

## **Open Academy Update 11 June 2021**

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our newsletter this week and it is so good to welcome back not just the students, but the summer too! The glorious weather has brought with it a number of changes in the academy – notably our move to summer uniform rules. Before I get into the detail of that however, can I thank all who have completed the Kirkland Rowell Biennial parent survey – you should still be able to have your say if you have not already by following the link in last week's newsletter.

### **Summer Uniform**

As always at this time of year, we allow students to remove their blazer when they are in the academy. They are expected to have it with them at all times in case of weather changes and also if required for formal events, however it can happily remain in their bags or lockers most of the time.

Once blazers are off it becomes very obvious who struggles to keep their shirts tucked in. We would ask that if possible, if your child is one of those students, that you get them a belt to help.

Finally, on uniform, we agreed to the school council request that students may wear shorts during summer uniform times. The agreement is that the shorts must be the tailored or trouser type, Black or dark/navy and without logos. Sports shorts are not acceptable. This is still a formal uniform – so still shoes and socks expected, however short dark ankle socks will be fine if shorts are worn.

Please also see a note from our safeguarding lead regarding keeping students' uniform presentation safe. The students know for instance that skirts should be knee length or close to the knee at least and Mrs Reed has added some helpful thoughts around dress generally.

### **Goodbye to class of '21**

It was lovely to see the Year 11s together in the hall for their farewell assembly and BBQ on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Pearsall and Mrs Middleton have done an amazing job getting them through this most challenging of times so I would like to thank them for their incredible skill, patience and care for helping the Year 11s get through. Likewise, I would like to congratulate the Year 11s who have managed to come through such trying times to end as such a pleasant, strong group of students. My most heartfelt of congratulations to all for getting there!

It was also lovely to see the Year 13s come together to say cheerio in a more intimate, but no less enjoyable get together where the Ford/Ward iced buns were the low light in an otherwise lovely afternoon of saying their goodbyes. We are delighted that so many have secured positive next steps into the world of higher education training or work and we wish them all the very best in their future careers (although not before some of them come back for our peer teaching internship program)!

We are busily preparing for the summer peer teaching internship programs for Year 11s & Year 13s who will be staying on to our 6th Form. A most exciting and lucrative prospect all round and I am sure they will benefit from extra weeks together earning and learning in the final 3 weeks of term for the Academy wide catch up program. This will include a week of induction for the new Year 7 students, sports day and events, large scale art work and project work across the curriculum, all supported by our Year 11 and 13 interns. I promise to share more details next week, so for now I will leave you with the final reminder to please talk to your children about behaviour to and from school.

## **Behaviour to and from school**

My final reminder this week is to ask if you would talk to your children about behaviour and appearance to and from school. We expect them to wear their uniform with pride from home to school and then on the way home again. I know it is warm, but it is important that our community sees us always wearing our uniform with pride and behaving as we would expect in school. This means cycling safely and taking care on roads.

We will have a new Safer Schools Officer starting with us here at Open in the next few weeks, and one of the first issues they will be dealing with is those who are not cycling safely along with poor behaviour in the community. The tiny minority of students who at times have let down the rest of us who do the right thing will be challenged, so please do all you can to ensure your child is one of the many who are the positive face of Open Academy in our community!

Jon Ford  
Principal

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### **1. Uniform message from our school safeguarding lead**

As the weather is getting warmer and students are starting to take off their blazers in school I just wanted to write a little note to you to ask you to check your students uniform in the morning. We are seeing an increasing number of very short skirts in school and don't want our students to receive any unwanted comments or attention.

We are a school that is spread across three floors and students are regularly walking up and down stairs. When skirts are too short it can lead to others being able to see things they don't want to see when walking behind students. Our female members of staff will be talking to those students whose skirts we feel are too short over the coming days and weeks to ask them to pull them down to a reasonable and safe length. We never have done, and never will do, the whole measuring skirts above or below the knee thing and would hope we never have to. We ask girls' skirts to be knee length.

We would also ask for you to speak to your girls about the colour of the bra they are wearing under their shirt. I would recommend wearing a white bra or crop top so that it is not visible through their shirt when they remove their blazer. If any of our students receive any unwanted comments about their dress we encourage them to come and speak to us (either their heads of year or myself in the safeguarding office), so that we can ensure this is dealt with appropriately. We want to keep all of our students safe in school and hope that you can help us by ensuring they are in appropriate uniform.

Miss Reed  
Safeguarding Lead

## 2. Year 7 News

First week back after half term, and what a hot one! Students have settled back in well complying with the Open Way and Learnt objectives. Well done all.

Due to the increase in temperature summer uniform can now be worn. Students do not have to wear their blazers in school, they should still bring them in their bags to school. Hoodies should not be worn as a replacement for a blazer. As per the school uniform policy school skirts need to be a knee length. A reminder that the only jewellery permitted is one small pair of studs, one in each lower lobe and a wrist watch.

An Open Voice meeting took place this week, with lots of great ideas from our students. More details will follow over the next few weeks.

A group of Year 7 students have had their first session of training for peer mentoring. All students involved are very excited about this opportunity. We are incredibly proud of the students, this is a fantastic opportunity to develop skills as young leaders.

Shout outs this week:

Again, a large amount of achievement points have been awarded to Year 7s. The leaders this week are Luke Jones, Ellie Mann, Amy Toms, Lewis Ward, Thomas Hardy, Kanye Banham, Larisa Marginean, Tyler Paul, Megan Perriton, Ty Cook, Asha Kandola and Keeley Youngs.

The tutor group with the highest achievement points goes to Mr Walters D7.

Miss Luter and Miss Joyce, Food Tech - Well done Lewis Ward for work in Food Tech and being helpful to other students.

Mrs McEvoy - Kian Wright for great listening skills in German.

Miss Ling the School Librarian is running a Euro 2020(1) reading challenge. Students will be going head to head to battle it out for the best book. The winners will be announced in the coming weeks.

COME ON ENGLAND! First match Sunday afternoon.

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

## 3. Year 8 News

Welcome back to the last summer half term, and goodness gracious it's been a hot one! We have made the move to summer holiday uniform where blazers can be removed, but should remain with students in the event of visitors. Students are permitted to wear black school shorts and short-sleeved shirts are welcomed. The building becomes very hot in the summer and so we would also encourage students to have a refillable water bottle with them. We are doing our best to keep classrooms cool so that students can focus to the best of their ability.

Well done to Rosie Coman, Star Cook, Thomas Jolly, Kai Mann, Mayling Thomas, Arturas Kieras, Preston Banham, Emily-Jayne Copsey and Caitlin Applegate for earning over 20 achievement points each this week!

Thank you to our Year 8 students who participated in their immunisations this week. If there is any remaining confusion surrounding consent or appointments in the future, please keep an eye on your emails in the coming week.

There will also be a Year 8 student council meeting on Wednesday morning of next week to discuss upcoming charity work and how we could run student mentoring as restrictions lift.

Wishing you a cool and relaxing weekend where possible!

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8

Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 8

#### **4. Year 8 D&T**

Many Year 8 students have asked about finishing the Design Technology project they started in Year 7. Therefore, I will be opening the Academy workshop for an hour after school every Thursday up until the end of term for Year 8 students to finish their speakers. I can only accommodate 10 students each week so first come, first served. Their commitment is wonderful, and I look forward to them finishing something this year!

Mrs Reynolds  
Teacher

#### **5. Year 9 News**

Welcome back. It's been a very hot week in school. We have moved to summer term uniform. Please ensure that your child brings their blazer into school (but does not have to wear it once in school). Please see the guidance regarding school skirts. Tailored shorts may be worn. We are seeing an increase in nose studs. These are not allowed in school. Also, please ensure your child has a water bottle, wears sunscreen and a hat for outside. Any problems please speak to us.

As Euro 2020 is starting today we are having a fun tutor group challenge. A member of each tutor group randomly picked teams for their tutor group to follow. A small prize will be given to the tutor group that picked the winner. Obviously this will be the tutor group that picks England!

Our tutor reading challenge is going well. Well done again to Miss Luter's tutor group (I9BLU) for the most accelerated reading quizzes achieved. Particular congratulations to the following: Toby Thompson, Dalia Rosca, Lilli Aldis, Ryan Howes, Lisa Kracewicz, Erin O'Neill, Charlie Palmer and Teyla Young. Keep up the reading.

Our top achieving students this week are: Lucy Birkett, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Paige Berry, Finley Davey, James Hoyer, Summer MacCormack, Owen Middleton, Isaac Newrick, William Orr, Gerrard Sandell and Zac Skells. Well done to you all.

Our Praise Club members this week are: Jake Folkes, Caitlin Parker, Rose Wheatley and Daniel Smajda. Again well done to you all for being chosen.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 9

#### **6. Year 10 News**

No update.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

## 7. Year 10 PPE1

These assessments will be taking place during the week commencing 21 June. The timetable is below.

As an academy we have always treated these with great importance, however, we never envisaged that over the past two years our Year 10 assessments would be so vital as actual evidence for students overall final grades. May we remind both parents and students of the importance of these assessments and would ask you to encourage your child to prepare for these beforehand and to have good attendance during this week so all of these can be completed.

### PPE1 - Year 10 - w.c. 21st June 2021

WEEK A	PERIOD	Mon 21st June	Tues 22nd June	Wed 23rd June	Thurs 24th June	Fri 25th June
9.05-10.05	1	Maths Paper 1 1 hr 30m Non Calc. <sup>100</sup>	Triple Science Biology 1hr 15 mins Combined 1 hr <sup>100</sup>	Maths Paper 2 1 hr 30m Calculator <sup>100</sup>	Triple Science Physics 1hr 15 mins Combined 1 hr <sup>100</sup>	Computer Science Paper 1 1 hr 45m <sup>23</sup> ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ Art & Photography All day
10.05-11.10	2					
11.10-11.30	Break					
11.30-12.30	3	History 1hr 30m <sup>70</sup>	English Language 1hr 45m <sup>100</sup>	Triple Science Chemistry 1hr 15 m Combined 1 hr <sup>100</sup>	Food Tech 1hr 45m <sup>16</sup> D&T 1 hr <sup>23</sup> Business 1 hr 30m <sup>22</sup> Health & Social 1 hr <sup>28</sup>	
12.30-1.30	4					
1.30-2.00	Lunch					
2.00-3.00	5		Geography <sup>38</sup> 1 hour	Religious Studies 1 hour <sup>9</sup> ----- Spanish Reading & Writing 1hr <sup>81</sup>		

Mrs Pickering & Mrs Hadley  
Examination Officers

## 8. Year 11 News

No update.

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

## 9. 6<sup>th</sup> Form News

Well, we have had such a busy week in OA6.

First of all, well done to all of Year 12 for sitting their assessments in such boiling hot weather! Your teachers should be sharing your results with you. As discussed before, please be aware that any student that has failed to get a mark in these exams will have to have a meeting with their subject teacher and parent to discuss plans for next year.



Secondly, this week we said a final goodbye to our lovely Year 13 students who had their last day with us on Wednesday. Luckily a few of them will be back in a couple of weeks' time to take part in the mentoring programme, but for the rest of you, well....what can we say? You have been an absolute marvel of a year group. I think we said it all in our emotional speeches. We are immensely proud of you all, and have absolutely no doubt that you will all go on to do amazing things in the future. Remember, you will forever be Open Academy pupils, and that means that no matter how hard you try, you can never get rid of us! But seriously, you may not be setting foot in this building every day, but we will always be here for you if you need advice, support, or just a friendly ear to listen to you.



Have a wonderful summer Year 13. And for Year 12s.....I'm already excited to see what the next year holds for us all.

Mrs Molloy  
Head of Sixth Form

## 10. Careers

Our Sector of the Month for June is BioTech. This is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK and is expected to employ increasing numbers of people over the next few years especially in the East of England where the Norwich Research Park at UEA takes a leading role. Biotechnologists work in the environment, medical and health, agriculture, biofuels and marine sectors and students who are interested in the sciences, maths and psychology have the opportunity to make a real difference using biological knowledge and techniques to create and develop innovative products to improve the quality of human life. For more information, look to:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/biotechnologist>  
<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/biotech-43/>

Our partners at UEA and City College Norwich are running a 'Get Hired' Apprenticeship Evening on the 24 June. There are two online sessions at 4:30pm and 5:30pm giving up to date details of how apprenticeships work in Norfolk and how to make an application. For details of how to join the sessions please email [apprenticeshipadvice@ccn.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeshipadvice@ccn.ac.uk) or phone 01603 773 341.

Parents – don't forget to check out our fantastic careers platform Unifrog [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org) All students have a login for the website and can access a wealth of information and advice on higher education courses, college courses, apprenticeships, volunteering and much much more. For further information contact me [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk)

Ms Davies  
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

## 11. Library News

### Library Re-Opening

Our library has officially opened this week and it has been lovely to see students browsing the shelves and picking out books. If students have not visited yet, they can look at the timetable below to see when the library is open for their bubble. We look forward to seeing more students over the coming weeks.

# When is the library open?

Week A	TUTOR	LUNCH			AFTER SCHOOL
	8:40-9:05	12:30-13:00	13:00-13:30	13:30-14:00	15:00-16:00
Monday	Year 10	Year 7	CLOSED	Year 10	Year 8/9 Manga Club
Tuesday	CLOSED	CLOSED	Year 8/9	CLOSED	Year 7
Wednesday	Year 7	Year 7 •Book Club•	CLOSED	Year 10	Year 10
Thursday	CLOSED	CLOSED	Year 8/9	CLOSED	Year 8/9
Friday	Year 8/9	Year 7	CLOSED	Year 10	Year 7 Manga Club
Week B	TUTOR	LUNCH			AFTER SCHOOL
	8:40-9:05	12:30-13:00	13:00-13:30	13:30-14:00	15:00-16:00
Monday	Year 10	CLOSED	Year 8/9 •Book Club•	Year 10	Year 8/9
Tuesday	CLOSED	Year 7	CLOSED	CLOSED	Year 7
Wednesday	Year 7	CLOSED	Year 8/9	CLOSED	Year 10 Manga Club
Thursday	CLOSED	Year 7	CLOSED	Year 10	Year 8/9
Friday	Year 8/9	CLOSED	Year 8/9	CLOSED	Year 7

•Max 4 students per tutor group during tutor time.

•You must collect a library pass at break, to use the library at lunch.

### Keep up the reading momentum

Last half term we saw lots of students get back into the habit of bringing in a reading book with them every day. Please keep this up and remember to pack this in your school bag every day (it is an essential piece of equipment)!

We also want to remind students to take their Accelerated Reader quiz after they finish a book. This is an important step that allows us to check that students are understanding what they read and also allows us to offer further support to students who may be struggling. We put together an Accelerated Reader guide for parents last term. [This can be found at the following link](#) as well as on the school website.

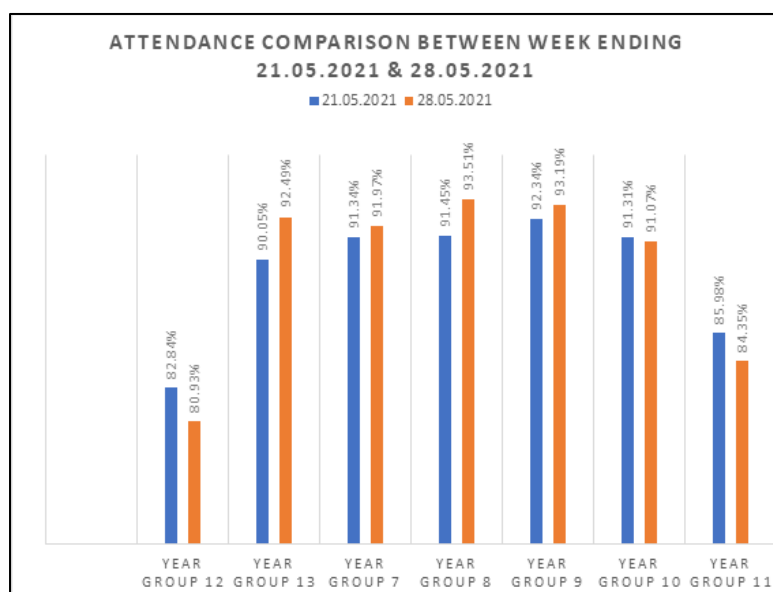
If you would like any further support in regards to reading and your child please do let me know and I will be happy to help.

### Library Clubs next week

If your child would like to use the library after school next week please use the form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Wnc9LASmDs> to register their place. Thank you.

Miss Ling  
Librarian

## 12. Attendance



Year Group 12	80.93%
Year Group 13	92.49%
Year Group 7	91.97%
Year Group 8	93.51%
Year Group 9	93.19%
Year Group 10	91.07%
Year Group 11	84.35%

Well done to Year 13 and Year 8 for having the highest attendance for week ending 28 May 2021.

Attendance Lottery – many congratulations to Rebecca Parish, Year 11, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 28 May 2021. Well done Rebecca!

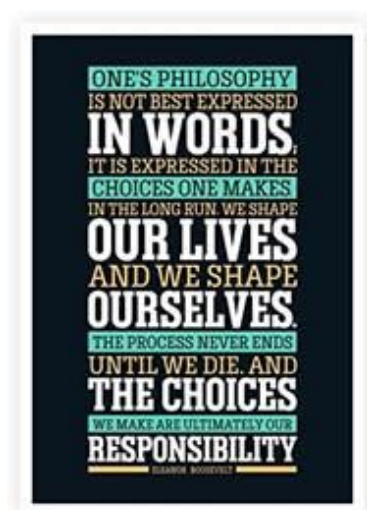
For week 24 May 2021 to 28 May 2021, we had an amazing 412 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 29 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

For the month of May 2021, we had 275 students achieve 100% from Years 7 to 13. Well done all! These students will be given achievement points.

For all absences, please kindly notify reception or your child's year office. Alternatively, you can inform us of your child's absence on our designated student absence email [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk)

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

## 13. Chaplain's Reflection





## Humility

In our lives we are definitely going to make mistakes every week, probably every day. We need to accept that it's okay to fail, as long as we take that failure, let it change us and gain wisdom from it. Most of us sulk a bit when we have to admit we're wrong, but we will get over it in our own time.

Taking responsibility can be embarrassing, humbling and painful. However, accepting responsibility for our choices can also be very empowering. Taking personal responsibility means not blaming others for the things that go wrong. Not taking responsibility can have a very negative effect on the people around us. It can pass blame and ill feeling to others that are completely innocent.

Sometimes, especially when we're young, we don't always see the long-term effects of our behaviour. But, and be assured about this, accepting responsibility is a biggie in receiving the respect of those around us in our communities. Accepting responsibility is not only the right thing to do, but it enriches our lives and is a relationship builder.

The Bible encourages us to take responsibility for our actions in saying this "A person who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if they own up and forsake them, they get another chance".

In wrapping this up today, I just want to share a quote with you by Eleanor Roosevelt and it says this "In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility".

Over the coming weeks, let's be determined to show humility over mistakes made and to learn from them. It's a game changer.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain

## 14. Children & Young People's Mental Health Guide

Please see the attached support and self help guide for your information.

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/emotional-health/children-young-peoples-emotional-health>

Mrs Wicks  
PHSE Teacher



Virtual School for  
Looked After and Previously  
Looked After Children



## Inclusion and Opportunity Service

**In partnership between the Virtual School for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children and Adoption UK, please join us for our new webinar 'Supporting your child in education' presented by Nicola Marshall.**

**Nicola Marshall is a trainer for Adoption UK, bestselling author and coach in the field of vulnerable young people in education and parenting. She is the Director of Braveheart Education. Having adopted her three children in 2008, they inspired her to raise awareness within education around the issues for all vulnerable children and young people.**

**The webinar is for adoptive and special guardianship families. Nicola will also be joined by Harriet Tunnicliff, Adviser for Previously Looked After Children from the Virtual School.**

### **This 45 minute webinar will cover:**

- Engaging with your child's school and the role of the Designated Teacher
- Information about the Pupil Premium for previously looked after children
- Supporting your child or young person in education—how do you best champion them?
- The importance of regulation—what information is useful for their teachers to know about your child?
- Support for you, including:
  - ◊ 5 strategies for managing challenging behaviour following school
  - ◊ Mindfulness—If you're not ok, they're not ok.
- What support is available to you in Norfolk?

### **Feedback received for courses delivered by Adoption UK:**

"After 14 years as an adoptive parent, this is the first time I have attended any course where somebody spoke from experience."

"What helped most was meeting and talking to other adoptive parents about their challenges, plus an understanding across the board of the normal physiological – behavioural difficulties our children face."

**Cost:** This is fully subsidised by the Virtual School so there is no cost to attendees.

**Date:** Wednesday 23 June 2021 **Time:** 10:00 am  
It will be hosted by the Virtual School on Zoom and the link will be emailed to you the last working day before the webinar date.

**For more information and to make a booking please contact**  
**harriet.tunnicliff@norfolk.gov.uk**



**Norfolk** County Council