

Open Academy Update 18 June 2021

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our newsletter this week

I would first like to start by apologising for not being clear enough in our pieces about uniform and safeguarding last week that we are clearly against any form of harassment for any reason - full stop.

In writing about smartening up uniform presentation and linking it to safeguarding. I know some parents have fed back that our message was not clear enough and that commenting on how people look and what they wear is never ok and is indeed harassment.

Nothing could be further from our intent. So, I am happy to state, unequivocally, that it is never OK to comment or harass anyone on the grounds of what they are wearing or indeed any other aspect of what they look like or any other characteristic.

We will always challenge any form of harassment and I will reiterate what Mrs Reed wrote at the end of the piece last week. If any student is harassed for any reason, be it their appearance, their clothing, sexuality, race or any other characteristic, we will deal robustly with anyone involved, so please do tell a member of staff - form tutor, assistant head of year, or other member of staff if it happens.

I would like to reassure you that we do cover the issues around harassment in our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons through the Healthy Relationships theme which is a theme visited appropriately for each year group annually.

I am also pleased if my error in emphasis last week is a good starting point for you to discuss with your child, that commenting on others appearance and making comments, is harassment and we will not tolerate that in any form - standing up against it, calling it out and reporting it to the school are all encouraged at Open.

I think it is important that we separate that clear statement from our need to ensure that we maintain a high standard of uniform in the academy. I therefore hope parents will be able to get behind the academy to help ensure that what the students wear, and how they wear it is, as per our uniform policy.

It is entirely appropriate for staff to challenge students who are not in correct uniform, as per the guide attached to this newsletter, as a reminder of the long-standing policy that is always available on our website. If there are any difficulties for your child with our policy, or if you are having difficulties financially with items of uniform, please do not hesitate to contact your child's assistant head of year for advice or support.

I will just mention on a different topic that next week sees us start one of the biggest experiments in a secondary school that I have ever been involved in. Over 50 of our Year 11 and 13 students come back to join us as 'interns' to first learn how to become peer teachers over the next two weeks, and then to support the younger students with their studies. I am as excited and nervous as they are, but hopefully we will have much to tell by next week on how the training is progressing.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. PE Kit

As you will already be aware, our PE kit will be changing from September. The change will see us moving away from a white polo top to a smarter, more appropriate, black Open Academy polo.

The school uniform shop now has the available kit ready to order using the link below, should you wish to do so from now on. All items as part of our PE kit are listed on the uniform page, however, it is only the back Open Academy polo which is compulsory. All other black clothing items can be purchased elsewhere, although these could be more expensive from alternative providers.

It would be useful for your child to have a black jacket/top to go alongside their black polo, shorts/bottoms.

We have a small number of examples of the black polo in the academy to try for size.

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/schools/open-academy.html>

Mr Richardson
Teacher

2. Year 7 News

We are now well into the summer term and can't believe how quickly time is going. Year 7 students have continued to engage with the Open Way and LEARNt behaviour. There has been a huge amount of achievement points received this academic year so far (see below).

A few general reminders, students can wear summer uniform, but should have their blazer with them, top buttons of shirts should be done up and shirts tucked in. All students should have the correct equipment with them at all times. This includes a reading book.

Learning Hubs are continuing for the remainder of this term, students who are timetabled should attend all sessions. This will be reviewed for September, any students regularly not doing homework or engaging in lessons will be asked to attend Hubs.

As the weather has been warmer we have seen students throwing water over each other, inside and outside the building. This is not acceptable behaviour, students have had to change items of clothing due to someone being inconsiderate and them getting wet. It is dangerous in school as staff and students could slip on the water being thrown. The positive behaviour policy will be followed for any student throwing water.

This week's shout outs:

Ms Jennings English intervention - Lola Blossom, Tyler Paul and Megan Perriton worked so well together in a team work activity in English tutoring, supported each other really well and produced fantastic work.

Mrs Thurtell – Praise given to Liam Kerr for making the right choices.

So far this academy year the year have received an amazing 31,140 Achievement points, that is awesome.

Top achievers this week:

Ruby Anderson, Layla Downes, Megan Perriton, Hallie Chandler, Thomas Hardy, Kayne Banham, Isioma Onuchukwu, Katy Sutherland, Amy Toms, Caleb Pye, Dato Datocampol and Asha Kandola

Top Tutor Group Mr Walter D7 well done all.

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

3. Year 9 News

Our top achieving students this week are:

Mia Crowe, Gera Dergacovs, Freya Graysmark, Oliver King, Lisa Kracewicz, Owen Middleton, Erin O'Neill, Robbie Ruff, Kimora Alexander and Sade Woppard. Congratulations to you all.

Assessments will be carried out over the next couple of weeks. There is a maths assessment on Monday and an English assessment on Thursday next week.

Our uniform policy has been tightened up this week and we are nearly at 100% perfect uniform. Please encourage your child to wear the appropriate uniform. Please contact us if you have any queries or issues.

3. Year 11 News

We are all desperately disappointed that the Covid restrictions have not been lifted in time for Prom on Friday, 25 June. If we had gone ahead with this date then there would have been no dancing, no buffet, social distancing measures of 1m and 6 to a table. This would not have been a Prom!

Mrs Middleton has worked above and beyond in contacting Sprowston Manor, looked at multiple alternative options for what we could do for Prom and has managed to rebook for Tuesday, 20 July. So the venue and times (7-11pm) are the same.

I know that this will cause a lot of inconvenience for those of you who have booked beauty appointments and transport however this change in date will give you the proper celebration that you deserve in a beautiful venue.

We appreciate that given the change of date that you may have other plans, so if you require a refund due to a holiday being booked please contact finance@open-academy.org.uk

Well done to the Silver DofE group who completed their practice training (3 day walks), the assessment is 28-30th June.

If you have any uniform that could be donated to the Academy as spares, please drop it into reception where it will be gratefully received. A good way to recycle and reduce waste.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

4. 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>

and

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/biotech-43/>

Our partners at UEA and City College Norwich are running a 'Get Hired' Apprenticeships Evening on the Thursday 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 or phone 01603 773 341

Unifrog are running a series of webinars for Year 13 students and their parents about what happens on Results Day, the university 'Clearing' process and how to get prepared for University life and study. Unifrog sessions are of a particularly high standard and should not take up too much of your time! To sign up please refer to the information in the attached flyer.

New Anglia Hub are advertising an exciting selection of Virtual Work Experience opportunities due to take place in August for 14-18 year olds. Employers include Morgan Sindall, PWC and Suffolk County Council. For details of how to take part, go to:

https://padlet.com/new_anglia_careers_hub/x14s19n317qub3wg or contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

5. Library News

Library notices

The library has now re-opened and it has been lovely to see some returning faces coming to borrow books this week. Students can visit the library once a week during tutor or social times.

We would also like to congratulate Lucy-Rose Brown who has won our Greenaway Gallery Art Competition and received some colouring pencils and a drawing pad this week.

Library Clubs Next Week

The following clubs and activities are taking place in the library after school next week.

Manga Club and Art Workshop: As part of our Manga Club activities, art supplies will be provided for students to create their entry for our art competition. Students can come along, even if they have not attended before.

This will be taking place for Year 8/9 on Monday, Year 10 on Wednesday and Year 7 on Friday. Please use this form to secure a place for your child:

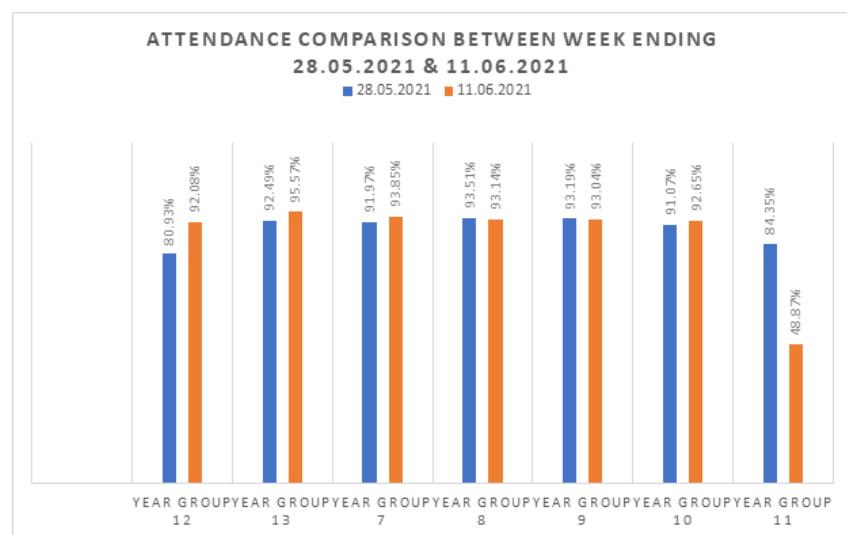
<https://forms.office.com/r/Wnc9LASmDs>



Miss Ling
Librarian

6. Attendance

Year Group 12	92.08%
Year Group 13	95.57%
Year Group 7	93.85%
Year Group 8	93.14%
Year Group 9	93.04%
Year Group 10	92.65%
Year Group 11	48.87%



Well done to all those year groups highlighted, for having the highest attendance for week ending 11 June 2021. Well done all!

Attendance Lottery – Due to the student picked out this week not having 100% for week 7 June 2021 to 11 June 2021, there will be a rollover to next week. Watch this space! In addition, next week will be the final attendance lottery until we return in September 2021.

Manga Festival and new art Competition

As part of our end of year plans, we are currently working behind the scenes planning an exciting day of events based on Manga and Graphic novels for our KS3 students on Wednesday, 7 July.

The day will include author presentations, practical drawing workshops and related arts and crafts. Watch this space for more news next week.

In the meantime, we would like to introduce our newest competition which is running in the lead up to the event. Students across Norwich are being asked to create a piece of artwork in the Manga style.

The competition will be judged by some of our visiting speakers and announced as part of the event, with a prize of art supplies to the value of £50 up for grabs for 1st place! Please see the poster below will all the details. Students who wish to enter should speak to me for an entry form.

For week 7.6.2021 to 11.6.2021, we had an amazing 348 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 10. We also had 16 students in Year 12 who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

There have been an increasing number of students who arrive in school after 9.05am. This means that they are missing their tutor time and also their attendance is affected (this is recorded as an unauthorised absence). Please could you encourage your son/daughter to be in school on time every day. Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

7. Chaplain's Reflection



Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a tough one and if we're honest, it's one of the hardest things to do in our lives. Understandably we aren't very openhanded with it and tend to withhold it until we feel we are ready, or the offender shows some hint of remorse.

At some point in our lives, we've all had to forgive someone. A negligent word hit its mark and now replays over and over in our minds or perhaps it's a deeper wound that keeps reopening, caused by someone's abuse, lies, rejection or assault. The ache and pain of these injuries can linger for years, decades, even a lifetime.

Forgiving someone who has hurt us badly is unthinkable, but it's through forgiveness that frees us from our prisons of self-pity, anger and hate.

Forgiveness is a process that we all have to go through. It's not instant event, it's a daily walk of guts and determination. Forgiveness is not pardoning, condoning, excusing wrongs done to us or forgetting about it. Forgiveness is all about letting go and the end result of this is freedom from the prison cell that hurt and resentment has locked us up in.

In closing today, this quote by Lewis B. Smedes sums this reflection up. "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you". My prayer for us all is that we would choose to forgive and to have the strength to carry it out.

God bless you and your families

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Uniform Reminder:

Item	Description	
Blazer	Open Academy Blazers, ties and our new PE Shirts are all compulsory and available from: Price & Buckland	
Tie	Black and teal stripe To be worn at a normal length and knotted to the neck	
Shoes	Plain black polished shoes only. No training or other similar sports shoes (regardless of colour), no boots, no 'designer' shoes	
Socks / tights	Plain dark	
Trousers / Tailored Shorts / Skirt	Plain black trousers should be worn pulled up to the waist and it is permitted to wear a plain thin black belt with an unobtrusive buckle. Plain black knee length skirt. Not "skinny" style, hipsters or with unnecessary accoutrements (extra zips, buckles etc.)	
Jumper (optional)	Black v-neck jumper with teal trim	
Shirt / Blouse	Plain, white, long sleeved or short sleeved (not polo style) To be buttoned to the neck and tucked in at all times.	