

Open Academy Update 22 October 2021

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter of this half term - the most uninterrupted and normal half term we have had for over 18 months. I think both students and staff are absolutely exhausted as we get used to the physicality of being in school every day.

It has generally been an excellent half term with the students getting right back into the routine of things. Uniform is better than it has ever been, more homework has been completed than ever and lessons have been as calm and focussed as I have seen, so please accept my thanks for your support, and congratulate your child on their fantastic effort - as it takes everyone to build such a strong community.

COVID continues to be a challenge for schools and young people so I would ask that you are aware that, as we return, we may have to tighten up our COVID response again, although locally in school our minor spike dropped rapidly, and we are back to a background low rate for now. I am particularly keen that we continue to do the home testing as diligently as when we started, as this is how we have been managing to keep numbers under control so...

Covid-19 home testing

Please continue to encourage your child to continue testing twice a week during the half term holiday and take a test before returning to school on Monday, 1 November. **All results should be reported, even if your result is negative or void, please remember to do this through [Testregister.co.uk](https://www.testregister.co.uk)**

We will be issuing another box of home test kits when the students return from half term. If you find you require more home testing kits to continue testing over half term, you can order more [online](https://www.gov.uk) through gov.uk or collect from your local pharmacy.

By testing your child twice a week over half term, you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keeping our community safe, and allow us to minimise disruption to your child's education and to you and your household.

Please contact Jackie Appleby, our COVID Coordinator at jackie.appleby@open-academy.org.uk if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Please see the attached letter from the NHS Immunisation Service.

You may have noticed that I had my first ever week off from newsletter duties last week as I was away at a conference and Mr Ward kindly stepped in. I will therefore try to rein myself in and keep things brief.

I would however just like to draw your attention to a couple of items Mrs Appleby, the Academy Business Manager has added for later in the newsletter regarding both **free school meal food vouchers over half term**, and the **Norfolk Assistance program if you are struggling financially**. Please do read on for further information.

The best thing about October half term is knowing it is only about 8 weeks to go until Christmas! And with that cheerful thought I will wish you a happy and relaxing holiday.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Parents of students eligible for free school meals will receive a voucher with a value of £15 per child to cover the October half term holiday. These should be received on or shortly after 23 October.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. **Families in hardship and needing wider support**

In addition to the offer of FSM vouchers for eligible families, we have been informed that there is support available for families who are facing hardship and need support.

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme (NAS), which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship.

Families may get in touch with NAS via their dedicated website which includes an online application form at [Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#) or if you are unable to access the internet, call 0344 800 8020.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

3. **Year 7 News**

No update.

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

4. **Year 8 News**

It's been what has felt like a long half term, but we are finally there. Students have been fantastic since September, we've seen students grow in confidence, focusing on their learning and developing new skills. There is just short of 10,000 achievement points issued this half term, students really are amazing and doing incredibly well with LEARN'T. We would like to thank parents/carers for their continued support and hope you will share the success with your child.

This week we have seen some of the student leadership team representing the school at meetings with external visitors and professionals. We are so proud that they have been chosen to represent the school and how they have truly engaged in the Open way. Well done to them all.

Each week we are seeing different names in the weekly top achievers. These are the students with the most achievement points this half term, which has also changed since the assembly on Monday: Isioma Onuchukwu, Luke Edge, Layla Moody, Tyler Paul, Thomas Hardy, Lily-Anna Nash, Millie Hagger, Charlie Mann, Hallie, Chandler, Keira Boyd and Jayden Alden.

Top tutor group for this half term, it was a very close call with only 10 points in it, well done to Mr Mundy/Mr Coyne's I8, they have just beaten Mr Walters D8. Mr Walter's tutor group did have the highest attendance for the last two weeks in the year group, and second highest in the whole school.

A couple of reminders, football training will continue on Wednesdays after school along with Hub sessions Monday – Thursday. Students attending Hub sessions have been reviewed and timetables will be updated, please can parents/carers check your child's timetables before they return to school on Monday, 1 November. The new knowledge organisers will be issued when we return.

We hope you all have a well-deserved restful, relaxing break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in November.

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

5. Year 9 News

The first half term is complete, it has been a long one, but a rewarding one. The year group have continued to persevere with all the challenges thrown at them. They are over half way through their journey at Open Academy from Y7-11. They are again doing well to keep attending school even with the cold season beginning, which is fantastic.

Achievement points continue to flood in for fantastic behaviour and effort in learning.

The current tally for this week is:

AED – 113
LGA – 152
RPH – 114
NST – 147

A nice increase for the final week on what was achieved previously.

Weekly late detentions are improving with less time now being spent at the end of the day on a Friday. This is great to see and will hopefully continue to improve next half term. In total for this last week 839 late minutes (14 hours) have been recorded across Year 9. This is a reduction of 95 minutes from the previous week.

I want to end with a big thank you to all those who have been helping to support the learning being made in school. Without the support from home we would not be seeing the improvements we are with our students. I hope that you all have a wonderful relaxing week and I look forward to seeing the students once again on the 1st November for the run up to Christmas.

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

6. Year 10 News

We made it! It's been a challenging 7 weeks, but we have done it! Thank you once again for all your support with attendance, homework and uniform and working with us. We genuinely appreciate everything you do for your children's learning and the school.

Overall this half term Year 10 have achieved 5,727 achievement points. That is a staggering amount. Our students have been amazing this half term and we are so proud of their start to the year.

The students with the most achievement points this week are: Nathan Freeman, Georgina Barnes, Jude Abramson, James Hoye, Rebecca Knight, Summer MacCormack, Owen Middleton, William Orr, Samih Ozkan and Katie Scrivener. Well done to you all.

The students with the most achievement points over the half term are: Tommy Bluett, Joshua Carter-Strike, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Owen Middleton, Erin O'Neill, William Orr, Charlie Palmer, Dalia Rosca, Gerrard Sandell, Zac Skells and Rose Wheatley.

Those students who have struggled to complete their homework will be invited to after school Hubs and it will be added to their timetables. If any student wants to complete homework in Hub after school then please ask them to talk to myself or Mrs Roe. If you have any problems accessing Microsoft Teams for homework then please let us know also.

We wish you a happy and healthy half term holiday.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 10

7. Year 11 News

I have been so proud of the students this half-term, they have approached their Year 11 with such maturity and an excellent work ethic. The period 6 lessons are going really well and the students are really reaping the benefits of going to them. I look forward to this work ethic continuing next half-term.

Thinking ahead to next half-term, I wanted to remind parents that leggings are not permitted as school trousers.

I would like to officially welcome our Year 11 Student Leadership Team! I look forward to working with them over this year on projects such as organising the prom, fund raising and much, much more!

Head Student Leaders – Mackenzie Culley & Brandon Alden

Deputy Head Student Leaders – Jess Ramm & Hayden Warrior

Senior Prefects – Izzy Taylor, Scarlett Taylor, Joseph Sizer & James Scoones

Prefects – Jack Teasdale, Emily Perrett, Jess Druce, Jordan Page, Connor Matthews, Alfie Deadman, Ethan Brown, Kye Cooper, Jess Wicks, Kamile Reginaite, Ethan Lowe, Rhea Gager, Sofia Marinova, Lucy Healey, Bonnie Billington-Howes, Sophie Smith, Ella Ash Emma Tyrrell & Faith Berry.

I hope the students have a restful and fun half-term break; they deserve it.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

8. Sixth Form News

UCAS Day

The plan for the UCAS day on Tuesday, 2 November is as below. Students should arrive on the day with their draft personal statement completed. If they don't know how to go about doing this, they should speak to Ms Davies or myself. We will be based in the football block for the day.

09:00 – 09:50 – Applying for Uni and Personal Statement Presentation, plus time for questions

09:50 – 10:00 – 10 minute video taking students through the application process

10:00 – 10:25 – On hand to take questions re: application process, and review / feedback on personal statement drafts

10:25 – 10:50 – Break

10:50 – 12:30 – On hand to take questions re: application process, and review / feedback on personal statement drafts

12:30 – 13:00 – Lunch

13:00 – 14:30 – On hand to take questions re: application process, and review / feedback on personal statement drafts

14:30 – 15:00 – Wrap-up activity going over next steps and tips for how to prepare for university

We are also hoping that one of the HECs from NUA will be able to drop in (maybe virtually) for an hour or so to talk through portfolios and applications for those interested in applying for arts.

NCS

On Monday, 1 November, Tuesday, 2 November, and Wednesday, 3 November students will be picked up by the NCS minibus at approximately 9am and dropped back to the academy at 3pm. They will not be staying over night, but will return to school each day. Students should wear suitable clothing for outdoor activities, and bring a small bag of spare clothes just in case you get wet!

Students will then be off timetable all day on the following days completing NCS workshops and then a Social Action Project. They will be based at school on these days:

Workshops: 5, 6 and 8 November

Social action project dates:

15 November

23 November

2 December

10 December

13 December

PPE1

Many Year 12s will also have started in class assessments, and PPE1 exams will start for both year groups after half term. Year 12 exams will be in the class (students, please speak to your teachers about when this will be), and Year 13 will have formal exams in the hall. A timetable has now been issued for Year 13. Please ensure students take time to speak to their class teacher about content in the exams. It is highly important that students take these assessments seriously as the grades from these will help their subject teachers decide their predicted grades for UCAS.

Have a wonderful and safe half term everybody!

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

9. Careers

For our October 'Sector of the Month' we are revisiting 'Sport and Leisure'. This ties in with the relaunch of our football programme with Sheringham FC and highlights the huge range of careers available in the industry for young people. The following link describes the sector:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/sports-leisure-35/> and the kinds of roles available from fitness coach to e-sports journalist. In addition, new specialist universities such as UCFB show how fast the sector is growing across Britain:
<https://www.ucfb.ac.uk/>

There are a number of activities and work experience opportunities coming up over the next month or so aimed at Year 11 students and above. Virtual WEX at the NHS will be of particular interest to students who study Health & Social Care or are interested in careers Biological Sciences. The flyer below gives dates and details of how to apply.

Sixth Form and College Open Days are being held across the county this term to help young people with their next steps. The best way to find out when events are happening is to look at the 'Events' information on the organisations own website or go to www.helpyouchoose.org the website for Norfolk schools and colleges. For those students who are interested in pursuing a career in technical education (Science, Maths, Engineering, Technology or Health Sciences) it is worth having a look at the offer from University Technical College Norfolk (UTCN), located in Old Hall Road, Norwich. The school accepts students in Year 10 and Year 12 and further details can be found at <https://utcen.org.uk/> UTCN run regular open events and tours throughout the year. Students who are more inclined to music and the performing arts may consider Access Creative College in Norwich. Further information can be found at:
<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/norwich-college/>

For all events, contact the relevant institution to book your place unless otherwise stated. Speakers for Schools are running a fascinating selection of free talks in the week commencing 1 November. Of particular interest is a talk by Alex Holmes of The Diana Award, a charity set up to support anti-bullying in schools and which awards students who help others overcome the trauma of being bullied. This award was won by former Open Academy student Reece Roxby.



NORFOLK AND NORWICH UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

YEAR 11 VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

JOIN US FOR A 6 WEEK INTERACTIVE PROGRAMME
WEEKLY TEAMS SESSIONS BETWEEN 4:30PM AND 6:30PM

DATES
02/11/2021, 09/11/2021, 16/11/2021, 23/11/2021, 30/11/2021 & 07/12/2021

ENGAGE WITH A VARIETY OF CLINICAL AND NON-CLINICAL
NHS PROFESSIONALS!
LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREERS AND APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE NHS!
FEATURING THE FOLLOWING NNUH DEPARTMENTS:

- LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- NURSING, PAEDIATRICS AND MIDWIFERY
- ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
- SCIENCE AND PHARMACY
- MEDICINE
- CORPORATE

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

PLEASE EMAIL APPLICATION FORMS TO: SKILLS.ACADEMY@NNUH.NHS.UK

APPLICATIONS CLOSE Wednesday October 20th 2021



Mrs Davies
 Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

10. Library News

We wish students a restful break over the holiday and hope they find some time to relax with a good book! Students are still able to access our eBook platform over the holidays by going to:

<https://openacademy.eplatform.co/>

With over 3000 eBooks, from popular favourites to new and upcoming authors, students are sure to find something they will enjoy. Students can also customise the platform to adjust font size and background colour making it a perfect tool for students with reading difficulties. Students can log into the platform with their school email and password.

While students are at home, can we also ask them to look for any lost or waylaid library books that have gone astray. We have approximately 500 books overdue across all year groups and would ask that these are returned as soon as possible.

Finally, we'd like to do a quick promo for our library Twitter account. We regularly share book recommendations as well as news and updates from the library. You can check it out/follow us at @library_oa

Miss Ling
 Librarian

11. PE

Thank you to all parents and students who have purchased our new Open Academy PE polo. We have seen so many students in correct PE kit and looking smart in their tops.

Students have also commented that they feel more comfortable when wearing these rather than our old cotton polo tops.

We believe the issue of stock with the suppliers has been resolved, therefore anyone who has not been able to order a top will now be able to do so. Please speak to your child's PE teacher or Head of Year if this is an issue.

Finally, please see below the extra-curricular activities timetable for after half-term, we are looking forward to increasing our extra-curricular to our students:

PE Extra Curricular Timetable

Nov – Dec 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Girls Dance/ Gym (BWH)	Girls Football (SHO)	Girls Basketball (RPE)	Girls Cricket/ Rounders (RPE)	
Yr7&10 Boys Football (SLA)		Yr8 Boys Football (MPI)	Yr9 Boys Football (SRI)	
DofE training (RPE)		Yr11 BTEC Sports HUB (BWH & SLA)		

All clubs are 15:00-16:15.

When we have fixtures, these sessions will be cancelled and notifications will be sent home to inform parents of any information including times and location.

12. Attendance

12/13 CAN	87.73%
12 JTH	87.74%
13 LWK	68.28%
C7 KLI	94.01%
D7 MKN	95.24%
R7 CSM	91.52%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	88.16%
C8 ABR	93.60%
D8 NWA	94.69%
I8 KMU	84.06%
R8 SNA	91.35%
SRB 8 EOK	87.50%
C9 AED	89.14%
D9 LGA	88.55%
I9 RPH	87.06%
R9 NST	87.06%
SRB 9 EOK	90.00%
C10 TTH	80.68%
D10 ATH	79.77%
I10 SMC	84.47%
R10 BLU	82.52%
SRB 10 EOK	60.00%
C11 KST	84.81%
D11 SMU	88.22%
I11 ERO	68.23%
R11 SRI	84.66%

Year 7	92.25%
Year 8	90.52%
Year 9	87.95%
Year 10	81.26%
Year 11	81.20%
Year 12	87.47%
Year 13	70.57%
Year 14	86.00%

Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks for period 4 October 2021 to 15 October 2021 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Leavers

Today, we say goodbye to Elsie Auger, Year 9, who is transferring schools. She will be starting at CNS after the half term break. We wish her well.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

13. Chaplain's Reflection

In my life I have been encouraged many times by the story I'm about to share with you. One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?", the youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said.... "I made a difference for that one."

All of us are created to make a difference in this world. That could be in our local communities or even further afield. **We all** can make a difference in our own worlds each and every day. Sometimes we can feel like the man in the story, as making that change can seem impossible as there is so much to face and contend with in this world today.

I just want to encourage us to start making a difference to one person or situation at a time. It really works. When we all do this, the small difference turns into massive difference.

In closing, I'm grateful for the people who came along during those times of hardship and picked me up and "threw me back in the sea". We all have someone who has made a difference in our lives, let's make a difference in others.

God bless you all

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain