

Open Academy Update 6 November 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, please see the attached letter I am sending regarding the new guidelines issued by the government that means from Monday all students should wear a face covering.

As I say in my letter, thank you so much for helping us keep this community safe by following the rules, not sending your children to school if they are showing symptoms and encouraging them to do the right thing in school and also by supporting us when they need to be reminded.

We are doing all we can to keep things simple and easily followed in school, so as of Monday, 9 November we will move from 'up north, down south, turn left', which has worked very well for us so far to 'mask on, up north, down south, turn left'.

The details are in the letter attached - please do have a careful look.

I am celebrating not one, but two works of the week this week with fantastic artwork from Sienna in Year 8 who produced a COVID-19 inspired canvas that you can see on our Twitter feed. I am also celebrating the work of Rebeca in Year 7 who has excelled in a number of subjects this week.

Over and above that, as we launch our school council and leadership activities this term, I would just like to highlight the skills and hard work of one of our students in Year 11:

Having to produce virtual Open Evenings this year was a real challenge for the Academy, however they were made possible by the fantastic skills of Ben in Year 11. Not only did Ben manage the video shoots, operate the camera, produce and direct many of the tours and films, he also wrangled all the students into the interviews and organised the program for us. I have therefore written to him personally to thank him for his excellent leadership in helping build our community.

With so much good going on in the Academy, including the huge numbers who are benefitting from regular catch up in Hubs each day, our extended curriculum program almost all of which can continue, and the wonderful efforts of so many students, I can only reflect that whilst we know there are many challenges at the moment, our students and this community is rising to meet them brilliantly.

I hope you can stay safe and get through the next 4 weeks. As always, if you are struggling please don't hesitate to contact the heads of year who will try to do all they can to ensure your children are able to attend and thrive through these difficult times.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. National Tutoring Programme - Catch Up Tutoring

You may have heard in the press that the government has put in place a national tutoring programme. Open Academy is presently in the process of bidding for support for those students who are eligible. Should we be successful the students will be selected according to the criteria as laid out by the Department for Education and the companies that they have employed. The sessions will take place in groups of between 1 and 3. The expectation from the Department for Education is that the sessions should usually take place before school or after school. The details are, as yet, unknown as each company has different operating procedures. Some sessions may be in the school day and some may be virtual.

The sessions cost between £150 and £300 per student and this cost will be met in full by the Academy and the government subsidy. As you can imagine, if your child is eligible and we are fortunate to secure both the funding and the staffing, then it is vital that your child engages fully with the programme - there will not be enough places for the need nationally, so we must make full use of what we are given so that none of the funding is wasted.

No further action is required on your part at this time, those who are eligible will be contacted once we have confirmed places.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

2. Year 7 News

Welcome back to all. It's been a positive start to the return to school, behaviour on the whole is good, lots of achievement points have been issued and attendance is up.

Students with the most achievement points this week:

Dylan Morter
Hallie Chandler
Yousif Al-Sadoon
Emilia Kerby
Amy Toms
Troy Notley
Harvey Nyemba
Rebecca Shapcott
Doria Grzelak
Brian Bolaney

Well done to R7 who this week have achieved a total of 549 achievement points.

Designs for the post card competition have been coming in and there are some excellent entries. Students have until tutor time on Monday to get their entries in.

Certificates for students who have over 100 achievement points will be issued early next week along with the ambassador badges.

Our Year 7 leaders will have been given an active role at social time. This will be done on a rota basis from Monday. They will assist with activities at lunchtime, e.g. handing out board games, be a buddy and support the Year 7 community.

As the weather is turning colder we are asking that students dress warmly, as per the uniform policy school jumpers can be worn, we do not allow students to wear hoodies or other jumpers.

Our students have adapted to the Covid restrictions and some students are already wearing face masks. From Monday this will be compulsory in school as per the recent guidelines from the government. If you believe that your child requires medical exemption from this rule, please send the student in with a detailed note explaining the reason and contact the year team.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7
Mrs Lamb – Assistant Head of Year 7

3. Year 8 News

No update.

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8
Ms Moss and Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

4. Year 9 News

Welcome back to this half term. We hope you all made the best of the week off and are already excited to be back for the lead up to Christmas. With the second lockdown started we all need to make sure we are following the correct procedures in the Academy and at home. Every student should be clear with the safety procedures around the building, behaviour in the classrooms, break and lunch timings and what bubble they are in. It is imperative that we all keep safe and instructions are followed at all times. Sooner rather than later, I will be writing a newsletter when things are back to normal, but until then we must all work together throughout these difficult times. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for all you have done and are continually doing.

All students must make sure that when they are dismissed at the end of lessons they go straight to their next lesson, lateness had started to become an issue before half term and it is vital that students get straight to their class to stop any bubbles being mixed, ultimately keeping them safe.

Please continue to enforce the school's policy on uniform as it had slightly slipped before half term.

At 8.25 am breakfast bagels and fruit will continue to be available on the tennis courts for all students.

These are our top achieving students for the first half term. Well done to the following and all the Year 9s:

Jude Abramson, Jake Folkes, Erin O'Neill, Paige Berry, Jess Fraser, Dalia Rosca, Tommy Bluett, Ryan Howes, Zac Skells, Luca Bush, James Hoyer, Daniel Smajda, Angelos Chatzopolous, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Toby Thompson, Gera Dergacovs, Lisa Kracewicz, Rose Wheatley, Katie Edge, Atanas Kyurkchiev and Samuel Yellop.

We had an amazing total of 1,304 achievement points this week in Year 9 and our list of top achieving students is long due to lots of students 'tying' in the top spots. Well done to:

Lauren Aldous, Kimora Alexander, Torri Ashton, Klaudia Baranowicz, Paige Berry, Ashton Buck, Zac Duckett, Freya Graysmark, Josh Humphrey, Alfie Kay, Josh Kerry, Bryn Norris, William Orr, Sean Passmore, Lola Pauling, Harry Robinson, Robbie Ruff, James Self, Charlie Slack and Tommy Taylor.

We had our initial meeting this week for the Year 9 leadership team and have elected more prefects. It is great to see the enthusiasm and team work starting to emerge. We now have the following prefects in Year 9:

Lola Pauling, Kimora Alexander, Dalia Rosca, Isabel Bush, Jamil Ali, Summer McCormack, Jess Fraser, Charlie Slack, Zac Duckett, Hayden Cobbett, Jonas Kieras, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Millie Woodhouse, James Self, Isaac Newrick, Tommy Taylor, Alfie Skeritt, William Orr and Sean Passmore.

Our student council will meet for the first time next week too. The following students have been elected by their tutor peers:

Respect - Toby Thompson, Lucy Birkett and Klaudia Baranowicz

Destiny - Dalia Rosca, Sade Woollard

Challenge - Lola Pauling, Kasia Jolly

Inspiration a - Josh Carter-Strike, Isla Gardner

Inspiration b - Ashton Buck, Leo Davidson

We are very proud of our students who have stepped up to take on these roles and responsibilities. Congratulations and we look forward to working together with you all.

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

5. Year 10 News

The Year 10s have had a great first week back after the holidays and I have been impressed with how they have come back and got straight back to working hard. Despite the restrictions of Covid, they are still making an excellent contribution to their Academy. The Year 10 Open Voice Student Council met this week and came up with some wonderful suggestions as to how to help make the running of their Academy even better – many thanks to Adam Edmondson, Joseph Sizer, Dom Benga-Bante, Faye Lincoln, Ella Ash, Kaloyan Aleksiev, Hayden Warrior, Rhea Gager and Jess Ramm.

Our achievement point total for this week are 1170 and our top five students are:

Ethan Lowe	28
Annie Tipple	28
Faye Lincoln	28
Harley Roxby	25
Jacob Coe	24

Keep up the great work!

Uniform continues to improve and I look forward to seeing them all smartly dressed and in their masks on Monday.

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

Welcome back after a hopefully relaxing half term.

PPE1

All of Year 13 should now have a copy of their PPE1 exam timetable. Please make sure that your child is aware of what content will be in each exam by speaking to their subject teachers.

UCAS day 19 November 2020

All Year 13 will be off timetable on this day and will be based in football block all day. During this day we will hopefully complete, or be well on our way to completing UCAS applications. We will have a number of people from UEA that will be virtually supporting you all. In the meantime:

1. If students have any questions, please can you email them to Lucy our NEACO champion on L.Reynolds-Mckay@uea.ac.uk so that she can answer these.
2. Please can you all make sure that your child has a draft personal statement ready by 19 November.
3. Please also make sure that your child has spent time researching courses and universities that they are interested in.

UEA Virtual Session

Following on from the 3 really useful sessions your child has had in tutor time to get you ready for life after 6th Form, we will be putting on another session on 11 November around apprenticeships.

Poppies

Reuben will be bringing in poppies and leaving them in the 6th Form area for anyone who wants one this week and they should remain there until next week. Donations to the Royal British Legion can be made on their site, or to Reuben directly. Reuben and his brother are also hoping to do an 11km walk in uniform this weekend in attempt of raising more money on Facebook too.

NCS

Huge well done to the car wash crew who battled in rain and freezing cold weather. They raised the following money:

Help for Heroes - £22.50

Cancer Research £44.50

Mrs Molloy

Head of 6th Form

8. Apprenticeships

If you have a child considering next steps, they might be considering an apprenticeship. An apprenticeship involves on the job training with study, so your child gains qualifications whilst earning a wage.

Apprenticeship levels:

Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 – 7
12 – 18 months	18 – 24 months	Usually a minimum of 24 months
Equivalent to 5 GCSEs 4-9	Equivalent to 2 A Levels	Equivalent to a degree, depending on level taken

In the same way as at school or Sixth Form, they study at a different level depending on their qualifications – for example they can study for a degree apprenticeship without having completed an advanced apprenticeship as long as they meet the entry requirements set by the apprenticeship. This would most likely include having level 3 qualifications/equivalent of.

If you or your child would like to know more, there are lots of websites with information and support available within school. I am talking about apprenticeships next week with Year 13 too. I can also be contacted through Ms Davies if you or your child have any questions.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay
Higher Education Champion, NEACO

9. Library News & Updates

Students must have a reading book with them every day as part of their school equipment. Students are welcome to bring in books from home or borrow books from the school library. While students are unable to come into the school library to browse books at this time, we are offering a digital click and collect reservation system that allows students to continue to borrow library books. Students log into the school library website with their school email address: <https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/>. Passwords were emailed to students earlier in the year; if students are unsure of their password, they can contact me.

Instructions on how to use the click and collect system can be found below and attached. If your child is struggling to access the website or needs help reserving a book, please contact me and I can offer further support. Students without IT access at home can also collect a paper book request form from the library or their tutor.

LIBRARY CLICK AND COLLECT

FINDING A BOOK

Scan me for a full user guide.



1

Highlighted books (i.e. new books, most popular books and the latest returns) are displayed on the home page.

2

Use 'Reading List' to search through booklists for different genres (i.e. funny books, horror books, mystery books ect.)

3

Use the search bar to look for specific authors, book titles or informational books.

4

When you have found a book you like, click on the cover or title to open it.

REQUESTING A BOOK

1

Under the books cover, check the green bubble to see if the book is available (this tells you if there is a copy in the library (1 or higher) or if someone else has borrowed it already (0).

2

Click the green reserve button to request your book.

3

Click 'reserve at school' to confirm your reservation.

4

Miss Ling will deliver your book in tutor the next day.

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance



Well done to Year Group 8 and tutor groups 1213CANGGO, SRB7EOK, D8LGA, SRB8EOK and SRB9EOK for having the highest attendance for week ending 21 October 2020. Well done all!

Well done to the 407 students who achieved 100% attendance for the month of October 2020. These students have been given achievement points.

Well done to the 190 students who have improved attendance between the months of September 2020 and October 2020. Achievement points have been given to these students.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

Remembrance

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Laurence Binyon, For The Fallen

As we approach the 11 of November we remember, think of and give thanks for all the British service members who have died in wars and other military conflicts since the onset of World War one. It is a time of reflection where we can be thankful for the freedom that we have because of their sacrifice. We thank God for every one of them.

Remembering can be a painful experience as well as a positive one for many of us. The pain of the past can stick around for a long time and can cause us great suffering. We can also choose to remember all of the good times as well, the good experiences that we have had along the way.

I want to encourage you to focus on remembering the good times and dwell on them even at times when you don't feel like it. I am reminded of a story from the Bible which brings this out. After Moses had led the nation of Israel out of slavery from Egypt, they still had many obstacles to overcome. One was to get through a massive river of which they had no way of crossing, to get to the land that God had promised them.

The Bible says that God miraculously stopped its flow upriver so that Israel was able to cross over on dry land. They then built a memorial out of stones at the place where they crossed over, to commemorate this miraculous occasion. This place was called Gilgal and they used it as a base in their mission for freedom. From then on, even when they faced difficult times in their quest for freedom and felt like giving up, they would come back to Gilgal, see the stones and would be reminded of the miracle that took place there. They would then be encouraged to keep going on.

In closing, when things get difficult, remember the good times and all the positive things that have happened. They often free us from and help us to forget the painful times of the past.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain