

Open Academy Update 21 May 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

I would like to use my newsletter introduction this week to highlight our student leadership program and the Academy Open Voice year and Academy Councils.

Each year towards the end of the first half term, the year teams run a process to identify student leaders. Once identified student leaders can apply for student executive roles like Head Boy and Girl, their deputies, Charities, Sports or Learning leads. During the year these students step up to perform roles such as prefects, ambassadors, Academy tour guides and interviewers.

Year groups leaders meet half termly to discuss year issues and planning organising events and activities and then the Head Boy and Girl from each year group come together in the Open Voice Academy Council which was finally able to meet in person this week.

We aim for these to be full formal meetings and provide a cooked breakfast for the students as they arrive. This term we discussed a range of issues raised by the students including how we should respond to some big national issues including the Black Lives Matter campaign, the Sarah Everard protests and other equality issues. We have decided we will be running awareness activities in the new academic year and ensuring these issues are given more prominence in our curriculum.

We also discussed our response to bullying, our new introduction of anti-bullying contracts and further activities that we might wish to undertake. We agreed to develop our relationships curriculum input, to plan a campaign week in September when we first come back, we have launched an anti bullying poster competition and have a further range of suggested activities that we will be working through.

The students also agreed a proposal to consider donating uniform which is in good condition, but which no longer fits to the school to pass on to people who may need it, so we will be in touch about this shortly.

Finally, we were able to agree that The British Heart Foundation would benefit from any fund-raising excess to the Academy's needs this year and the year teams will be talking to their groups about who we should be supporting from September.

COVID-19 has affected our response to the student voice somewhat, but I'm hoping that we are now back and re-establishing a strong culture of student feedback.

And that leads me on to my final note this week. It is absolutely vital as the wearing of masks in schools is eased that you continue to lateral flow test your child twice per week. The cases seem to be rising again and we are keen as ever to do all we can to keep the community safe. Remember, COVID symptoms - keep your child home and get a PCR test - the lateral flow is for people without symptoms.

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

We've had another great week in Year 7, students are working hard. We know students are getting tired as we near the end of this half term, we have one week to go let's have a final big push to make it the best one yet.

This week saw our first after school extra curriculum activity for a while. A group of Year 11s ran a Kin Ball tournament to help raise money for Prom. Students who took part in the tournament on Monday after school, were fantastic and all really enjoyed the event. Thank you for your support.

The year group have all had a virtual assembly this week with Miss Whitwood and Mrs Lamb. The assembly covered behaviour with a focus on anti-bullying and a focus on cyber-bullying. The students then finished off by being shown a short video telling them what they need to do if they are being bullied or if inappropriate comments have been made on social media.

We have again seen playfighting at social time, a number of students have now been spoken to by the senior leadership team. Playfighting can cause serious injury and if any student continues to participate in any playfighting we will be following the behaviour policy.

Attendance has dropped this week. There are clear government guidelines for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. There is guidance on the NHS website which includes information on common childhood illnesses where school is missed when it needn't be. It is vital to follow this, as we will not authorise your child's absence if we feel they are well enough to be in school (this could lead to consequences for parents/carers, which we would like to avoid. In order to keep all of your child's details up to date, please let school know of any change of address, telephone numbers etc. In addition, if there are any changes to medical conditions, allergies, food tolerances etc, these are also to be notified to us.

You can update your details using the Parent App as well as informing us direct.

Shout outs:

It's been another amazing week for achievement points. Congratulations to D7 – Mr Walters who are the tutor group with the highest achievement points this week.

Top achievers this week are: Katy Sutherland, Thomas Hardy, Abi McMahon, Keeley Youngs, Lola Blossom, Charley Sadler, Hallie Chandler, Larisa Marginean, Tyler Paul, Keira Boyd and Riley Page. Well done all.

Next week we will be announcing the winners of the achievers' lunch with Mr Wilkinson.

Thank you to parents/carers for attending the virtual parents evening, we are grateful for your continued support which is showing in the results and attitude of our fantastic year group.

Ms Hewitt-Coleman and Ms Whitwood - Heads of Year 7
Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

A whopping 1420 achievement points have been earnt by our Year 8 students this week! Well done to: Harisan Martin, Mayling Thomas, Star Cook, Lily Turner, Bailey Salter, Ara Rashid, Alisha Clarke Jarvis, Lucy Norris-Waterfield, Ashton Taylor, Elisha Jones, Ella Ramm, Michaela Browne and Elisa Kit for earning over 20 points each!

Our Year 8 Kin Ball was a great success on Wednesday! Around 20 students played in some very energetic matches and helped contribute towards the Year 11 Prom fund. Thank you very much to everyone who got involved and I imagine we'll hear from the Year 11 Prefect Team in due course.

Thank you very much to all parents and students who took note of last weeks' notice about not arriving before 8.20 in the mornings – we have seen a great reduction in the amount of students arriving before this time and this will help us significantly in keeping students safe whilst on school property. On a related note, we are seeing that a lot of students are taking their time getting to lessons and are often arriving 5 – 10 minutes late. **We will be monitoring this closely as of next week and will be writing home if students are regularly arriving late to lessons.**

Finally, in the next half term we will be doing a big push for Duke of Edinburgh. Our current Year 8 students can begin their Bronze challenge as of next year and we'd like to achieve a new record of uptake in the award. Please click on the link below to explore what the course has to offer and the frequently asked questions page for more information.

<https://www.dofe.org/>

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8
Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

One more week to go before half term. Please continue to test twice weekly, but so far so good.

The Kin Ball tournament was held yesterday. Thank you to all involved and hope you had fun. If you have any contributions towards the Year 11 Prom, please pass to either myself or Mrs Roe.

A big thank you to the majority of Year 9s for uniform as it is generally good within the Academy, but can we please make sure that they are not wearing leggings, it is not part of the Academy's uniform policy. Phone calls home will be made if students are not in correct uniform on Monday.

Sports project starts again next Thursday and they will be playing Kin Ball again. After half term the sports leaders will be required to run their own sessions in their chosen sport. If any still need a sports leader badge they should come to my office to collect.

Our top achieving students this week are: James Hoye, Sophie Swatman, Kimora Alexander, Georgina Barnes, Lucy Birkett, Tommy Bluett, Toby Cane, Mia Crowe, Jess Fraser, Samih Ozkan, Dalia Rosca and Toby Thompson. Congratulations.

Our praise club members this week are: Ronan Orr, Tommy Bluett, Gera Dergacovs, Bradley Copping. Well done to you all.

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

4. Year 10 News

I'd like to start today's newsletter by saying how wonderful it has been over the last couple of weeks to see so many Year 10s getting our LEARNT achievement points; it is so encouraging to see that they are engaging in their work in lessons and remaining respectful. Also, it's great to see a higher attendance at our HUB sessions, these are not optional and with the support of parents and the hard work of the students we have been able to catch up on some of the lost learning due to the second lockdown – well done to all those regularly attending!

Our School Council met this week and was represented by our Year 10 student leaders: Izzy Taylor, Jess Ramm & Ella Ash. 20 of our students have also had the opportunity to access a national mentoring programme called Brightside Mentoring this week. This is an excellent opportunity for them to gain confidence and develop an idea of their next steps.

Our top achievement points for this week are:

Mackenzie Culley	40
Cormac O'Brien	21
Maddy Tilney	18
Kaloyan Aleksiev	18
Alex Money	16

Keep up the good work!

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

5. Year 11 News

Thank you for your continued support in sending your child to school as we prepare students for assessments and collect the evidence we need to give them the best grade possible.

Please can you remind your child to return any library books, we currently have 85 on loan to Year 11.

Dates for your diary:

Friday, 28 May last day for payments for prom tickets.

Wednesday, 9 June last day and Leavers Assembly.

Friday 25 June 7-11pm Prom.

Please can you let us know if you have any concerns, financial or otherwise, about Prom, due to lots of fundraising by students and staff we may be able to help support. We also have a range of Prom outfits in school that students may be able to borrow, all of this managed with the utmost confidentiality.

The marquee for Prom is booked from 7-11pm, but students may want to arrive earlier to have pictures taken in the transport they have arrived in, we would ask that this is no earlier than 6pm and friends and family are invited to see students arrive.

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

6. Prom – Friday, 25 June 2021

We know that Prom can be an expensive event and therefore we want to do everything we can to support all students in attending. Prom is a chance for students to celebrate their time at the Open Academy and for some it gives them a chance to say their final farewells to peers and teachers.

Over the last couple of weeks, the staff at Open Academy have been collecting and donating items for Prom and I am honestly blown away by the generosity of staff and the community. These include; dresses, suits, shirts, ties, shoes and bags. Some of these items are BRAND NEW with the tags still in! We are offering a completely free of charge hiring service to our Year 11 students, although a small contribution to our thankfulness fund is also welcomed. Students will be given the opportunity on a Tuesday lunchtime to come and browse and try on any items. If they find something they like then they simply let us know and we will reserve this item for them. After Prom you simply return the item back to us so we can use it for future events.

If anyone has any questions then please contact Bethany.whitwood@open-academy.org.uk

Miss Whitwood
Teacher

7. 6th Form News

Covid safety:

As you are all now aware, masks are no longer mandatory in lessons. However, as most Sixth Formers have jobs outside of the Academy, it would still prove sensible to be cautious and practice some social distancing where possible. You are all of course still encouraged to wear masks if you feel safer to do so.

Internship letters:

Please can I have any internship slips from Year 13s returned to me as soon as possible. If you don't have a letter, please see Ms Davies as soon as you can. Remember, there's a £75 Amazon voucher given for every completed week!

Year 13 Last day arrangements:

A few pointers about our last day on Wednesday, 9 June. I would like all students to please join us at 8:40am in the Futures Area for an informal celebration assembly. We will provide some breakfast, and tutors will have the opportunity to say a few words to our lovely Year 13s. You are then all invited to join in with the Year 11 leavers BBQ at approx. 2pm (this will be confirmed nearer the time). Please can ALL Year 13s set their alarm and make sure that they are present for the breakfast celebration by 8:40am!

UEA preparing students for next year:

Preparing for University MOOC

Hosted on Future Learn, our Preparing for University MOOC is a 7 week course that covers key skills such as referencing, structuring writing, independent learning and more. It is free to join and is relevant to all students going to university, not just those who have applied to UEA. Students can access the course [here](#). The MOOC can be taken by students individually, or if you would be interested in integrating the content into any of your tutorials, we have [lesson plans](#) to enable you to facilitate.

Resources

We have also put together a series of videos from some of our current students giving their top tips for preparing for the academic side of university. These are all on YouTube, links below:

Academic Writing: <https://youtu.be/XsudgUEBObw>

Independent Learning: [Preparing for University – Independent Learning advice from UEA Students](#)

Lectures: [Preparing for University – Lectures advice from UEA Students](#)

Referencing: [Preparing for University – Referencing Writing advice from UEA Students](#)

We also have a range of resources in our Preparing for University section of our [ever wondered resource centre](#), from what to expect on results day, through to what to pack.

Shout outs:

My big shout out this week has to go to Amelia Moore in Year 12 for her outstanding psychology folder. Amelia presented me with the loveliest and most well organised folder that I have seen in a while. This will make her revision for her assessments much easier. Well done Amelia!

6th Form area upkeep

Unfortunately, the cleaning staff have been in touch again expressing that the 6th Form area has once again started to look messy and unkept. There should be absolutely no reason why food packaging has been left on tables, floor, or stuffed behind chairs. Please can all students ensure that the area is left tidy and clean.

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

8. Careers

If you have not yet looked at our fantastic online careers information platform Unifrog, then I urge you to do so! All students, at whatever stage they are at in their school journey, can log on with their Open Academy email address and start to explore the wealth of information and ideas on there. A good place to start is to do the 'personality test' which will lead in to suggestions for possible future careers. The Subjects Library is also a useful tool to research your favourite school subject and see which careers and courses are available. Simply access the site at www.unifrog.org. Any problems with access, please contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Our sector of the month for May is Human Resources and Administration, an overview of which can be found at: <https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/hr-administration-92/>

The sector covers all areas of employment which involve administration and organisational skills, specialising in human resources and recruitment, and dealing with customers both virtually and face to face. Many of us will have experience of these kinds of roles and understand how vital it is for our students to learn the 'soft' skills necessary to work with a wide variety of people. These skills were highlighted recently by our Enterprise Adviser, Colin Gant at Aviva who emphasised the importance of being a good listener and be interested in learning new skills. If you have experience of working in this field and would like to record a short video describing your role which could be shown to students please contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

The **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair** is taking place next week on **Wednesday, 26 May from 12 - 6pm**. This is open to all students and their parents – details can be found at: https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email_&u=0131882646c9c37f1693f4cca&id=4ccbdccece

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

9. Library News

Year 11 and 13 Library Books

There are currently over 100 library books and textbooks on loan to students in Year 11 and 13. Many students have been notified by their tutor or teachers this week if they have a book to return. If not, they will receive an email shortly. Can we please ask you to check with your child and prompt them to return any library books that they still have at home. These must be returned before their last day, but ideally should be returned by Friday, 28 May. Thank you for your support.

Art competition- new deadline

We are extending our Library Art competition over half term to give students more time to complete their entries. The new deadline for entries is Tuesday, 8 June. The competition is based on book illustration and students should come and see me in the library for an entry form. A poster with more details can be found attached. The creator of the winning entry will win an art set and have their work displayed in the library.

Students can also come to the library after school next week to complete their entry. We can't wait to see your artwork!

ReadFit- Keep up the good work!

Students who have been completing their ReadFit challenges every day should now have finished week 2 and met the milestone of reading for 10 minutes a day. Well done to all the students who have reached this step! If this is you, please send a picture of your completed reading log to Miss Ling for a digital badge. If your child has yet to start the challenge, it's not too late to start. All students in KS3 have been given the ReadFit booklet in their English lessons and it is a great way to start building daily reading time into their day.

The challenge booklet also includes a reading log students can use to help improve their reading comprehension. Each day students are invited to write a short summary of what has happened in their book. This ensures students are actively reading and prompts them to process what they have read and pick out the main points. Completing this every day will help students remember their book in more detail and aid understanding of the book as a whole.

Clubs and after-school access.

The library is open for private study and art workshops (linked to our competition) next week on the following days.

Year 7- Tuesday and Friday

Year 8 and 9- Monday and Thursday

KS4 Manga Club will be taking place on Wednesday.

If your child would like to attend [please fill out the following form to secure their place](#). Thank you in advance.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. PE

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported the PE department in ensuring your child is participating in PE lessons in the correct kit. We know since our return in March that students may have grown out of kit or misplaced theirs, however it is good to see most students in their white t-shirt, black shorts/bottoms.

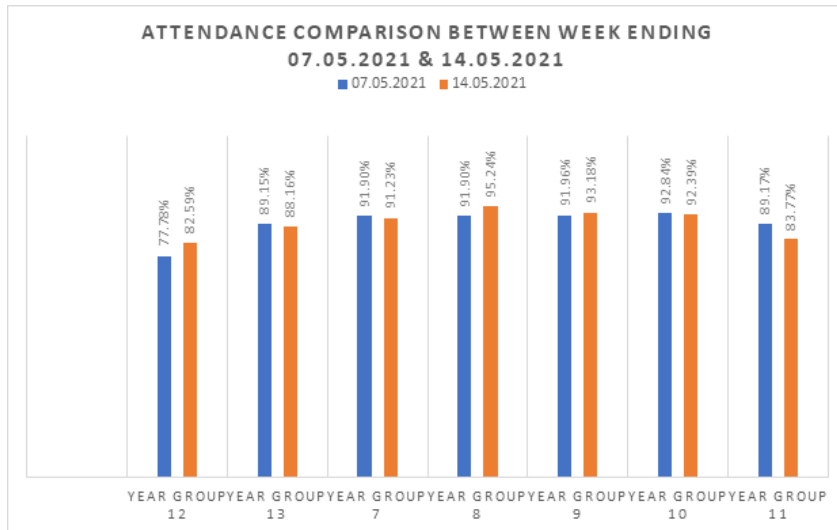
Please could we continue to push for students to wear the correct kit, especially now that we enter the warmer/summer months (I say, as it rains whilst I write this).

As some of you will already know, we will be updating our PE kit from September. Further information will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

Mr Richardson
Teacher

11. Attendance

Year Group 12	82.59%
Year Group 13	88.16%
Year Group 7	91.23%
Year Group 8	95.24%
Year Group 9	93.18%
Year Group 10	92.39%
Year Group 11	83.77%



Well done to those year groups highlighted, who have the highest attendance for the week.

For week 10.5.2021 to 14.5.2021, we had an amazing 400 students in Years 7-11 and 29 students in our 6th Form who achieved 100% attendance. Well done everyone!

Please do continue to encourage your son/daughter to have good attendance and punctuality and please remember to contact Reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us if they are absent from school.

Attendance Lottery – Many Congratulations to Mason Perriton, tutor group I9SMC, who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week 10.5.2021 to 14.5.2021. Well done Mason!

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Chaplain's Reflection



This week the core value that we will be looking at is leadership. I just want to encourage you today to live your own life. We are faced with many influences in this world at this time and we are often directed by them. Some of these influences can be negative, some of them can change who we are and cause us to try to be like someone else. Things can get so influential that they can change the very course and direction of our lives and take us on a journey that is not good.

Perhaps we can reflect and take a look at the influences we have around us. Do they inspire us, encourage us or cause us to become a better person, or do they encourage us to get into trouble, or make wrong choices or change the way that we are?

The Bible talks about the negative influences other people have in our lives and is a stark reminder to all of us of faith and no faith. It says this, “Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces. It also mentions that “bad company ruins our morals”.

Don't be afraid to live your own life, you be in charge of you, refuse to let negativity or bad relationships guide you away from the amazing human being that you are.

God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Tugo—Theme Day

Pizza, Pasta and sweet treats

Tuesday 25 May



could you foster?



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The School House, 1 The Street, Framingham Earl, Norwich, NR14 7QY

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To find out more about becoming a foster carer or a respite carer in Norwich and surrounding areas please call 0800 389 0143 or email foster@nexusfostering.co.uk.