

Open Academy Update 20 November 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

I know this has been a trying week for many of you with both the national lockdown and for those who have students at home self-isolating. Well done to those who are managing to get the students hooked up to our online offer, although I know others are doing a reasonable job using the paper-based resources that we have made available where needed.

I am relieved that a further week has gone by and despite a couple of possible cases that have been checked and come back negative, so far, we have had no further confirmed cases of the virus since I wrote to you last. This is an affirmation of how hard we are all working on all aspects of keeping the community safe so once again huge thanks – please do keep an eye on your children and any sign they may be developing the COVID symptoms please do keep them home and see how things develop. If they do start showing a temperature, cough or lack of taste/smell then do book them in for a test and let us know.

We have been out and about looking in lessons in the applied faculty this week and it has been great to see students fully engaging with many normal activities, for instance PE and food tech, so despite the challenges you will be facing at home many students are well and truly back in the swing of education.

Please accept my apologies if we are not quite as quick on our communications usual, as you can imagine we are a little thin on the ground staffing wise, and there are a lot of extra pressures at the moment for school staff to manage, so it may take us a little longer to respond than usual – please do give us a reminder though if you think your query has been lost.

Finally, I must say well done to Year 11 sitting their first Pre-Public Exams (PPE1) or 'Early Mocks' as we used to call them. It was a tough decision whether how and when to proceed, given the turmoil they have been through, but we wanted to make sure that we have at least some evidence of their progress during the academic year and the idea is that although we know how tough they will have found it this week, by February/March when they will complete PPE2 – Late Mocks, we will be able to show a direction of travel or trajectory that will allow us to make fair and accurate internal assessment grades, if that is what is required next year at the last minute – as happened this year.

Have the best weekend you can and stay safe.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

We are pleased with the students this week, it's been a great week for achievement points with over 700 points being awarded to the year group.

Well done to Mr Bradshaw's tutor group C7 who have the most points this week.

Students with the most achievement points this week are:

- Jacob Delf
- Steven Ellis
- Rebecca Shapcott
- Lucy- Rose Brown
- Areen Mohammed Ali
- Daisy Waterfield
- Amelie Dalton-Cozic
- William Delta Corte
- Millie Hagger
- Ella-Rose Key
- George Toozer-Smith

Well done all.

The entries for the postcard competition closed a couple of weeks ago. We asked Mr Ford to judge and he chose the designs from Rebecca Shapcott and Viktoria Kenaova. Mr Ford was delighted with the entries and it was a hard decision. The designs will soon be seen on postcards to be sent home.

This week has seen us launch another competition - we have asked students to design an environmentally friendly Christmas decoration for the year office. The closing date for this is Friday, 27 November and the winner will be announced Tuesday, 1 December. There is a prize for the best design.

All students should now be aware that homework is being set on TEAMS. If any student has difficulty accessing the work, can they please discuss this with their form tutor.

Can you please remind your child that when they are dismissed at the end of lessons they go straight to their next lesson, lateness has started to become an issue and it is important that students go straight to their class to stop any bubbles mixing, ultimately keeping them safe. They should not take 3 trips round the academy to get to their next lesson as we have seen some students do.

A reminder for face coverings. It is now a legal requirement in school for students to wear a face covering unless they are exempt and we have received a letter from parents. The school no longer has spare face coverings to give to students. Can parents/carers please ensure their child has a suitable face covering for school. We will be issuing behaviour points for those students who do not comply unless we have a letter from parents.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7
Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

We begin our notices this week with the sad news that Miss Moss has left Open Academy for pastures new. She has served our community for over 15 years with never-ending enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism and she will be sorely missed by staff and students alike. We wish her luck and happiness in her new job and she wishes Year 8 the same in their return to school next week. More news on changes within the Year 8 team will be included in next week's newsletter.

In preparation for Year 8's return to the Academy, please could all parents ensure their children have the correct uniform, equipment, timetable and a reading book ready for an efficient start back. A further reminder that phones are not allowed out during the school day and all pupils should come to school with a mask that must be worn when walking around the Academy.

A quick couple of shout-outs to students for great engagement with virtual lessons over the past week go to:

Xylia Sparkes, Lily Turner, Ara Rashid, Harisan Martin, Lucy Waterfield, Keisha Smith, Hollie Smith, Gemma Smith, Steve Vinhas, Elsie Auger, Elisha Jones, Ella Ramm, Ariya Rashid, Scarlet Bush, Ebon Gossland, Leah-Louise Lovett, Adam Lowe, Liliana Read, Ethan Walker, Keira Wayt, Sienna Brown, Ben Coe, Harry Craske, Suzy Langley, Owen Mann and Harvey Walters!

Miss Lines - Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

We have got through another great week in Year 9 and students have continued to work hard in their lessons.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Josh Kerry, Klaudia Baranowicz, Paige Berry, Freya Graysmark, Nathan Freeman, Alfie Skerritt, Millie Woodhouse, Sade Woollard, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Grace Moreton, Dalia Rosca and Joshua Tidd.

Well done to all these students and all those who continue to work hard in lessons this week.

Our prefects have their lanyards and badges now and have started their duties this week and are doing well. Thank you for committing to the break and lunchtime rotas. The student council had their first meeting this week too and some good ideas were discussed.

We have a new idea to introduce to Year 9s next week. Every Friday morning, we will have a 'hot chocolate (or squash)' treat. We will have different objectives each week and it will be a treat for one member of each tutor group. Anyone could be picked for any reason such as demonstrating any of our core values – aspiration, leadership, humility, courage, respect, hard work, service, integrity, forgiveness, thankfulness and perseverance. They could be picked by their peers, tutor, year group team etc.

Mrs Roe had the opportunity to pop into the food tech lesson this week when they were making apple pies and was impressed by the culinary skills of the students. Unfortunately (or fortunately) she wasn't able to go back when the pies were coming out of the oven, but the whole school could smell warm apple pies – delightful. Hope they tasted as good as they looked.





Just a reminder to please supply your child with a face mask and a spare. We cannot issue any more face masks and we have to keep all of us safe.

Also, a reminder about school uniform – leggings are not part of the uniform policy.

Dare we mention Christmas... we will be having a decorated tutor door challenge again and will start having a think about other festivities. Hopefully our school council and leadership teams will have some ideas of positive activities we can participate in to give ourselves a boost.

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9
Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

We'd like to start this newsletter by saying how well the students at home have been working over their self-isolation; they have clearly understood how important it is for them to treat working from home as though they were at school and that is so great to see. However, we cannot forget how brilliantly those who were still at school have risen to the challenge of being without friends and they have kept calm and seriously carried on. We are very proud of them all!

Despite being half a year group down our achievement points have still be great and our total for this week is 125 and our top five students are:

Ema Stuikeyte	10
Ethan Walpole	10
Amber Cleverley	10
Jessica Norris-Waterfield	9
Annie Tipple	8

Keep up the great work!

Can we remind parents that face masks are now compulsory around corridors and communal areas in school, unless a student is medically exempt. Students must be arriving with masks each day or behaviour points will be given.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10
Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

5. Year 11 News

After a gruelling two weeks of PPEs students are physically and mentally tired, we wish them a restful weekend.

The PPEs are both a reality check and a motivational tool. Some students will do better than expected which will spur them on and some will realise that they need to put in more effort in class and revision. One of the main reasons for doing the PPEs so early is that students now to have time to improve, they have

about 6 months (not counting holidays) to really get their heads down and work hard. Teachers are only too willing to answer questions and help with revision materials. Attendance at the Hub is good and this extra hour of teaching will be invaluable when it comes to performance in exams or providing evidence of performance.

Once the PPEs are marked, teachers will analysis the results, which will inform planning to support students in improving their grades.

We will be holding a 6th Form taster day for our current Year 11s on Thursday, 10 December. Next week during PSHE lessons and tutor time, students will be asked to complete an [online form](#) to express what subjects they would like to study in 6th Form. Students to be provided with a list of current subjects being run as well as a few that we have run up until recently (chemistry, physics etc). These are all on the postcards designed by 6th Formers. The Year 11 students need to choose 4 subjects to have a taster of on the day.

From Monday, 23 November we will be offering a second opportunity to apply to become a prefect. There is great demand for college places and even more so for apprenticeships, please talk to your child about the importance of having more on their CV than just grades. That aside, it is a great opportunity to give back to their school community and develop leadership skills.

Mrs Pearsall - Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton - Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

Firstly, a huge well done to all Year 13 students who took part in our UCAS/Apprenticeship day on Thursday. I hope that all students found this useful and we were very pleased with the number of fully completed applications. Please note that all UCAS applications need to be FULLY completed by Tuesday, 15 December at the very latest. Students can speak to myself, their tutor, or Ms Davies if they have any further questions. Also, a massive thank you to Mr T for the ridiculous amount of pizza! Please also remember that students can still book in for one-to-one sessions with Lucy via Ms Davies.



We are now at the end of our PPE1 window and all exams have been taken! Well done everyone. Results will be given out in the next week or so.

A gentle reminder once again that the 6th Form area is a privilege and as such must be kept free from clutter and rubbish. This week, unfortunately I have been really disappointed by the state of the areas, in particular the Year 13 areas. Please can all students make sure that they clean up after themselves.

Mrs Molloy

Head of 6th Form

7. Careers

Our Sector of the Month for November is energy. This is a really exciting sector for our region with Norfolk and Suffolk leading the way in delivering sustainable and low carbon energy solutions, which underpins economic growth across the UK. The Southern North Sea currently plays host to over 150 offshore gas assets, together with 986 offshore wind turbines generating 3.75GW of renewable power directly off the region's coast, with an additional 1,000+ turbines generating some 14GW of offshore wind power to be installed over the next decade. The energy sector has a current workforce of 7,800 and 400 enterprises and is projected to expand rapidly over the next decades as the UK moves towards a zero carbon footprint. The following link contains lots of real-life video clips of people who work in this sector and is a great way for students and families to find out more about the fantastic opportunities for employment:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/energy-7/videos/>

'Speakers for Schools' are hosting an exciting live broadcast from Peers for the Planet. Peers for the Planet is a House of Lords' climate and biodiversity action group.

There is a supporting PDF for students:

<https://www.peersfortheplanet.org/post/the-role-of-the-house-of-lords-in-climate-action>

Date: Wednesday, 25 November

Time: 17.00 – 18.00

Age group: KS4 & 5/ S4-6

Host: Baroness Helene Hayman.

Panel: Baroness Floella Benjamin, Baroness Rosie Boycott & Lord Richard Chartres

Join Link: <https://bit.ly/38V6xXR>

As we continue to be restricted by the Covid19 pandemic and real-life careers activities are at the moment on hold, it is really important that students are encouraged to use our careers platform Unifrog. This is now available to all students from Year 9 upwards and many students have already signed up and started creating their own profiles. It is really easy to access via www.unifrog.org and has masses of academic subject information for students to use as well as guidance on careers, courses and further/higher education institutions. Students can create their own accounts and save useful items and videos which interest them. They can create shortlists, log work experience, record interests and activities and build up their own CVs using Unifrog's CV builder. It's a great way to get a head start and boost confidence! For further information on *any* aspect of using Unifrog please see me (S12).

Mrs Davies

Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

8. Choosing Next Steps

If your young person is considering their next steps, they and you will know that it can appear an intimidating process. Whether deciding what pathway to take after 6th Form, choosing from different options after Year 11 and GCSEs, or preparing to think about which GCSEs to take, there are lots of choices to be made.

The biggest question can be – how do I choose? One way to help with this is for your young person to think about what they would like to do in the future, and then work backwards. If the aim is to work in a particular career area, it can be useful to look up what qualifications and subjects are needed, or would be helpful. Universities will specify any A level or BTEC subjects required, and give information about what grades are needed. Apprenticeship vacancies will detail what qualifications are required. 6th Form and colleges have information on their websites about GCSE requirements needed.

It's also completely fine if your young person doesn't yet know what they would like to do in the future. You and they could consider what they enjoy. Do they have favourite subjects? Is there a career area which interests them? What motivates your young person? Are there new subjects out there that they could study for the first time which might be of interest? There are quizzes and activities online which might help too.

Help and advice is available within school or I can be contacted through Ms Davies if I can support you or your student with exploring future options.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay
Higher Education Champion, NEACO

9. Library News & Updates

Library Click and Collect - Making the most of our online library services

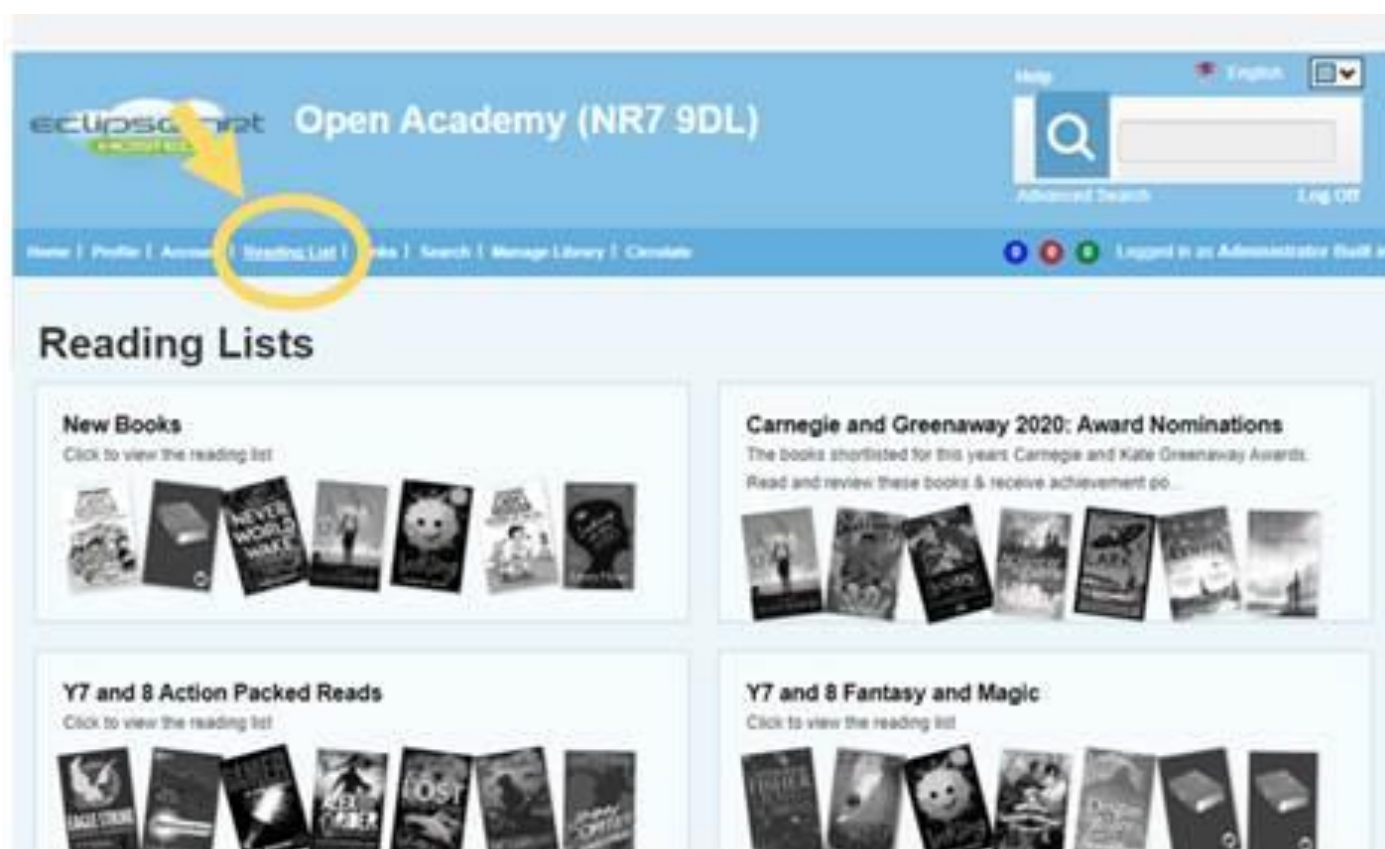
As you are hopefully aware, we are running a virtual click and collect service to allow students to continue to borrow reading books from the school library. The library website can be found here:

<https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/>

Students log in with their school email address. As this has now been up and running for a number of weeks we thought it would be useful to highlight some features students may not be aware of. Each week we will share details about a new feature. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to make the most of the website.

Reading Lists

This week we are featuring the reading lists feature. This page allows students to search through lists of books based on different topics and genres, from humour to horror, sports to science fiction and many more. Students can browse through books based on their interests and with hundreds of books available in the library, they are sure to find something for them! Reading Lists can be found by clicking on the button on the main toolbar of the website:



If your child needs any further support or is having any difficulties accessing the website, please contact me at library@open-academy.org.uk

Library Clubs

The following clubs are taking place in the library after school next week:

Manga Club

Year 8/9: Monday 3-4pm

Year 7: Friday 3-4pm

If your child would like to attend either of these clubs we ask that they please sign up in advance. [Please click here to sign up.](#)

Students who are isolating at home are welcome and encouraged to attend virtually. Please sign up as usual using the form attached and a link to an online meeting will be sent to your child.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance

Due to Year 8 and part of Year 10 being currently absent due to self-isolating, we are unable to update on the highest attendance for week ending 13 November 2020.

Just a reminder of our student absence email address to notify ourselves of any absences:
student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

Forgiveness

You will know that forgiveness has begun when you recall those who hurt you and feel the power to wish them well.

Lewis B. Smedes

In school this week, we will be talking about a subject that is very challenging to us all. It's forgiveness. This word affects everyone of us and we will definitely bump into it on the road of life at some point. Forgiveness is the intentional and voluntary process by which a person undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offence, and overcomes negative emotions such as resentment and vengeance however justified it might be.

If we don't forgive, we suffer many times and we remain tied to past hurts. We also have frequent feelings of anger or hostility which leads to depression and emotional pain. Our life then is not our own as we are unable to change or move on. We can be locked in a prison of bitterness and our lives become not our own. This really paints a negative picture and really takes away hope.

If we choose to forgive we gain freedom from resentment and anger, our lives improve dramatically. We have less depression, anxiety and pain, our psychological and physical well-being is transformed and we have the freedom to move on.

Forgiveness is a process which takes time and takes practice. The Bible talks about this when Jesus was asked a question by one of his disciples "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times'.

When we have the power to forgive, we have the power to be free.

God bless you, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain