

Open Academy Update 10 September 2021
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this first issue of our newsletter for the new academic year. **The students are looking fabulous in their uniforms**, so well done for turning them out so pristine as we begin. As we get back to normal and aim for a full academic year ahead, we will be keen to get back to the highest of standards of dress and behaviour to ensure the only thing we all need to work hard at is learning.

COVID-19 news at the start of term is that **our testing picked up 5 positive cases**, and we know 6 more didn't get as far as testing as they were already positive from home testing, so thank you so much for your help in keeping the virus out of the academy.

Your child is being issued with a set of home tests today and we are hoping that the vast majority, as before, will go **back to routine twice per week self-testing**. Please do encourage your child to get into the routine of testing and recording the results as it helps us keep a clear picture of what is happening. At the moment we are told that NHS test and trace will advise on close contacts and far fewer should need to isolate if we get positive cases, but we will see how that pans out. For now, the vital message is keep testing and **if your child is exhibiting any of the symptoms, then we would ask that you keep them home**, get them tested, and let us know and we will be happy to advise.

This year we are aiming **to raise the bar for all students in terms of our expectations** for their work and achievement after our fantastic record progress results over the last couple of years, despite the pandemic. We will be working on **improving support for students with special needs** and those suffering traumatic times, and we will be accelerating learning for all through an **enhanced approach to homework and assessment and literacy** support. Finally, we will be **developing our awards and celebration systems and further challenging bullying** in order to ensure students remain happy to be in school, mindful of the wellbeing of the whole community as we go.

Results from our parent survey have fed in to our planning, so I hope that when we next survey our parents more of you respond and that those responses confirm how good the academy is becoming. I am also keen to get to know more of you personally and hear directly how we are doing. To that end, we will be putting on a series of social events during the year purely for parents to come in to relax and socialise at the academy, whilst also having a chance to meet and chat to myself and my team – we were thinking of starting with **a quiz and chips evening in October**. It would be good to hear what you think of that suggestion and also other ideas for getting parents in to the academy.

If you have been a reader of our newsletter for any length of time, you will know I am **always pleased to receive comments and feedback** and as always, we will share feedback questionnaire and opportunities to get involved on a regular basis. I look forward to meeting you in the year ahead.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

We have been delighted to welcome our new students to Year 7. Many teachers and staff have commented on how smart and polite they have found them and on their positive attitudes towards learning. Well done and keep up the good work.

At Open Academy we are keen to promote responsibility and leadership in all years and so Year 7 students have been offered an application form to apply to become a student ambassador. From these we will also select a Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl. Students should return the applications to their form tutors on Monday, unless they need help and then their tutor will support and an extension will be permitted.

Next week students will have CAT assessments. This is absolutely nothing to worry about and is just so we can look at where students are now, and therefore how we can help to maximise their progress. If any students are worried, please ask them to speak with their tutor.

We have been made aware that our uniform supplier is struggling with demand, especially with PE tops. If your child doesn't have the Open PE top please ask them to bring a white or black T-shirt or something similar, but suitable for physical activity.

Shout outs:

Although all students have had their best foot forward this week, I would especially like to mention Maddie Anderson (MKN) for being a perfect example of kindness and support to another Year 7 student, who was very upset.

The following students are top in receiving achievement points this week:

Hannah Stagg, Caitlin Paige, Rodrigo Furia, Maverick Gille, Dylain Banham and Elise Whitley.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

WELCOME BACK! We hope you have had an amazing summer. The students have been sharing some of their exciting adventures over the summer. We are happy to have welcomed the students back into the academy yesterday. The Lateral Flow Testing took slightly longer than we planned, but the students were very patient and well behaved. Well done all.

This is a new year, with a fresh start for all students and we are looking forward to having a fantastic year with lots of celebrations. Students have been reminded of the expectations of the academy and embracing the Open way. There are some great reward trips happening this year, so we are looking for students to be aiming for those achievement points.

Students have also had reminders regarding the appearance policy, learnt behaviour, attendance, punctuality and bringing the correct equipment, which includes a reading book. Please can parents/carers reinforce these messages at home.

Hubs will be starting next week, please check your child's timetable. Students may require extra support with homework and have been asked to attend the Hub sessions, others have been asked to attend as they haven't completed homework.

There are going to be plenty of leadership opportunities this year, from Head Boy and Girl, to student ambassadors to support with parents and open evenings. Any student can apply for these roles, those that were successful last year will need to reapply again.

The year team is delighted to welcome Mr Crawford. Mr Crawford has joined Year 8 as Head of Year sharing the role with Miss Whitwood. Mr Crawford is a history teacher and joins the team with lots of experience. He has already met many of the year group and been really impressed with their positive attitude.

We are looking forward to be working with the families again this year and thank you for your continued support. We have a wonderful group of students, who we are proud to work with, and can't wait to see what they will all achieve this year.

Ms Whitwood and Mr Crawford - Heads of Year 8
Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

Welcome back Year 9. It's been a hot first week back, but students have been performing admirably.

Although the weather can be warm, please ensure that your child brings their blazer into school along with appropriate school uniform. No leggings, short skirts or tight trousers. Please see the guidance regarding school skirts. Tailored shorts may be worn.

Nose studs are not allowed in school and should be removed if possible. If there are any problems or concerns with this, then please speak to us.

Please ensure that students have the correct equipment for their learning at school - pen, pencil, ruler, sharpener, rubber & a reading book (this can be borrowed from the library).

Hubs have not been running this week, but will be starting again from Monday and are currently focused to completing missed learning but will evolve during the academic year.

There is a new Head of Year 9 - Mr Pickup, who alongside Mrs Smith, will ensure positive progress is being made. If there are any questions or problems, then please get in contact.

Mr Pickup – Head of Year 9
Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

Welcome back to Year 10 everyone. It's good to be back. Thank you for your support with LFT testing last Friday and this week. It has gone smoothly and as always the students were well behaved and have started the year off positively. Uniform standards have been excellent, just reminders for no nose studs and tucking shirts in. Let's keep up the excellent standards with uniform, attendance and punctuality.

Hubs will start next week. Students that did not complete homework last year have been invited to hub on their timetables starting next week. Any students that do not do their homework on Teams will attend hub after school. Please let myself or Mrs Roe know if there are any issues regarding accessing Microsoft Teams at home and if your child would therefore prefer to stay after school to access homework.

We will start recruiting our Head Boy and Girl and leadership team next week.

Another reminder to purchase the Open Academy PE polo top, there is a backlog with orders at the minute, so we are giving students until after half term to get these in. Until then students need to wear either the white polo they wore last year or a plain black t-shirt.

As always please contact us if there have been any changes over the summer holidays or anything we can help with. Have a good weekend.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 10
Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 10

5. Year 11 News

Welcome back to Year 11! We've had an excellent start to the new school year with everyone back and working hard.

Just a few reminders from the Year 11 team this week. We would like to remind parents that cotton leggings are not permitted as part of the uniform and students need to be in either a knee length skirt or trousers. Also, please remind the students that period 6 starts next week.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11
Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

Welcome back to a brand new academic year! It is so wonderful to see the 6th Form area buzzing with so many students. I will kick this newsletter off with a few year notices. I am sure that students are all aware of the following things, but would like to reiterate them as its always useful to refresh our memories at the start of term.

Absence procedure

Any student that is unable to come in due to sickness or any other reason, must do the following:

1. Email myself and all of their teachers for the day by 8:30am to inform us of the reason that they will not be in that day.
2. Ask their teachers to provide work that they would have missed so that they can catch up on it when they are feeling better.
3. Email in every day going forward that they will continue to be off.

It is really important in 6th Form that students take responsibility over their studies, and as such they must ensure that they catch up on any missed work as soon as they can.

Students signing out

Please be aware that I have only authorised for a handful of students to sign out when they have blocks of private study time. No one else should be leaving the Academy during the school day. Please make sure students arrive by 8:40am. It is essential for you to be in tutor every day.

Private Study & HUBS

As Year 12 would have noticed by now, they will have lots of private study slots on their timetable. These periods are designed to allow you to do work in the 6th Form area. Please use this time effectively. If students would like a quiet room to study in, please speak with Ms Davies. Any students falling behind in their work for the week, will automatically be asked to attend Hubs that week. Please keep on top of all of your work.

6th Form behaviour around the Academy

Please remember that the behaviour policy for 6th Form is the same as the lower school. That means behaviour points and detentions are still valid. I must say that we have been very lucky in 6th form to not really have to deal with many behaviour issues, and I would like that to remain. Please remember that the rest of the pupils look up to 6th Formers, and that means that they should be respectful when walking around the Academy. This includes not being on their phone unless in the 6th Form area. Another gentle reminder also about dress code. In particular no student should be coming into school in crop tops, very short skirts or shorts, flip flops or sliders, slogan tops etc.

Have a wonderful weekend when it comes and I am very excited to see what the next year holds for us!

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

7. Careers

Are you the parent of a Post 16 child who is yet to find the right college place? This weekend, City College Norwich, Easton College and Paston College are running a round of 'Get yourself Sorted' sessions on Saturday, 11 September. These are drop-in sessions between 10.00am and 12.00pm – no need to book.

Mrs Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

8. Music Notes

Please note that drum and guitar lessons will begin from Monday, 13 September. Timetables are now up on the music notice board so please ask your child to check the board for their lesson time.

Extra-curricular music timetable:

Week B 13 September

Tuesday	3 – 4pm Open Harmony Choir (staff welcome as well!)
Wednesday	Year 10 and 11 Open Session (KS4 lunchtime)
Thursday	3 – 4pm KS3 Piano Café (sign up required)

Friday, 17 September – Miss Lines will be on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition so the Music department will be closed

Miss Lines
Teacher

9. PE

Thank you so much to those who have already purchased our new PE polo tops. Students are looking smart in their tops, and hopefully this will help them feel more comfortable with the breathable and easier to keep clean material.

We appreciate there are a few issues with stock and ordering currently. The demand for these tops has obviously meant the stockists are having some issues. If this is the case for you, please do not worry. We have informed all students that if they are yet to receive their tops, they can use either their old white polo top or a plain black top for their PE kit in the meantime. We would expect students to have a top for the start of the second half-term.

It is also important to note that all other PE items on the school shop are optional purchases. If jumpers and shorts etc. are black and are plain, we are happy for students to have alternatives.

Mr Richardson
Teacher

10. Library News

It has been lovely to welcome students back this week and to see many new and familiar faces in the library. This year we are open to students most days at break, lunch and after school. A full timetable of our opening times can be found below.

Library Timetable

Day	Break	Lunchtime	After School- open to all years
Monday	Open for all years	Week A- Open to Year 7 only Week B- Open to Year 8 and 9 only	Manga and Graphic Novel Club
Tuesday	Open for all years	Open for all years	Closed
Wednesday	Week A- Open to Year 7 only Week B- Open for all years	Week A- Open to Year 7 only Week B- Open for all years	Library Club
Thursday	Open for all years	Books & Biscuits Club- all years	Library Club
Friday	Open for all years	Week A- Open to Year 7, 8 and 9 only Week B- Open to Year 7 only	Library Club

We are open...

During tutor time (with permission from your tutor.)

At break

At lunch (with a library pass)

After school

Our clubs will be starting back up from the Monday, 20 September so we will share more information about those next week. In the meantime, we have shared a short video on our twitter account to highlight what activities are available in the library, [this can be viewed here.](#)

We would like to remind students that they should have a reading book with them every day. They are welcome to borrow one of our thousands of library books or bring in a book from home. We would appreciate your support, particularly as we start the new term, in checking in with your young people to ensure they have a book in their bag every day. If they have any outstanding loans from last year, these should also be returned as soon as possible.

Finally, students who took part in our Summer Reading Challenge have until Thursday, 16 September to return their entry forms to me in the library. There will be certificates and prizes rewarded to those students who took part and I can't wait to find out what everyone has been reading!

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Attendance

Attendance this week (up to 10.9.2021):

Year 7 – 92.88%
Year 8 – 95.55%
Year 9 – 92.70%
Year 10 – 93.60%
Year 11 – 94.33%
6th Form – 93.79%
Years 7-11 – 93.74%
Years 7-14 – 93.63%

We closely monitor students' attendance on a regular basis, but if you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please contact their year office.

We will shortly be starting the Attendance Lottery scheme whereby students in Years 7-11 will have the opportunity of winning a £5 Amazon Voucher for having 100% for the week. If the student drawn has not achieved 100%, there will be a rollover and a £10 Amazon Voucher will be won. More information to follow.

For student absences, we have a designated email address of student.absence@open-academy.org.uk. Please could you use this when informing us of any absences, appointments etc. for your son/daughter.

Being in school on time is very important and students should be with their year group to then go into their tutor group for 8:40am. If students arrive after this time, they will need to sign in the late book in Reception. In addition, if they arrive after 9.05am, they will be coded with an unauthorised absence, which ultimately effects their attendance.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Chaplain's Reflection

"It's in The Small Things", a phrase we hear quite often but it's very true. As I was thinking of what to share with you this week, a colleague came up to me and said "there's a cold drink in the fridge, just help yourself". It couldn't have come at a more perfect time as I was very thirsty on a very warm day and was flagging a little. That drink was so good, it wasn't expensive, but it changed my situation.

We often think that when we give to others, it has to be expensive to mean anything. We also think that to give someone else a compliment or encouragement, that it has to be profound or again it doesn't mean a lot. This can cause us to not say or do anything.

I want to encourage you, don't hold back, give freely, small gifts, compliments, encouragement and small acts of kindness make a real difference in our lives.

Have a wonderful week, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless,

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

13. CAP Job Club

CAP Job Club will be commencing on Monday, 13 September at Godwins House, 4 Mason Road, Norwich, NR6 6RF. Now that the new term is underway it may be that some parents need a little help in their quest to get back into work and we hope to be able to offer the tools to help them do just that.

Our first session is titled ' Finding Your Motivation' and will last a couple of hours starting at 10am for coffee and a light breakfast and finishing at 12.30pm.

Steve Glinn
CAP Job Club Coach
07920461367

capuk.org
facebook.com/capuk
twitter.com/capuk

The poster features a central illustration of a green door with the word 'JOB' and a star on it, set on a staircase of alternating blue and orange steps. To the right is the CAP logo with the text 'christians against poverty' and 'CAP job clubs'. Handwritten text at the bottom provides location and times.

Step towards employment

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

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

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

capjobclubs.org