

**Open Academy Update 24 September 2021**  
**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.**

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

Thank you again for your continued support ensuring that your children are here in full uniform and fully equipped ready for learning. We now waste virtually no time sorting our minor regulation issues as the students are almost all getting it right now. An example of the home school partnership working well to set high standards for all.

In my assemblies last week, I talked about the raising of expectations and the ambitions we have for the academy and all our students within it. I asked the students to reflect on what they might want to achieve this year, and in the future. It might be a good starting point for a conversation with them as it is never too early to start thinking through what dreams and goals they might want to follow.

I am delighted to see Hubs being well used for homework support too and Year 11 are really knuckling down and putting in the hard yards ready for the return of exams this year. Seeing how focussed and positive they are suggests this could well be our strongest year ever.

We are looking forward to our Open Evening next Wednesday, 29 September where we get to show 'who we are' to prospective students for next year. We have made the decision to run the event live this year, but that does mean we have to introduce some pretty tight restrictions given the COVID rates locally. Particularly those of you who have been before, it is worth noting that it will be different this year and it won't be possible to run the family friendly event that we usually enjoy so much, as we are going to have to introduce some COVID safeguards for the evening as follows:

- Only ONE adult per year 6 child please.
- We cannot accommodate whole families at this event.
- Please also note that we are asking people NOT to bring the Year 6 pupil's siblings, as it is crucial to minimise infection risk by reducing numbers of especially young and unvaccinated people in the building.
- Masks to be worn where possible.
- Talks will be in the sports hall socially distance. Seating will be in pairs for one adult and one child.
- Please follow all one-way guidance.
- We ask everyone to use our sanitiser on entry and as you go around the building.
- Some aspects of our usual presentations will not happen and some will happen on a smaller scale (PE for example will be in the activity studio).

Although the experience will be limited we still think it important that your Year 6 child attends to get at least a brief feel of the place.

It promises to be a busy week next week all round as on Monday we are hosting the schools' vaccination team.

As a school we are fully in support of the government's COVID-19 vaccination guidelines for our 12-15 year-old students for keeping our community safe. If any student has reacted to vaccines in the past or has any kind of heart issue, please seek medical guidance before taking up this offer of a vaccine. Only those students whose parents have completed the online permission form will receive the jab. We are expecting a positive take up of the vaccine and any concerns you have please seek medical advice. To take up the offer it is essential that you complete the online consent form through the link in the letter that we sent out on Monday: <https://forms.hct.nhs.uk/CovidConsent/Form1/>

Please note there is further information available on the web as per the information in the letter or for specific queries you can email [hct.immsenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:hct.immsenquiries@nhs.net)

I will finish there to keep things brief this week, as there is so much to catch up with in the rest of the newsletter and I am sure you are keen to get to the year team area and more specific information.

I will leave you with a reminder of my previous request. I am still keen to hear ideas on how we can better engage with parents as we return to normality, so any suggestions would be welcomed – please do drop me an email over the coming week.

Jon Ford  
Principal

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### 1. **Aspens School Catering**

No doubt you will have seen in the media about the lack of HGV drivers and general resources to operate supply chains. This is causing nationwide shortages of food for supermarkets, restaurants, takeaway outlets and hospitality providers such as ourselves.

We are working hard to keep changes to a minimum and we thank you for your patience whilst the supply chain stabilises.

Aspens Services Ltd

### 2. **Year 7 News**

Thank you to all the Year 7 parents who were able to attend our 'Meet the Tutor Evening' If you were unable to attend your child's tutor will be calling you soon just to touch base. CAT results were given out on tutor evening, those who were unable to attend, the information will be posted home.

If you have any concerns about your child please contact your child's tutor as they see your child everyday and are in the best place to address any issues quickly.

Shout outs: Well done to Sasha Partick who showed great kindness in supporting a students at breacktime this week.

Students gaining the most achievement points this week are, Ria Wilsea, Tiffany Scott, Martha Wardell, Harvey Eastman, Frazer Amos-Saunders. Well done and keep up the good work

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7  
Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 7

### 3. Year 8 News

After the strong start, the year group have settled well in the new academic year. Overall their attitude is good. Thank you to all parents who are helping with ensuring the students arrive to school in correct uniform.

Thank you to all those students in Year 8 who have applied for leadership, student voice or ambassador roles. Any interested student who has not yet applied need to let their form tutor know by Monday, 27 September.

Next Wednesday is Year 6 open evening, a letter will be given to a number of students who have offered to help support during this event.

Top achievers this week:

Steven Ellis, Luke Edge, Thomas Hardy, Charlie Mann, Layla Moody, Riley Benfield, Lola Norton, Tyler Paul, Kian Wright, Rebecca Shapcott, Jasmine Attwater

Shouts outs this week:

Miss Luter food Tech Lilly-Marie Patey had a great lesson and really enjoyed the cooking.

Miss Lines - Music

Riley Benfield had an amazing music lesson, contributing so much to the lesson and engaged. Well done.

Laurence Hawkins was engaged and completed every bit of work given to him – excellent presentation!

Mrs Pearsall – PE

Lilly-Marie Patey, amazing gymnastic skills.

Attendance has dropped this week, we continue to closely monitor attendance and punctuality.

Parents/carers will be contacted if we have concerns with your child's attendance or punctuality. We expect students to achieve at least 98% attendance per academic year. Please refer to the school website for further details on the school's attendance policy.

A reminder that phones are allowed to be used at social time while a student is sitting down. Mobile phones should be off or switched to silent and out of sight during the rest of the day, unless directed by the teacher. If parents/carers need to urgently contact their child during school time we ask that you contact the school reception and we will pass on any message.

Please can we remind you that the black PE polo tops are compulsory. We are aware that several students have ordered them and are waiting for them to be delivered. However, if you have not yet ordered them and need further support with this please let us know.

Hubs continue after school from Monday to Thursday. Students are requested to attend to complete homework that has been set, please can parents/carers check their timetables. This will continue to be reviewed half termly. Students can request to attend if they require support with homework, please contact the year team if your child would like to attend for extra support.

Ms Whitwood and Mr Crawford - Heads of Year 8

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 8

### 4. Year 9 News

Three weeks into the first term and students are racking up the achievement points which is great to see. Across Year 9 there have been 1483 achievement points handed out.

Attendance to lessons on time is improving from last week, which is also encouraging and hopefully next week this will be even lower.

Please remember to send students to school in the morning with the correct uniform as there have been a growing number wearing leggings. Please see the school uniform policy for further clarification.

Also, there have been a growing number of students who have been getting to school late in the mornings, which will have a knock-on effect to their learning that day.

Attendance to Hubs has been growing this week which is a great sign of the commitment and perseverance of our students to their academic learning.

Another week is over and four more to go until half term. With things improving week on week it should make for a fantastic first start to the school year.

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

## **5. Year 10 News**

We have had an excellent start to Year 10 and it's been wonderful seeing everything go from strength to strength. Thank you to all parents who are supporting their children to arrive at school on time, in correct uniform, well equipped and encouraging them to complete their homework.

The students who earned the most achievement points this week are: Georgina Barnes, Paige Berry, Oscar Franklin, Joshua Carter-Strike, Colm Snelling, Erin O'Neill, Gerrard Sandell, Isaac Newrick, Katie Scrivener, Zac Skells and Teyla Young. Well done to you all.

Last shout for recruits for our leadership team. The deadline is Monday, 27 September and then interviews will take place during the week.

We are looking for volunteers to help out for our Open Evening on Wednesday, 29 September. If your child is interested please ask them to let their tutors know.

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

## **6. Year 11 News**

We've had another great week in Year 11 and it's so wonderful to see the students getting used to their period 6 lessons and really working hard. As well as period 6, students should also be receiving three hours of homework per week. I am aware that students will also want to start incorporating self-study into their weeks too, but would ask parents to remind students to keep a work life balance. At this stage an hour a day is more than enough study to be completing (including homework), and ideally they would have one of their weekend days where they do not think about school/studying at all!

Further to the information regarding the Next Steps Fair at the Football Ground, every student was sent home with a letter this week with details about how to register interest. Interviews for Head and Deputy Head Student Leaders will take place next week, so watch this space!

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

## **7. Sixth Form News**

Another fantastic week filled with lots of positive things going on in 6<sup>th</sup> Form. It is great to see so many students putting their names forward for volunteering roles around the academy. This will help them gain lots of confidence and skills, and be an invaluable experience when it comes to applying for post 18 destinations.

Please can all students make sure that they are following the procedures outlined to them if they are unable to come to school if unwell. They must email both myself and all teachers by 8:30am at the latest. There have been a number of students who have failed to do this recently.

## Future Forward

Future Forward for sixth formers is a free and innovative mentoring scheme aiming to boost students' skills required for post-18 progression. It is a 2-year programme and includes:

- A minimum of nine 1-2-1 or group mentoring/coaching sessions per year with a dedicated Learning Mentor. Mentoring will be predominately online, but occasional face-to-face mentoring (particularly for groups) will take place.
- Recognition for students' own projects through Awards (including the Arts Award, Youth STEMM Award, and Future Forward Award).
- The opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £500 towards a short course of their choice or work experience opportunity including associated costs (e.g. travel/equipment).
- The chance to attend a summer residential at universities to meet other students on the programme.
- A one grade reduction, or equivalent, in entry requirements for UEA degrees\* if they complete two years of the scheme;
  - For example, a typical course A-level offer of AAA would be reduced to AAB.
  - \*With the exception of Medicine (including Gateway Year) and Social Work. All specific subject, GCSE and language requirements will still apply.

Applications should be made through the Future Forward website ([uea.ac.uk/study/future-forward](http://uea.ac.uk/study/future-forward)). The deadline for applications is **Thursday, 30 September**.

Everyone in Year 12 is eligible to apply, with places awarded based on a skills self-evaluation to ensure the needs of students are met by the programme.

## Child Trust Fund

Just a heads up for anyone turning 18 this year:

Child Trust Funds (CTFs) are tax-free savings accounts that were available for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. Children got free cash vouchers of up to £250 (or £500 if you were on a low income) from the state to be added to their Child Trust Fund. Child Trust Funds are no longer available to new account holders as they were replaced by junior ISA in 2011. But anyone who still holds a CTF is able to keep paying in and can switch to a new top rate at any time, just like normal savings. You can then claim any monies once you turn 18. Worth a look if you can't remember if you have one!

<https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund>

Mrs Molloy  
Head of Sixth Form

## 8. Careers

Parents of Year 11 students, don't forget the Post 16 Opportunities Fair which is happening at the Top of the Terrace at Carrow Road on Wednesday, 6 October. The event is open all afternoon, closing at 7pm allowing time for students to attend with their families. More information can be found below:



An exciting opportunity has been advertised for those students who are interested in finding out about careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Students will have the chance to meet key employers in the sectors both virtually and online and gain knowledge and confidence in making applications. The attached document describes the project and how to apply. The deadline for applications is Thursday, 30 September.

Mrs Davies  
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

## 9. Library News

We'd like to start off this week by congratulating all the students who took part in our Summer Reading Challenge and kept up with their reading over the holidays. This week we drew the winner of our prize draw. Congratulations to Mayling Thomas who read 6 books and wrote a book review over the summer break!

On the theme of reading fun, this week also saw our library clubs back up and running and it has been lovely to chat to students about all the books they have been reading. The following clubs take place in the library every week:

Monday 3-4pm: Manga and Comics Club  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3-4pm: Library Club (laptops are available for student study)  
Thursday Lunchtime: Books and Biscuits Club

We would also like to remind students that they have until next Thursday, 30 September to apply for the position of student librarian. We've already received some fantastic applications, but there is still room for the team to grow. Students in Year 8 and above are able to apply and can see me in the library if they want any more information about the role.

Finally, as students get back into the swing of homework we would like to remind parents and carers about our Accelerated Reader programme. As part of the programme students read regularly (as per our homework guide students in KS3 should read for 20 minutes a day) and then take short quizzes on their reading books to check their comprehension. A parent guide to Accelerated Reader can be found by [clicking here](#).

As part of the programme we also have a dedicated parent and carer platform called HomeConnect. HomeConnect allows you to see what books your child has been reading along with their quiz results and progress targets. [A guide to HomeConnect can be found by clicking here](#).

If you have any questions about Accelerated Reader, HomeConnect, or reading in general please do get in touch. I can be contacted at [library@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:library@open-academy.org.uk) or by phoning the school office.

Miss Ling  
Librarian

# WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?



## STUDENT A



reads for 20  
minutes a day

## STUDENT B



reads for 5  
minutes a day

## STUDENT C

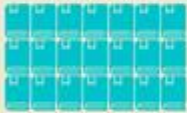


reads for 1  
minute a day

### THEY WILL ENCOUNTER

1 800 000

words per year



282 000

words per year



8000

words per year



### THEY WILL HAVE READ FOR

605

150

30

### HOURS BETWEEN YEAR 7 AND YEAR 11

AND ON STANDARDISED TESTS, THEY WILL BE  
LIKELY TO SCORE BETTER THAN

90%

50%

10%

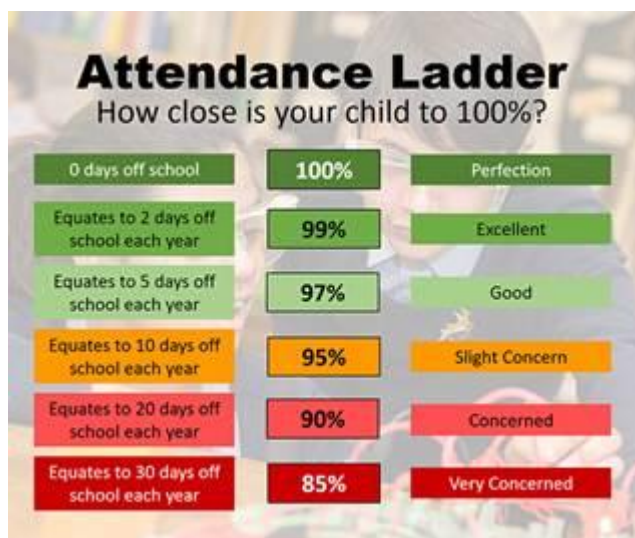
OF THEIR PEERS.

WANT TO SUCCEED?

# READ!

## 10. Attendance

12/13 CAN	96.09%
12 JTH	93.29%
13 LWK	83.65%
C7 KLI	94.51%
D7 MKN	92.84%
R7 CSM	97.91%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	90.52%
C8 ABR	90.27%
D8 NWA	96.75%
I8 KMU	92.56%
R8 SNA	94.87%
SRB 8 EOK	100.00%
C9 AED	92.04%
D9 LGA	91.45%
I9 RPH	98.21%
R9 NST	91.34%
SRB 9 EOK	100.00%
C10 TTH	93.83%
D10 ATH	91.37%
I10 SMC	94.27%
R10 BLU	96.22%
SRB 10 EOK	93.48%
C11 KST	94.59%
D11 SMU	91.29%
I11 ERO	94.28%
R11 SRI	96.29%



Year 7	94.13%
Year 8	93.77%
Year 9	93.17%
Year 10	93.91%
Year 11	94.09%
Year 12	93.78%
Year 13	85.45%
Year 14	90.91%

Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks. Please encourage your son/daughter to have good attendance and good punctuality.

Our attendance from 6.9.2021 to 17.9.2021 for Years 7-14 was 93.55% and for the same period for Years 7-11, the attendance was 93.79%.

Please could I ask all parent/carers to contact school by telephone or by using the email address of [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk) to notify ourselves of any absences relating to all students, including medical appointments etc. Many thanks.

If there are any changes to your contact details, including mobile telephone number etc. please let us know, in order that this information can be updated on our system.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer



## 11. Chaplain's Reflection

In our lives we always try to do good. Whether that takes on the form of being good to others, being good at our jobs, being a good parent or even a good friend. Sometimes, as life is a slog, things can go wrong even though we are trying to do good or the right thing. We can grow weary and tired in this trying, and we cease or are discouraged to do good.

There is a verse in the Bible that can encourage us and it says this:

“Do not grow weary from doing good as in due time you will receive a reward”.

I want to encourage you that no matter what life throws in our direction, let's keep up doing the good that we are doing, don't give up on it. Doing good or doing the right thing is never easy. Be determined to not let life hammer the goodness out of you. When good is given there is reward for everyone.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain