

Open Academy Update 25 June 2021

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter and this week I am keen to focus on the fantastic work the academy is doing to support all our students as they recover from the various lockdowns.

At a time when traditionally things become a little more relaxed in schools, we have embarked upon one of the biggest and most exciting learning projects that we have ever tried.

We were most concerned that Year 11 and Year 13 were finishing school having missed out on so much that we were keen to do more than just say goodbye. We wanted an induction for students that are returning to our 6th Form to really help prepare them for the challenges of 6th Form life, and more than anything, we wanted to help them build their confidence in getting back to reasonable normality.

At the same time, whilst we have been taking huge strides in catching students up through the hub sessions that run every night, and that effectively extended the days for those students who missed out most during lockdown, there was still so much that the students missed that we wanted to make the last few weeks of term an amazing learning experience for everyone, not just to catch up on missed curriculum, but to really engage students in their schooling.

We have been using tutors from YipiYap, paid for through the Norwich Opportunity Area this year, to great effect to help and support lots of Key Stage 3 students to catch up with basic skills, and we have seen the power of in person 1 to 1 tuition. There is indeed a National Tutoring Program, which we have engaged with fully, but much of the offer is online and it has proved difficult for some students to fully engage with that - for the same reasons they struggled online in the first place.

We pulled all these facts together and thought about how we could get more tuition in person to Key Stage 3 students and at the same time, give the students leaving the academy a positive and worthwhile experience. As we debated with governors whether it might be appropriate to use our own students - suitably paid as tutors after a voluntary period of basic but significant training and induction - we also received the government funding for the delivery of testing in school. This was a welcome injection of cash which crucially, thanks to the hard work of the technical team in the academy, we had managed to deliver at a significantly lower cost than many schools.

We have therefore made the decision to use that windfall for the benefit of the community to create our Internship program. Year 11 and Year 13 students have therefore this week been enjoying a wide variety of training and personal development exercises - a highlight of which was the 4 sessions of using the New Zealand Haka war dance as a model for learning. The interns then came out into the atrium and performed the Haka as a flash mob to literally call out the school ready for our new curriculum project. It was truly exceptional and spine tingling as the interns' cries brought the rest of the school out from their class room to see what was going on. Brilliant work by the students and PE staff! Everyone then returned to their classrooms for the teachers to share what was coming up in the final three weeks of term. Do have a look at our Twitter feed to see what the interns have been getting up to.

So we are approaching the halfway stage of training for the interns today and I would just like to congratulate them on their hard work. Next week the focus will shift to the curriculum content they will be helping to teach, as they and the staff, get ready for our final three weeks of cross curricular learning fun through our guild program.

I will share more about that project next week!

Finally, I would like to note that the behaviour in the exam hall by all students taking exams this term has been exemplary. Considering the impact successive lockdowns have had on student mental health around

the country it is very noticeable how well students have been prepared for exams by their families and their teachers. The recovery curriculum has certainly helped get all students in the right place to do their exams. Invigilators have been very impressed with the maturity and attitude of all the students involved. Well done Open Academy.

For now, please do enjoy the rest of the newsletter

Jon Ford
Principal

Contents:

- 1. Camp Refund**
- 2. Year 7 News**
- 3. Year 8 News**
- 4. Skills for Life**
- 5. Year 9 News**
- 6. Year 10 News**
- 7. Year 11 News**
- 8. Sixth Form News**
- 9. Careers**
- 10. Library News**
- 11. Attendance**
- 12. Chaplain's Reflection**

1. Camp Refund

Due to Covid 19 and camp having sadly been cancelled for a second year running there are many refunds needed to be made to parents.

Those who have paid by card will have their refund sent directly to their bank, but those who have paid by cash or cheque should contact Mrs Bell in the finance office to organise the refund.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the academy if you wish to discuss this issue.

Mrs Smith
Teacher and Camp Coordinator

2. Year 7 News

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We will keep it brief this week as the last couple of weeks there has been lots of information to take in.

A reminder regarding school uniform. If you are looking to replace any items over the coming weeks please refer to the school uniform policy before making purchases. The year group are very smart and we would like to continue with the high standards moving forward - thank you to parents/carers for your continued support with this. If for any reason your child is not in the correct uniform, please contact the year office or write a note with an explanation.

Learning hubs are still continuing. If your child is timetabled to attend hub, they should be attending on a regular basis. Please check their timetables.

Shout outs this week

Top Achievers this week, Lily- Anna Nash, Hallie Chandler, Ty Cook, Farah Alwi, Madison Gray, Katie Meadows, Tyler Paul, Lilly-Marie Patey, Asha Kandola and Joel Mace. Well done to all you.

Top tutor group Mrs Napthen – R7 with an amazing 500 achievement points - fantastic.

On Monday the team are planning to hold a Year 7 assembly for the girls only about ongoing friendship issues.

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. Skills for Life

Year 8 focus for the next few lessons will be about the implications of the sharing of inappropriate images. A factsheet is attached should you wish to talk to your child about it and to let you know what we are covering.

The resources we use are from CEOP who are part of the National Crime Agency. Their role is to tackle the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mrs Wicks
PSHE Teacher

5. Year 9 News

Year 9s have had assessments this week and the opportunity to experience sitting in the sports hall under exam conditions, which should hopefully help prepare them for the next couple of years. All of them accepted and just got on with it and we wanted to say well done to them all for coping with maturity and respect.

Praise Club members this week are: Hayden Cobbett, Bryn Norris, Tommy Taylor, Joshua Mace, Harry Robinson and Alfie Skerritt – well done to you all.

The top achieving students this week are: James Self, Josh Wilsea, Harry Robinson, Jay Bartram, William Orr, Sean Passmore, Kasia Jolly, Joshua Carter-Strike, Luke Copping, Zac Duckett and Josh Humphrey.

Another great week of our Year 9 sport leaders leading their sport sessions on Thursday



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

6. Year 10 News

Not much from the Year 10 team this week, but we'd like to say a big WELL DONE to all the students this week.

Assessment weeks are never easy, but they rose to the challenge brilliantly! These exams were a great way for students to realise what it feels like to sit a formal exam, which will really help them as they move into their Year 11. I've had lots of positive feedback from teachers about how the exams have gone and we look forward to our Year 10 Parents' Evening soon where we can celebrate their hard work with you parents.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

7. Year 11 News

No update.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

8. Sixth Form News

Sixth Form Induction

What an amazing week of introducing our Year 11s to life in OA6. Students have been able to experience some of their chosen subjects, as well as taking part in team building activities. From next week, they will start the process of getting ready to support our younger students in their guild lessons. We hope they have gained some really useful experience from all of this. And an extra massive shout out to our Year 13s that have returned to help with the whole process.

Open Academy Parent/Carer Evening

Alongside UEA, we will be holding an information evening for parents of **ALL YEAR 12**. This will be taking place virtually, and we would really like every single Year 12 parent (along with the student!) to attend please. The evening will be super useful to gain insight into the UCAS or Apprenticeship process, and will be a great opportunity for parents and guardians to ask any questions that they may have. The talk will take place on Tuesday, 6 July at 6pm

Join the Take Your Place & UEA Outreach team to find out how you can support your young person through the UCAS application process; find out how student finance works, and applying for apprenticeships. This will be a live 45 minute presentation online via Microsoft Teams. We hope to see you there!

To attend the talk please [follow this link](#) at the start time of the session. The session will run for approximately 1 hour and during this time, there will be an opportunity to put your questions to our speakers.

Mrs Molloy

Head of Sixth Form

9. 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/>

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/x14s19n317qub3wq or contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Any students who are interested in drama and the theatre have the opportunity to attend a Virtual Employer Presentation on **Tuesday, 13 July at 16.30pm**. **Debbie Thompson** from **Sheringham Little Theatre** will be sharing her interesting career journey, she will also be giving information on all of the different types of roles available within the sector. To enrol please go to Virtual Employer Presentation on **Tuesday, 13 July at 16.30pm**. To register students should go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sheringham-little-theatre-employer-presentation-tickets-148192743485>

The UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair is being held this term on **Wednesday, 14 July** from **12-6pm**. Students, teachers and parents can register for their free place [here](#). Don't forget that you can also access fantastic up to date careers and university information on our careers platform Unifrog. Students can access this by going to www.unifrog.org and logging in with their Open Academy email address.

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

10. Library News

KS3 Manga Festival: Wednesday, 7 July 2021

As mentioned last week we have an exciting day of events planned for students in Year 7-9 on Wednesday, 7 July. We will be hosting virtual visits from 3 speakers on the theme of Manga. Students will hear from the perspective of an author and illustrator, find out more about the history and different types of Manga, and be given the opportunity to take part in a practical drawing workshop. We have no doubt this event will contribute to our work in the academy to instil a love of reading and writing amongst our students. You can [find out more about the presenters by clicking here](#).

One of our speakers, Sonia Leong, is also offering a virtual book sale. Students can buy personalised, signed copies of Sonia's books through the school. If you are interested in purchasing a book for your child, [please see this letter which explains in more detail](#). Students can view the books and collect a printed copy of this letter from the library.

If you have any questions about this event please contact the school and ask to speak to Miss Ling, the school librarian.

Art Competition

We are also currently running a Manga Art competition which is open to all students.

To enter students should create a piece of art work in the Manga style and hand this in along with an entry form. These can be collected from the library. Students have until Thursday, 1 July to submit their entries.

The entries will be judged by our visiting speakers and announced as part of their presentations on the 7 July.

Winning students will win a supply of art materials. We look forward to seeing your creations!



After School Clubs next week

We are running extra Manga Club sessions next week for students who would like to use the library to complete their art competition entry (art supplies provided.) These will be taking place on the following days:

Monday: Year 8/9
 Tuesday: Year 7
 Wednesday: Year 10

Please fill in the following form if your child would like to attend.

Miss Ling
 Librarian

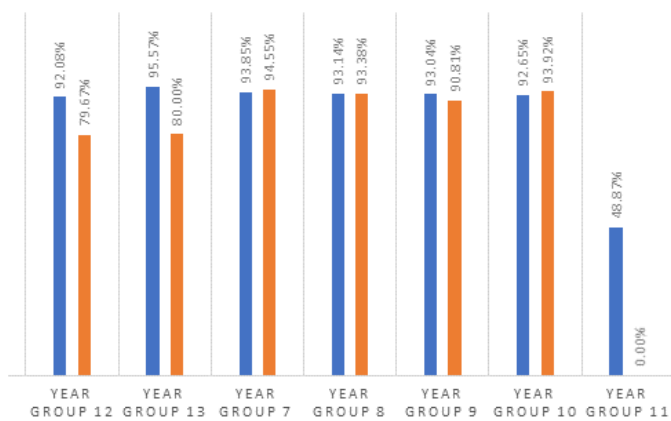
11. Attendance

Year Group 12	79.67%
Year Group 13	80.00%
Year Group 7	94.55%
Year Group 8	93.38%
Year Group 9	90.81%
Year Group 10	93.92%
Year Group 11	N/A

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON BETWEEN WEEK ENDING

11.06.2021 & 18.06.2021

■ 11.06.2021 ■ 18.06.2021



Well done to Year Groups 7 and 13 for having the highest attendance for week ending 18 June 2021. Well done all!

Attendance Lottery

Many congratulations to Kasey Richards, Year 10, who has won a £10 Amazon ECard (due to the rollover last week) for having 100% attendance for week ending 18 June 2021. Well done Kasey! This is the final attendance lottery draw until September 2021.

For week 14.06.2021 to 18.06.2021, we had an amazing 343 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 10. We also had 10 students in our Sixth Form (Year 12) who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Medication

If your child has any medication which they need to take during the school day, this should be given into reception and a consent form completed. The medication is then stored in our locked cabinet in G05.

Absence in Term Time

Please remember that before any absences in term time are taken, a form needs to be completed. These are available from reception.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Chaplain's Reflection

Bereavement Support

Just a little plug for a great website. It gives loads of help for the journey through life such as bereavement support, parent support and general family support:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/>



I want to share a story with you this week that can be of great inspiration to us all. There were 200 people attending a seminar on mental and physical health. At one point, the speaker told the group they were going to do an activity. He gave each attendee one balloon and told them to write their name on it. Then, the balloons were collected and moved into a very small room.

The participants were then asked to go into the other room and were given two minutes to find their balloon. It was chaos. People were searching frantically for their balloon, pushing each other and running into one another while they grabbed a balloon, looked at it, and inevitably tossed it to the side.

At the end of the two minutes, no one had found the balloon that had their name on it. Then, the speaker asked the participants to go back in the room and pick up one balloon at random, look at the name, and return it to its owner. Within minutes, everyone had been reunited with their original balloon.

The speaker then told the group, "This is what it's like when people are frantically searching for their own happiness in life. People push others aside to get the things that they want that they believe will bring them happiness. However, our happiness actually lies in helping other people and working together as a community".

When we experience the joy of helping others, it becomes addictive and gives us a true sense of satisfaction in our lives.

In closing, serving others will always bring good back to us. This is what the Bible says about it. "For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you."

Food for thought.

Have a great week and God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain