

Open Academy Update 9 July 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I hope by now your children have started to tell you about what they are doing in their lessons in our final part of the recovery curriculum for the year.

With themes such as Travel, Wonder and Literature to title groups of subjects that we have termed 'Guilds' at Key Stage 3, traditionally separated subjects have worked together to produce a themed curriculum project which should come together in the last couple of days during our sports days.

With an eye on this summer's Olympics as an overarching theme the Travel Guild sees languages and geography using visits and travel – to Namibia – to act as the context for learning. English and history are using backdrops from world wars to Norwich castle for their students to explore cross curricular links too.

The Wonder Guild brings together science, technology and maths to look at the Olympics through their subject lenses from looking at the science of respiration to the design of an Open Academy Olympic logo.

Crafted within these cross-curriculum topics is key knowledge and skills that students may have missed during the year due to lockdowns, and we felt that delivering them in a different and hopefully enjoyable cross curricular way, will give all the best chance of preparing for their next academic year.

Our plan originally was to incorporate the new Year 6 students next week. However, that required an end to the restrictions which will not happen until the 19 July. However, the rest of the activities are progressing nicely.

With so many of our Year 11s staying on to complete their internships, there is much support for the younger students who may have struggled with key ideas this year, so we see the internship program and the guilds program complimenting each other very well as we remain flat out until the summer holidays.

I am therefore looking forward to our final few days when all of the activities and learning will come together on our sports days. This will hopefully see our own opening ceremony with flags, speeches, logos and our home-made games and activities and displays. There is even a fantastic art project and Manga project underway, which I will hope to share more about next week.

I should stop there, save to say my huge thanks for your efforts in keeping testing going and keeping the virus at bay, whilst at the same time, doing all you can to get your students to get here, on time, in uniform, and ready to learn. We know it is tough, but we are getting back into the good habits we expect and positive momentum is once again building so thank you all so much for that.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1 **Lost Property**

There is currently a large amount of lost property being held in reception. This includes water bottles, coats, jewellery and PE kits. All the items will be placed on tables in the atrium next week and students will have the chance to check for anything they may have lost this school year. Please speak to your child about checking for lost items.

Anything not collected will be donated to charity at the end of term as, unfortunately, we do not have the space to store so many items indefinitely.

Mrs Wright
Receptionist

2 **Year 7 News**

What an amazing week for the Year 7s. There has been lots of excitement around the year group this week, from students involved in painting a mural on a wall outside science, the Manga day on Wednesday, open voice meetings and the guild lessons, with support from the internship students. Next week sees the continuation of the guild lessons and support from older students involved in the internship, and the preparation for sports days and the end of term.

As we look towards the end of Year 7 and towards Year 8 we know students may need new uniform in the new academic year, can parents/carers please refer to the school uniform policy before purchasing new uniform. Thank you to the support of parents/carers, a majority of the year group are very smart and adhere to the school uniform policy.

Attendance has slipped a little this week, we understand that students are getting tired, please refer to the attendance policy and previous newsletters. Some students are also arriving late into school, can you please ensure that students arrive no later than 8.30am. We are still on a staggered start, Year 7s currently line up at 8.34am, those who are arriving after this time are missing important information from the year team before they go to tutor.

Shout outs this week

Top Achievers this week, Keeley Youngs, Roseanne Gardner, Jessie Thomas, Areen Mohammed Ali, Abi McMahon, Riley Daniels, Ella-Rose Key, Katie Meadows, Leah Skipper, Lewis Ward – well done everyone. Next week we will be looking at the top achievers for the academic year. It is very close at the top. Keep up the amazing work.

Top tutor group – Mr Walters – D7, again it is very close between all year groups and we will be looking at the top tutor group next week with prizes for the week after.

We are very fortunate to have a few laptops that we can donate to students. If your child does not have access to a device that enables them to complete homework, can parents/carers please email Mrs Lamb at Debbie.lamb@open-academy.org.uk if you would like to be considered for a device.

To end the newsletter we would like to say how proud of the year group we are and to echo the spirit from "World in Motion" by New Order "You never give up ... you know you can win". Have an amazing weekend.

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

3 Year 8 News

This week, I begin with news that may have already reached you as the information was released a little earlier than I had anticipated. After much consideration and difficult decision making, I have decided to step back from the Head of Year role in September. The pastoral teams work incredibly hard to support our students and an awesome amount of time and energy is dedicated to the role, which has been my privilege for the past two years. However, with COVID restrictions easing slowly but surely, we are hoping to return to a full, varied and exciting extra-curricular timetable in September. For music, this means the return of lunchtime concerts, open sessions, ukulele orchestra, drum ensembles, piano café and choir. On top of that, I have ambitions for our students to partake in the Christmas concert, Open's Got Talent, the Royal Norfolk Show, the Norwich Arts Festival and a whole school production of 'School of Rock' to make up for all that was lost during lock-down. Whilst I wish my superpower was to be in two places at once, being a one-person music department means I need to pass the baton over to Mr Pickup, our new history teacher, to become Head of Year 9. I will of course be on hand to ensure a smooth transition in the Autumn term, along with Mrs Smith who will continue to be Assistant Head of Year, and I can reassure students that my door will always be open to them – it'll just be the music room rather than the year office! To parents, my support continues to extend to you as well and I will always be happy to take your call or emails if there is anything I can do.

On to congratulations this week! Firstly, to Brooke Craven-Andrews and Caitlin Applegate for winning the Positive Pathways competition. They have won a stadium tour of the Norwich Football Ground over the summer with a friend or family member!

Well done to the 50 or so Year 8 students who registered their interest in taking the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Mrs Pearsall delivered a presentation on Wednesday morning where pupils could take an application letter home, so please ask your child about this if they haven't already passed it on to you. It's a fantastic opportunity and an excellent qualification to put on your CV – finances shouldn't prove an obstacle to accessing this Award so please contact Mrs Pearsall for advice.

Congratulations to Arturas Kieras, Kane Plant, Ellie Morter, Ariya Rashid, Deagan Walker and Jake Tyler for being the top achievement point winners this week!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend and we hope that not too much sleep is lost on Sunday, ready for the early start back at school on Monday!

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

4 Year 9 News

One more full week to go in school. All Year 9 students, if present in school, should have received their options letters from Mr Ward and hopefully most are pleased with their choices. If you have any queries please contact either ourselves or Mr Ward.

There was a Manga festival held on Wednesday morning for KS3 students which we hope all students enjoyed.

Our top achieving students this week are: Ella Iftimie-Hau, William Orr, Alfie Kay, Lola Pauling, Jude Abramson, Bryn Norris, Leefna Silva, Joshua Carter-Strike, Lilli Aldis and Lauren Aldous. Well done to you all.

A big shout out to Freya Graysmark for doing an amazing job at planning a set of transition activities for the new Y7 SRB pupils from Miss O'Kelly and well done from us.

Finally, COME ON ENGLAND! Unfortunately, at the beginning of the tournament I said if there was a petition for me to change my hairstyle/colour to look like Foden then I would do it if England win. So when England win on Sunday there will be a photo of my new hairstyle in next week's newsletter to look forward to!

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

5 Year 10 News

No update.

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

6 Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Year 9 & 10 had an assembly giving them information about the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This award is recognised internationally and is not only fun, but well respected by further education establishments and employers. Please talk with your child about this amazing opportunity. Those who are interested will be given a letter on Monday.

The costs are kept to an absolute minimum and support can be given and should not be a barrier to anyone participating. We have a huge storeroom full of equipment and therefore it is not necessary to buy expensive equipment.

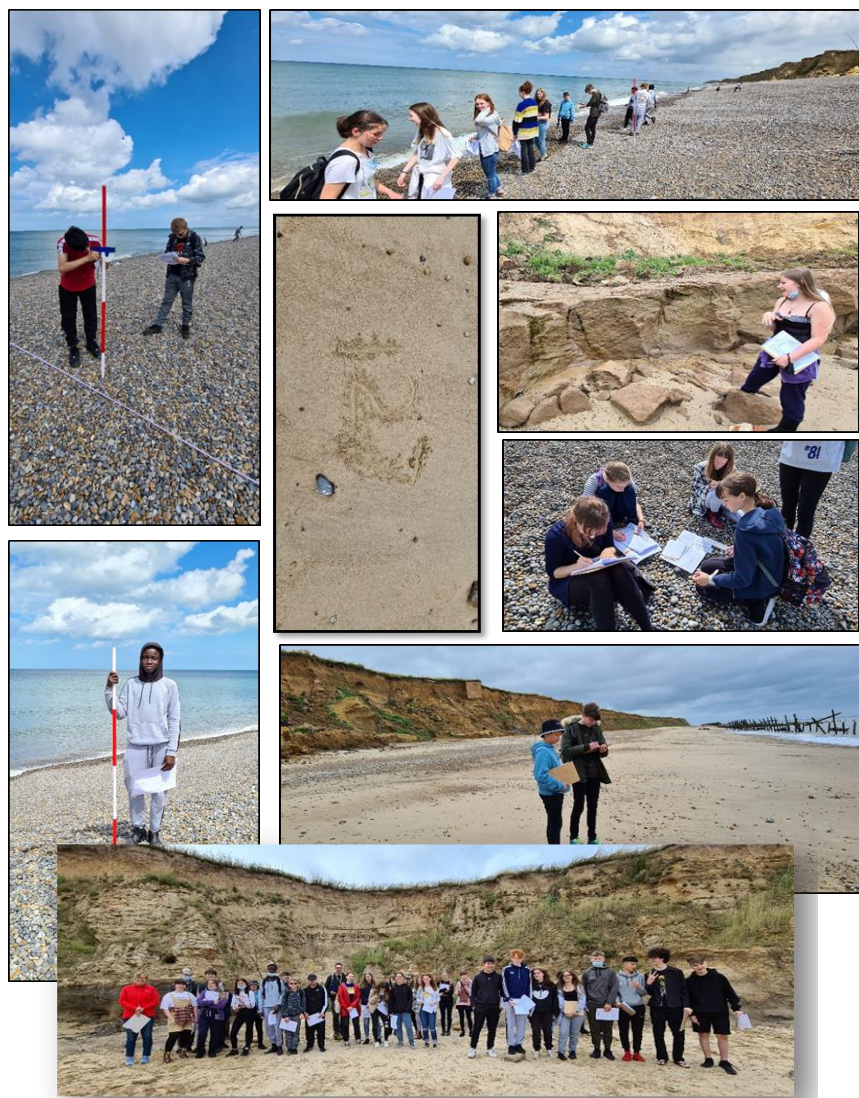
Your child can participate even if they have not done the bronze award, but may have to do some of the sections (physical, skills and volunteering) for a bit longer than if they had done the bronze.

For more information please click on this video link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqHrGnY_Ktg and please feel free to email Mrs Pearsall for further information, ruth.pearsall@open-acaemy.org.uk

Mrs Pearsall
Teacher and DofE Co-Ordinator

7 Year 10 Geography Fieldwork – North Norfolk Coast

We were very fortunate to re-schedule this year's visit and take 35 of our GCSE geography students to the coast on Wednesday. The students had great weather and saw a number of Norfolk's amazing locations including Sea Palling, Happisburgh, Sheringham and Weybourne. We were learning about the processes and management that shape the coasts today. Thank you for allowing them all to go!



8 Year 11 News

No update.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

9 Sixth Form News

Parent & Carer Ambassador Job Role

There is a job opening with UEA NEACO which may be of interest to parents. We are looking for parents and carers who:

- Are living in Norfolk
- Have recently, or are supporting, their young person through higher education or a higher or degree apprenticeship
- Would like to share their knowledge and experience with other parent and carers
- Applications to be in by **16 July 2021**

The Parent and Carer Ambassador team will offer reassurance and guidance to other parents and carers as they help their young person to plan for the future. We are interested to hear from parents and carers who have not studied in higher education themselves and/or who have supported their child to go into HE when many of their friends haven't chosen to go.

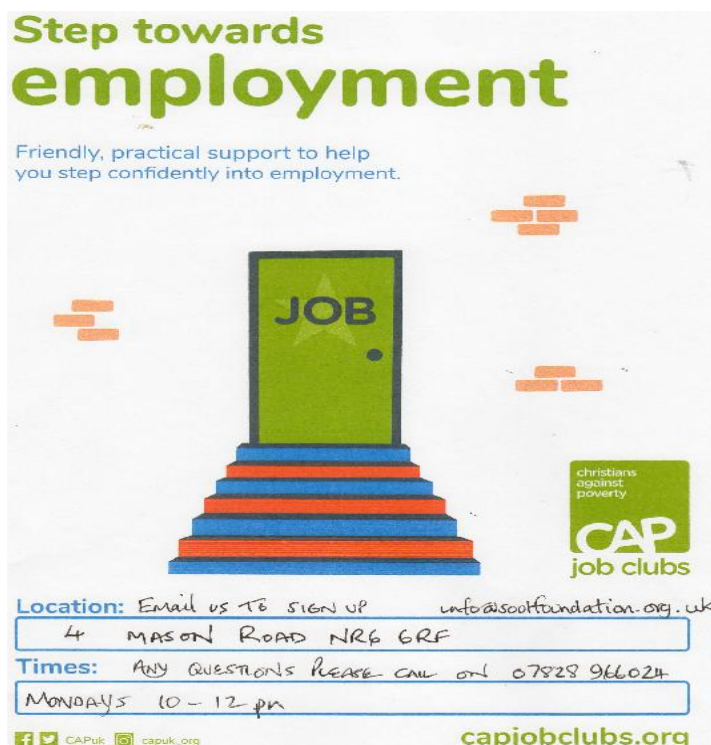
This is a paid opportunity to support NEACO to deliver events, activities and develop resources designed to engage and inform parents and carers. Please see [the link](#) for further information and pass on to anyone who you believe may be interested. For more information please get in touch with Melanie Kidd, NEACO Higher Education Parent Carer Champion: melanie@takeyourplace.ac.uk. Please find the application form [here](#).

UCAS Parents evening

Many thanks to those parents that joined us on Tuesday evening for the UCAS session. The meeting was recorded so please feel free to watch it via [this link](#).

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

10 Careers



Step towards employment

Friendly, practical support to help you step confidently into employment.

JOB

christians against poverty
CAP
job clubs

Location: Email us to sign up info@southfoundation.org.uk
4 MASON ROAD NR6 6RF

Times: ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ON 07828 966024
MONDAYS 10 - 12 pm

[capjobclubs.org](#)

11 Library News

KS3 Manga Festival

This Wednesday students took part in the Norwich Schools Manga Festival. The morning started with a presentation from Sonia Leong, a Manga author and illustrator. We learnt about her experiences as a Manga artist, how she got started in the career and the techniques and processes involved in creating Manga books.

Next up was Rayna Denison, an academic at UEA, who took us through an introduction to Manga. The talk ranged from the history of how the form grew in Japan, to some recommendations of Manga books that can support students in their studies. Finally, we ended the day with a couple of practical sessions. Year 7 followed a live draw-a-long with comic artist, James Parsons, while a small group of Year 8 and 9 students came along to a drawing workshop with Sonia Leong.

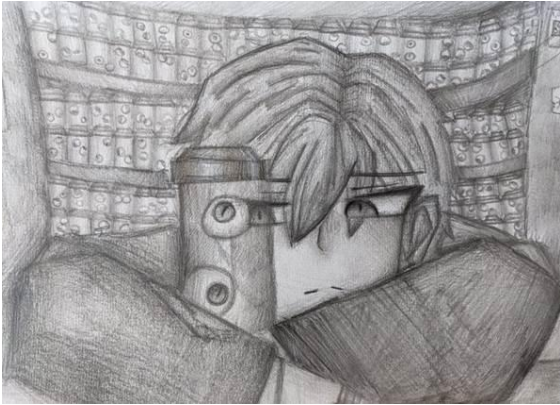
It has been lovely to hear from students who enjoyed learning more about Manga as well as seeing their artwork from the day.



Students have had the opportunity to order signed books from Sonia Leong. The deadline for any orders through the school closes today (9 July 2021), however if your child would like to order a signed book, they can still do so directly from the author's website: <http://www.fyredrake.net/shop.html>

Art Competition

This week also saw the winner's announcements of our Manga Art competition. We are extremely pleased to share that three of the winners were Open students. Congratulations to:



Lucy Norris-Waterfield

Special Mention
(11-13 Age Category)



Lily Turner

Third Place
(11-13 Age Category)



Emma Vaskyte

First Place
(14+ Category)

We would also like to offer a big well done to all the Open students who submitted art work for the competition. A collection of all the entries can be [viewed by clicking here](#).

AR Top 20 and Carnegie Celebration Picnic

Next Friday we will be celebrating our top readers with a picnic on the field. Students will be selected from the Accelerated Reader Top 20 (based on how much you've read and your quiz scores) as well as students who have taken part in the Carnegie Book Shadowing Scheme and read at least 3 of the shortlisted books. Keep reading and quizzing over the next week to secure your place!

Library Books Return Deadline

All library books on loan to students should be returned by students before we break up for the summer on Wednesday, 21 July. Please can you ask your child to look for any books that may be at home. Thank you in advance.

Miss Ling
Librarian

12 Purchase and collection of school uniform

As previously advised Open Academy blazers, ties and our new PE Shirts which are all compulsory are available for you to order along with other uniform items which are available elsewhere.

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

We have agreed with Price & Buckland to accept deliveries into school in the summer holiday on Wednesday, 4 August and Wednesday, 18 August. The academy will therefore be open for collection of orders on Thursday, 5 August and Friday, 6 August from 10am to 2pm and again Thursday, 19 August and Friday, 20 August 10am to 2pm.

Not all students chose 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.

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

Open the following link to view the [Price & Buckland](#) website.

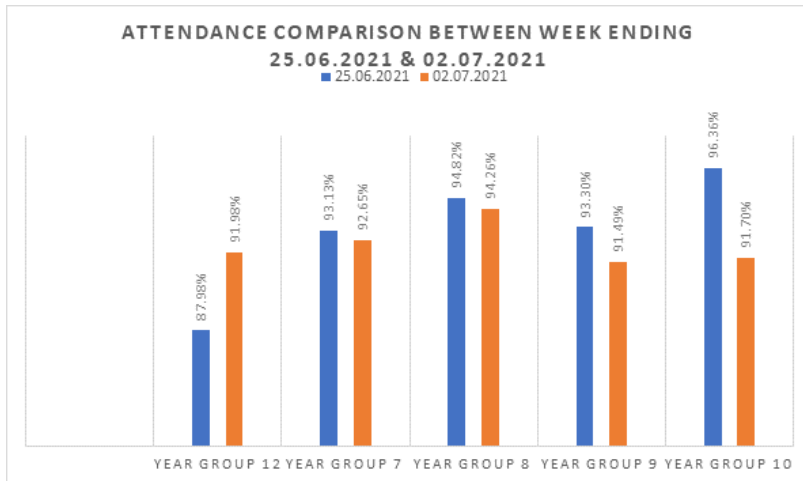
Mrs Rose
Cover Manager/Senior Administrator

13 Attendance

Well done to Year 8 for having the highest attendance for week ending 02.07.2021.

For week 28.6.2021 and 02.07.2021, we had an amazing 335 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 10. We also had 31 students from Year 12 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.



Year Group 12	91.98%
Year Group 7	92.65%
Year Group 8	94.26%
Year Group 9	91.49%
Year Group 10	91.70%

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

14 Chaplain's Reflection

Hard Work

I heard this quote this week and it has caused me to reflect a lot. This quote, arguably can be true. "Hard work beats talent". We can look around us at other people and say, I can never be as talented as them or we say, they are a natural at what they do.

As we hold on to that thought, I want to encourage you with this story. A man was walking nearby to a group of elephants that was halted by a small rope tied to their front leg. He was amazed by the fact that the huge elephants are not even trying to break the rope and set themselves free.

He saw an elephant trainer standing beside them and he expressed his puzzled state of mind. The trainer said "when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them there. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

Just like the young elephants we can believe due to past failures, that we just give up. But contrary to this belief, with some hard work, we can break away and achieve so much more.

A guy called David Beckham, which we are almost certain to of heard of, always stayed behind when training was over after everyone else had gone home. He used to practise hundreds of free kicks to get better and to get on the same level as other world class football players. David Beckham is now renowned as one of the best ever strikers of the football. Hard work works.

In wrapping this up, I take great encouragement from the Bible which says, "I can do all things through Him (God) who strengthens me". Gods help is only a prayer away and He encourages us to get better at what we do."

So, keep on trying, keep on working hard and don't get tied up with some false beliefs of failure. Today is a different day from the past. Today can be about working hard and achieving great things.

God bless you