

Open Academy Update 16 July 2021

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my last newsletter of the academic year – although please note that I will send out a letter regarding the new academic year, starting arrangements and various reminders on the last day next week. Remember we close at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 21 July, our last day of term, so the students will be heading home early as is customary on the final day of the summer term.

What a year! Even today we have had to send Year 9 home for self-isolation due to a positive lateral flow test and we await the PCR test result in case we can invite the Year 9s back on Monday – I am not holding my breath, however, as usually they confirm the lateral flow. Mr Pimlott, our chaplain, is always here if support is required for anyone in our community, as I know it has been tough for many.

Fortunately, we have managed to get a very full term in since Easter and I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the Year 11 and Year 13 students who have done an amazing job as interns helping and supporting the younger students. There have been so many examples of excellence, I will just say that we must work out how to do this next year and indeed throughout the year, as it has proved to be a huge success for both interns and younger students. I think what has heartened most staff is the confidence that the interns have gained, growing so much in the space of a few short weeks. I am sure as they re-join us for 6th Form in September, or indeed head off to university, they will be so much better prepared than they may have been.

Catch up curriculum wise, there is a fantastic mural of the Norwich Skyline being finalised in the Science corridor now – great work by interns and students alike, I picked half a dozen winners for the Open Games logo t-shirt competition from so many excellent entries and the students have been preparing their work for the literary festival next week, so loads of great activities have been underway and many will come to their finale next week. Monday will see the first day of sports day with more traditional sports and track events, then in the early evening the photography students will be exhibiting their work in the St Francis Church Hall just around the corner – with drinks and nibbles available. I hope that it will be a pleasant early evening event start time for parents at 4pm. Tuesday will see the second sports day/festival and games day with over 25 activities for the students to enjoy – almost like a fair with performances, games and competitions it promises to be an epic day – topped off with the Year 11 Prom. Arrivals from 6.30 at Sprowston Manor will be the first we have managed for two years now, so it will be wonderful to say cheerio to the Year 11s properly.

We will round off Wednesday morning with our literary festival, which promises to be a great celebration of the students' hard work so all in all a really fun packed few days left.

COVID Safety and testing over the summer...

There is not a requirement to test over the summer unless your child is in a school. As we will not be open (apart from summer school for Year 6 into 7) that means we will not be providing test kits and will be mass testing all children as they return in September. Having said that, COVID rates in Norfolk are rising and **local health services are asking that you do continue testing**. This is very much a matter for your own discretion so I have attached the letter from Norfolk County Council's Director of Health, which encourages you to keep testing and advises where kits may be obtained from. I will give details of our proposed testing process which will be staggered over the training days and first few days of term when I write on Wednesday and when I have the most up to date picture possible.

Pastoral News

Finally, I just wanted to update you about some of the changes in the pastoral team for September. Due to staff promotions and recruitment we have had to make changes to some of the tutors for September.

Students will be informed by the present form tutors on Monday if they are to be affected. We have worked hard to minimise the changes. The Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year for 2021/22 are as follows:

Year 7
HOY: Mrs Pearsall
AHOY: Mrs Middleton

Year 9
HOY: Mr Pickup
AHOY: Miss Smith

Year 11
HOY: Mrs Clayton
AHOY: Mrs Roberts

Jon Ford
Principal

Year 8
HOY: Miss Whitwood and Mr Crawford
AHOY: Miss Lamb

Year 10
HOY: Mr Lambert
AHOY: Mrs Roe

6th Form
HOY: Mrs Molloy
AHOY: Ms Davies

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1. Sports Days

Monday is Sports Day for Year 7, 8 and 9!!! We have two action packed days to come on both Monday and Tuesday, which we look forward to getting involved in. Year 10 will join us on Tuesday for their events.

Please could we remind all students to have the following?

- **Arrive to school in your PE kit. This should be your white polo top, black shorts, and trainers.**
- **Sun cream, plenty of water and a sun hat if needed. It is meant to be hot.**

Students should arrive at their normal time of 08:40 when they will be registered before getting to the AGP for our opening ceremony.

Mr Richardson
Teacher/PE Department

2. Year 7 News

As the end of term is in sight we look back at the fantastic year we have had in Year 7. We are proud of how the students have adapted to life in high school, which hasn't been easy as there was no full transition

and we had another lockdown. They are growing into resilient, respectful, independent learners. We look forward to building on this in Year 8.

The year team have looked at changing groups next academic year. Students will remain in their tutor groups, but will be in different groups for lessons. This change is a positive move which will support their learning and improve social skills. Students are aware that there will be some changes.

The summer holidays are sometimes seen as an opportunity for students to get piercings. Can we please remind parents/carers that the current appearance policy states the following:

For health and safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted in the Academy. The exceptions to this rule are small studs in pierced ears – one in each lower lobe, and a watch. ‘Stretcher’ type ear studs are not allowed. Facial, including tongue, and body piercings are not permitted in any circumstances whether visible or not. To clarify, the only jewellery permitted is: • One pair of small studs, one in each lower lobe • A wristwatch. Some students have been seen with nose piercings, this does not adhere to the current policy. Any student returning to school in September not complying with the policy will be asked to remove the jewellery.

Shout outs this week to:

Miss Ling - The following students have made it into the Accelerated Reader Top 20, and have been treated to a picnic this afternoon. Amelie Dalton-Cozac, Laurence Hawkins, Lily-Mae Holmes, Rebecca Shapcott, George Tozer-Smith, Roseanne Gardner, Amy Toms, Luke Jones, Viktoria Kenanova, Harley Ringer, Jayden Alden, Steven Ellis.

Mr Pearson – Amy Toms thoroughly impressed Mr Lambert (science teacher) and the whole class with her knowledge of the skeletal system and her engagement throughout the lesson.

The highest achievers this week are, Luke Edge, Oskar Coleman, Charlie Mann, Olivia Cooper, Harley Ringer, Madalyn Pirie, Chloe Perriton, Katie Meadows, Max Laskey and Louie King

There has been astonishing 36,795 achievement points issued this academic year (to date). The tutor group with the highest total of 10,585 is D7 Mr Walters. Well done all students this is fantastic. Look out for the “sweet” surprise next week.

The student with the highest achievement points this academic year (to date) is Hallie Chandler with a whopping 629 points. WOW, well done Hallie, you will get a certificate and prize next week.

We are very excited for sports day on Monday and Tuesday, students should come into school in their PE kits. The weather forecast is looking warm so students should ensure they have their water bottles with them.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support. We have enjoyed getting to know you and the students. We are looking forward to Year 8 with great enthusiasm.

Have a fantastic summer.

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

3. Year 8 News

The final newsletter of the year and goodness, what an end to the academic year! With almost half of our Year 8s off self-isolating until the end of term, it has been noticeably quieter in the academy and it will be significantly quieter on Sports Days next week. For those who are at home, we encourage you to exercise and enjoy the sunshine as much as possible on Monday and Tuesday – obviously not by meeting up with friends in the parks! – and to those coming into school, we encourage you to bring sunscreen, hats and

bottles of water with you. The weather is due to be very hot next week and with everyone being active, dehydration can easily set in so please be prepared!

Talking of enjoying the weather, the following Year 8 students were treated to a picnic today with Miss Ling, our librarian, as they achieved a position in the top 20 Accelerated Readers! Well done to:

Kai Mann C8YCH
Scarlett Bush D8LGA
Tye Fitzgerald D8LGA
Norah White D8LGA
Gracie Britcher I8RPH
Ella Ramm I8RPH
Ariya Rashid R8CDI
Emily Summers R8CDI

Mr Harvey, one of our intern tutors, would also like to pass on his thanks and congratulations to Year 8 for working so well with all of our interns this year. Special congratulations go to Tallulah Brickley, Emily Summers, Kane Plant, Ara Rashid, Alisha Clarke-Jarvis, Max Loft, Adam Lowe, Alice Gates, Ebon Gossland, Aridona Potera and Dylan Atkinson, all of whom contributed greatly to their sessions.

Ella Ramm, Gracie Britcher, Scarlet Bush, Ariya Rashid, Elsie Auger and Norah White unleashed their creative sides this week by contributing to the mural art work being developed in our science department. We're sure the finished artwork will look spectacular so thanks for your hard work!

Finally, we hope that some of our Year 8s will be performing a musical version of the Haka on Sports Day next week so keep an eye out on the website to see the performance!

Wishing you a wonderful summer holiday!

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

4. Year 9 News

We will hopefully see everyone on Monday morning for Sport Day and will keep you posted over the weekend.

Again, we have had a challenging interrupted year and yet again myself and Mrs Roe are extremely proud of our year group for their hard work and resilience to uncertain times again. It would have been good to top off with an England Euros win, but again that wasn't meant to be. The only positive was that I am not sporting the Foden haircut. Mrs Thoppil's tutor group enjoyed treats on Monday morning for winning the Euro sweepstake.

The arrangements for September will be emailed out to you regarding testing etc.

Our students with the most achievement points earned this week are: Kimora Alexander, Lucy Birkett, Hayden Cobbett, Zac Duckett, James Hoye, Josh Humphrey, Isaac Newrick, Samih Ozkan, Sara Szarafinska, Mia Crowe and Amber Topley – well done to you all.

The students with the most achievement points earned over the year are: Lucy Birkett, James Hoye, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, Kimora Alexander, Zac Duckett, James Self, Paige Berry, Freya Graysmark, Josh Humphrey, Oliver King, Summer Maccormack, Owen Middleton, Jayden Muzembe, Isaac Newrick, Erin O'Neill, William Orr, Robbie Ruff, Zac Skells, Klaudia Baranowicz and Harry Robinson. Congratulations to you all.

The following students have made it into the Accelerated Reader Top 20. They have missed the picnic planned for this afternoon, but well done to all of the following: Robbie Ruff, Leefna Silva, James Hoye, Dalia Rosca, Sam Yellop, Torri Ashton and Harry Robinson.

D9 Mrs Thoppil's tutor group have won the Battle of the Books Competition with the most Accelerated Reader quizzes passed. Congratulations to you all. Well done.

D9 Mrs Thoppil's tutor group have won this week's tutor challenge as well.

This Norwich mural was painted by the following students and feature iconic buildings in the city. They were working under the expert supervision of Jess Roll in Year 11.

Dalia Rosca, Hannah Jordan, Lauren Aldous, Rose Wheatley, Teyla Young, Lola Pauling



They have done a fantastic job. Do you recognise the landmarks in Norwich?

The following students have achieved 100% attendance in Year 9 so far this year:

Kimora Alexander, Jamil Ali, Torri Ashton, Klaudia Baranowicz, Lucy Birkett, Tommy Bluett, Isabel Bush, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Hayden Cobbett, George Colledge, Bradley Copping, Luke Copping, Mia Crowe, Gera Deragacovs, Zac Duckett, Jake Folkes, Jess Frazer, Isla Gardner, Faith George, Kelsey Holman, Ryan Howes, James Hoyer, Ella Ilfemie-Hau, Hannah Jordan, Oliver King, Lisa Kracewicz, Joshua Mace, Grace Moreton, Jayden Muzembe, Isaac Newrick, Erin O'Neill, Ronan Orr, William Orr, Harry Robinson, Dalia Rosca, Robbie Ruff, Dylan Scott, Leefna Silva, Zac Skells, Alfie Skerritt, Toby Thompson, Amber Topley, Millie Woodhouse, Sade Woollard and Sam Yellop.

Myself and Mrs Roe challenge all Year 9s to get outside this summer, maybe do the Go-Go dinosaur challenge or go meet Dippy at Norwich Cathedral. It would be lovely to see photos uploaded in Teams. There will be a surprise gift to those who send in photos in September.

A big thank you to all of you including students for your support during the past year and enjoy your Summer, stay safe and let's see what September brings. Fingers crossed the students have an uninterrupted Year 10.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 9

5. Year 10 News

As you may be aware, Year 10 are set homework every other week on Teams. There is currently an assignment open until Thursday, 22 July. Your son/daughter/looked after child should look on Español and assignments.

They should then click on the Textivate link on the assignment and log on using, **openacademy** as their username and their **surname100** as their password. They need to log on so that we can accurately track progress and give them a grade. They must also hand in their homework on Teams for us to mark. Thank you for your continual support.

Mrs McEvoy
Teacher

Well we find ourselves at the end of another school year – and what a year it has been! I'd like to start by saying how immensely proud I am of how the Year 10s have coped over the last year. Not only have they started their GCSEs, but they have done so during a year of disruption. However, they have risen to this challenge brilliantly. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents and carers for their support this year, we really feel like school and home have worked together to ensure the least disruption for our students and we thank you for that.

Despite the challenging year, we have still been able to give lots of opportunities to our students and I'd like to celebrate some of their achievements below.

The following students were offered the chance to participate in the Brightside Mentoring Scheme: Bradley Bland, Seb Breckons, Dom Benga-Bante, Alfie Deadman, Kaden Dixon, Jordan Page, Leo Hughes, Jack Morgan, Ethan Brown, Tom Jordan, Kasey Richards, Scarlett Taylor, Mollie-Mae Birchenall, Connor Matthews, Maisie Squires, Ellie Miller and Freddie Goodson

We were lucky enough to have five students involved in the UEA's Future Forward Scheme: Mia Baxter, Alex Money, Oskar Wyszynski, Maisie McCormack & Mackenzie Culley

The UEA offered a Future Leaders course for a group of students, well done to: Izzy Taylor, Maisie McCormack, Mackenzie Culley, Adrian Colcer, Alex Money & Scarlett Taylor

I would like to congratulate Branden Alden on being awarded the rank of Corporal in St John's Ambulance – such an excellent achievement!

I'd also like to say a big thank you to the Year 10 Student Leaders this year: Izzy Taylor, Mackenzie Culley, Jess Ramm and Jack Teasdale. I'd like to encourage as many students as possible to apply for our Student Leadership Team in Year 11, not only is it a great opportunity to increase your confidence and have an impact on important Year 11 issues such as the prom, but it is also a great achievement to be able to put on sixth form/college/apprenticeship applications.

I wish you all a lovely and relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming the students back in September.

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. Sixth Form News

Wow! We have done it guys. The final newsletter of the year. It's been quite the journey.

Final Day – On Wednesday we will be finishing after period 3.

Futures First – Well done to Reuben for being nominated for the Year 13 student of the year. You have done so well this year.

NEACO - Opportunity to participate in a research project about your young person's plans for the future.

We wanted to let you know about an interesting opportunity we've heard about to participate in a research project which the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach ([NEACO](#)) are running during July and August. To help understand and improve the work we all do to help young people and their parents/guardians in Norfolk, the research will look at the support needs of parents/guardians who have children aged 14 to 18 who find it difficult to be involved in their young person's education and plans for the future.

The research includes an online questionnaire which will take around 20 minutes of your time to complete, for which you will be offered a £5 shopping voucher. You can also take part in a 30-minute telephone or video call and receive a further £25 shopping voucher as a thank you for your time.

Your views and needs are really important in reflecting the diverse needs of our local communities in Norfolk so please get in touch with the research company now via this link:

<https://eu.questionpro.com/t/AB3usrjZB3vE5i> by Friday, 30 July to let them know you would like to be involved in the project.

If you know other parents/guardians who would like to be more involved with decision-making about their young person's plans for the future, please let them know about the opportunity as well by sharing this information with them.

All that is left is for me to wish you all a wonderful weekend, and an even better summer holidays when it comes. Be safe, have fun, and remember as always that the Sixth Form team are just an email away should you need us at ANY point over the holidays.

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

8. Free School Meal Vouchers

We are pleased to say that Norfolk County Council are again providing food vouchers to Free School Meal eligible children over the summer holidays via EdenRed.

Each eligible child will receive vouchers worth £90, these have been split into smaller denominations of £30 per child to be delivered by email on the following dates: 26 July, 9 August and 23 August. Where there is more than one child in a household these may have been combined to provide a larger voucher.

Cashless Catering

From the start of the new academic year we will be unable to accept cash payments in school. Please ensure all payments for school meals, lockers, trips etc are made through our Parentmail app +pay. For those who have not already signed up to Parentmail a reminder link will be sent to allow you to do this, full instructions are on our website under the Parents tab, +Pay. There is also an icon on the right hand side of the home page which takes you directly to the login page for those who have already registered.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

9. Camp Refund

Any parent who has paid by either cash or cheque for camp to contact the finance office via finance@open-academy.org.uk so a refund can be organised. Many thanks.

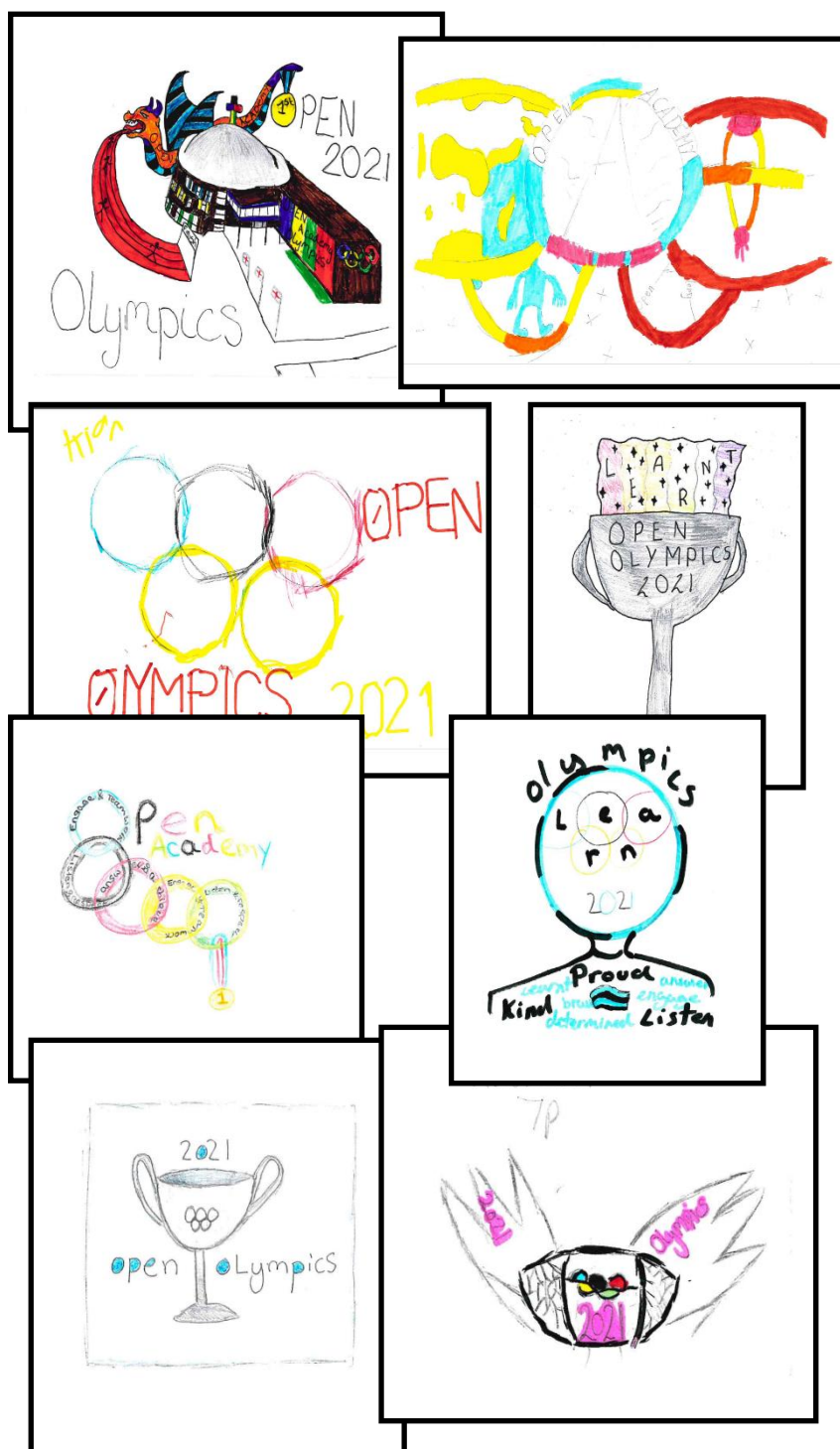
Mrs Smith
Teacher

10. Logo Competition

For sports day this year, all Year 7s were asked to design a logo to represent the 'Open Olympics'. We discussed what being a student at Open meant to them, also what the Olympics represent. The entries were excellent, and Mr Ford had a difficult job judging.

He eventually chose 8 winners and their logos have been printed onto t-shirts for the winners to wear during the 'Open Olympics' next week. I hope they are worn with pride as the winning logos demonstrate how much talent we have at Open.

The winners are: Jasmine Attwater, Madison Gray, Katy Sutherland, Roman Taylor, Kian Wright, Hallie Chandler, Brian Bolaney and Dorian Grzelak. Very well done!



Mrs Reynolds
Teacher

11. Art Murals:



The Year 7 and 9 students have now completed their art murals and they look great, under the close, expert supervision of Jess Roll, Leo Lisboa, Quinlan Orr and Phoebe Pritchard on their art internship. The following students did a great job for the academy:

Year 7

Ella-Rose Key
Rebecca Shapcott
Isioma Onuchukwu
Daisy Waterfield
Dorian Grzelak

Year 9

Lauren Aldous
Rose Wheatley
Teyla Young
Dalia Rosca
Lola Pauling
Hannah Jordan

Mr Walters
Teacher

12. Library News

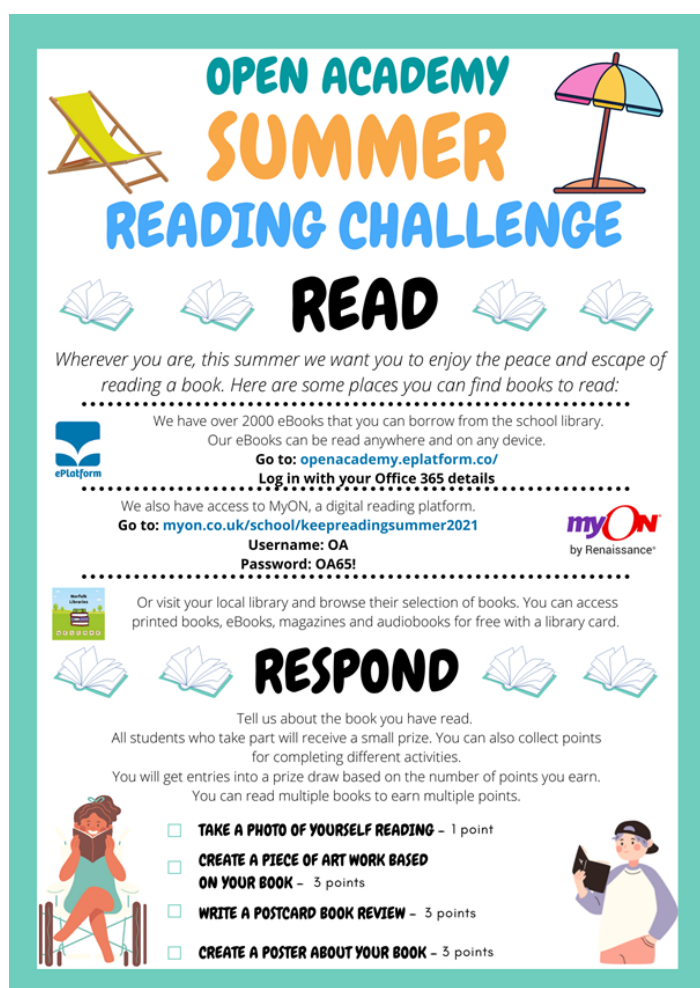
Library Book Return

All library books should be returned by the end of term on Wednesday, 21 July. Please can you ask your child to have a look at home this weekend and bring in any library books next week.

*If students are at home isolating, please keep library books in a safe place over the summer so they can be returned in September.

Summer Reading Challenge & book access

This summer we want to encourage students to enjoy the escape of reading a great book! We are setting a summer reading challenge to read a book and send in a creative response (this could be a photograph, book review, piece of art work or poster.) Please see the poster for more information.



**OPEN ACADEMY
SUMMER
READING CHALLENGE**

READ

Wherever you are, this summer we want you to enjoy the peace and escape of reading a book. Here are some places you can find books to read:

We have over 2000 eBooks that you can borrow from the school library. Our eBooks can be read anywhere and on any device.

Go to: openacademy.eplatform.co/
Log in with your Office 365 details

We also have access to MyON, a digital reading platform.
Go to: myon.co.uk/school/keepreadingsummer2021
Username: OA
Password: OA65!

Or visit your local library and browse their selection of books. You can access printed books, eBooks, magazines and audiobooks for free with a library card.

RESPOND

Tell us about the book you have read.

All students who take part will receive a small prize. You can also collect points for completing different activities.

You will get entries into a prize draw based on the number of points you earn. You can read multiple books to earn multiple points.

- ☐ TAKE A PHOTO OF YOURSELF READING – 1 point
- ☐ CREATE A PIECE OF ART WORK BASED ON YOUR BOOK – 3 points
- ☐ WRITE A POSTCARD BOOK REVIEW – 3 points
- ☐ CREATE A POSTER ABOUT YOUR BOOK – 3 points

Summer Reading Challenge Reading Log

Students can access digital library books over the summer from our eBook platforms. Log in details are as follows:

ePlatform- over 2000 eBooks from popular and well-known authors such as J K Rowling and Rick Riordan.

Go to: <https://openacademy.eplatform.co/> (or download the app)

Log in: students log in with their Microsoft Office username and password.

For recommended eBooks in each year group, please click the following links.

[Reading Recommendations: I'm going into Year 8](#)

[Reading Recommendations: I'm going into Year 9](#)

[Reading Recommendations: I'm going into Year 10](#)

[Reading Recommendations: I'm going into Year 11](#)

MyOn Reading Platform- a digital reading app from Accelerated Reader

Go to <https://www.myon.co.uk/school/keepreadingsummer2021> and enter your login information:

Username: OA

Password: OA65!

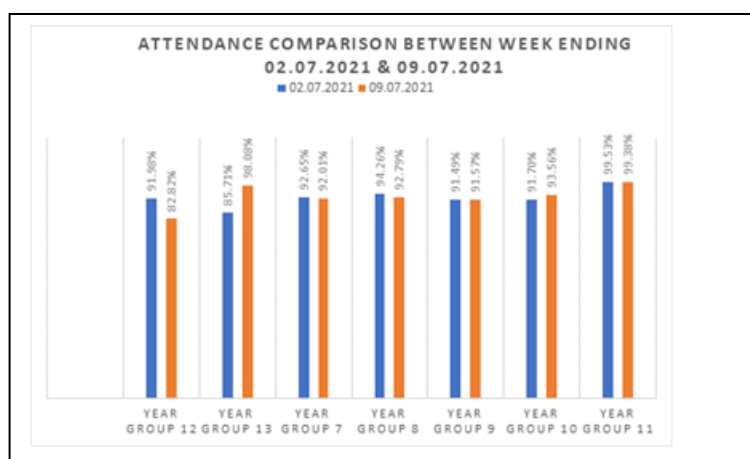
We would also encourage students and families to visit your local library where you can access books, magazines, audiobooks and more.

We hope all our students have a lovely break over the summer and look forward to seeing them again in September!

Miss Ling
Librarian

13. Attendance

Year Group 12	82.82%
Year Group 7	92.01%
Year Group 8	92.79%
Year Group 9	91.57%
Year Group 10	93.56%



Well done to all those year groups highlighted, who have the highest attendance for week ending 9.7.2021

We had an amazing 349 students from Years 7 to 12 (not including Year 11) achieving 100% for week ending 9 July 2021. Well done everyone!!

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.

Please continue to use the student absence email address to report any absence of students, including appointments student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

14. Chaplain's Reflection



This week I have been reflecting on the wonderful people that I have around me and in my world, and how truly thankful I am for them. My colleagues, my friends and family. In amongst all of these beautiful human beings, there are people that inspire me, guide me, look after me and encourage me. I am constantly reminded that we need people around us and how important it is to be part of a team. The worst times in my life have been when I have become an island to myself in, thinking I can do this life my way, and on my own. It just hasn't worked.



I quote from the Bible in saying this:

"Two are better than one, two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better. If one falls, the other pulls him up, but if a man falls when he is alone, he's in trouble. And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."



I want to encourage you, please let's not do life on our own, let's surround ourselves with people who will be there for us, to encourage, inspire and lift us up and to walk along side us, as we journey through life.

God bless you and your families

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain





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GUIDE TO A GREAT SUMMER

Hundreds of free or cheap
ideas and activities for families
to enjoy during the holidays

In
Association
with

<https://www.inspiringnorfolk.co.uk/family/>