

- Next week is week beginning 16/09/2019 (Week A)

- 17 September - Y8 Careers Day

Newsletter

Diary Dates:

Tuesday, 17 September - Year 8 Careers Day

Monday, 23 September (5-6pm) - Senior Leadership Team drop-in surgery

Year 7 News

- Attendance this week has been at 98.31%.
- Over 385 achievement points achieved over the course of this week.
- Applications for Head Boy & Girl, Student Voice and Equipment Shop volunteers have been handed in – roles to be announced next week.
- Great turn-out for extra-curricular activities which started this week.

As the weeks go on, naturally we'll have more achievements to report but a wonderful start to the year!

Miss Lines (Head of Year 7)

Year 8 News

It has been an encouraging start to Year 8 at The Open Academy. Everyone has settled in well and looking forward to an exciting year ahead. I would like to introduce myself, I am Sean Lambert, Head of Year 8. I am joined by Mrs Rachel Roe, who joins us as Assistant Head of Year and we can be contacted on the main telephone number, ext 1688. Our office is on the first floor, room F49.

The Form Tutors for Year 8 are Ms Thoppil (D8), Ms Luter (I8a), Ms McAvoy/Ms Marsham (I8b) and Mr Edwards (R8), Mr Thurston (C8). If you have any queries please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance or myself or Mrs Roe and we will be happy to help and offer any support where we can.

The lunchtime and after school clubs are underway this week and the first year 8 football match happened Thursday evening away to Acle and the score was an fantastic 3-nil win!

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Year 9 News

Year 9 have had a busy start to the academic year with their first set of assessments. The students were a real credit to themselves, approaching the exams with maturity and they all have worked very hard. I'm in no doubt this hard work will continue on through Year 9 and they will have a very successful year ahead!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 9)

Year 10 News

It has been a great start to Year 10 for the year group with an amazing total of 1693 achievement points so far! There have been a number of leadership opportunities that students have been able to volunteer for including becoming the Open Voice representatives for their tutor, a sports leader and the chance to apply for the role of Head Boy or Head Girl. I am excited to say that the uptake for the Head Boy and Head Girl vacancies were strong and the deadline for this

position has now passed. Shortlisting and interviews will take place over the coming week and I will be able to inform you of our new Head Boy and Head Girl in the newsletter next week.

Another fantastic opportunity for our students is to become a 'hero' through our work with Humanutopia. Our heroes will be involved in an event to be held in November, working with younger students across the Academy. Should your child/ward wish to become a hero they should see me as a matter of urgency as names need to be sent to Humanutopia on Friday 20th September.

As your child/ward makes the transition from KS3 to KS4, they can often feel overwhelmed due to the change in workload. In order to support our students we have set up a Learning Hub. The Learning Hub is a supportive environment where students can come to complete homework/coursework or have conversations with myself or Mrs Lamb regarding their studies and we can use this as an opportunity to support their learning.

The Learning Hub will take place daily at the following times in G40; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday before school 8-8:30am and Wednesday and Friday after school 3-4pm.

Should you have any concerns or queries throughout this year, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk.

Miss Matthews (Head of Year 10)

Year 11 News

Watch this space over the coming weeks for information regarding a number of activities and programmes to help support the year 11s in their preparation for GCSEs.

We will be restarting the mentoring programme over the coming week or two, where senior staff and year staff will be working with small groups of students to accelerate their progress.

We are also planning to run a GCSE preparation evening for parents in a couple of weeks time. I will be sharing the date and time of that event next week. It is our intention to provide you with lots of practical support information and tools to help you support your child as they prepare for their examinations.

Mrs Pearsall (Head of Year 11)

Free Breakfast

At Open Academy we are currently providing a free breakfast service to all students (in association with the National School Breakfast Programme).

Breakfast is available from 8am until 8:40 every day, we have a variety of breakfast cereals, fresh fruit and toasted bagels.

Mrs Joyce

Thought for the Week

In every single one of us there is leadership qualities. It doesn't necessarily mean being in a place of authority such as a managing director of a multimillion pound corporation or a sales manager with scores of individuals under their control. Sadly this is how leadership can be viewed in our day and age and doesn't paint a true picture.

All of us can be leaders in everything that we do in our lives from being examples in our homes, families, relationships, communities and in all the daily activities that we do.

A leader is someone who sees the need in something, steps out of the crowd and does something about it.

For example something simple like being that someone who lets another driver out of a side road when all the other cars have just carried on and won't give way.

A leader is someone who speaks words of encouragement when all around are words of negativity. Jesus always showed leadership, the kind of leadership that changed people's lives.

The bible portrays many powerful instances where He steps out of the crowd and brings unconditional love to the unloved, significance and value to the insignificant, forgiveness and not condemnation for mistakes made. Everyone that had an encounter with His "leadership" went away free from burdens and care.

In closing, I want to encourage us to look out for leadership opportunities in every encounter we have with the people in our communities or in any situation we may find ourselves in. When we lead, our lives are changed and so are the peoples around us.

You are all in my prayers

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Message from the Principal

Thank you for such a great start!

I am delighted to thank you all for ensuring that we have had a great start to the year. Almost all students are being sent in in full correct uniform which means we can concentrate on the teaching and learning aspects of a new term. Your efforts are most appreciated.

Some of you may already have met the Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year for your child as the new pastoral system takes effect and I hope you will enjoy the new year teams sections in the weekly newsletter from now on.

As promised, I will therefore keep my section much shorter this week, I just want to finish by saying please do talk to your child about homework. We raised the expectation bar significantly at the end of the last academic year and will be even more focussed on making sure all our students are stretched at home as well as in class. Research shows that regular homework is one of the most effective ways of helping students improve in secondary schools.

Shortly, year teams will be supporting students at the end of the day in what we are calling the Learning Hub in the atrium and other areas of the Academy after school. These will have equipment and staff ready to support children to get their homework done or to catch up if they fall behind – watch this space for more details next week.

Final thought for the Week

Why does time seem to go faster as we get older? We appear to have a relative clock as well as an absolute clock.

A 3 year old has to wait a third of their lifetime for Christmas to come around so it seems to take forever – as a 50+ year old I only have to wait a 50th of my life for Christmas to come around again – so it feels like I'm buying Christmas presents all the time!