

## **Open Academy Update 12 November 2021**

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

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week which has seen an amazing event in school for the class of 2021. Our first presentation evening for two years was a wonderful occasion organised by Mrs Whitwood, which included a fantastic guest speaker – Paralympian and international tennis champion Alfie Hewett. He gave a great interview and summary of his life and achievements and shared some insightful and wise advice – particularly around welcoming and overcoming failure – as he said because it comes to all of us and it is how you react to it that counts in life. I was privileged to give the opening address welcoming the students back for their awards and certificates and our Chair of Governors, Mr Plater, gave a well-deserved vote of thanks for all those involved in putting on such an enjoyable evening.

The musical interludes performed by students organised by Miss Lines were wonderful and the snacks, baked freshly by students under the guidance of Miss Luter, were amazing. Our student community has such a breadth of talent and generosity, we even had a student photographer record the event.

I think my highlight was seeing all the destinations for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form students, all off to start their careers from a student going to study sports science in Ohio, to another setting up their own businesses here in our own community – the future feels like it is in good hands. Our value of Aspiration aims to instil the sense that there are no barriers to our ambitions – looking at our student destinations that has never felt more true

Before I end this week, I should just update you around COVID – we have no recorded cases at the moment – so a huge thank you for keeping testing but also keep the community safe by carrying on doing what you are doing to keep us all safe. The twice weekly testing and not sending in students with symptoms is still holding us OK so mask wearing is still optional for students.

We will have one more COVID safe event in person – Open's Got Talent will be on 17 November at 5pm. For Covid safety, just like the presentation evening, it will be an all ticket affair, where you will need to respond with the reply slip on the letter, which you should receive shortly to clarify if you wish to attend.

Parents' evening for Year 8 on the 23 November is therefore going to be back to an online event – as will all parents' evenings until further notice – on the plus side we have had much positive feedback about these online events, so hopefully what we lose from the in-person experience will be regained in the efficiency of the online process. Year 8 reports are available online already.

Jon Ford  
Principal

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## 1. RSE Policy Update

As part of your child's educational experience at Open Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE). We teach this through discrete lessons in Skills for Life as well as in other subjects where the opportunity arises.

As you may be aware the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education. These changes came into effect in September 2020. We revised our programme in the light of these changes. Since then there have been modifications which are reflected in our latest courses. The statutory guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. Your views are very important to us. There will be an information evening in the summer term. If you have comments or concerns regarding the policy attached please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Wicks, Skills for Life lead teacher at [louise.wicks@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:louise.wicks@open-academy.org.uk).

Mr Ward  
Vice Principal

## 2. Year 7 News

This week our assembly was about community and what we can do to make our community (school, local area, clubs we go to) a better place to be. Mr Pimlott also spoke about bringing in donations for the Christmas hampers that we distribute to the community. Please have a look at the list, and donate if you are able.

We have now started Hub sessions after school. These sessions are designed to support children in completing quality homework. If your child is struggling with homework, please let us know. We will be monitoring who is completing work on a half termly basis and students not completing all homework will be required to attend these sessions. Students can also attend homework club on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the library.

Our student leaders have been performing their duties very diligently and a special shout out to Mya Pollard-Gray for stepping in and helping to do extra duties when others have been absent.

This week our top achievers are:

Catherin Barker, Kate Skedge, Hannah Stagg, Mavrick Gille, Martina Veskyte, Isla Armes, well done!

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

## 3. Year 8 News

We had a really positive start to the half-term last week, and it has been brilliant to see us maintain our outstanding effort, engagement and behaviour this week.

The vast majority of students have been following school policy regarding clothing in colder weather. However, we would again like to remind students/parents/carers that hoodies are not part of the school uniform and students will be asked to remove them in school. We are having to ventilate the classrooms so it is slightly cooler in school. We want to concentrate on the students learning and a positive behaviour culture, so can we suggest that students wear an extra layer under their school shirt if they feel

cold. School jumpers are available to purchase from the school office, at £14 and £17 each (sleeveless are £11 and £13). Students can wear these throughout the day under their blazers. Please contact the year team if you have any problems with this.

Year 8 students are continuing to gain achievement points for following the correct LEARNT behaviour in lessons. In total our year group has just over 11,000 achievement points now. This is the highest number out of any of the year groups, and makes us incredibly proud as a year team, so keep up the good work.

Enjoy your weekend, and we look forward to another productive and successful week of learning next week.

Parents' evening is on 23 November. Please click on the link in the invitation sent to parents yesterday, to book your appointments.

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

#### 4. Year 9 News

Two weeks down, 5 to go and only 43 days till the 25 December. This time of year always seems to speed along. Yesterday the entire school went silent for 2 minutes at 11am to remember those who have fallen in the past in defence of this country. It was humbling to witness and experience this act of remembrance at Open Academy.

We have a Head Girl & Boy and a new Deputy Head Boy & Girl. These are:

Head Girl: Ella Ramm  
Head Boy: Adam Lowe  
Dep Head Boy: Bailey Salter  
Dep Head Girl: Mayling Thomas

We look forward to working together to drive Year 9 forward this academic year.

There is still a great growing flurry of achievement points this half term which shows the fantastic ability, behaviour and zeal of our students. The current tally for this week is:

AED – 100 (an increase of 18 from the previous week)  
LGA - 106  
RPH - 73  
NST - 89

Weekly late detentions are unfortunately getting worse this week with more students missing out on their learning by arriving to their lessons late. We give students 4 minutes to get to their lessons. If they arrive after that then the time they have missed is recorded and at the end of each week added up. Unfortunately, as a year group, Year 9 have gathered 1560 minutes late to lessons in this week alone. This is 26 hours of education lost. If you know that your son/daughter has a detention today, due to being late to lessons please can you have a conversation with them about the importance of getting to lessons on time.

It is starting to feel cold in the Academy due to the necessity to ventilate classrooms. We want to concentrate on students learning and enjoying school and do not want to remind them to wear the correct uniform. Please encourage students to wear an extra layer under their school shirts. Hoodies are not allowed in school. Please wear a school jumper and a coat. You can purchase school jumpers from school from Mrs Rose in the school office at a cost of £14 and £17 each (sleeveless are £11 and £13), which they can wear throughout the day under their blazers – please contact us if there are any problems with this.

Thank you for your support at home and I hope we can continue to make progress as a year group as we head towards the winter break.

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

### 5. Year 10 News

A busy week as usual and lots going on, but all positive.

Our top achieving students this week are:

Erin O'Neill, Sade Woollard, Lauren Aldous, Tommy Bluett, Isabel Bush, Mia Crowe, Lisa Kracewicz, Dylan Scott, Sade Woollard, Kimora Alexander, Georgina Barnes, Isla Gardner, Mason Perriton and Rose Wheatley. Well done to you all.

The football team played on Monday night and won 1- 0 against Dereham in the cup. Well done to all the team - it was a great group performance.

The geography classes went on a very enjoyable seaside trip to Weybourne, Sheringham, Happisburg and Sea Palling and carried out practical geography fieldwork. We held the 2 minutes remembrance silence at 11 am in the most reflective place.



Have a great weekend.

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

### 6. Year 11 News

No update.

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

## 7. Sixth Form News

Another busy, but wonderful week at OA6!

### UCAS

I have so far only had emails from a couple of students asking me to check their personal statement drafts. PLEASE get these to me ASAP. Friday, 3 December deadline is fast approaching. Please don't forget that Alex is also based in my office every Tuesday and Friday and appointments can be made with him by speaking to Ms Davies.

### UEA Open Day

Even if students are not specifically looking at UEA, it would be a great idea to book a visit to our local University. Open day is coming up on Saturday, 20 November. Book a place by registering here:

[https://www.uea.ac.uk/visit/2021-open-days/open-day-registration-saturday-20-november-2021?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=UG2022RE\\_open\\_days&qclid=EA1aIQobChMlwcrw9\\_mP9AIVOIBQBh21IA6QEAAAYASAAEgLn3PD\\_BwE](https://www.uea.ac.uk/visit/2021-open-days/open-day-registration-saturday-20-november-2021?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=UG2022RE_open_days&qclid=EA1aIQobChMlwcrw9_mP9AIVOIBQBh21IA6QEAAAYASAAEgLn3PD_BwE)

### Private Study

Students in Year 12 will soon be receiving a letter with regards to working from home if they have blocks of private study time on their timetables. Please note that not all students will have authorisation to do this, as we will base it on those that have made the most effort and improved their attainment and attendance since starting in September. This will be reviewed every half term, so if a student does not get the authorisation this time, they may be considered next half term if they can improve the above attributes. Any students that leave site when not authorised to do so will have unauthorised codes and parents will be called.

### Missing lessons

Unfortunately, a few students have recently not been turning up for all of their lessons. Often the reason is that they have lost track of time/haven't looked at their timetable properly. We are now almost an entire term into the new academic year and there should be no mistakes such as these happening. Students should ensure they are fully aware of what lessons they have every day. Any missed lessons from now on will result in an after-school detention.

### NCS

Huge well done to those students who completed the NCS workshops. I managed to come in to a few of the sessions, and I must say they were eye opening in the best way! The NCS team put together an excellent programme of really relevant and thought-provoking sessions and talks from outside speakers. They, and I, were very impressed with how involved so many students were. Well done guys!

### Awards Evening

Finally, I just want to say a huge well done to all of our current and ex Sixth Formers who attended awards evening and collected some outstanding awards. Honestly, as a teacher and Head of Sixth Form, I felt immensely proud of each and every single student. It's these moments that make this the best job in the world.





Mrs Molloy  
Head of Sixth Form

## 8. Skills for Life

This half term's focus for the students will be 'living in the wider world' and starting to explore skills needed for future careers.

Year 7 will be working on raising aspirations (looking at role models and motivation) and exploring their own enterprise and teamworking as skills they may need for future careers.

Year 8 are looking at what motivates them in selecting a suitable career as well as career options open to them in the future and different patterns of work.

Year 9 have swapped to look at healthy lifestyles (diet, exercise, first aid) and will explore careers as part of the options process in the New Year.

Year 10 - we are very excited to announce that permission has been granted for all Year 10s to undertake work experience for a week from 4 July 2022, and preparation for this will be the focus in SKL lessons.

Year 11 will continue to explore next steps post GCSE and will be identifying their own skills as well as building CVs as part of the application process.

As always if you have any suggestions or comments for the Skills for Life curriculum please email me at [louise.wicks@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:louise.wicks@open-academy.org.uk)

Mrs Wicks  
Teacher

## 9. Anti-Bullying Week

15 to 19 November is anti-bullying week. We will be supporting this by putting emphasis on the 'one kind word' anti-bullying alliance message which focusses on hope, positive and kind things we can do to halt hurtful behaviour. They also have some 'tips for parents' about supporting children:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Mrs Wicks  
Teacher

## 10. Careers

Year 10 work experience will return in 2022 after a two year break due to the impact of the pandemic. It will take place the same week as Year 7 Camp – Monday, 4 to Friday 8 July. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with the ‘world of work’ and gain valuable experience for their future applications and in past years has been very successful. Letters will go out to parents next week explaining the process and students will be supported in finding placements in their Skills for Life lessons. I will work with the Year 10 team to coordinate all administration and arrange all Health and Safety checks with Norfolk County Council. If you have any questions, please contact me at [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk)

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 students in Years 8 to 13 have access and on Monday, 15 November, Year 7 students will be able to access our Unifrog webpage. 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](http://www.unifrog.org)

Students who are having difficulty logging on should speak to me in S12. Access issues are very easily resolved!

Mrs Davies  
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

## 11. Library News

### New Library Clubs Timetable

Our after-school timetable is changing slightly this half term. The key highlights are that Manga & Comics Club is moving to a Friday and Mondays will now host Library Club. The full timetable 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	Library 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	Week A- Open for all years Week B- Open to Year 7 only	Week A- Open to Year 7, 8 and 9 only Week B- Open to Year 7 only	Manga & Comics Club

We are open...

- During tutor time (with permission from your tutor.)
- At break
- At lunch (with a library pass)
- After school

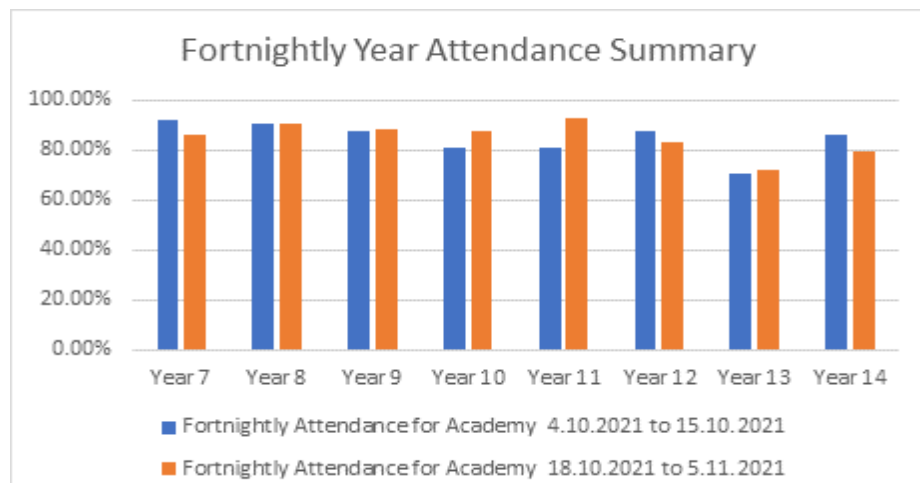
## Calling all Pokémon Fans

Our next Manga Club meeting, on Friday, 19 November, will be a Pokémon special. There will be a variety of Pokémon themed games and activities taking place. We hope to *catch* you there!

Miss Ling  
Librarian

## 12. Attendance

12/13 CAN	85.71%
12 JTH	82.82%
13 LWK	69.85%
C7 KLI	86.87%
D7 MKN	89.84%
R7 CSM	81.76%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	87.17%
C8 ABR	93.00%
D8 NWA	93.27%
I8 KMU	85.67%
R8 SNA	92.07%
SRB 8 EOK	97.50%
C9 AED	85.56%
D9 LGA	91.43%
I9 RPH	89.42%
R9 NST	88.28%
SRB 9 EOK	20.00%
C10 TTH	88.27%
D10 ATH	89.63%
I10 SMC	89.52%





R10 BLU	82.57%
SRB 10 EOK	98.33%
C11 KST	95.38%
D11 SMU	91.12%
I11 ERO	87.22%
R11 SRI	97.92%

Year 7	86.58%
Year 8	91.02%
Year 9	88.13%
Year 10	87.82%
Year 11	92.76%
Year 12	83.29%
Year 13	72.24%
Year 14	79.17%

Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks for period 18 October 2021 to 5 November 2021 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

### 13. Chaplain's News and Reflection

Our Open Academy Christmas carol concert will be taking place on Thursday, 9 December at 6.30pm so we would warmly invite you to come along for some seasonal cheer. It's going to be a great night of carols, performances and festive treats.

Please note that this is a pre-bookable event as we want to keep as COVID safe as possible. Please let me know by email [mark.pimlott@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:mark.pimlott@open-academy.org.uk) that you are coming, and a table will be reserved for you.



This year we are giving out Christmas Hampers as random acts of kindness to our community again. Students are aware of this in school, but we would appreciate your support too. Below is an item list of goods that can be donated for the hampers, so please feel free to send items into the academy with your child. Please note, it is very important that we stick to the hamper list. Perishable good vouchers can be given as well as donations. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

## Christmas Hampers

### List 2021

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/  
Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes



In this week's reflection, I want to focus on encouragement. The most important things around us are people and not material things. When we encourage, we bring life and light. It's really as simple as that. Encouragement changes our day and sets us on a different path altogether. So how do we encourage? We can do this in many different ways and here are a few:

**By smiling.** Yes, it really works. Smile at someone and 90 percent of the time they will smile back. For those times when a smile isn't enough on its own, and we need to come up with a few words of encouragement, **listening** to the person is the most important thing we can do. We all feel encouraged when we are listened to.

Another way to encourage someone is to **acknowledge** them. Acknowledging someone is to place value on their lives. Give a nod or a wave or a yoo hoo to someone let them know that you know that they are there.

**Say words of encouragement** as soon as they come into your mind, don't hang on to them too long as those words will never come out. Don't be embarrassed, just do it and you will make someone's day.

Another way to encourage is if we make a point of noticing when someone else has encouraged *us*, it lets them know that their efforts are appreciated. Some of us find it hard to receive encouragement. All we have to do is say thank you.

We also need to **celebrate** each other's achievements no matter big or small. Sometimes we just need to make a fuss over each other.

When Jesus walked this earth, his entire life was spent encouraging others. He never condemned anyone. In this world, there is a lot of condemnation, so let's push this back, let's live to encourage not to condemn. Giving encouragement out will make a bigger impact than you can ever know or think.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers

God bless You

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain