

Open Academy Update 27 November 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

I am delighted to say that we are back to full strength as everyone is back from self-isolation and there are currently no cases linked to the Academy. This has meant our attendance has bounced right back up and Year 8 and 10, who were worst affected, are now both well over 96% attendance. Obviously, it will take the students a few days to get back up to speed and I have had to have stern words with a number of Year 8s and 10s over the last couple of days. However, I think we are getting there, so thank you for your hard work getting them through lockdown.

We have pushed back the assessment period for Year 8s by a week or so, but it is vital that we get a snapshot of how they are doing now, so please do encourage them to start revising for their assessments in around 10 days time – if they are stuck with what to learn they should refer to the most recent knowledge organisers they have in TEAMS.

Year 11 managed to get through their early mocks reasonably well and some of the initial results I have seen in Maths and English look especially encouraging. We will be holding a mock results feedback session with them in the coming weeks and then getting them focussed on their next steps with 6th Form tasters and information to accompany the results information.

I was please to meet Hallie Chandler (Year 7) who had done some excellent work in German to be nominated for work of the week and, unfortunately still have not caught up with Luke Edge (Year 7) who was also nominated for his work in German.

We know that as lockdown lifts the situation remains challenging. As we move in to tier 2 for many of you that will mean little change. We will review our COVID-19 secure risk assessment as and when any new guidance is given and continue to do all we can to keep this community safe. We will therefore continue to insist that students follow our safe procedures and hope that you will continue to support our efforts as we begin to prepare for the festive season. Given how important it is that we keep the Academy virus free, please continue to monitor your children for any signs of the virus, please keep them home if necessary and let us know if you need help to get a test organised. Likewise, if students are persistently failing to follow our safe processes, including the requirement to wear a mask and follow all instructions, then reluctantly I may well have to send them home as per our COVID-19 updated home school agreement, which is available on the website

Reminders over, I hope there is much to find of interest in the following pages – please do let us have feedback as to how we are communicating in these challenging times.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

We are now over half way through this half term, the weather is turning, and students are getting tired. The Year 7s should be congratulated on their resilience as they continue to work well and follow the restrictions put in place. We are pleased that the students continue to wear their face coverings. A few have had to be reminded of the correct way to wear them and we have also issued some to students who have forgotten them. Please can parents/carers make sure their child has a face covering with them before they leave the house of a morning.

Again, a great week for achievement points. Keep up the amazing effort for the next few weeks. Top achievers this week:

Areen Mohammed Ali
Keeley Youngs
Layla Downes
Megan Perriton
Ruby Anderson
Jacob Delf
Steven Ellis
Asha Kandola
Ella- Rose Key
Roman Taylor

Top Tutor Group for achievement points are D7 – well done Mr Walters and D7.

The Christmas decorating competition winner will be chosen on Monday - please can you remind your child to bring their entry to the year office first thing in the morning. We have some entries and it would be great to have some more to make the office look festive.

The Academy is still collecting for the Christmas hampers, if families are able to give their child an item to bring in for the hampers this would be appreciated.

The first tutor Christmas quiz will be launched next week, the winning tutor group will receive a prize.

Teachers have reported that the students can take a while to settle at the beginning of a lesson, we are reminding students of the learning expectations of the Academy. Parents/carers will be contacted if behaviour is unacceptable and sanctions will be given.

A few general reminders:

- Energy drinks and fizzy drinks are not allowed in the Academy, if seen the items will be confiscated.
- Phones should not be out during school time, this includes lessons and social time.
- Uniform seems to have slipped, leggings are not acceptable wear for girls, hoodies and non-school jumpers are not allowed. We have spare jumpers if required.
- Please ensure your child has the correct equipment, this should also include a reading book.
- A safety reminder, if your child comes to school on a bike, can you please make sure that they have working lights and wear a helmet. The weather can be foggy/rainy and it is getting darker in the afternoon making it very difficult to see riders if they do not have lights. If they have any reflective items of clothing it is recommended that this be worn as well.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

No update.

Miss Lines - Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

It has been a good busy week and we only have 3 more weeks before Christmas.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Samih Ozkan, George Colledge, Leo Davidson, James Hoye, Jayden Muzembe, Charlie Slack, Alfie Skeritt, Summer Maccormack, James Self and Gerrard Sandell. Well done to you all.

We have 3 new prefects to join our team. Well done to:

Sophie Swatman, Sade Woollard and Klaudia Baranowicz.

We are starting to think about Christmas and we will be decorating tutor groups with a prize for the best decorated room, so if you are getting your decorations out of the loft please send in any spare. We will also be participating in Christmas jumper day on Friday, 11 December with a £1 donation for charity.

We had our first Praise Club this morning as recognition for students that are always working hard and have a great attitude towards their learning. Myself and Mrs Roe chose the following students this week:

Joe Sanderson, Mason Perriton, Charlie Slack, Sophie Swatman and Katie Edge. Well done to you all. Next Friday the Year 9 tutors will nominate someone for a well-deserved treat.



As a general reminder could you please have a conversation with your child about wearing masks in school. Adults can spend a lot of time reminding students to wear their mask appropriately i.e. not round their necks and it must cover their noses. We appreciate your support.

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

4. Year 10 News

This week we would like to say how great it has been to welcome back all of our Year 10 students who have been self-isolating.

Can we remind parents/carers please that face masks are now compulsory around corridors and communal areas in school, unless a student is medically exempt. We have issued some masks to students who have forgotten them, however please be aware that if this continues students will be issued with behaviour points for not having a mask. Also, it is important for the safety of all students and staff that your child knows how to wear a mask correctly.

After a week in which behaviour during social times has become increasingly lively, please can we ask that you remind your child that whilst in school they must remain calm and respectful.

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

Finally, we are delighted that despite much upheaval our achievement points have still be great and our total for this week is 264. Our top five students are:

Kamile Reginaite	25
Jessica Norris-Waterfield	23
Amber Mawby	11
Ethan Baikie	10
Mackenzie Culley	9

Well done Year 10.

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

5. Year 11 News

Students have settled back into lessons after the PPEs and we will soon be sharing the results. Attendance at school and at Hub sessions are so important as the government are adjusting arrangements for the summer exams. Currently some exams will be delayed by a number of weeks and some assessments are being altered. We are preparing students for this. The more time they can have with a teacher in front of them the more prepared they will be for the exams. Students should also be doing private study at home using their notes, revision guides and there are lots of online resources such as Seneca. Please encourage your child to get into the habit of studying if they haven't already. It is helpful to have a study timetable, it is easier to stick to a planned study routine that works around fun things like time on consoles or talking with friends.

As the weather is turning colder students could wear a t-shirt under their shirt and a school jumper to keep warm. Students should wear a coat to school, but this will need to be removed when coming into the building. Uniform is important as it teaches students to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance. Most importantly, a uniform means students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like isn't so important. Can you also remind your child that headphones must be removed when in the school building.

Prefect application forms need to be in by Monday, 30 November, please talk with your child about this and encourage them to apply.

Well done to the following for the most achievement points this week:

Georgia Haslam, Amelie Orr, Bailey Dukker, Lilia Colledge, Carra Tipple, Archie Davidson and Josh Stagg

Mrs Pearsall - Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton - Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

We are half way through the half term now, and I know that many students are feeling pretty tired with all of the things going on at the moment. With that in mind, I thought I might set everyone a cooking/ baking challenge (anyone else obsessed with MasterChef and Bake Off at the moment?!). Send me a picture of the best bakes or meals that they've cooked over the next week, and I will feature them in next week's newsletter! Here is my favourite Millies Cookie recipe which is always a winner in our house:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/user/23650/recipe/millies-cookies-recipe>

Or for those that prefer savoury, check out this super easy pinwheel puff pastry wonderfulness, which is so simple that even my children can make it:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/pizza-puff-pinwheels>

Stick on some music and have an hour or so just making something lovely to feed yourself and your family to relax your minds.

In terms of Year 13 PPEs, all teachers will be speaking to students that gained lower than expected results and putting together an intervention plan. Parents will also be informed if students gained lower than expected grades. I fully encourage students to use this opportunity to speak to their teachers and myself if they need any help with revision techniques or how to catch up on work.

Please remember that all students can book in for a one to one informal session with Lucy our Higher Education Champion. If students have any questions, worries or just want to chat about what you could do after school, 6th Form or college, then book a virtual appointment with a NEACO Higher Education Champion. It's a chance for them to be able to ask questions specific to their situation or have help with their next steps. The team can offer information on a range of topics, including:

- Next Steps after GCSEs
- University and the UCAS process
- Student Finance
- Apprenticeships
- Personal Statements
- Work Experience and Super-Curricular Opportunities

To book your 20-minute online session, speak to Ms Davies and choose a weekday and time that suits you.

UCAS: Please remember that deadline date is **Tuesday, 15 December** to get this finished. Students must speak to myself, their tutor, or Ms Davies if they are struggling with completing any part of this. We are all also happy to proof read personal statements.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. Careers

Speakers for Schools have announced an upcoming live broadcast for football fans everywhere! Please join them for England football manager and author of *Anything is Possible*, Gareth Southgate, and Youtube gamer and entertainer, Sharky, to talk about Gareth's England football career and insight – all in partnership with Penguin Talks!

Date: Tuesday 1st December

Time: 16:00 – 17:00

Speakers: Gareth Southgate, England Football Manager and Sharky, Youtube Gamer & Entertainer

Year Group: KS4 & 5 / S4 – 6

CLICK HERE TO JOIN

In this event, Gareth Southgate and Sharky reflect on the experiences and lessons of Gareth's career. He will share how young people can thrive and make the most of their lives, by being brave, being kind and following their dreams. Gareth Southgate has had a playing career spanning 500 senior appearances. He has represented England 57 times, captained both Aston Villa and Middlesbrough to League Cup final success, and is currently England manager of the senior men's team. His new book 'Anything is Possible', is about how to achieve your dreams and ambitions.

The talk will be webinar style and so attendees will not have their cameras or microphones on. There will be a Q+A chat function where students can ask their questions, which will be moderated by Penguin staff. Email your questions to inspiration@speakersforschools.org

Ms Davies

Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

8. Time Management

Whatever year your student is in, time management and procrastinating by putting off tasks can be a common theme. Whether it is making sure that homework is in on time, finding time to research next steps, or planning revision, time management can feel like a difficult task. I wanted to share with you some thoughts to help this:

- Work out your deadline and work backwards to this. Look at when the essay is due/first exam is/application form is due.
- Categorise your tasks – split them according to importance and urgency and do these first. Is every task on your list necessary?
- Break down tasks – you are much more likely to succeed if you complete the bigger task into manageable sections. For example, you could research your essay on one day, plan on another, and break down writing each part of the essay.
- Motivate yourself by looking at what you have achieved. Some people like to cross off tasks on a 'to do' list. Others have a 'done' list so that they can see what is complete.
- Try and avoid distractions. Set yourself up a space you can work in, so you don't spend time putting off the task by tidying a space or finding paper and pens.

If you or your student would like further information or support, this is available in school or I can be contacted through Ms Davies.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay

Higher Education Champion, NEACO

9. Library News & Updates

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

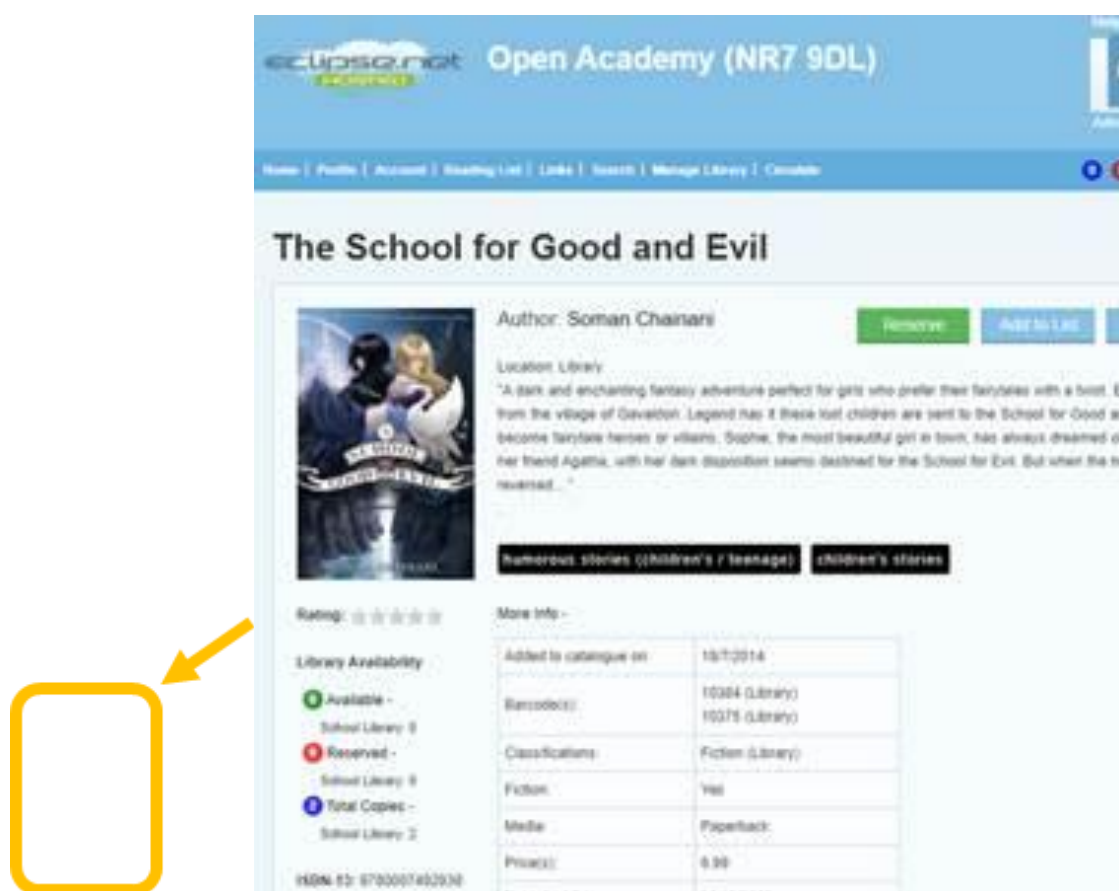
We are running a virtual click and collect service to allow students to continue to borrow reading books from the school library. The library website can be found here:

<https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/> and students log in with their school email address.

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.

How do I know if the book I want to borrow is available to borrow now?

Sometimes you may request a book that is already on loan to another user (particularly for the most popular titles). Before reserving a book make sure you check the current availability. When you open a book on the website you will be taken to a page like the screenshot below:



The screenshot shows the library website interface for 'Open Academy (NR7 9DL)'. The book 'The School for Good and Evil' by Soman Chainari is displayed. A yellow box highlights the 'Library Availability' section, which shows 1 Available, 0 Reserved, and 1 Total Copies. The 'More Info' section shows the book was added to the catalogue on 16/7/2014, has a barcode of 10084 (library) and 10078 (library), is classified as Fiction (library), is a Yes Fiction book, is a Paperback, and has a price of £6.99.

Underneath the book's cover, you can check the Library Availability. This tells you how many copies are currently in the library and can be borrowed (in the green circle), how many copies have been reserved (in the red circle) and how many copies the library has of the book altogether (the blue circle.) If there is a 0 in the green circle, this means the book is on loan to another student and you will need to wait for the book. You can still reserve the book to read later, but we recommend you also find another book that is available to borrow now. That way you will always have a reading book when you need one in lessons.

Library Clubs

Book Club is moving to lunchtimes from next week and will be taking place on the following days:

Year 7: Wednesday Week B

Year 8/9: Monday Week B

Year 10: Friday Week A

Book club is a chance to discuss what you have been reading, share recommendations and read some new books. Students who would like to take part should collect a library pass from me during breaktime on the day the club is running.

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

Creative Writing Club:

Year 7: Tuesday 3-4pm

Year 8/9: Thursday 3-4pm

We will look at different forms of writing and in each session, they will have a chance to create their own piece of writing and receive feedback on it. This club is all about creativity and writing for fun.

Manga Club

Year 10 and 11: Wednesday 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



Please do continue to encourage your son/daughter to have good attendance and punctuality. Please remember to contact reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us if they are absent from school. Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact your their Assistant Head of Year. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

Leadership

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams

We always think that leadership is about leading others and that is the case sometimes. But, more importantly it's about leading our own lives, making our own choices and going in the direction we want. So many times, we can be affected by our circumstances and situations and this can lead our lives grinding to a shuddering halt. **Instead of leading we go to reacting.**

I just want to use an example to explain this. At the moment it's winter and we are quite familiar with turning the thermostat up on our heating system and we are also used to looking at the temperature to see what it's at. The thermostat sets the temperature and the thermometer reacts to it.

This may sound silly but, in our lives, we are either one of these. We can be a thermostat and set the tone and lead our lives in a positive way, or we can be like a thermometer and react to and be influenced by what goes on around us.

I just want to encourage you today not to let outside influences get you down. Don't get pulled into a low mood because of what circumstances and what others have said and done. Lead your own life, take it where you want to go.

My prayer is that God would strengthen us and give us the ability to lead our lives into greater things.

God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain