips & Visits

Wednesday, 18 March – Cambridge University Visit
23-25 March – Norfolk Scholars to Villiers Park
Wednesday, 25 March – Y12 Dragons' Den Event

Message from the Principal

Welcome to this week's newsletter which inevitably is focussed on the Coronavirus and the current developing situation. With yesterday's update and advice from the government, it is clear that the situation is rapidly changing, however we will continue to follow all the guidance issued by the government and public health England as agreed by our trust. **A summary follows the detail below:**

Our current precautions

As per advice we are reminding students about the importance of good hygiene, both in terms of washing hands and the use of tissues to catch and bin coughs and sneezes. There is a good supply of soap and water and all classes have been given reminders about handwashing regularly as per government advice.

Our cleaners have redoubled their efforts on surfaces that children touch and we are making sure bins are emptied more regularly.

Where people had travelled from infected areas, we asked that they self-isolate for 14 days if they showed any symptoms (no one was affected).

That advice has now been updated to include anyone who is showing symptoms of both a fever (above 37.8C) and a new continuous cough irrespective of their travel to self-isolate for 7 days.

(If you do need to self-isolate the latest advice states that you do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at www.111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999).

Planning for future eventualities

As we will follow government advice, it is important to note that we will not be making any unilateral decisions which involve any part or full Academy closure. In the event of government advice to close the Academy, we will take note of all advice issued and go to a contingency service based on moving our learning online through Office 365. I will explore a little more about what that might mean under the heading of "in case of school closure". There are a number of possible situations where, due to coronavirus, the curriculum we can offer may be affected, for which we have a range of contingency plans.

Contingency planning in case of reduced staffing

If we are struggling because we have a significant number of staff either ill or self-isolating, your child's Academy experience may be affected. It is possible they may be taught in our large group areas such as the atrium and the lecture theatre, and they may follow an adapted curriculum.

As far as possible, we will try to keep the Academy Open, and prioritise normal lessons for the examination for Years 13 and 11 and their fore runners 10 and 12. Students in Key Stage 3 may therefore experience more disruption than other year groups.

In extreme circumstances if the situation became much worse and we lack the basic staff to manage all children, we may even be forced to consider running a reduced curriculum for Key Stage 4 and 5 only, with Key Stage 3 students at home provided with work electronically.

Contingency planning in case we are told to close the school

If the situation changes and the government advises us to close the Academy, we would work hard to retain a learning experience for your children. We would use our Office 365 system to set and collect work and ensure that the students were provided with activities and work which they will find engaging and accessible. For those students who do not have regular access to computers or the internet, we will provide take home material for set periods, a week at a time. To that end it might be helpful if you could let us know if computer or internet access might be difficult for your child over the next few days so that we can add further detail to our contingency planning.

We are currently looking into ways of supporting families in receipt of free school meals, depending upon the planning time we have and the exact circumstances of the closure. I am also attaching to this newsletter the current summary of where help can be obtained for those struggling for food. Our pastoral team may well check in with children they work with regularly with check-up phone calls and we will continue any child protection or pastoral outreach work initially by phone as well. In the event of Academy closure, we would hope to update you on the situation through a daily email from myself and my team.

Communication

Whatever the situation, we will try to keep you informed through the newsletter, specific letters and email updates, depending upon how quickly the situation changes. All Academy communications will be repeated on the website and we will try to put them all up on our Facebook account too. Please ensure you check on our website to confirm official communications and if you have any queries please do contact your child's year team through reception.

Summary

- We are following government advice
- Our focus is on basic hygiene in the Academy
- We have contingency plans for many possible future scenarios but we hope they will not be necessary
- If your child might struggle to access a computer or the internet in the event of a school closure, please email in to the office and let us know for planning purposes.

Mr Ford (Principal)

Year 7 News



On Wednesday, our choir attended and performed at the Norwich Music Festival to a packed audience of primary schools and other high schools.

A mixture of students from Year 7, 8 and 9 sung their hearts out and made our academy incredibly proud with their professionalism and musicality.

We received a highly commended certificate for our performance of 'Cantus Iteratus' by Karl Jenkins and 'The Greatest Show' from The Greatest Showman and received glowing feedback from the adjudicator.



Very well done to all those in Open Harmony and thank you to Mr Brown, our resident pianist, Mr Pimlott and Mrs O'Kelly for accompanying us on the trip.

Our boys have raised their game this week in terms of achievement points! Congratulations to Reece Pleasance, Adam Lowe and Harry Craske who were our highest achievers with over 25 points each – very well done!

Our students attended a road safety presentation on Thursday afternoon which was intended to highlight the dangers of our modern roads. Some students took this more seriously than others so please ask your child about what they learnt and how they can stay safe travelling to and from school.

Finally, all students are currently taking their second set of progress checks in all subjects this week, and going into next week. Conduct on the whole has been superb and is allowing everyone to try their best to beat personal records. More information on how data and results are distributed will be included in next week's newsletter.

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

Year 8 News

We are still working hard in Year 8 as we approach Easter. Our attendance for week ending 06.03.20 was 96.18% and is slowly going up and higher than this time last year. Thank you for supporting your children coming into school. We would like to especially mention the SRB in Year 8 for 100% attendance again last week – well done to you all.

Congratulations to Joshua Chester for winning the 500 word challenge story and receiving a book token prize.

Some students attended a choir festival this week – full details included in this newsletter. Sounds like they had fun.

The boys football team played their semi final on Tuesday this week against Sprowston and it went to penalties and we went on to win and not miss one penalty! We are now through to the final. We will let you all know the date when it is confirmed. It was a real team effort and good to see some great football skills and attitude on the pitch. Well done boys and thank you to all who supported them.

The girls played a netball match at the same time on Tuesday against Taverham. Unfortunately, the result was not in our favour, but the girls played really well and scored two goals. Great team spirit as always.

Top 10 achieving students this week are Luke Copping, Tyrone Hale, Oliver King, Erin O'Neill, Sean Passmore, Robbie Ruff, Toby Thompson, Lilli Aldis, Lucy Birkett and Ryan Howes – well done to you all. There was a total of 1,599 achievement points awarded this week. Fantastic effort from everyone.

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

Year 9 News

Attendance has been falling a bit recently. If a student is too ill to get into school then they should stay at home e.g. vomiting, diarrhea etc. Students should be mindful to only have a day off if it is absolutely necessary. Less than 98% attendance could negatively affect a students' progress. Hopefully we are on the tail end of any winter bugs and we can have a happy and healthy spring and summer terms.

Our Top Five Achievement Point students this week are:

Jordan Page	25
Bonnie Billington-Howes	23
Chloe Warner	22
Lucy Healey	22
Zak Pitts	20

Well done - keep up the good work!

We have had a few instances recently of Year 9 students misbehaving and not following instructions during their social times (break & lunch). I would like to confirm that if any student is discovered doing this they face the chance of having their social times removed and they will have to spend them with a member of staff instead. We'd be grateful if you reiterate this to your child, so they understand the repercussions of their actions. We really appreciate the support you give school with ensuring your children are safe, happy and learning.

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 325. Our top six students for achievement points this week are as follows; Bayley Squires, Toby Wenn, Jeya Kandola, Millie Davies, Ellie Chapman and Edward Lincoln. 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; Calli Atkins, Ellie Chapman, Lilia Colledge, Jeya Kandola, Edward Lincoln, Jess Roll, Lottie Sanderson, Bayley Squires 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.

Huge congratulations to the Year 10 boys football team who won their semi-final match 4-1 against Reepham on Tuesday! They progress through to the final of the Plate Cup. Good luck!

The second round of Year 10 pre-public exams begin next week beginning 16 March. This will be an opportunity for subject teachers to continue addressing any gaps within your child/ward's knowledge and should therefore be approached with both maturity and positivity. Please encourage your child to prepare for these exams sensibly, including having a good night sleep, drinking plenty of water and eating a healthy diet including breakfast on the morning of the exam.

Finally, work experience! Only 56% of the year group has obtained a work experience placement for July so far which is absolutely shocking! Despite 6 July seeming in the distant future, we would strongly urge students to begin looking for their work experience placements now to avoid disappointment as they fill very quickly. We also have to have all work experience placements signed off by Norfolk County Council by 5 May. If your child/ward is struggling to find a work experience placement, please encourage them to seek the support of myself or Mrs Lamb during tutor time in G40 where we will be more than happy to help.

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

Year 11 News

No update this week.

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

6th Form News

The Year 12 and 13 PPE2 starts next week (Monday, 16 March). Year 12 will be sitting their exams in their normal lessons while Year 13 will be sitting them formally. All Year 13 should have now seen the mock exam timetable and the room allocated is below:

Monday 16 March - S42

Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 March - S04

Thursday 19 & Friday 20 March - S42

Monday 23 March - S04

Year 12 Norfolk Scholars will be out on their residential at Villiers Park, Cambridge from Monday, 23 to Wednesday, 25 March. They will be working with Scholars from other schools in the County on 'Skills4Success' and visiting Cambridge University Union.

On Wednesday, 25 March a group of Year 12 students will be taking part in a 'Dragons' Den' style event at The Forum organised by our partners the Norwich Opportunity Area. Students will have the opportunity to work with a range of employers solving real life business problems.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Thought for the Week

Thankfulness

Are we thankful? A serious question we can ask ourselves. It has been proven that being thankful or showing gratitude improves our physical and emotional health. Making sure that we keep holding on to those emotions of thankfulness boosts our immune system and increases blood supply to our heart and makes us happier. It works both ways, to say thank you and to receive thankfulness with a smile makes us feel great.

The opposite can have a negative effect on ourselves and the people around us. I experienced this last week in my car. I was driving through Norwich and a couple of cyclists were very kind by stopping and allowing me to turn into a side road. I was in my own little world so to speak with a lot on my mind and I didn't say thank you. I realised the result of this as when I had travelled fifty yards up the road. I looked in my rear-view mirror to see the two cyclists waving their arms about, obviously a bit peeved over my lack of thankfulness. I felt bad about this and circled round to apologise, but they had gone. A big wakeup call for me and a lesson learnt.

The Bible encourages us to be thankful in all circumstances in 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 18. This is even when we are struggling with trials and difficulties. This can be a hard thing to do as society can influence us to act on the basis of how we feel. A thank you is a huge deal, no matter how small. Being thankful for the things that we have and for the people around us makes a huge difference to all of us.

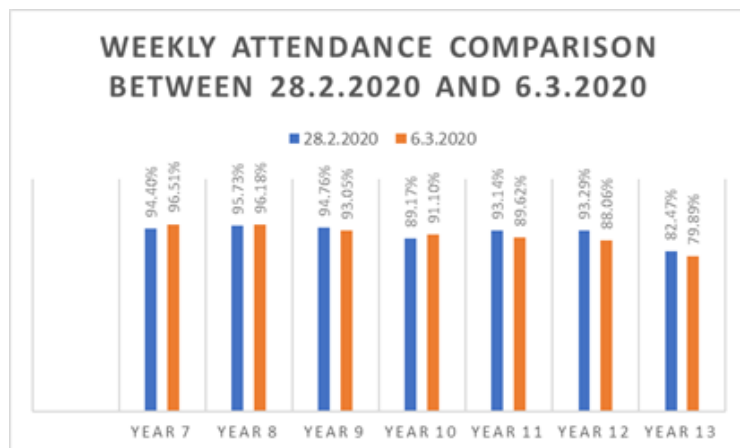
Have a wonderful week, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance

Weekly Attendance for Academy (Yr 7-11)

Year 7	96.51%
Year 8	96.18%
Year 9	93.05%
Year 10	91.10%
Year 11	89.62%
Year 12	88.06%
Year 13	79.89%



Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 6.3.2020

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 6.3.2020 was 93.33%, which is an increase on last week's attendance. Well done all!

The whole school attendance, including 6th form, for week ending 6.3.2020 was 92.28%.

Attendance Lottery – Many Congratulations to Edward Lincoln, tutor group: D10, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 6 March 2020. Well Done Edward!

For week 2.3.2020 to 6.3.2020, we had an amazing 438 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. This is an increase compared to the previous week's figures. We also had 31 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!



Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)