

Open Academy Update 28 May 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter of the half term.

Apart from a minor Covid scare this week which appears to have been a false alarm, I am delighted to say that this half term has been very much more back to normal. I note that significant numbers of students continue to wear masks which I think is no bad thing, and I thank you for continuing to get your children to complete lateral flow tests – please do continue through half term – ideally spreading out at least 3 days apart – one on the Saturday or Sunday before we return!

Apart from thanking you for your continued support the main thing I wish to do this week is to draw your attention to a couple of key notices attached and part of this newsletter.

Biennial Kirkland Rowell Parent Survey is open Now!

The first item I need to draw your attention to is regarding our two-yearly (biennial) parent survey. Below is the link to our anonymised parent survey run by the specialist education feedback company Kirkland Rowell. This is a great way for you to give us feedback on how we have been performing in teaching and supporting your child. It will be particularly interesting to get your feedback as this year has been such a challenge and I am keen to celebrate what we do well and improve where we need to. There is a letter explaining the survey attached to this newsletter, but I am putting the link here for your convenience. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and provides valuable information for us as we plan for our next steps so if at all possible, please do fill in the form and let us know how we are doing. It would be fantastic to get every single parent to respond so once you have completed it, please do encourage others you know to complete it too.

<https://survey.gi-assessment.co.uk/s/N2HTUN/> and logging on using the password provided below.

The password is **OAPAS254687** and is case sensitive.

Candidate confirmation of understanding regarding grade determination summer 2021

Another important document is attached, but specifically for students in examination years i.e. Year 11 and Year 13. This is a copy for the document we have asked your child to sign to say that they understand the process by which we have created centre assessed grades this year. Mr Ward has worked hard to ensure that all the elements of information required have been shared and I would like to confirm that results will be available for collection in the academy on 10 August for A Level 12th for GCSE as per guidelines. If they are not collected on those days we will post them home by the end of the day on 12 August

Finally, this week I want to reinforce our message about the importance of homework. At Open at the moment we cannot collect in books for marking due to the infection risk, so all staff are setting regular homework, which test out how well the students have understood what is happening in class. If they don't complete it – they won't get feedback. We know the vast majority of staff are setting the required amount of homework every week – and it always goes through TEAMS, however a number of students are not completing the work either for technical reasons or they are just not engaging.

If there are technical problems for your child in accessing the TEAMS system where all the homework is set, then please email the assistant head of year for their year group and we will see what we can do to support as it is vital that everyone completes this essential part of the learning process. The Learning Hub approach has worked incredibly well to help students who failed to engage during the lockdowns. We have therefore decided that from September any student who is not regularly engaging with their homework for the rest of this term, will be identified to have two Hub sessions per week to catch up. I hope you will agree that this is a good way to ensure students don't get left behind.

I think that is probably enough from me this week, except to say I hope you have a wonderful half term break and when I write next after half term it should be with more detail of the exciting events and activities we have planned for the run in to the summer holiday .

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Free School Meals

For those students who qualify for free school meals, the local authority is again funding these for the half term holiday. Voucher codes should be received by email from Edenred on 29 May.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Year 7 News

First off, a big well done to the amazing students in Year 7, it's been a long half term but we've made it. Thank you to parents/carers for your continued support.

A couple of general reminders, if parents/carers are purchasing new uniform over half term can you please refer to the uniform policy on the school website. We have seen a few students with nose piercings, these are not allowed and students will be asked to remove the piercing if seen. If students have to constantly be asked parents/carers will be contacted and sanctions will be imposed.

A message from Miss McEvoy, regarding parents evening last Tuesday - she is sorry if she was unable to make some appointments her speaker wasn't working for the first half hour of meetings. If parents/carers need to speak to her about their son/daughter's progress, can you please call the school to leave a message and she will call them after half term.

The leader board for achievement points year to date is as follows:

Hallie Chandler, Asha Kandola, Charlie Mann, Keeley Youngs, Jacob Delf, Steven Ellis, Lola Blossom, Jayden Alden, Emilia Kerby, Amy Toms.

Keep up the good work, there will be certificates for the top achievers and a small prize for top spot.

Over 1000 achievement points have been awarded this week to students. It was a close call between Mr Walters D7 and Mr Brown I7 as to which received the most this week. Well done Mr Brown and all of I7, you are the winners this week.

The tutor group with the most achievement points at the end of term will receive a prize, current standings

1st - D7 Mr Walters with a staggering 8144 achievement points
2nd - R7 Mrs Napthan
3rd – C7 Mr Bradshaw
4th – I7 Mr Brown
5th – SRB7 Mrs O’Kelly

Let’s have a big push to see if any tutor group gets over 10,000 achievement points

Mrs Thurtell – Lola Blossom – Excellent work, keep up the good work.

Some students have received certificates for improving reading levels. We would like to give a special mention to Chelsea Bale who has made amazing progress, a fantastic achievement.

Harley Ringer is the attendance lottery winner this week for 100% attendance and receives an Amazon voucher.

A number of students have been treated to lunch this week for the most points for the LEARNT teamwork, Hallie Chandler, Lauren Smith, Lily Blyth, Emilia Kerby and Harvey Nyemba. Well done all.

A number of students have been nominated by Miss Whitwood and Mrs Lamb to be mentors for the new Year 7s. Letters have been issued to the students today. The training will be supported by the Norwich Opportunity Area to provide greater support for transition. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop skills that will enable them to become leaders of the future. We are very excited about this opportunity for the students and know how amazing they will be in this role.

There has been lots of things to celebrate this half term and we are looking forward to sharing lots of exciting opportunities next term. We hope you enjoy the half term break.

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

3. Year 8 News

No update.

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

4. Year 9 News

We got through a whole half term IN SCHOOL! This feels like a big achievement in recent times. Thank you to parents, students and staff for all your efforts with testing, sanitising hands, wearing masks etc. It’s been a tough half term, but we got through it and now I’m sure we are all ready for a well-deserved rest. We are immensely proud of all our Year 9 students this half term for adjusting to school life again and hopefully we can enjoy the half term holidays and be ready to thrive and achieve again right up to the summer holidays and onto Year 10.

All our students have received lots of achievement points this half term and the attitude to learning has been awesome. Congratulations to you all.

Our top achieving students this week are: Lucy Birkett, James Hoye, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, James Self, Owen Middleton, Samih Ozkan, Gerrard Sandell, Lauren Aldous, Eadie Ambrozevich and Zac Duckett.

Our overall top achieving students this half term are: Lucy Birkett, James Hoye, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, Kimora Alexander, Tommy Bluett, Ryan Howes, Summer MacCormack, Owen Middleton and Erin O'Neill.

Certificates were awarded for students who made progress on their Star Reader test (which measures their reading age) this week. Well done to: Lilli Aldis, Ashton Buck, Toby Cane, Bradley Copping, Gera Dergacovs, Jake Folkes, Kelsey Holman, Ryan Howes, Kasia Jolly, Alfie Kay Jonas Kiesas, Lisa Kracewicz, Isaac Newrick, Joshua Mace, Grace Moreton, Ronan Orr, William Orr, Mason Perriton, Hayden Purvis, Seazyn Robins, Robbie Ruff, Joe Sanderson, Katie Scrivener, Sara Szarafinska, Sade Woollard, Tommy Taylor, Toby Thompson, Joshua Tidd, Zac Duckett, Oliver King, Faith George, Jude Abramson and Misha Ward. Congratulations to you all – reading is at the heart of everything that we do.

The winning tutor group in our Reading Tutor Group challenge is I9BLU – congratulations to those in Miss Luter's tutor group who are reading and doing the Accelerated Reader test after reading a book. Students are bringing a book into school now and this is having an impact. The library will now be open after half term so please keep reading. Big well done to Teyla Young, Dalia Rosca and Lisa Kracewicz for scoring the highest in their Accelerated Reader tests.

Congratulations to Mason Perriton for winning the attendance voucher last week. The Year 9 attendance this week has taken the top spot in school – thank you again for encouraging your child into school.

Our Praise Club members this week are: William Orr, Sade Woollard, Jess Fraser and Jude Abramson. Well done for consistently doing your best. That is all we can ask of each and every student.

Congratulations to Dalia Rosca and Hannah Jordan for winning a £20 Amazon voucher each for their contributions in their Skills for Life lessons over lockdown.

Sports leaders have been given a task to lead their own session in a sport of their own choice to be delivered to their peers after half term.

Uniform standards have improved but please ensure that leggings, jeans or tracksuit bottoms are not worn to school and jewellery is limited to a plain pair of earring studs.

We will have to ask parents to come in with appropriate uniform if your child is not wearing the correct uniform each day and we do have a small selection of spare uniform to lend if necessary.

Have a nice and safe break everyone.

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

5. Barcelona Trip 2022

Your son or daughter may already have talked to you about a trip we are hoping to run in June 2022, when they will be in Year 10. We will send home letters with more details as soon as we are able to, but we have already begun studying Barcelona and its attraction in Spanish, so your child will be able to tell you more.

Trips to Spain are quite expensive because of the distance, but we will keep the cost as low as we can, and will work with local charities where possible. Of course, the trip is dependent on Covid restrictions at the time.

Ms Stickland
Teacher

5. Year 10 News

We did it!!! I am so proud of how the students have tackled this last half-term, it has been a long 7 weeks and with the disruption of this last year, they have coped incredibly well. I'm so looking forward to next half-term, which hopefully will see some better weather and be a great end to their Year 10.

I'm not going to list the top 5 achievement points this week, as I'd like all the students acknowledged for their hard work.

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. 6th Form News

You've made it to the end of another half term! And what a half term this has been. Year 13 have almost fully completed all assessments now – well done guys. I know the effort and time that you have put in to getting ready for these assessments, and I'm really proud of you! Year 12 exams will commence after half term. The exam timetable is as below. Rooms for exams will be allocated very soon. Please speak to your teachers so that you are all aware of what you need to be revising over the half term break. As I mentioned before, failure to get a pass in any of your subjects will mean that we will have to meet with both student and parent to discuss whether or not we think it would be suitable to continue with that subject into Year 13.

PPE1 - Year 12 - w/c Monday 7th June						
WEEK A	PERIOD	Mon 7th June	Tues 8th June	Wed 9th June	Thurs 10th June	Fri 11th June
9.05-10.05	1		Psychology Paper 1. Intro. Topics 1hr 30mins	Health & Social Care Human Lifespan Dev. 1 hr 30 mins	History Britain 1900-51 1 hr 30 mins	Sport Unit 22 Inv. Bus in Sport & Leisure 3 hrs Finish @ 12 noon.
10.05-10.30	2					
10.30-10.50	Break					
10.50-11.30	2		Maths Paper 1 1 hr 30 mins		Maths Paper 2 1 hr 30 mins	
11.30-12.30	3					
12.30-1.00	Lunch					
1.00-2.00	4		Biology 1 hr 30 mins	Photography & ART 3 hrs	Psychology Paper 2. Psychology in Context 1hr 30mins	History Germany 1919-63 1 hr
2.00-3.00	5					

Textbooks – some textbooks have started to trickle in from Year 13 students. PLEASE make sure that you are handing in all books that have been lent to you. We will have no option but to bill you for any books not returned, so it is in your interest to turn that room upside down and get searching! Thank you to those that have returned their books.

Internship/mentoring programme – we have had a small number of replies for the internship and mentoring programme. I know some of you are waiting on job/apprenticeship start dates, but it would be really wonderful to have a few more of you join in with this programme. An extra few weeks at school hanging out with your friends and favourite staff, learning invaluable lifelong skills which will look awesome on your CV for years to come, imparting your skills and knowledge to the next generation of OA6 students, and a £75 Amazon voucher for each completed week. **What is there not to love?** Please grab a letter from Ms Davies if you are interested and get the reply slip back to us ASAP.

UCAS

- **deadline date** - Please all note that firm choice reply date deadline is 10 June 2021. If you haven't made your firm and insurance choices yet, please do so ASAP.
- **student finance** – If you haven't applied for student finance yet, now is the time to do so. This link will help you to apply: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/>
- **accommodation** - Many course providers can reserve a place for you in their halls of residence, but it's important to do your research and think about what's important to you. If you haven't done so already, get in touch with your firm choice Uni and get some advice on what accommodation you can apply for.

Apprenticeship Opportunity



thenorfolkhub

NEW TRAINEESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Norfolk Hub

The Norfolk Hub, which provides sales and distribution of craft food & beverages from Norfolk is offering **16-24 year old*** candidates the opportunity to complete a traineeship. This will provide an introduction to operations, logistics and fulfilment, as the first step on a Pathway to full employment.

The positions will offer an introduction to the workplace, along with a broad & practical overview of the skills and responsibilities associated with operations, warehousing, logistics and fulfilment.

The Traineeships will run for a period of **6 weeks from mid June 2021** and will include up to 3 full days per week. The position is based in **Smallburgh, NR12 9NB** and transport to & from work can be arranged, if required.

Upon completion of the Traineeship Programme, the company will be offering up to **6 full time apprenticeship** positions in conjunction with 

For more details please apply with a brief CV to - Harriet Bullen : harriet@thenorfolkhub.co.uk
Closing Date: 11th June 2021

*25 years old with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)

Pride in Higher Aspirations programme (June 2021)

Take Your Place are helping raise aspirations towards Further and Higher Education (FE/HE) amongst LGBTQ+ youth in the East Anglia region. We have gathered together a range of pre-recorded chats, video clips, written case studies, quotes etc from LGBTQ+ individuals who are in, or have been in, FE/HE. Throughout Pride Month, simply check <https://neaco.eProspectus.co.uk/resources/pages/pride-in-higher-aspirations/>, and follow the #TakeYourPlaceHE hashtag on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) for daily signposting to stories, experiences and advice from LGBTQ+ people and allies.

Year 12 Leaving site during Private Study – I know that a number of students have started to ask if they can study at home if they have large blocks of private study on their timetable. We will be looking into this and considering everyone on an individual basis once we have the PPE2 assessment data. Please bear with us!

Have a really healthy and relaxing half term. You all deserve it.

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

8. Careers

Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery are offering young people age 16- 25 the chance to gain 'behind the scenes virtual work experience' on their Faith and Ritual Project. The project, held via Zoom, will explore how different faith communities have contributed to the history and character of Norwich. This is a great opportunity for students who are interested in studying History or perhaps working in a Museum to gain a valuable insight into how aspects of our past are researched and presented to the public. For further details, please contact Careers Facilitator, Caroline Davies at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

City College Norwich have issued a useful information/contact sheet (please see the attachments) for Year 11 students who have applied for a course at the College but are unsure of where they are in the process and would like to get further information. All Year 11 students have been sent an email with the information sheet attached.

Norfolk Careers website **Help You Choose** has launched a 'Summer Transition' page to help Year 10 and Year 11 students in their progress to Sixth Form or College. The site gives details of enrichment activities, volunteering opportunities and Virtual Work Experience, as well as careers advice and guidance on Health and Well Being. More details can be found at www.helpyouchoose.org

Our **CEAIG Level Careers Adviser** Kelly Lee will continue her Thursday visits to the Academy after half term: she will focus on guiding KS4 and KS5 students with their next steps towards employment or higher education.

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 as well as being confident in their literacy, numeracy and digital knowledge. The sector offers flexible opportunities in both the public and private sectors and no geographical limits. Please feedback to CDA any information on how the 'Sector of the Month' features in your lessons/tutor time and how it could be developed further as we come out of the pandemic.

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

9. Skills for Life/PSHE

Next term SKL lessons will focus on 'staying safe' and St Giles, a charity based in Norwich, is offering free webinars for parents/carers on protecting children from gangs and County Lines. Three dates are available and the one hour sessions are free. Please see the attached flyer to see how to register.

During the last lockdown we ran a home-learning challenge to encourage students to learn a new skill and to earn points. We are pleased to announce that Liliana Read from Year 8 and Dalia Rosca and Hannah Jordan from Year 9 achieved the most points and have all been awarded £20 Amazon vouchers - well done!

Mrs Wicks
Teacher

10. Purchase of School Uniform

Price & Buckland have been the Open Academy's uniform provider for over 10 years and we are happy to share the news with you that our uniform can now be purchased via their website rather than from us.

Open Academy blazers, ties and our new PE shirts, which are all compulsory, will be available for you to order along with other uniform items which are available elsewhere.

There will be the option to have your delivery sent direct to your address, or if you prefer it, can be delivered to the academy for you or your child to collect. In term time there will be deliveries to the academy on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Click on the following link to view the Price & Buckland website <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/> and use the school finder option. Or alternately click on the following link which will take you directly to the Open Academy page <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/openacademy>

If needed we will set some dates in the summer holiday for uniform collection, but will advise of these at a later date via the Open Academy website and Facebook.

Not all students choose to wear a jumper under their blazers, but if one is worn it must be an Open Academy jumper. These will still be available to purchase from the Open Academy in term time and can be paid for via the Pay+ app.

We will always hold a supply of ties in the academy for any late minute purchases.

Mrs Rose
Cover Manager/Senior Administrator

11. Library News

Year 11 and Year 13

Emails were sent home this week to students who still have library books on loan. Can you please look for these over half term. Any outstanding loans must be returned before Wednesday, 9 June. Thank you.

Library Re-Opening

The library will be re-opening for limited browsing after half term. This means students will be able to visit the library during tutor time and social time to borrow a library book. We have put together a document summarising the key changes. Please do look through this with your child so they know when they can come to the library and what to expect when visiting. [Click here to view the guidance.](#)

Art Competition

Students have one more week to create their entries for our art competition. A poster with all the details, plus some pictures students can use for inspiration can be found by clicking this link. Completed entries should be handed in to Miss Ling by Tuesday, 8 June.

E-Books Library

A reminder that we have a dedicated eBook platform that allows students to borrow eBooks from the library, even when we are not at school. This is available at any time and on any device, and because loans are returned automatically you don't have to worry about the books being late or getting lost.

Students access their account with their Microsoft 365 login.

Go to: <https://openacademy.eplatform.co/> or download the app here: <https://openacademy.eplatform.co/help/apps/eplatform-app>

The collection holds over 1000 books from popular series such as Harry Potter, Percy Jackson and Skulduggery Pleasant, as well as new books you may not have discovered yet. It also includes a number of readability features to help support students with reading difficulties.

Book in Your Bag Raffle Winners

There has been a noticeable improvement in the number of students bringing in a reading book to school regularly this half term. We would like to thank parents and carers for their support with this.

This term we held a prize draw to reward those students who regularly remembered their reading book.

The winners of the prize draw were:

Year 7 Lucky Draw: Lily-Anna Nash
Most Raffle tickets: Lucy-Rose Brown

Year 8 Lucky Draw: Xylia Sparkes
Most raffle tickets: Thomas Jolley

Year 9 Lucky Draw: Charlie Palmer
Most raffle tickets: Hayden Purvis

Year 10 Lucky Draw: Bonnie Billington-Howes
Most raffle tickets: Ella Ash

Congratulations to these students and all the other students who collected raffle tickets- there were hundreds! Keep it up and keep reading!

Miss Ling
Librarian

12. Attendance

Year Group 12	82.84%
Year Group 13	90.05%
Year Group 7	91.34%
Year Group 8	91.45%
Year Group 9	92.34%
Year Group 10	91.31%
Year Group 11	85.98%

Well done to Year 13 and Year 9 for having the highest attendance for week ending 21.5.2021

Attendance Lottery – many congratulations to Harley Ringer, Year 7, who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 21 May 2021.

For week 17.5.2021 to 21.5.2021, we had an amazing 408 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 31 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Just a reminder that If your child is absent due to illness, medical appointment etc., please contact Reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us of the reason for their absence before 8.30am, if possible.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

13. Chaplain's Reflection



In school we will be looking at our core value of respect which teaches us to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. This week I just want to mention about respect through social media. Social media is a great tool to communicate with each other. We can keep in contact with friends and family all over the country and the globe. It's a great platform for sharing parts of our lives with friends and loved ones.

This is all good, but there is a very negative side to social media that causes a lot of problems, and people suffer heavily because of it. One of the biggest problems with social media is that many people feel free to say whatever they think about everything. And, because they are posting online, they often express their opinions in harsher language than they would if they were talking to another person face to face. It's very easy to hide behind devices and post negative comments to another person, which can have devastating consequences for their lives.

Another potentially negative part of social media is the ability to share. The reach of a negative post can be staggering and it can affect a big audience. It has the ability to reach to all parts of our communities and beyond.

Perhaps we can reflect on this and remember, behind every post or message we make or send there is a human being behind it. A human being with feelings and emotions. The Bible talks about that we have life or death in the power of our tongue. We can build people up or destroy them. Our posts, messages, re-tweets, our words and actions can have a massive effect on people.

In closing, let's pause before we post. Let's think about what we send with respect firmly in our minds.

God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain