

Open Academy Update 5 November 2021 **For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.**

Dear Parents/ carers and students

Firstly, can I say a huge welcome back to so many after the half term break. Attendance continues to be above national average which is very heartening and I am delighted to report that the number of COVID cases remains incredibly low with less than currently. Let's hope that that trend continues.

It is so important that students are in school and gradually we are finding ourselves getting back to business as normal. With well over half of the eligible students vaccinated and your continued efforts regarding twice weekly testing, we are managing to stay on top. It is crucial that we don't blink with any of our efforts though as, for instance, twice weekly testing appears to be doing a great job at spotting asymptomatic cases, thereby keeping it out of the academy, not to mention helping keep families safe, an approach that will become even more key as Christmas hurtles towards us.

On that note, I am delighted to say that we have a lessons and carols service planned for Year 7 on the last morning of term at St Francis Church. Obviously, this will only go ahead if the COVID situation remains as it is, but even the thought of being able to plan it feels much more normal. Before that we have a couple of in person events planned, next week will see our certificate presentation evening for last years' students. This all ticket affair has been planned to be as safe as we can make it, so if you wish to attend it is vital that you reply to the letters we have sent out and note the COVID safety letter that will be sent out on Monday to confirm final arrangements. With a Q and A of a special guest and the chance to get together one last time, it promises to be a wonderful evening.

We are also looking forward to the academy Carol Concert (9 December 6.30-7.30pm for your diary!) and are hopeful that this popular evening of entertainment, carol singing and joy will be able to go ahead. Please do look out for the letters which will be with you soon inviting you to the event from Mr Pimlott, our chaplain. Whilst we are on the subject of Christmas, can I also remind you that we put together high-quality Christmas hampers for those in need in our community. We are looking for very specific donations for those hampers so once again look out for the letter from Mr Pimlott with the request for what we will need – we do encourage every form group to try to make up a hamper!

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we will be having an extra day on the Christmas holidays this year in lieu of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Term will therefore resume for students on the 6 Jan 2022 (staff will have their training day one day later too on the 5 January 2022).

If you see me around with a little extra 'face fuzz' over the next few weeks don't worry, I have decided to take part in the Movember campaign to raise awareness about men's health issues including testicular cancer, prostate cancer and men's mental health and suicide prevention. Along with a few other staff who will either be growing a moustache or completing a movement goal to raise money for the campaign. Please do have a look at the Movember website <https://uk.movember.com/?home> for lots of really helpful information. Oh, and just in case - the Open Academy 'Mo team' if you wanted to donate is called 'Open Mo'.

Finally this week, winter has well and truly begun. With Covid-19 around it is vital that we ventilate the building well so, as we move into the colder weather, we recommend students try to wear a vest or t-shirt under their shirt and also a school jumper where they have one.

School jumpers are an optional item of uniform, but must be worn under blazers, rather than a hoodie or non-uniform jumper which are not allowed. Jumpers are currently not available to purchase through the Price and Buckland uniform website as we have a large amount of stock held in school. These are available to purchase at the old prices of £14 for sizes 30" to 36" and £17 for sizes 38" and over. Sleeveless jumpers are also available to purchase for £11 for sizes 28" to 36" and £13 for sizes 38" and over.

Once the existing stock has been sold the jumpers will be available to purchase through Price and Buckland along with other uniform items, but will be at a slightly higher price.

Where it is exceptionally cold in class students will also be allowed to wear their coats. If you would struggle to meet the cost of a jumper please speak to your child's Assistant Head of year.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping keep standards high as we work through this next phase of the pandemic. I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

No update.

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

2. Year 8 News

Welcome back Year 8! We hope that you have had a good break and are ready for the half term ahead! There are lots of exciting things to look forward to this half term, so please watch this space for more information.

As always, we want all our students to start the new half term positively and remember that we see every day as a new day and a chance to have a better day than the day before. We want all students in the Year group to know that if they have any concerns or worries, that there is always someone to speak to. Their form tutor is always a good person to talk to in the first instance, but there is also Mrs Lamb, Mr Crawford and Miss Whitwood as part of the Year 8 team who are always happy to listen and support.

On Monday Year 8 students will be having an assembly on the theme of "community" where we will be talking about ways in which students can support those in the Open Academy community and those in the wider community. One of the keywords that will be a focus this half-term will be "kindness", particularly being kind to others and having a collective responsibility to help and support each other. We will be collecting for the Christmas hampers again this year. Each year the school collects items for hampers and Mark, the school Chaplain, delivers them to members of the community as a random act of kindness. Some of our students will have the opportunity to be involved with this. This is a wonderful event which we have been involved with for a number of years, those involved will have a memorable experience.

As always it gives us absolute pleasure to talk about some of the amazing achievements our students have had. Our year group attendance currently stands at 91%. We still have over 35 students with over 100% attendance for the whole year so far, and over 50% of the year group with attendance over 95%. This is a significant achievement for all of them considering the bugs that have been in circulation, so well done to all.

Students are continuing to gain achievement points for following the correct LEARNT behaviour. In total our year group has nearly 11,000 achievement points. This is the highest number out of any other year groups and this makes us incredibly proud as a year team, so keep up the hard work and lets have a brilliant half term.

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe bonfire night.

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

3. Year 9 News

We are now through our first week in the second half term of the school year. The weather is slowly turning colder and winter/Christmas is just around the corner. We also have a couple of important historical dates, with it today being the 5th November (Guy Fawkes/Bonfire Night). Next week we will have a moment of silence to commemorate the moment when the guns fell silent during WW1 on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Achievement points continue to flood in for fantastic behaviour and effort in learning. The current tally for this week is:

AED – 82
LGA – 131
RPH – 89
NST – 109

Doing well for the 1st 4 days back in school.

Weekly late detentions are improving for those who are less than 20 minutes late to lesson in the first week back. This is great to see and hopefully will continue in this trend. However, those who are clocking up more than 20 minutes late to their lessons in this first week is getting worse with more and more learning time being missed. Please can you have a word at home if your son/daughter is one of those who is staying behind on a Friday after school.

Thank you for your support at home and I hope we have a fantastic half term in the run up to the Christmas holidays which are now only 6 weeks away.

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

4. Year 10 News

Welcome back and hope you all had a good half term holiday.

Hubs will start again next week after school. Parents should have received a letter from Mr Fisher. If you have any queries please contact us.

Our top achieving students this week are: Georgina Barnes, Scarlett Butler, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Jess Fraser, James Hoye, Summer Maccormack, Teyla Young, Faith George, Kelsey Holman, Isla Gardner, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Erin O'Neill, Sophie Swatman, Rose Wheatley and Sade Woollard. Well done to you all.

We have a football match on Monday, 8 November against Dereham in the cup. Please come and support if you can 3.45 pm at school.

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

5. Year 11 News

It was wonderful to welcome back the Year 11s after half-term break. They have had a great start and are working well towards their mock exams which start week commencing 15 November. The students completed revision timetables in tutor time this week, so should be prepared for how much time to spend on studying over the next few weeks.

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

6. Sixth Form News

What a busy first week back we have had! Year 13 had the opportunity to be off timetable for one day in order to begin their UCAS applications. It would be great if parents could support us to make sure that they meet the deadline stated below. More information regarding this process will be delivered to parents on 7 December at the Year 12 and 13 parents evening.

Year 12 have had a brilliant start to the half term as they have started their NCS programme. The first three days saw them travelling to Hautbois Activity Centre where all students took part in a variety of team building and confidence building tasks such as abseiling, canoeing and climbing. I know that most of them were really pushed out of their comfort zones and I know how much they all got out of completing activities that they initially didn't feel comfortable doing. Well done!

Head Boy and Head Girl

I would like to appoint the Year 12 leadership team. As such please could students email me by Monday at the latest if you would like to be considered for the position of Head Boy or Head Girl. Students should write a paragraph or two about why they would like the role, and why they are suitable to carry out this role. I will be interviewing for the role by the middle of next week!

EPQ

A reminder that Year 12 students taking the EPQ are able to see Miss Ling in the library if they would like any support with their project, whether this is to discuss next steps, help finding useful resources for research or for general advice. There is a timetabled Hub session on a Tuesday Week A between 3-4, or they can contact Miss Ling to arrange a meeting at another time.

UCAS

This is a reminder that the Year 13 UCAS deadline date to complete everything (including making the payment) is Friday, 3 December.

Students should forward to me their personal statements so that they can be checked ASAP. Alex is in the Academy on Tuesdays and Fridays and students can make an appointment to sit with him and go over their applications. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THIS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

Apprenticeship opportunity

Anglian Water are currently advertising for 4 Information Technology (IT) Degree Apprentices, the deadline for applications is **Sunday, 14 November**.

For more information and to apply, please click

here:- https://awg.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/AW/job/Lincoln/IT-Degree-Apprentice_R14025-1

The IT Degree Apprenticeship will start in September 2022 and is an amazing opportunity for students completing their A Levels (or equivalent) next summer.

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

7. Careers

Our Sector of the Month for November is Ports and Maritime - please encourage your young people to explore the exciting opportunities each month. In East Anglia this is a significant industry with Felixstowe being the largest container port in the UK and Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and Ipswich also part of the global shipping industry. By 2030 the sector is expected to double in size and offer an even wider range of career and job opportunities in this country and overseas. An Introduction to the variety of roles can be found at <https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/ports-maritime-61/> Other useful sites are <https://www.maritimeuk.org/careers/> and <https://careersatsea.org/>

The KickStart employment programme is a fully funded government initiative aimed at giving 16-24 year olds who may be at risk of unemployment the chance to get 6 months paid work and the chance of further fulltime work. Applicants must be from families who are in receipt of universal credit. Details can be found at <https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/kickstart-scheme-gov-126/> or via googling KickStart in your local area.

This academic year many more of our students are enjoying using our online careers platform Unifrog. All KS4 and KS5 students have access and in KS3 Year 7 students will soon have access too. The service can be accessed free from home and is an excellent source of information and guidance on virtually any career path or course you can think of! The link is www.unifrog.org Students who are having difficulty logging on should speak to Ms Davies in S12. Access issues are very easily resolved.

Mrs Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

8. Library News

Please be aware of the revised after school timetable for the library next week due to staff training and absence:

Monday: Manga & Comics Club 3-4pm
Tuesday- Thursday: Closed after school
Friday: Library Club 3-4pm (open for homework and private study)

The library will be open as normal during the school day at break and lunch.

Onto reading related news, this month in the library we are celebrating National Non-Fiction November! This year's theme is heroes, celebrating all the real-life superheroes who do extraordinary things to make a positive difference to the world we live in.

We have created a series of special displays in the library to encourage students to borrow and read a non-fiction book this month. These include a selection related to this year's theme (Everyday Heroes), a showcase of the books nominated for The Information Book Award (the winners are announced on 25 November) and a collection of climate change and environmental themed books in conjunction with the COP26 conference.

Visit the library, borrow a book and then share your favourite new fact! Please see the poster below for some highlights and recommended reads.

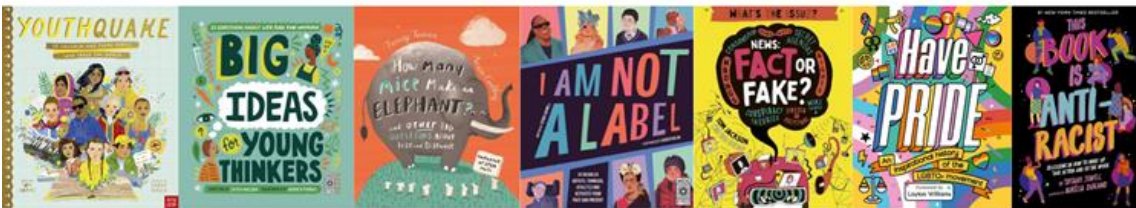


Borrow these books from the school library and share your favourite new fact!

EVERYDAY HEROES



THE INFORMATION BOOK AWARD



COP26 BOOKLIST



Digital Showcase

Miss Ling
Librarian

9. Attendance

12/13 CAN	91.66%
12 JTH	88.92%
13 LWK	75.18%
C7 KLI	92.46%
D7 MKN	94.96%
R7 CSM	92.64%
SRB 7 EOK	96.43%
I7 CHA	88.29%
C8 ABR	91.24%
D8 NWA	93.23%
I8 KMJ	86.40%
R8 SNA	92.00%
SRB 8 EOK	92.13%
C9 AED	88.86%
D9 LGA	90.27%
I9 RPH	92.38%
R9 NST	88.96%
SRB 9 EOK	88.06%
C10 TTH	84.58%
D10 ATH	86.10%
I10 SMC	85.37%
R10 BLU	86.69%
SRB 10 EOK	77.89%
C11 KST	89.63%
D11 SMU	89.90%
I11 ERO	81.96%
R11 SRI	91.96%

Year 7	92.08%
Year 8	90.62%
Year 9	90.05%
Year 10	85.48%
Year 11	88.23%
Year 12	89.34%
Year 13	77.72%
Year 14	83.82%

Well done to the tutor groups/year groups who have achieved over 90% this half term – this is great especially given the number of students who have been absent due to Covid.

Well done to the 206 students in Years 7-11 and the 7 students in the 6th Form who achieved 100% attendance for the month of October 2021. These students have been given achievement points.

Should there be any changes in your address, telephone numbers etc. please do let us know as soon as possible, in order that this information can be updated on our system.

Don't forget to use our student absence email to inform us of your son/daughter's absence/appointments. The address is student.absence@open-academy.org.uk Thank you.

Admissions

We welcome Keegan Dunthorne-Ball, Year 7, who started with us on Monday, 1 November. He has transferred from Sewell Park Academy.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

10. Chaplain's Reflection

I hope all of you are having a great week. I read this poem this week and wanted to pass it onto you as its really encouraging. Its written by Edgar Guest.

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must—but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow—
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Take the words of this poem into your heart, all of you are winners, you will win.

God bless you all

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain