

Open Academy Update 23 April 2021

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

This week has felt far more like we are getting back to normal, however, hearing about lots of schools having COVID cases I know that we have got to keep on with all our efforts to keep this community safe.

On that point I would therefore like to thank you for continuing the home testing process - the vast majority of students are testing twice per week as required and registering the tests, so we know what is happening.

If you have any worries at all regarding Covid and testing please do talk to us - either through an email to the office or via your child's year team, as we are doing all we can to err on the side of safety.

I will just take a brief opportunity today to share with you a little of what we are doing to get the students back into the best habits of learning in school and to talk a little about why the homework we set nowadays is essentials to their learning - oh and i have a quick request too...

We have been focussing the students on getting back into the best classroom habits since we returned from Easter. We frame our training for the students around our Open devised LEARNt behaviour program. Last we rewarded students with extra achievement points for active listening in lessons (the L in LEARNt). This week we have focussed on all students engaging in lessons (the E). Next week will therefore be focussing on asking and answering questions (the A in LEARNt) where some lessons will see teachers focus on students questioning for half of the lesson and student answering for the other half. Over the half term, we hope to have got our students back to the excellent learners we know they can be.

It is vitally important that as part of that process of getting back in to good learning habits, that you are aware that we cannot mark books at the moment due to the Covid risk. This means that we have to set work that can be marked at a distance via computer. We have therefore asked teachers to set homework which tests out what the students are learning in class. As the students now know their way around TEAMS, this homework is set in TEAMS - this then allows the teachers to mark work without touching books. It is therefore crucial that your child completes all the homework set, or they will not get the essential feedback they need to improve.

I am seeing so many students get back into the swing of school quickly, it is really heartening that we can catch up very quickly - especially now that Hubs have restarted - please do ensure that your child attends if invited.

And finally form me this week, we hope your child enjoyed completing some of the Open Academy Dares during lockdown. I would like to celebrate some of the excellent work they did publicly as it was so creative. I am therefore asking that you or your child, send in examples/photos/videos etc of what they got up to during the Academy Dares lessons of Lockdown 3 and I will try to pull together a celebratory gallery to put on our website at least. Please do talk to your child about what they might share and encourage them to do so - extra achievement points are on offer for those who respond!

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. TestRegister continuing recording lateral flow test results

Thank you for continuing to ensure your child is carrying out the lateral flow tests regularly, attached is a useful guide. It is reassuring seeing so many results being logged through the TestRegister site confirming that so many of our students are remembering to do the tests on a regular basis. From next week we have changed the reminder emails to be sent on a Sunday and a Wednesday as the ideal days to do the tests are Monday and Thursday and personally, I have found getting the reminder Monday morning is too late if I have forgotten and I am already on my way to school.

The reminders are also handy as they are an easy way to register the result to the school. The link in the email logs you straight in to the Testregister site so you can submit the result with no need for login details or passwords.

If you have previously only been registering the results through the <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> we would appreciate you changing to doing this through the reminder so the result is registered with the school too. This will then take you directly to the government site so there is no need to log in twice.

If you are not receiving the reminders from TestRegister, or are having difficulties submitting your result please do contact us for assistance.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Year 7 News

We start off this week's newsletter with a huge WELL DONE! The year group has the highest attendance for the school for the second week running.

There has been an improvement in uniform, we have seen less hoodies this week and most students are now in correct uniform - shirts need to be tucked in for all students. Thank you to parents/carers support with this.

More students have been attending the learning Hubs this week. The Hubs will continue for the rest of this term. Students who attend Hubs will be reviewed regularly and other students may be asked to attend if they need extra support.

We are looking forward to the next school council meeting on Monday morning. We will be looking at the current issues facing the year group and looking for suggestions for any improvements.

Again, we have seen mobile phones out in lessons and social time. Students have been informed that phones should be switched off and out of sight. There has been instances when phones have been dropped and damaged, which results in a costly repair. Can parents/carers please reinforce this message at home. Headphones are also not allowed to be out in school time.

Some Year 7s are very fortunate to receive extra intervention from YipiYap tutors for their academic progress. Please can we remind students that this is a privilege and should behave in accordance with the academies behaviour policy.

Next week sees the start of Year 7 progress assessments. It is an opportunity to ensure that progress is taking place and put in relevant support if needed.

Over 1500 achievement points have been given out to the year group this week. This is amazing, well done to all, there has been a huge effort from you all this week.

Top ten achievers: Hallie Chandler, Madison Gray, Dylan Morter, Lily- Anna Nash, Brian Bolany, Riley Page, Tia-Louise Pickering, Zoe Watson, Leah-Marie Jones, Brandon Parfitt.

Top Tutor group this week is Mrs Napthan – R7. Well done to Mrs Napthan and all of R7.

Once again thank you to parents/carers for your continued support, the impact of which has continued to show in the results for the year group.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb and Miss Whitwood – Assistant Heads of Year 7

3. Year 8 News

A much better week for Year 8!

Congratulations go to Ella Ramm, Joel Walker, Leah-Louise Lovett, Scarlet Bush, Ashton Taylor, Aridona Potera, Adam Lowe, Dylan Atkinson, Gracie Britcher, Ethan Walker, Alice Gates, Athanasios Chatzopoulos and Lois Lincoln for earning over 10 achievement points each this week – keep an eye out for postcards being sent home!

There has also been an improvement with uniform and equipment this week. Every morning, tutors are checking to see whether each student has their reading book and the famous five – a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and sharpener (preferably in a pencil case!). In cases where students have forgotten a vital piece of equipment, tutors will be calling home to encourage students to get themselves into a routine.

As of next week, we will be starting something called the ‘Secret Mission Possible’ challenge. Each morning, a group of 4 students will be given an envelope containing a mission for the day ahead. This might involve earning a certain amount of achievement points, performing a kind act or taking part in something out of the ordinary. If the mission is completed by the end of the day by all 4 teammates, they will be rewarded with either double achievement points or perhaps a chocolatey treat! This is another way we are trying to engage students in taking pride in their learning and motivating them to do well, so keep an eye out for your secret envelope next week!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

4. Year 9 News

It has been a busy week within the Academy, the weather is warming up and students are back into the swing of school life again. Uniform is still improving and with the weather warming up hoodies are not needed as well as not being part of the Academy’s uniform policy, a reminder that leggings are not correct uniform and trousers or skirts (knee length) must be worn. Thank you for all your support in this.

Our top ten achieving students this week are: James Hoye, Zac Duckett, Oliver King, Summer MacCormack, Jayden Muzembe, Erin O'Neil, Toby Thompson, Kimora Alexander, Lucy Birckett and Toby Cane.

Our praise club members this week are: Gerrard Sandell, Jonas Keisas and Toby Thompson. Congratulations for consistently working hard and a great attitude to school life.

It was great that the Year 9 sports leaders and I were able to start the sports project again on Thursday. It was good to be able to run extra-curricular again within the Academy.

It would have been nice to play Kin-Ball as planned, but who knew you needed a specific Kin-Ball pump to inflate it. I'm confident the pump will be with me before next week and I will attach some pictures in next week's newsletter.

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

5. Year 10 News

No update.

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

6. Year 11 News

No update.

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

7. Sixth Form News

Hello everyone. Buckle in for a hefty newsletter with lots of useful links!

Attendance & Punctuality

Unfortunately, we have started seeing less and less students in tutor time this week. Unless it has been authorised by myself, all students must be in the Academy by 8:40am. As well as this, no one should be signing out and leaving the Academy early unless they have spoken to me first. I have mentioned it before, but it is your responsibility to email both myself and your teachers if you are going to be absent from school for any reason. You must then make sure that you can catch up on the work missed in your private study sessions within that week so that you do not fall behind. If you need a quiet room to work in during your private study sessions, please come and speak to myself or Ms Davies and we can arrange this for you.

Take Your Place Virtual Fair

Registration for the Take Your Place Virtual Fair has now opened - Commencing Tuesday 4th May until Friday 7th May 2021. Register at: www.typ.vfairs.com

The event will host a series of virtual talks providing the opportunity for your students to deep dive into a variety of industries. Talks will be held by local employers, apprenticeship providers, student ambassadors and universities. Resources will be shared alongside the event to allow students to maximise the information they take away.

The aim of the event is to allow students to explore their interests and obtain vital information regarding their future progression. Students can sign up to short interactive sessions in advance, or on the day. If they can't make all of them, they'll receive access to the recorded sessions when they login to the virtual

platform. A timetable and further details about the event will be shared in the coming weeks, however keep watch of the website and social media channels for more info too.

If you have any questions, please send them to: info@takeyourplace.ac.uk

Social Sciences

Please see the information below for any Year 12 and Year 13 pupils who might be considering studying a Social Science course at degree level...

Preparing for Social Sciences is now open for applications for the 2021-22 programme.

The Preparing for Social Sciences programme is an exciting opportunity that involves a collection of events for students in year 12-13, L3 Y1-2, across 16 months. The aim of the programme is to allow pupils to experience what it might be like to study in one of the social science subjects below, in order to explore their future options:

- Business
- Economics
- Education
- International Development
- Law
- PE, Sport & Health
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social work

The [webpage](#) is live with more information and application link. Eligibility criteria applies. Applications are only open until Friday, 23 April so apply asap!

Lecture Taster Sessions

Join UEA's online taster sessions to discover what it's like to study your chosen subject at university. You might even meet your future lecturer. Get involved in the programme of taster lectures, webinars and online events, designed to give you a flavour of the various subjects and content you may be interested in studying. Featuring lecturers who teach the degree, along with insights from current students, this programme is your chance to see what it's like to study certain subjects. There is a HUGE heap of amazing taster sessions for you to join. I would HIGHLY recommend you all look at this.

Book via <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/subject-taster-sessions>

UEA MOOC

UEA is running an excellent MOOC called Preparing for University, which will be super useful for all students. Learning at a university level requires enhanced critical thinking skills, as well as being able to hold a supported, substantive argument and critically analyse sources or data. On this course, you'll build the foundations of these skills, so that you can prepare yourself for the challenges of this new learning environment. You'll hear from university lecturers on what they value in students and get advice on the more difficult aspects of learning at university.

Sign up here: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-uni>

Extra bits

The mathematicians among you may be interested in these video lectures from MIT:

<https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/mathematics/18-02-multivariable-calculus-fall-2007/video-lectures/>

They are a little bit dated but the lecturer is fantastic, so worth a watch.

The R.A. Butler Politics prize is open for entries now. Run by Trinity College, Cambridge, the competition aims to encourage students with an interest in modern politics and world affairs to think about undertaking university studies in Politics, International Studies or a related discipline. It is not limited to those studying politics at A-level. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/essay-prizes/politics/>

Last week's info: Those of you interested in art, design, and production design for film may want to consider this online course from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/production-design>

If you are considering applying to study English literature or creative writing at university, you might be interested in this taster session from the University of Reading:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/708431147742236942?source=Reading>

For anyone who feels like they are trying to juggle lots of different things, this short TED talk by Andy Puddicombe (founder of Headspace) might be of interest. Andy introduces the idea of meditation and explains the benefits of taking 10 minutes each day to step back from your thoughts:

https://www.ted.com/speakers/andy_puddicombe

Shout out



This week's shout out has to be for the film star among us – Reuben and his brother Ethan were extras in a film called The War Below, which was filmed in 2019. It hasn't been released in the UK yet, but the trailer is out in France.

Below is the link and a screenshot of the boys. The main actor is blowing the whistle and Reuben has the tan helmet to his right with Ethan just in front of him. Popcorn at the ready for when it is released in the UK. I cannot wait!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9Od3RaMQkJA>

Foodie Friday (on a Thursday)



Emily made this ridiculously wonderful birthday cake for a grandad.



Shout out to Matt Mixer for inspiring me to make these banging lamb and pea samosas.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone 😊

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

8. Careers

GET HIRED

Virtual Apprenticeship Evening

Interested in an Apprenticeship?

Join our Apprenticeship Adviser to find out what an apprenticeship is, how they work and how to apply. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions!

These will be live 30-minute sessions.

Thursday 29th April 2021 at 4.30pm
[Click here to join.](#)

Thursday 29th April 2021 at 5.30pm
[Click here to join.](#)

Contact us: 01603 773 341
apprenticeshipadvice@ccn.ac.uk

Next week on Thursday 29 April, City College Norwich and NEACO (our UEA higher education champions) are running a Virtual Apprenticeships Information evening.

There are two opportunities to attend – one at 4.30 and one at 5.30.

The flyer gives all the details of how to sign up and is especially useful for those of you who are looking to find out more about all the different pathways that are available to you.

Our Sector of the Month for April is ‘Sales and Retail’. This is a very broad area which many of our students will already have some knowledge or experience of, but actually covers so much more than just ‘working in a shop’. For example students interested in product development, visual arts, recruitment or finance could very well find themselves working in a retail or marketing environment and there is huge potential for both ‘creative’ and ‘analytical’ strengths. In addition, the effects of the pandemic have highlighted the power of digital marketing and social media influence on our purchasing habits and this is a growth area for future career opportunities. An overview of the sector can be found at:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/sales-retail-34/>

More detailed information on the wide variety of careers can be found on the Unifrog ‘Student’ Home page by searching the ‘Careers Library’ with a keyword such as ‘retail’, ‘marketing’ or ‘sales’. Any parents who have experience of this sector and would like to share their experiences with students (a blog or short video would be ideal) please contact Caroline Davies, Careers Facilitator, caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

All Open Academy students now have access to our fantastic careers information platform Unifrog. Logging in via www.unifrog.org is easy with an Open Academy email address and by setting a personalised password. Please take a moment to have a look at the website with your child and explore what Unifrog has to offer. It contains a wealth of information on just about any career path/job interest or course you might think of and also contains useful guidance on study skills, making applications and managing well-being. Parents who are interested in having their own login should contact Caroline Davies (see email address above) and this can be easily arranged.

For those of you who are interested in studying Psychology – Speakers for Schools are hosting a talk by Advertising Executive Rory Sutherland on how psychology assists in business scenarios. The talk takes place online on Wednesday 28 April 17.00-1800. Find the link at:

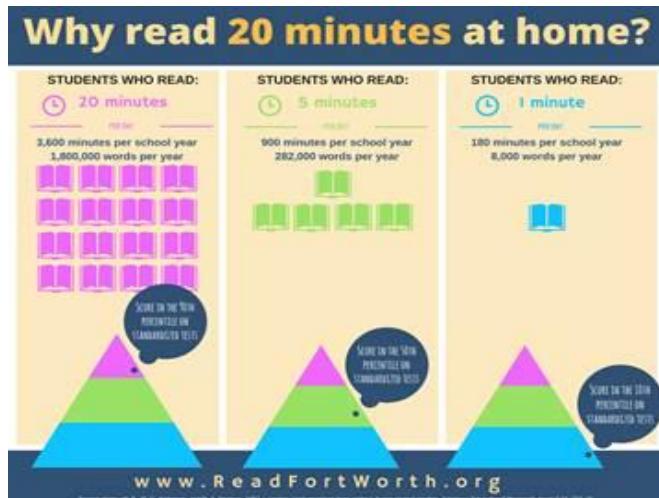
<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

Ms Davies
 Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

9. Library News

Supporting Reading at home with Accelerated Reader (Years 7-10)

We use a programme called Accelerated Reader to support and monitor students independent reading practice. Students should read for 20 minutes a day as part of this programme. Please see the letter attached for more details about Accelerated Reader, plus instructions on how you can support reading at home with the Home Connect programme. Home Connect allows you to see what books your child has been reading and what progress they are making with reading.



We would also appreciate your support in ensuring students come to school with a reading book every day.

Students are given opportunities to read in the school day and it is expected that they will have a reading book with them at all times.

Students are welcome to bring books in from home or borrow a book from the school library using our Click and Collect service.

Art Competition

We are now accepting entries for the Greenaway Gallery Competition. For this competition students should create a piece of art-work inspired by the Greenaway Book Award. This award highlights books that include outstanding illustrations. Students can view these books in the library and have until the end of term (Friday, 28 May) to submit their entries. An art pack will be awarded to the winning student.

Students are welcome to come to the library after school (on their designated year group days) if they require the use of school art supplies to create their entry. Please see the attached poster for full details.

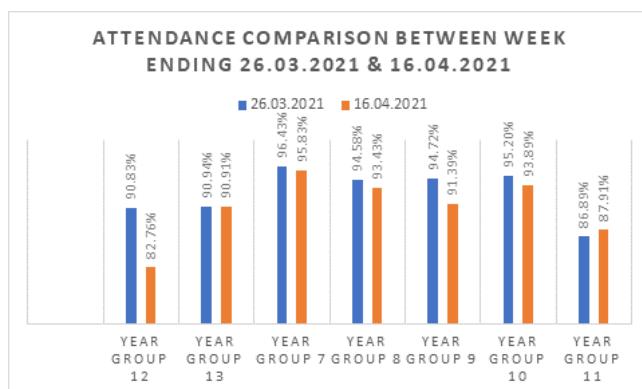
Library Clubs

The library is open after school from 3-4pm. If your child would like to attend, we ask that you please sign up in advance using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/Wnc9LASmDs>

Creative Writing Club will be running for Year 7 on Tuesday, and for Year 8 and 9 on Thursday.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance



Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 16.04.2021.

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 16.04.2021 was 92.68%. This is an increase on last week's attendance.

The whole school attendance, including 6th Form, for week ending 16.04.2021 was 92.59%.

Attendance lottery – many congratulations to Mollie-Mae Birchenall, Year 10, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 16 April 2021. Well done Mollie-Mae!

For week 12.04.2021, we had an amazing 414 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 31 students in our 6th Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Please discuss with your son/daughter the importance of good school attendance.

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

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Easter Reflection

I read this story the other day and it really challenged and encouraged me. Did you know that an eagle can foresee when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

Instead of hiding out until the storm passes, the eagle will fly to some high point and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, the eagle spreads its wings so that the wind can pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle soars above it. The eagle does not escape or hide from the storm, instead it uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the strong winds which others dread and are fearful of.

When the storms of life or other challenges hit us, we can rise above them and soar like the eagle above our situations. Don't be afraid of the storms or the challenges or shy away from them in your life. Use adversity to lift you higher, we will always come out of negative situations stronger and better people. The Bible talks about the eagle in a verse that brings strength and comfort to us all during the challenges of life. It says this: "Those who hope in God will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint".

He is only a prayer away. God bless you all.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain