

Open Academy Update 16 October 2020

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

We are delighted to note that despite the length of the half term and the fact that the students are pretty tired and ready for a break, attendance is still very high and uniform is excellent. Very few pupils even need reminders in a morning now and we will continue to try to keep on top of the issue as we go into the next half term so your help and support on this is most appreciated.

Once again, I would ask that you speak to your children about behaviour on the way to and from school. We are keen to promote a pride in our uniform when the students are travelling to and from the Academy and whilst we will always follow up reported behaviour in school, poor behaviour outside may well attract the attention of the police too. We are working hard to get students back in to the rhythm and habits of school life and we know that some are struggling so I continue to urge you to encourage them to be their best as we approach half term.

I am delighted to note that the 6th Form National Citizenship students have not let the pandemic get in the way of their community projects and note that there are some much cleaner cars in the car park this week. They have also organised the non-uniform day next Wednesday to raise charity funds, so we hope you can support them – the suggested donation for non-uniform is £1.

For your information, as next week is only 3 days, we will only be sharing a brief newsletter next week to wish you a relaxing holiday.

Finally, please do thank your children for their efforts sanitising their hands, following the rules and distancing, everyone has pulled together so well to keep this community safe this term. However, we know we cannot take anything for granted, so over half term we will be reviewing our risk assessment yet again to ensure we continue to do all we can to stay safe.

My apologies if you have had to have a chilly meeting on the chairs outside the Academy – this is the safest way we can meet people at the moment but it is worth remembering to bring some warm outdoor clothes when coming to a meeting!

So apart from saying well done to our worker of the week – Areen, for his work on writing numbers in German. I will stop there and encourage you to read on the general messages and those relevant to the year group of your child.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

Thank you to parents/carers for your continued support. We are proud of the year group and how they have settled into life at high school.

The students have received an amazing 8463 achievement points so far this term, this is a fantastic achievement and all should be congratulated on their hard work and positive attitude.

The top achievers are:

Hallie Chandler	161
Brian Bolaney	159
Emilia Kerby	155
Asha Kandola	153
Layla Moody	149
Keeley Youngs	144
Megan Perriton	138
Lauren Smith	133
Lilly Blyth	131
Layla Downes	126

All students with 100 or more achievement points will receive a certificate shortly.

We have received the Ambassador badges and these will be handed out to students with roles and responsibilities early next week.

On the whole, attendance has been good. Can we have a real push for the last few days of half term for students to get 100% attendance. All students with 100% attendance will be issued with a certificate and receive achievement points.

On a less positive note the trend for slapping each other round the head continues. We are disappointed that some students are not taking notice of the reminders and continue with this inappropriate behaviour. Detentions will be given to repeat offenders.

Also, students have been puncturing holes in the top of drink bottles, and then spraying each other with the contents. This is not acceptable behaviour, it has caused several students to have sticky items of clothing and liquid spilt on the floor causing a hazard and creating more work for the cleaning staff. Please discourage your child from doing this.

Knowledge organisers were issued earlier this term, can you please go through these with your child.

Now the mornings/evenings are getting darker, if students are cycling to/from school, please ensure their bikes are equipped with adequate lights and they wear a helmet.

It's non-school uniform day on Wednesday, 21 October. Students can come in to school in their own clothes and donate £1. As it is Year 7s' first non-uniform day some students have been asking what they can wear. We recommend that the outfit is suitable for a learning environment, some items considered as not appropriate are: crop tops, short skirts/shorts, onesies, fancy dress or pyjamas. If students have any questions they should ask their form tutor.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb Assistant – Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

A testing week for all this week with everyone feeling the strain of the long half term, the return to routine and the change in weather. However, the majority of our students have been absolute superstars by remaining focussed and engaged in their work in the lead up to half term. I would like to pass my thanks on to those students and you for your continued support, perseverance and positivity. A big congratulations goes out to the following students for excellent work this week:

Poppy Eastman, Ara Rashid, Gracie Britcher, Rakan Alwi, Emily-Jayne Copsey, Norah White, Keira Wyatt, Dylan Atkinson, Leah-Louise Lovett, Sienna Brown, Owen Mann, J Lawson, Anastasja Burke and Ashely Breckons.

A reminder about phones – these are not permitted to be used during school hours which includes during tutor time, break and lunchtimes. In line with the school policy, phones may be confiscated if seen being used and may be kept in reception until the end of the day for parents to collect. Please also note that if you need an urgent message to reach a student during the school day, you must ring or contact reception rather than calling your child directly.

Reading books - whilst our tutors are doing their best to check every morning, please ensure your child has a reading book in their bag when they come to school. The online library system is up and running for students and parents to access.

For Halloween, our Year 8 form groups are taking part in a spooky door decorating competition and can take part in a pumpkin carving activity after school on Tuesday, 20 October in the art room – however, it is a bring-your-own pumpkin party!

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8

Ms Moss and Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

The students have been enthusiastic and hard working this week and we are very proud of them.

The most achievements points awarded this week went to:

Kimora Alexander, Lucy Birkett, Ryan Howes, James Hoye, Erin O'Neill, Samih Ozkan, Toby Thompson, Teyla Young, Dylan Scott, Jude Abramson, Tommy Bluett, Faith George, Atanas Kyurkchiev and Hayden Purvis. Well done to you all.

We are very proud of two of our Year 9 boys, but don't know who they are unfortunately. They helped a Year 7 boy when he fell off his bike and looked after him.

Can you please remind your child to use their catering cards in school. If they have lost their card can they please let their tutor know. When students forget their cards it creates a long queue for food and we are working hard to get through the staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Just a reminder that it is non-school uniform on Wednesday with a donation of £1 to the Soul Church Foundation.

The tutor groups are having a Halloween door-decorating challenge. If you have any decorations please bring them in. They will be judged on Wednesday.

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

Another great week for Year 10. There's been some hard work by our leadership team this week with our new Open Voice representatives and Charity Leaders – some really interesting ideas being discussed!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents that mobile phones at school are required to be switched off and in bags only. Students are not permitted to have their phones out during a lesson or tutor time for any reason.

Our achievement point total for this week is 230 and our top five students are:

Emma Tyrell	10
Jessica Druce	10
Ella Ash	9
Chloe Warner	9
Mackenzie Culley	9

Keep up the great work!

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

5. Year 11 News

This has been another challenging week with students becoming increasingly tired and aware of the educational goals ahead of them. Please remind students of the importance of behaviour in lessons and around the Academy during social times.

Attendance at Hub has slightly increased this week, so well done. However, remember that these sessions are there to improve the knowledge and understanding of lessons, providing valuable teacher contact time, for students to catch up, embed accurate knowledge and revision in preparation for their PPEs and summer exams.

The government educational guidelines state that all Year 11 students will sit exams in the summer, albeit starting slightly later at the beginning of June. At present, this is all we know but any further guidance and information will be given in due course.

A reminder from last week, that we are preparing evidence folders for every student, in every subject. These will include PPE grades, in class assessments and work from Hub sessions. This is in case we have to give any centre assessed grades. It is therefore vitally important that students attend school and as many Hub sessions as possible so we can prepare them to reach their full potential.

In preparation for Post-16 studies, please encourage students to look at individual college websites for information about courses and open evenings. (Due to the current situation, these may be virtual open evenings).

The top achieving students this week, who deserve a massive shout out are:

Harrison Foster
Dominic Kubiesa
Chelsea Sharpe
Rahat Miah
Said Tsinev

Finally, Ben Ashby has filmed and edited an amazing Open Evening video, leading a group of younger students. This is a fantastic piece of work and Ben should be very proud of what he has achieved, a very professional video. Well done Ben!

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Please note that the deadline for applications is Friday, 16 October. Year 9 and 10 have been emailed a form for completion and these need to be returned online as soon as possible.

If you have missed the deadline, or need a paper copy, please see Mrs Pearsall as a matter of urgency on Monday, 19 October.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

Shout outs – let's start with some shout outs to our amazing 6th Form students:

Aiden Measures – coaching football and tennis outside of school.

Cissie Waters - attended the virtual open day for Manchester Metropolitan University.

Adam Burrows – injured so couldn't join in with training, but still stepped up and helped Mr Anselin with training.

Emma Amies – lovely psychology mind maps.

Assembly – well done to Year 13s that joined the assembly on Tuesday. Over the next few weeks we will be running a number of short sessions to get them prepared to choose the types of courses that they would like to eventually apply for, and subsequently allow them to draft their personal statements:

Friday, 16 October (week B) – Choosing a Course (30 min session)

Tuesday, 3 November (week B) – Personal Statements (30 min session)

Wednesday, 4 November (week B) – Super curricular (15 mins)

Please also see below some useful links that Lucy spoke about during the assembly:

- <https://sacu-student.com/> has a section where students can make a free account and complete a careers quiz. <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> also has quizzes and lots of information about future careers.
- Our neaco page <https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/> has links in the resources section to our Apprenticeship podcast series and our series about Applying to University.
- UEA has a resource centre <https://everwondered.uea.ac.uk/> which has a huge range of helpful activities for students

Y13 UCAS/ Apprenticeship day – Thursday, 19 November

Students will all be off timetable on this date. They must come ready to complete their UCAS forms.

Students must have a draft personal statement ready and with them on the day. This year, with everything being so up in the air with regards to Apprenticeships and employment, we would like every student to apply to UCAS as a safety net. They always have the option to pull out later if they wish to.

NEACO individual support sessions – students can continue to speak to Ms Davies if they would like to book in for some one to one virtual sessions with Lucy our NEACO champion. She can give advice about courses at University, give apprenticeship help, or help with anything else post sixth form related!

PPE1 – Students' PPE exams will be starting the week beginning Monday, 9 November. Timetables for exams will be through very soon. Please ensure that students speak to their teachers so that they can advise the best way to revise for each subject.

Y12 NCS – Care packages

Students have until Monday, 19 October to bring in items for the care packages for the homeless. See the poster below for details:

Care packages for the homeless

What we need:

- Toothbrushes & tooth paste
- Hand sanitiser
- Long lasting food
- Roll on deodorant
- Wipes
- Socks
- Gloves
- Plasters
- Lip balm



Money donations will also be used in order to buy resources for the packages.



Every Wednesday and Friday money donations will be collected during form time.

Last collections will be on Monday 19th October.

Drop the items off in the box near reception.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. Careers

This week local careers information provider Icanbea has produced some excellent 'virtual' resources, which students of all ages will find really useful as they think about the courses or areas of employment they are interested in. Icanbea is based in the Eastern region so the information on the website is really relevant to the industries and opportunities close by. For an introduction to the website take a look at the 10 minute video:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/video-icanbea-demos-and-instructions/>

In addition, there is a really useful link to local Further Education College Open Events all of which are being held 'virtually' this year. The link is at:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/edu-virtual-tours/>

Our 'Sector of the Month' for October is Digital Creative and ICT. This is a vital and innovative sector in the Eastern region with a current workforce of 24,000 and plans to create another 10,000 tech roles by 2024 so potentially very appealing to our students.

Open Academy is lucky to have Enterprise Adviser, Ben de Tarrier from Aviva working with us and this week he has called on a member of the 'Learning and Knowledge' team at the company to write a blog about digital roles. Please take a look at this in the attachments.

For those students who are interested in wider aspects of the sector a good way to get started is to look at City College's apprenticeship programmes in Digital Creative Media and Norwich University of the Arts who are leaders in degree courses covering Arts, Design, Technology and Media:

<https://www.nua.ac.uk/>

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

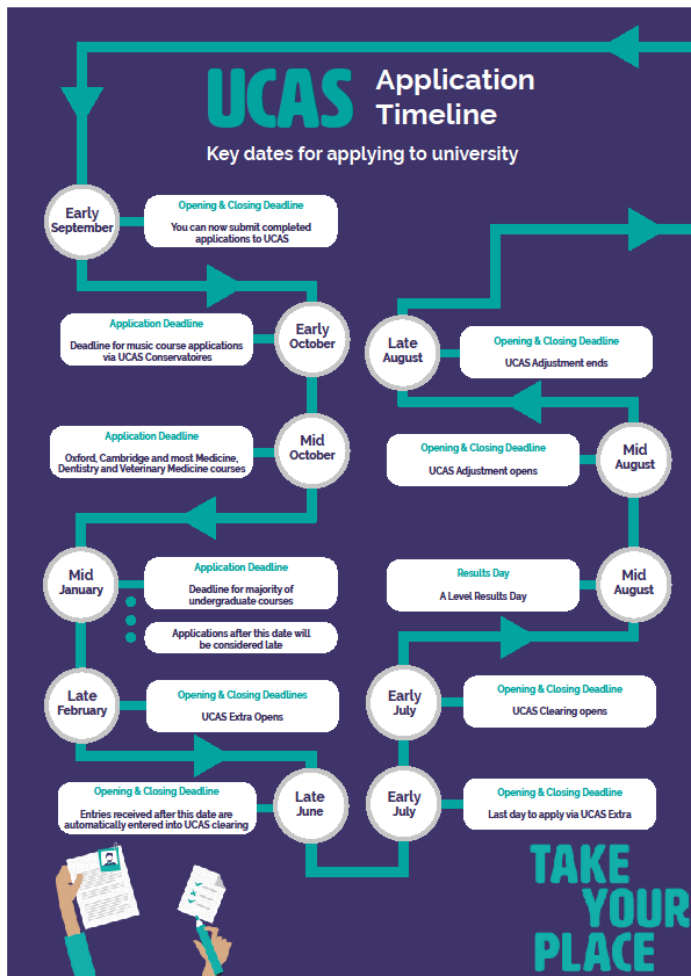
8. UCAS Timeline

Students in sixth form might be wondering what their next steps are and how to achieve this. Students might decide to go into employment, take a gap year before beginning their next step, or go on to complete a degree either as a university student full time or as an apprenticeship (there are other levels of apprenticeship as well). Students considering going to university, might be wondering when they need to complete their application. I have included a timeline with key dates. It is great if students begin to prepare for an application in Year 12, these dates apply when your child is in Year 13. They complete an application which is sent off to UCAS – a centralised system. Their applications are then processed and sent away to the universities which have been applied for. Some courses have an earlier deadline, but school have set a deadline in December for all other applications to be completed.

The timeline mentions UCAS extra. Students can apply for 5 choices on their university application. UCAS extra happens after students have heard back from their universities. If the student is not holding any offers (either they were unsuccessful or they declined their offers) they can add another choice at a time using UCAS extra.

As part of the university application process, students must write a personal statement. This is their chance to write a short statement to tell the universities why they should be made an offer to study on their course. It has been great to see Year 13 virtually twice this week as myself and my UEA Outreach colleagues have discussed an introduction to personal statements and how to choose a course and university. I will discuss more about personal statements in a future newsletter.

In the meantime, please do get in touch via Ms Davies if I can support you and students in any way.



9. Seneca Learning Premium

You may be aware that Open Academy are using Seneca Learning Premium to support our students' digital learning.

We also provide free parent accounts. The free parent accounts allow you to track your child's learning and help make conversations about school and learning easier.

The parent accounts also allow you to learn alongside your child if you wish to do so. This might be helpful in supporting you to work with your child on areas of their school work that you are less familiar with.

You can sign up for a free Seneca parent account here: app.senecalearning.com/parent

Seneca have made this handy [2 minute video](#) to help you get started. Or you can [read how to get your free account](#) if you'd prefer.

If you have any questions about how Seneca works, you can get support from the Seneca team using the live chat on their website or you can email them at learnmore@seneca.io.

We hope you find your free parent account useful!

Mr Thompson
Head of Strategic IT

10. Library News & Updates

Our current competitions have been extended until Monday to allow for any last minute entries over the weekend. We currently have two competitions that we are running. The first is to write a poem on the theme of vision for National Poetry Day. The second is to design a library card. More details about both competitions can be found below and attached.

This week we have contacted students and their parents regarding any outstanding library books on loan from last year that have not been returned or renewed. Can we please ask for your support in speaking to your child about these books/having a look for them over the weekend and returning them to school as soon as possible. If there are any issues please contact me.

Due to the shortened week next week, Year 7 Manga Club has been moved to Tuesday evening next week. (Clubs on Monday and Wednesday remain the same with Year 8 and 9 Manga Club on Monday and Year 10 and 11 library access on Wednesday.)

If your child would like to attend, you must confirm their place using the following form: [Library After-School sign up](#).

NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2020
See It Like a Poet
COMPETITION

Write a poem on the theme of 'Vision'

Deadline: Friday 16 October

Completed poems can be submitted in Teams or handed in to Miss Ling in the library.

1st OCTOBER 2020
#nationalpoetryday
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

Scan me for inspiration & writing tips.

COMPETITION

DESIGN A LIBRARY CARD

Libraries Week
5-10 OCTOBER 2020



- Collect a competition entry form from the Library.
- Make sure your design fits into the template.
- Your design should be based on a reading theme.
- Make it colourful and neat.
- Make sure to include your name and form on your work.
- The competition ends on Friday 16th October.

Name:

Form:

Why not join in with our other Libraries week activities too:
1. Log into the Library Catalogue and write a review of your favourite book
2. Contribute to our 'Books That Shape Our World Display' at lunchtime by sharing a reading memory or a book that is important to you.

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Attendance

Well done to Year 8 and tutor groups 1213JTH, D7NWA, SRB7EOK and SRB8EOK to tutor groups for having the highest attendance for week ending 25 September 2020. Well done all!

Attendance Lottery – Many congratulations to Bradley Copping, Year 9, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 9 October 2020. Well done Bradley!



For week 5.10.2020 to 9.10.2020, we had an amazing 453 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 46 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Chaplain's Reflection

Hard work

“So, let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up”.

Galatians 6v9 (The Bible)

As we approach this time in the pandemic, there are lots of uncertainties that surround us. The government have said that we are at tipping point. Uncertainty can bring a lot of fear along into our lives if we are not careful and cause us to lose hope for the future. Hope in us can arise from spying out the good in our lives, doing good things and doing good to people. Sometimes this can take a lot of hard work to do and we may feel like giving up.

The Bible talks about this in a book called Galatians and it says **“So, let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up”.**

In closing, don’t let hope die down, keep pushing even though it’s tough, and I know goodness, blessing and big strength will be with you.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain