

Open Academy Update 4 December 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our newsletter this week and as I write looking out towards the blizzard, it really does feel like the festive season is upon us.

We have a fantastic tradition of helping and supporting our community at Christmas and I am delighted to say that this year is no exception with lots of hampers being made up by form groups, staff teams and other Academy groups – I know things are hard for everyone at the present time so if you do get chance to give your generosity is especially appreciated.

We remained COVID free again this week, which is amazing and a testament to how hard everyone is working to keep the Academy virus free. Please be re-assured we are doing all we can to keep the virus at bay as we approach Christmas, and likewise, please remain vigilant to the COVID symptoms regarding your child.

On the COVID note a quick plea. The vast majority of students are brilliant at wearing their masks, but a few forget them, and a tiny minority are regularly forgetting. We are not able to keep supplying spares as I will run out of budget very quickly, so please do try to remember to check that your child has their mask as they set off for the Academy

The other thing I need to do this week is to quell a few fears. I have no intention of highlighting the false information that has been circulating other than to say, despite what you may have seen on social media, we do not believe there to be any increased risk in our local area at this time.

Overactive imaginations have been calmed and advice given.

Students are advised to follow all the usual sensible advice regarding walking to school - sticking to well-lit paths, walking with friends and keeping people informed of expected times etc. If they have any concerns about their immediate safety, as usual they should phone the police.

And that is more than enough of that! There are so many nice things to look forward to over the coming weeks – like Christmas Jumper day, hamper distribution, our (online) Christmas service, Christmas lunch, not to mention the Christmas door decoration competition, I am pleased to be turning our attention to the festivities, albeit I know somewhat COVID affected.

Finally, this week I would like to commend Poppy Eastman (Year 8) who was nominated for work of the week by her languages teacher for some excellent work on both Spanish and German. – Well done!

I hope you find the following updates, notices and information useful.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

We've noticed a small dip in behaviour this week as the countdown to Christmas begins. The students have needed some reminders about the expectations, this includes entering the classroom and walking to and from lesson. Due to the staggered lesson times students need to behave appropriately at all times, this includes not running or shouting around the school. This disrupts the learning of other year groups. Can parents/carers please talk to their child about the expectations.

Mr Ford led a virtual assembly about leadership this week, we are proud of the Year 7 leadership team, they have all been given lanyards and red cards so they can be identified easily. In the forthcoming months the leadership team will become more involved in school life. We are excited to be working with the Year 7 leadership team and support them to become skilled student leaders.

Christmas lunch will be available on Wednesday, 16 December. Students should have made their choices and let their form tutor know. There will be no other hot options this day the only alternative will be baguettes and sandwiches.

Tutors have asked that we extend the Christmas decoration competition so we have agreed until Wednesday next week, this will be the final day for entries.

We have already given a few students coats, and still have a small supply if any student needs one.

This week has seen the year group receive over 1000 achievement points. This is fantastic well done all. Our top ten achievers this week are:

Lucy-Rose Brown
Isioma Onuchukwu
Maizi Youngs
Rebecca Shapcott
Daisy Waterfield
Lola Norton
Mohammed Suliman
Jayden Alden
Ruby Anderson
Steven Ellis

Special mentions this week to:

Lola Norton, for her help with the Christmas hampers. Lola is one of the year groups charity leads and she gave up her lunchtime to assist Mark, the school Chaplin, with the hampers.

Lewis Ward, for his hard work in Food Tech. He was very helpful to the teachers and others in the lesson.

The tutor group with the most achievement points this week is Mr Bradshaw – C7. Well done C7.

The first round of the Christmas quiz has been issued to tutor groups. The next one will be sent Monday.

On a final note can we just ask students to remember their face coverings. We have given out less this week, but there are still a small number who forget them.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

Another busy week in Year 8. Their EA1 assessments have started for each of their subjects and these are being carried out during their normal lessons. The new prefect duty timetable started as well this week, making a few changes. The prefects are doing a great job and it is good having their presence felt.

Tutors are now in the process of selecting five students from each tutor group to join in with a fun celebratory afternoon off timetable next Friday.

Finally, we know its nearly Christmas, but do remember that students must wear the correct uniform and make sure they have an outside coat, especially with the weather turning. We also want to make sure they have correct equipment each day, which includes a reading book, writing equipment and a mask.

Miss Lines - Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

Year 9 have had a good week despite the weather getting colder and wetter. The boys had the opportunity to play football over lunchtime yesterday, which was nice to raise everyone's spirits.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Angelos Chatzopoulos, Oliver King, Samih Ozkan, James Self, Charlie Slack, Tommy Taylor, Sam Yellop, Dalia Rosca, Kimora Alexander and Jayden Muzembe.

Well done to you all and all those who received achievement points this week.

Our praise club members this week have been chosen by their tutors this time. They are:

Sam Yellop, Zac Skells, Millie Woodhouse, Torri Ashton and Eadie Ambrozevich.

Well done to these five students for showing commitment to their learning and a great attitude to school life. Next week it will be the turn of the students to pick one person in their tutor group to have a treat on Friday. The tutors will talk to them about their choice and hopefully it won't just be their best friend that they pick, but someone who deserves a treat for any reason such as being kind, being helpful, sense of humour, makes them smile, good friend or just needs a boost. Watch this space.

Year 9 have an opportunity to take part in a Youth Sport Award. It is a unique award scheme that puts health and wellbeing at the heart of developing young people, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come.

Why take part in it?:

- A nationally recognised award (this means you can put it on your CV when you apply for colleges).
- Increased confidence.
- Build positive relationships with peers.
- Develop problem-solving and communication skills.

We will be looking at introducing a new sport Kin-Ball into the Academy which will be taught to the leaders by myself for them to then lead to other Year 9 students in future PE lessons.

There are two full weeks to go before we break up for Christmas. Can we please ask that you keep discussing with your child the importance of bringing a mask to school and wearing it appropriately when in school.

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

4. Year 10 News

No update.

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

5. Year 11 News

No update.

Mrs Pearsall - Head of Year 11
Mrs Middleton - Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

Survey:

Please could your 6th Former complete the survey below from students in the Netherlands. It is introduced in Dutch but the questions are in English! It is a school twinning project and it would be really lovely to get all of Year 12 and 13 to complete this:

<https://www.surveio.com/survey/d/V3L2R4R9K4C8S1J4Y>

UCAS:

Although the final cut off date for all UCAS applications is 15 December, Mr Thompson and myself have agreed that we would like all applications complete by this Monday, 7 December in order to give us time to check through each individual one. Those students that haven't completed it by this date will automatically be entered into the Hub as of Tuesday so that they get some extra support to complete their application.

Please also remember that both Year 12 and 13 can book in for one to one sessions with Lucy. Ms Davies has sent this link out a number of times to students via email.

HUB:

Ms Davies emails all students that have been asked to join that week's Hub on a Monday. We have been seeing increasing number of students not turning up to their Hub sessions and I will be speaking to these individuals. Please remember that teachers have asked for specific students to join the Hub as they are

concerned that they are falling behind in their subject. These sessions are a really great opportunity for students to get some quiet time and one to one support.

Cooking/Baking:

Some magnificent creations in the kitchen this week. Reuben made a lemon drizzle cake, and Mia made an onion bhaji burger. Yum! Keep sending them in for next week as well!



Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. 6th Form Parents' Evening

Next week we have the Sixth Form parents' evening. Under the current Tier 2 rules we would not be allowed to host it in school. Therefore, we are pleased to announce our solution. We will be trialling some new technology to book appointments. The company have promised that a text message has been sent today. I hope it is user friendly and works well. We have made a helpful crib sheet if required, which is attached.

How will parents' evening happen?

In the ideal scenario it would be great if we can have a Teams meeting with the parents with their son/daughter. The teacher will call via Teams using your son/daughter's Office 365 account. However, we understand that the technology could easily get in the way. If that is a problem we can use the time slot to give a telephone call.

Should you have been unable to make an appointment on the new booking app, then the teachers will try to make a telephone call during the parents' evening time.

We are all fully aware that this is not as good as an in-person parents' evening. There are almost certainly going to be teething problems. It will be far harder to accommodate everyone and any remote system can't easily respond should someone be ill. However, we hope that this system is effective and would welcome any feedback to Ms Davies in the Sixth Form office so that we can either improve our systems or arrange contact should something go wrong on the evening.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

8. Careers

Many Open Academy students have expressed an interest in a future career in the healthcare sector. This is a growing area of employment and offers a very wide variety of career roles which can be pursued either through the apprenticeship route or after taking a university degree. Please take a look at the following link which describes the current opportunities available and how to go about getting more information on specific pathways:

<https://www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk/>

It is currently very difficult for students to access 'real' work experience placements, however many companies and organisations have created really innovative 'virtual' schemes which are well worth looking at. The following link describes some of the schemes available to Year 10-13 students ranging from virtual tours to interactions which last several days:

https://padlet.com/new_anglia_careers_hub/x14s19n317qub3wq

Our CEAIG careers advisor is now coming into school on a weekly basis to advise Year 11 students on their next steps. At other times students can consult me in office S12 on the Second Floor.

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

9. Motivation

At this point in the school year, your student may be considering their next steps after Sixth Form, studying and revising for exams, or beginning to consider which GCSE subjects to take. It's a busy time of year, combined with winter weather and shorter, colder days. Your student may find motivation slipping as they consider what they need to do. Everyone is different, but one or more of these ideas might help:

- What are you working towards? Write or draw this, and stick it somewhere you can see it, to remind yourself of what you want.
- Visualise success. Imagine yourself revising or completing that essay. It's a technique used widely by athletes to help achieve success.
- Break your tasks down. Make a revision timetable or plan out your week. Breaking down your tasks should make them seem much less difficult and time consuming.
- Plan in time for your favourite activities. Even if you are revising for exams, you need to make sure you have regular breaks and free time – balanced with study.

There is support available within school, or I can be contacted through Ms Davies if I can support you/your student.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay
Higher Education Champion, NEACO

10. Millionaires Club

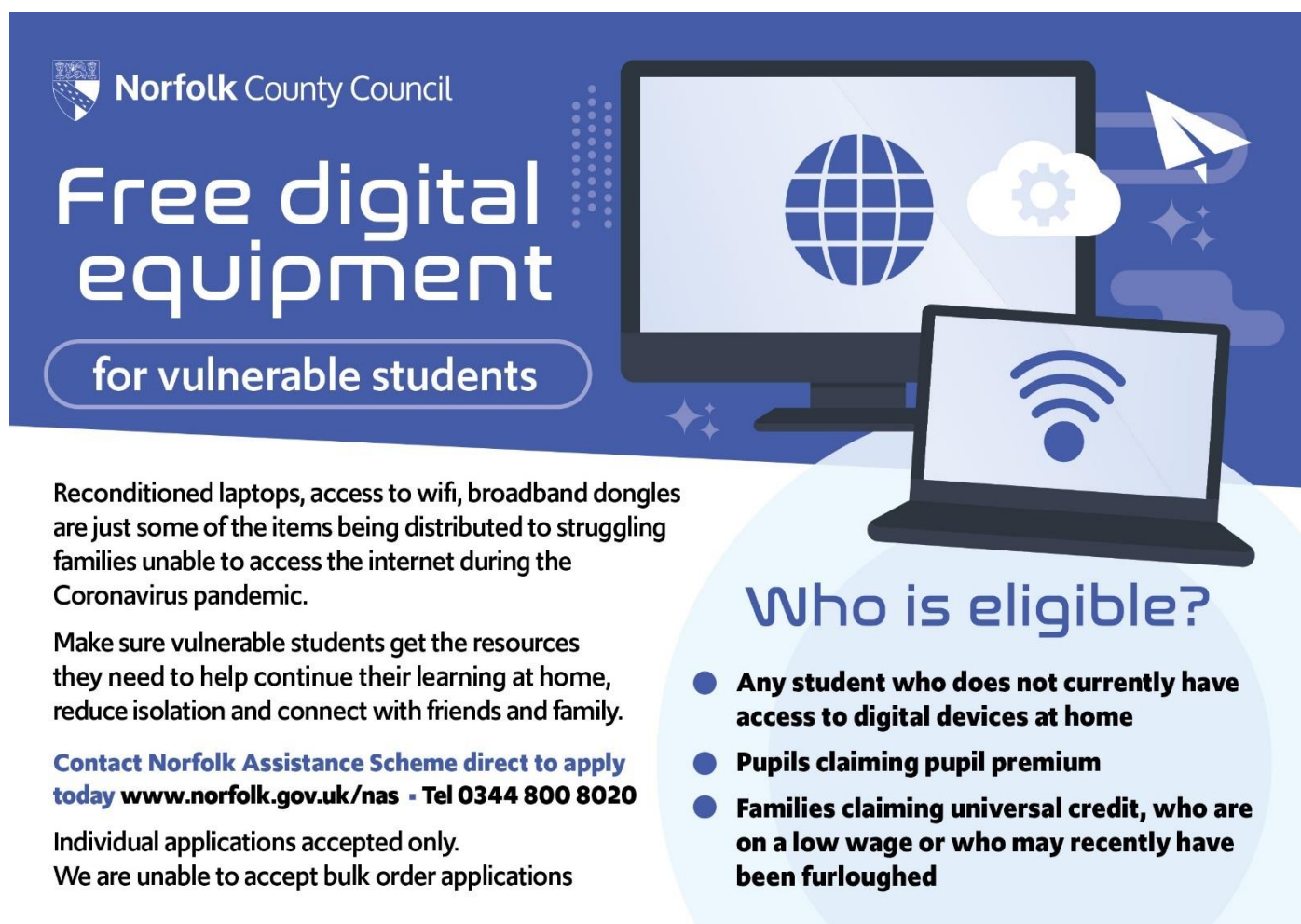
The Millionaires Club is back! I will be regularly counting the number of words students have read (based on the fortnightly homework to read a book and quiz on Accelerated Reader). If you want to read extra books and complete the quizzes to get in the club faster, go for it! To be a Millionaire you have to have read 1 million words. You will get your first badge at this stage. If you get to 3 million, you receive your silver badge. If you get to 8 million, you get your gold badge.

Every book you read and quizzed on since the day you joined the Academy counts, so you may find you are almost there already! When restrictions have lifted, we will also be looking at booking special treat trips for our Millionaires.

Miss Roberts
Teacher

11. Free Digital Equipment

Please see the information below from Norfolk County Council regarding access to electronic equipment:



Norfolk County Council

Free digital equipment

for vulnerable students

Reconditioned laptops, access to wifi, broadband dongles are just some of the items being distributed to struggling families unable to access the internet during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Make sure vulnerable students get the resources they need to help continue their learning at home, reduce isolation and connect with friends and family.

Contact Norfolk Assistance Scheme direct to apply today www.norfolk.gov.uk/nas - Tel 0344 800 8020

Individual applications accepted only.
We are unable to accept bulk order applications

Who is eligible?

- **Any student who does not currently have access to digital devices at home**
- **Pupils claiming pupil premium**
- **Families claiming universal credit, who are on a low wage or who may recently have been furloughed**

Ms Reed
Safeguarding Lead

12. Secondary School Emotional Health and Well Being

Please see attached the newsletters attached.

Mrs Chapman
SENCO

13. 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.

Writing Book Reviews

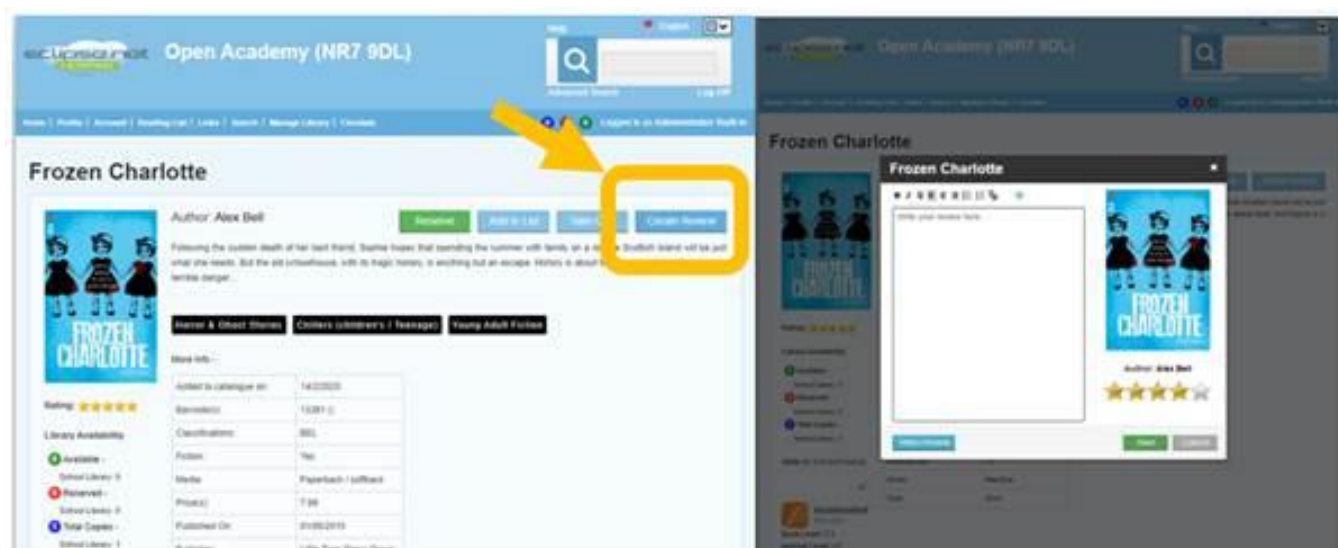
Why not share your thoughts on a book by writing a book review? You can review any book that we have in the library, and for each review you write you will be awarded with achievement points (and throughout December, you will receive a small chocolate too!)

Become a writing champion, and collect awards for the number of reviews you write. Certificates will be awarded for reaching each milestone.

Bronze: 10 Reviews - Silver: 25 Reviews - Gold: 50 Reviews

To write a review, search for the book on the library catalogue and click on the book to open its page. On the top right on the page, click the 'Create Review' box. Write your review, give the book a star rating and click save to send you review for approval.

Once the review has been published, it will be displayed at the bottom of the book's page (reviews are anonymous, but are sent to the librarian for approval.)



Library Clubs

KS4 Book Club will also be taking place during Friday lunchtime next week. Students can also take part virtually, please contact me for more information.

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

Manga Club:

Year 7- Friday

Year 8/9- Monday

If your child would like to attend an after school club 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.

Overdue Library Books

We have sent fresh reminders to students this week about library books that are overdue. Can we please ask for your support in reminding your child to check for any library books at home, and to return these to the library as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Miss Ling
Librarian

14. Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property from this term including coats, PE kits and water bottles. If your child has lost something they can check at reception during break or lunch time only. Please try to remember to name clothing and other items as we can then return lost items to their owners.

Mrs Wright & Miss Fisher
Reception

15. Attendance

For any absences, please contact reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

The school day starts at 8.40am for registration, please encourage your child to be at school no later than 8.30am in order that they are at school on time. Good punctuality is very important.

The attendance lottery will be resuming next week, so watch this space...!

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

16. Chaplain's Reflection

Courage

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."

Mary Anne Radmacher

This week I want to begin by telling some of the Christmas story. For the shepherds watching over their sheep, it started off as a quiet night. Then suddenly an angel was standing in front of them! Of course, they were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid." Then the angel announced that he was bringing good news that would give all the people great joy.

We all in our lives face things that seem terrifying and make us really fearful. They often leave us rooted to the spot. The people of that day felt the same way as they were being persecuted by Roman rule and were under a blanket of fear. The good news about the baby Jesus being born, was about to change all of that. Jesus was the Messiah and He was the one to liberate them.

I want to encourage you to reflect more on the Christmas story, perhaps more that you have ever done. The Christmas story speaks of a wonderful future, it speaks of fear being cast out and being replaced by hope. God speaks to us and tells us as the angel told the shepherds, do not be afraid. Let these words go over and over in our hearts and trust that good news will soon be on its way.

In closing, be a source of good news to the people around you, they need to hear it. Good news provides so much hope and displaces fear.

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

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain