

Open Academy Update 30 April 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the newsletter this week – and I'll start by saying a huge thank you for your continued testing efforts. Whatever the national picture looks like, we have seen a sharp uptick in cases for us, with lateral flow tests detecting 4 unrelated cases before they have made it in to school over the last week or so. This could have been a problem, however, the fact that so many of you are regularly testing and informing us of the result means that we continue to keep it at bay. So as restrictions in society ease and hopefully you are able to get back to a bit more normal, please do keep the regular testing going.

Mr Ward will be writing to parents in Year 11 and 13 next week regarding our end of year arrangements as we look to secure the best evidence we can for grades and ensure that our students are as well prepared as possible for their next steps.

He will be clarifying that the 11 June will be the last official day of school, as that is at the end of our final assessment window, but he will clarify further how we will proceed where all evidence has been collected for a student before that date. He has asked me to remind you, however, that throughout the next few weeks it is vital that Year 11 attendance remains high and that they attend their lessons at all times.

I am also really excited to announce that in response to the pandemic, Open Academy is planning an innovative internship program for Year 11 students who are intending to stay with us in to Year 12 and departing Year 13 students.

Year 11 and 13 Summer Internship program

The first phase of the program will be a training and support program for students to develop and prepare themselves for their next steps in education – either in higher education or training or work for Year 13s or preparation for further study with us for the Year 11s. Alongside this will be training to work as a peer teacher for the younger students on their catch up program in the final 3 weeks of the year – and on in to our planned summer schools for some.

The governors have agreed that a reward of a £75 Amazon voucher per student per successful week completed of the 3 week tutoring program in July, which will see our Year 11s and 13s support their junior peers before during and after school to succeed in projects and catch up learning. The best peer teachers will be offered the opportunity to remain for a further 2 weeks support during our summer school meaning that rewards of up to £375 per students will be on offer from the official leaving date until early August.

More details will be in Mr Ward's letter to parents next week along with further details about the rest of our end of year activities, including celebration events for Year 11 and 13 and prom.

I'm sorry we can't give full details yet but things are moving so quickly at the moment and we are keen to ensure the most ambitious and exciting program we can for all year groups as we progress through the summer term especially for Year 11 and 13 as we are keen to prepare them for their next steps – so watch out for Mr Ward's letter early next week!

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Lateral Flow Tests

Message from Department for Education (DfE)

The importance of testing and reporting in secondary schools

Testing continues to play a crucial role, in and out of classrooms, in our fight against coronavirus (COVID-19). Staff should continue to test themselves and report results whilst encouraging secondary school students to do likewise.

Reporting test results can be done simply and quickly, from mobiles, online or by phone, and should be completed straightaway. Reporting not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case, but assists our understanding of community rates of infection.

To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, we have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Year 7 News

A huge WELL DONE to the year group we have the highest attendance again this week, let's keep this going. A specific mention for D7 – Mr Walters form who had the highest attendance in the school.

A reminder that energy and fizzy drinks are not allowed in school. Can parents/carers please reinforce this at home. Any student seen with one of these drinks will have it confiscated.

The school council (Open Voice) had a productive meeting on Monday and points will be acted upon. The board games are back for students at lunchtime. We are also looking into lunchtime clubs, Covid restrictions permitting.

Another reminder about mobile phones out in lessons and social time. Phones should be switched off and out of sight. If a student has to be constantly reminded, the phones will be confiscated and parents/carers will be informed and asked to collect.

We have previously raised concerns around playfighting. Whilst we do not want to spoil the students' games we are not allowing play fighting in school or at social time. It can lead to injury and students missing valuable lesson time.

Year 7 hubs are continuing with good attendance. The hubs are a great way for students to receive support for work they have missed in lockdown, and receive training on TEAMS if required. These will continue over the academic year looking at others ways to support students

Shout outs to:

Mr Thompson STEM

Ruby Anderson and Layla Downes, fantastic work on Binary.

Mrs Lamb – HUB

Ruby Anderson, - supporting peers, Oskar Coleman for helping with Laptops.

Miss Whitwood – PE

Lily Blythe, excellent skills in rounders

Layla Moody – used her knowledge to coach peers in PE.

Top achievement points this week:

Ruby Anderson, Hallie Chandler, Leah-Marie Jones, Brandon Parfitt, Harrison Young, Lily-Anna Nash, Megan Perriton, Madison Gray, Oskar Coleman, Jackson- Lee Collins and Layla Downes

It was a close call this week between Mr Walters and Mrs Napthen tutor for the highest achievement points. Well Done to Mrs Napthen – R7.

A reminder that Year 7 progress assessments continue next week. It is in opportunity to ensure that progress is taking place and put in relevant support if needed.

We hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb and Miss Whitwood – Assistant Heads of Year 7

3. Year 8 News

No update.

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

4. Year 9 News

It has been a good positive week. Lots going on and feeling more normal as each week passes now, but please continue to self-test to keep everyone safe.

In our sports leadership project it was great to finally play Kin-Ball for the first time yesterday. The Year 9s really enjoyed themselves and took to the new sport very well and showed some great Kin-Ball hitting and catching skills. In the coming weeks we will be looking at the sports leaders officiating games of Kin-Ball and other sports.

Sports leadership project is by invite only and at capacity.



Duke of Edinburgh scheme is up and running this week too and learning hubs after school.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Ryan Howes, Jayden Muzembe, Tommy Bluett, Zac Skells, Grace Moreton, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, Samuel Yellop, Cody Collins, George Colledge and William Orr. Well done to you all.

Our Praise Club members this week are:

Isabel Bush, Sophie Swatman, Owen Middleton and Jamil Ali. Congratulations to you all for always engaging in your school work and following school expectations.

There will be English and Maths assessments over the next couple of weeks for all students. If you have any concerns please contact us.

We hope you all have a lovely bank holiday.

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

We are into our first assessment window where students have the opportunity to evidence their best work. Can I please emphasize that these assessments are in class and with their class teacher and that they are not the only evidence that we will be collecting. Once we have collected numerous pieces of evidence we will select the evidence that best shows the students capability and this is what will inform the grade given. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs Pearsall via email or by phone.

Another item high on students' agenda is of course Prom. Currently this is booked for Friday, 25 June at Sprowston Manor. Before we issue tickets and pay the balance on the booking, I am looking for reassurances of what will happen if the timetabled lifting of restrictions is delayed. As soon as I have this, a letter with all the details will be sent home. I would urge you not to go out and spend a huge amount on an outfit that won't be worn again, but instead to purchase items that may suit another event. There are no guarantees that the Prom will go ahead at Sprowston, although we are hopeful.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

7. Sixth Form News

Last week before our first assessment week for Year 13, and I am really impressed with the way in which all students have been working and asking for help when they have needed it. Well done guys!

Covid Safety

Please can all sixth formers make sure that they are wearing masks at all times in lessons and around the building (unless sitting down to eat of course). As well as this, please continue to test yourselves with the lateral flow tests twice a week. It is essential that you are testing yourself as that is the best way to keep us all safe while we are in the building together.

Student Finance Support Group

Applications for student finance loans are now open. Students needn't be fazed by fees – head to the Ask an Advisor page where you can join the conversation and have all of your questions answered by the experts:

https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/ask-an-adviser?utm_campaign=UG2021AW_ask_an_advisor&utm_source=outreach_teacher_crm

HSBC Insight Evening

Interested in a career in Banking & Finance? How does the idea of working for Europe's largest bank sound? On 5 May from 5pm - 6pm, we'll be hosting an online webinar event with HSBC as they will be letting us know all about their UK-wide Summer Work Experience and Apprenticeship opportunities.

With more than 200,000 employees and offices worldwide, HSBC is one of the world's leading international banks. HSBC offer roles across all of their major business areas, including retail, private, commercial and investment banking, as well as jobs in operational and support functions such as audit, compliance, risk management, legal, finance, human resources and technology. If banking and finance is something you think you might be interested in, this event is for you!

If you'd like to apply to this exclusive event, please click on the registration link below:

<https://www.research.net/r/HSBC-UK>

UEA Stars of the East Award

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/stars-of-the-east>

We are on the lookout for Vocational and Technical superstars!

At UEA, we recognise that some of the best and brightest stars are those doing, and helping students to do, alternative qualifications such as BTEC, CTECH and UAL but they rarely get the recognition they deserve. We want to celebrate the success of these students and staff by giving them the spotlight on our awards platform, Stars of the East.

Student and Teacher/Tutor awards are all up for grabs across 8 categories. (Learners should ideally be in L3 Y1)

- Science Learner of the Year
- Engineering/Construction Learner of the Year
- IT/Computing Learner of the Year
- Sport/Public Service Learner of the Year
- Social Science Learner of the year
- Arts Learner of the Year
- Health and Social Learner of the Year
- Teacher/Tutor of the year

For each nomination category, nominees are awarded either Gold, Silver, Bronze or Runner Up. They will be sent a certificate of this achievement, will be celebrated on social media, and Gold award winners will also be awarded a prize.

Submit your nominations today until the 4 May at:

[Stars of the East - UEA](#)

Bye Bye Courtney

Last week the lovely Courtney the Corsa had her final farewell as she went onto pastures new. Matt, Sam, Josh, Alex, Lewis, and Hugh bought the car for £300 and had £83 worth of expenses such as new spark plugs, wheel hubs and various other things. They sold the car for £650 which gave each of them £108.33 back resulting in a £45 profit each for an afternoon's work. Well done boys! Alan Sugars in the making!



Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

8. Careers

Next week our higher education partners NEACO are running a Virtual Careers Fair -Take Your Place Fair 4–7 May. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about future careers and get up to date advice on how to prepare for different pathways. Please see in the posters below detailing the daily timetables so that you can see what is on offer for you/your young people. Each day focuses on a range of different careers with a wide variety of roles being showcased with live talks and interactive sessions.

Students register their interest to the event even if the live dates are not suitable as this will enable them to receive 30 days access to the virtual platform and all the sessions shown on the agendas. Once registered students will be able to login to the platform from Friday 30th April to familiarise themselves and download the supporting resources to the event.

TAKE YOUR PLACE FAIR

SPORTS, EDUCATION, CHILDCARE & EARLY YEARS, MEDICAL CAREERS

DAY 1
TUESDAY
4TH MAY

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
10:00	Brett Sellach - Tackling Environmental Challenges for a Sustainable Future	Molly Gillick - Childcare and teaching
10:30		Esther Trehearn - Overview of the early years
11:00	LIVE - Matthew loads sports science and performance analysis	Specsavers - Optometry Overview
11:30	LIVE - Alex Walpole - Physical education and sports coaching	LIVE - Helen Gregory - NHS Radiography
12:00		WORLD SKILLS - Overview of NHS Careers
12:30	Student Ambassador Panel - Live Q & A	
13:00		
13:30	LIVE - Ferdi Ahmed - Higher & Degree Apprenticeships	
14:00	Brian Ennis - Preparing for UCAS	
14:30	Gavin Spoor - How to research courses	

15.00-17.00 STUDENT AMBASSADOR LOUNGE OPEN

Please note, while every effort has been made to make this event accessible, this may not be possible with all content including any technical difficulties on the live days.

To find out more and register for the event visit

TAKE YOUR PLACE FAIR

CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, SOFTWARE/GAME DEVELOPMENT, UNIFORM SERVICES, FORENSICS, HOSPITALITY

DAY 2
WEDNESDAY
5TH MAY

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
10:00	Nicky Payne - (Balfour Beatty) Introduction to construction	Daniella Munteanu & Paul McGrath - Software Engineering
10:30	Nial Inman & Luke Thomas - Construction design manager	WORLD SKILLS - FoxDog - Games Development
11:00	James Potter & Roma Agrawal - Structural Engineering	Army - Trusted Guardians
11:30	The Merchant Navy - Careers at Sea	Daniella Lord - Policing and public services
12:00	LIVE - George Hones & Adrian Martin - Hospitality and events management	
12:30	Student Ambassador Panel - Live Q & A	LIVE - Leisa Nichols Drew - Interview with a Forensic Scientist
13:00		Hayley and Paul Semons - Coroners Officer
13:30		
14:00	Rio Godfrey & Luci Collins - Which is the right route for me? Exploring degrees & higher apprenticeships	WORLD SKILLS - Royal Navy Careers
14:30	LIVE - Charlotte Beach - What it is like to be an apprentice?	WORLD SKILLS - RAF Careers

15.00-17.00 STUDENT AMBASSADOR LOUNGE OPEN

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TAKE YOUR PLACE FAIR

THEATRE/ACTING, DANCE, FILM, MUSIC PRODUCTION, BUSINESS, ACCOUNTANCY, LAW

DAY 3
THURSDAY
6TH MAY

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
10:00	Adam Morley - The future of theatre	Emily Ringe - Careers in TV
10:30	Sally Hardcastle - Theatre design	Paul Ridd - Film Acquisition
11:00	Millie Mayhew - Dance and musical theatre	Camilla Stone - Accountancy
11:30	Hayley Cameron - TV script development	Anthony West and George Hinds - Financial advisory
12:00	Victoria Malland - National Centre of Creative Writing	Flagship - Overview of Business roles
12:30	Student Ambassador Panel - LIVE Q & A	
13:00		Phil Simmonds - Songwriter, Instrumentalist & Music Producer
13:30	LIVE - Trisha Secharan - All you need to know Apprenticeships from ASK	Pirate Studio - Music Production Producer
14:00	Emilie Dufrense - How to choose the right degree pathway for you? University or Further Education College?	LIVE - Carmen McLean - What is a conservatoire and how is it different from Universities?
14:30	Tiffany Evripidou & Becky Powles - Student Finance	LIVE - Clifford Chance UK - Law

15.00-17.00 STUDENT AMBASSADOR LOUNGE OPEN

17.00-19.00 PARENTS AND CARERS

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To find out more and register for the event visit

TAKE YOUR PLACE FAIR

FASHION DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, DIGITAL MARKETING, CONCEPT ART, ANIMATION, JOURNALISM, BROADCASTING

DAY 4
FRIDAY
7TH MAY

TIME	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
10:00	Laura Noble - Photography, Curating and Gallery Directing	Savio Thomas - Fashion Design
10:30	Georgia Hardcastle - An overview of Videography	Rosie Jenkins & Jen Lou - Digital marketing & Social Media
11:00	Jordan Grimmer - Concept artist in the video game industry	Kevin Maddams - Journalism
11:30	Ignite - Animation	Anthony Isaacs - Broadcasting at BBC Radio Norfolk
12:00		LIVE - Luke Drozd - Fine Art
12:30	Student Ambassador Panel - LIVE Q & A	
13:00		
13:30	LIVE - Trisha Secharan - All you need to know Apprenticeships from ASK	
14:00	Daniel Hall & Jennie Grove - Wellbeing support in higher education	WORLD SKILLS - Gabrielle Omar - Architecture to entrepreneurship
14:30		WORLD SKILLS - Aidan Ridyard - Royal Institute of British Architects

15.00-17.00 STUDENT AMBASSADOR LOUNGE OPEN

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To find out more and register for the event visit

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 knowledge with students (a blog or short video would be ideal) please contact Caroline Davies, Careers Facilitator at 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.

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

9. Library News

Do you have a book in your bag?

As we are settling back into our new routines we are seeing more students arriving to school with their reading book. Well done to those students who are remembering to bring this with them every day. However, there are still a number of students who are forgetting to pack this in the morning so we would appreciate your support in asking your child if they have a book in their bag before they leave for school in the morning. To encourage these good habits, we will reward those students who bring in their reading book regularly.

Until the end of term, students will be able to collect a raffle token every time they have a reading book with them for silent reading. These sessions happen in tutor and throughout lessons across the school day. A prize draw will take place at the end of term and those students who remember their book every day will have more tokens and the biggest chance of winning. Chocolate treats are up for grabs!

KS3 ReadFit Challenge

This week we have launched ReadFit with students in KS3 during their English lessons. The aim of this programme is to get students back into the habit of reading for 20 minutes a day by setting daily reading goals that increase over time. You can think of it like couch-to-5k but for reading. Students have begun to receive booklets this week to track their reading. Students who have not received their booklet yet will do so next week. If you would like more information you can [view this video](#) which explains the programme in more detail.

Supporting reading at home

Since our return to school we have produced a number of guides to help parents and carers support reading at home. These have now been collected into one document which can be found attached. This will also be available on the school website shortly.

Library clubs next week

Due to the bank holiday on Monday Year 8 and 9 Manga Club will be running on Thursday, 6 May next week. Year 7 Manga Club will take place on Friday as normal. If your child would like to attend, please sign up using the following form. This form can also be used to sign up for private study in the library after school:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Wnc9LASmDs>

Art Competition

Get your entries in for our Library art 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.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance

1213CANGGO	83.19%
1213JTH	81.82%
1213LWK	84.15%
C7ABR	97.33%
D7NWA	99.56%
I7RBR	93.58%
R7SNA	95.24%
SRB7EOK	94.44%
C8SDD	93.16%
D8LGA	96.30%
I8RPH	92.18%
R8CDI	92.72%
SRB8EOK	100.00%
C9TTH	94.02%
D9ATH	93.42%
I9BLU	89.35%
I9SMC	88.44%
R9AED	
SRB9EOK	85.19%
C10KMU	99.03%
D10RHA	92.44%
I10ERO	89.30%
R10NST	92.13%
C11TSM	84.44%
D11MKN	95.54%
I11SRE	85.02%

R11CSM	87.50%
SRB11EOK	33.33%

Year Group 12	81.50%
Year Group 13	84.27%
Year Group 7	96.21%
Year Group 8	93.64%
Year Group 9	91.22%
Year Group 10	93.11%
Year Group 11	86.57%

Well done to those tutor groups who are highlighted, for having the highest attendance for week ending 23 April 2021.

Attendance lottery - many congratulations to Grace O'Neill, Year 11, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher, for having 100% attendance for week 19.4.2021 to 23.4.2021. Well done Grace!

For week ending 23 April 2021, we had an amazing 408 students from Years 7 to 11 and 30 from the 6th Form who had achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!



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

Please also remember that being late can affect your son/daughter's attendance and so please ensure that they arrive to school on time every day.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

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

I just want to start this week by talking about a man who I greatly admire and respect. He's not a famous or well-known person, in fact he is just like you and me. On my food deliveries during the 2 main lockdowns, I have continuously been inspired and challenged over the role he has and is playing within his community. He lives next door to a house that I deliver to and he is always serving the community every week that I see him.

One week when I delivered there, he had gathered all of the neighbour's wheelie bins and was in the process of cleaning all of them with a pressure washer. I was blown away by this because there must have

been about twenty plus bins there. Another time he was tidying up the communal area there, gardening and tidying up an overgrown hedge. He was also pressure washing the pavements too. It wasn't his area but an area shared by many.

Another thing I always notice about him is that he is always smiling, cheerful and his spirit is constantly light. This smile and light spirit comes from serving others, without expecting anything in return. I and many others look to him as a leader in that community. It may seem strange to label him as that, as we often think that leadership is telling others what to do or to be in charge of someone. He is a leader because he has stepped out and has done what many others are not prepared to do within his community. To me he is a true hero.

The Bible talks about this and encourages us to not only look after our interests but help out with the interests of others too.

Let's be encouraged to do something wherever we are, we can show leadership in our communities and we can experience this same joy of serving the people around us. Acts of service don't have to be big, it could just mean encouraging someone for starters, checking on people to see if they are ok to giving our time to bigger projects.

Have a great week, God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain