

Open Academy Update 21 January 2022
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to the newsletter this week. Well we have seen off blue Monday – apparently the most miserable day of the year, so if you have been having a tough week, hopefully things will be getting better from now on.

The vast majority of students are finding their feet again back in school after the long Christmas break and I am delighted to say that despite the cold ventilation the vast majority are still wearing full uniform correctly and with pride, so thank you for your support.

We did have one day last week where we had a dozen staff out through illness, isolation or family isolations, but I am delighted to report that we still have not had to close provision for any students and the situation does appear to be easing. I think this improvement is likely due to the large numbers who have been vaccinated, so thank you for your help in ensuring we follow advice and get the students jabbed.

Remember next week will see the return of the vaccination team for the second vaccine – so if your child missed out first time round this could be an ideal opportunity to catch up with a jab now – do remember however that you have to give your consent again if you want your child to have a second jab. Details were sent in a separate letter last week, but if you are unsure please do contact our reception for more details.

On other matter regarding the virus, you will have heard the announcement this week that face coverings are no longer to be worn in classes from now onwards. If you or your child are particularly concerned then please discuss the issue with your child's Assistant Head of Year. We are therefore expecting that face coverings will only now be worn in communal areas as students move about the academy - once seated at break and lunch they can remove their face coverings anyway. We are expecting that even this requirement will be lifted from next Thursday, so, whilst some will be nervous of being uncovered, I think generally we are looking forward to another step towards normality.

Please rest assured we will continue to monitor the situation as regards cases in the academy, and if anything changes, we will respond, as we have done throughout, to keep everyone as safe as we can.

I will finish with a plea for you to encourage your child to focus on their homework over the next couple of weeks. We will be reviewing who must attend compulsory Hubs from the information we hold on the homework completion rate by the end of this half term. Although many enjoy Hub and attend voluntarily, if your child is not getting their homework done, expect a period 6 to appear on their timetable after half term! There is always support available to get homework done i.e. from the Assistant Heads of Year, or our librarian, so there should be no excuse to get it done – no exceptions as it is a vital part of the learning process.

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

On the whole, this has been another successful week for Year 7 who have continued their positive start to 2022.

Our top achieving students this week are: Owen Barber, Harry Bates, Millie Clarke, Riley Wilson and Reece Young – a massive well done to you all!

On a side note, there have been a few instances this week where some students have been throwing bagels around in the atrium, and leaving bowls of cereal on the tables before school. We are very lucky to be able to provide students with free breakfast items every morning, whether that be toasted bagels, cereal or fruit. However, it is vitally important that students use this service correctly and with respect.

In addition to this, litter is creeping up again on the tables during break and lunchtime. Again, please remind students about the importance of looking after their school environment and placing litter in the bins provided.

With regards to reading, last week students were provided with their 'Bookbuzz' books. Hopefully they have enjoyed reading these at home as well as in the academy. Please continue to encourage students to take some time out to read (even just 20 minutes a day). Research has shown that even a short period of time a day enhances a child's vocabulary and boosts their chances of gaining higher grades at GCSE. Although it can be difficult at first, making time to read as part of a routine will make it easier in the long term, allowing students to reap the benefits as they progress through their Academy journey and into adulthood.

Finally, a reminder that Year 7 have access to the Open Ark at lunchtime on a Tuesday. In addition to this, if students wish to attend the library at lunch time, they need to get a pass from Miss Ling to allow them to get upstairs.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7
Mr Hawkins – Cover Supervisor

2. Year 8 News

First off we would like to thank parents/carers for the support with school uniform and hoodies. We pride ourselves as being a smart year group in correct uniform, with nearly every single Year 8 in correct uniform. We have seen less hoodies and leggings this week. Thank you for helping us maintain the amazing standards, a few students are wearing skirts which are too short, the appearance policy states students should wear "Plain black trousers or knee-length skirts. A reminder about jewellery, as per the appearance policy. For health and safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted in the academy. The exceptions to this rule are small studs in pierced ears – one in each lower lobe, and a watch. 'Stretcher'

type ear studs are not allowed. Facial, including tongue, and body piercings are not permitted in any circumstances whether visible or not. To clarify, the only jewellery permitted is:

- One pair of small studs, one in each lower lobe
- A wristwatch.

Please speak to the year team if there is an issue with school uniform, we may be able to help.

We have seen a large number of achievements points this week with Mrs Napthens form R8 leading the way with the most points.

Top Student achievers this week, Warren Middleton, Roman Taylor, Jayden Alden, Megan Perriton, Joseph Yates. Well done all, Keep up the fantastic work.

Shout outs this week.

Miss Cheung (Maths) - Louie King and Ryan-James Slack for their enthusiasm and efforts in Maths, especially when dealing with algebra.

Mr Crawford (History) – Grace Sawicki and Lily-Mae Holmes, great effort and engagement in lesson.

Mrs Joyce (Food Tech) – Harrison Young awesome work and contribution for practical work this week.

We are excited that a number of students have been selected to receive intervention support with Learning Mentors from the UEA. There will be a number of students that will have this shown on their timetable as Hubs. If parents/carers are unsure please contact the year team. This will begin in the next week or so. Until then students who have been asked to attend the intervention should attend Hub sessions and complete some intervention work set by the maths and English department as follows.

Maths intervention will be Monday/Thursday, work has been set on mathswatch (if homework is completed), English intervention will be Tuesday/Wednesday extra work is currently on Teams.

Parents/carers should be aware that the year team have a mobile phone, the number is 07949 456922, this is another way you can contact us. Please drop us a text or call if required.

Ms Whitwood and Mr Crawford - Heads of Year 8

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

We are now half way through the academic year with Year 9 still showing great determination to succeed and make progress. Each day it is getting a little lighter in the mornings/evenings which can only help with getting up and the walk home.

Achievement points still pour in for Year 9 which is great to see. This is testimony to the dedication, hard work and wonderful ability of our year group. The current tally for this week is:

AED – 75

LGA – 86

RPH – 63

NST – 80

The building remains cold at times with ventilation and the cooler weather of winter. Please ensure students are arriving to school in correct uniform (blazer, black shoes, skirts/trousers). They can also wear a coat over their blazer to help with the cold.

Please also ensure that students have the correct equipment they require for their learning, (pen/pencil/ruler).

Hub sessions are still running and the students who need to attend may change each half term, so please check with your son/daughter to see if it is on their timetable this half term. It is a really important time given to them to ensure that they are catching up with their learning. One of the main reason's students are asked to come to Hub is due to not completing home work, so if they wish to not be asked back then they need to ensure that all their homework is completed to a good standard and on time.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your continued support in these challenging times. The Covid pandemic has had a large impact on the learning of students all across the country and has affected everyone in different ways. It is only with your support that as a school we can continue to develop and grow as a safe place for students to come and learn.

I hope you are all well and are staying safe as we work our way through the cold/dark winter months.

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

4. Year 10 News

No update.

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

5. Year 11 News

We're half way through this half-term and the Year 11s are working hard in the run up to their next mock exams. May I take this opportunity to thank parents for their support in ensuring students are attending their period 6 Hub sessions – these are an invaluable way for students to get teacher led revision which is tailored to their needs. On occasion Hub sessions have to be cancelled, but we endeavour to let parents and students know as soon as we possibly can, if students have not heard from the member of staff concerned or the year office that Hub is cancelled, then they should attend.

We will be looking at different revision techniques in tutor time over the next couple of weeks and creating an up to date revision timetable. If students are feeling unsure or concerned about their revision please ask them to speak to their tutor.

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

6. 6th Form News

Friday Careers Afternoons

Every week B Friday period 5, all Year 12 (and any Year 13 that may also be interested) are required to attend a careers talk session. Each time we will have different external speakers into the school who will speak to students about potential careers that they may be interested in. These start next Friday, 28 January in the football block at 2pm.

NEACO Support

Alex from NEACO is available every Tuesday and Friday in my office. Any Year 13 students hoping to do an apprenticeship next year should be making 1-1 appointments to see Alex to gain advice and help in how to start applying for apprenticeships. Students can see Alex directly or Ms Davies to make an appointment.

Norfolk HAS Events and Opportunities:

Courses and Careers in Banking, Finance, Insurance and Accountancy – Wednesday, 26 January - 7- 8.00pm. Click [HERE](#) to register yourself for this event.

Meet the Apprentices – Tuesday, 8 February 5-6pm - in collaboration with 'Pathways to Work'. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Oxford University's UNIQ access programme is now open for year 12 students - **applications close 7 February.** This is a fantastic programme and we would strongly encourage all students who are thinking of

making an Oxford application and are eligible, to apply for it. [Click here for details.](#)

This programme is a fantastic opportunity offered to those who need it most. every year about a third of UNIQ students who apply to Oxford get offered a place. [Apply here by 7 February](#)

Third Thursday expert insider support sessions.

Year 12 – 20 January 4-5pm - Study habits for super success: how to smash your A Levels so you can access top courses. [Sign up here](#)

Year 13 – 20 January 5-6pm - After your application - dealing with the road ahead: getting an offer from a top university is something to be celebrated but it does come with its own challenges. [Sign up here](#)

Thinking of studying abroad? If so, you might be excited by the idea of studying 'across the pond' in the USA. The place to go for information on studying in the US is the US Sutton Trust programme, which introduces students from across the UK to the American higher education system. There is lots of information and an application form [on this link.](#)

Online subject taster lectures from UEA

Taster lectures can be a great way to demonstrate an interest in a subject, for example on a student's personal statement. Download the ['writing about taster lectures' worksheet](#) to find out more.

Upcoming sessions include:

- 24 January: Psychology - [Psychopathology](#)
- 31 January: Economics and Politics - [Brexit: one year on](#)
- 7 February: American Studies - [The American dream](#)
- 8 February: Philosophy - [Soul, mind, body](#)
- 10 February: Chemistry - [Experimental design](#)

To view the full programme, visit www.uea.ac.uk/study/tasters or email hewebinars@uea.ac.uk

Mrs Molloy
Teacher

7. Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Please remind students to ensure they are logging their activities on the DofE portal. If they are having any issues, please encourage them to see their mentors, or myself.

Mrs Pearsall
Teacher

8. English – Twisted Tales Competition

A huge congratulations to the following students who entered the Twisted Tales writing competition and have had their stories chosen for publication in *Twisted Tales - The Other Side*

Catherine Baker
Mae Broom
Harry Sadler
Evie Timbers
Alfie Swatman
Ada Anil
Lena Wawrzyniak
Tiffany Scott

Ms Roberts
Teacher

9. Youth Board

The Youth Board in Norwich have asked for student feedback regarding projects that they are going to run.

Please could you encourage your son/daughter to complete the survey via this link:

<https://bit.ly/3fhMp4c>

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

COME TO OUR FIRST SOCIAL!

We will be holding a **completely free** food and laser tag social at Quasar on Friday January 28th between 18.30-19.30.

Before the laser tag, a youth board meeting will be held at city centre venue TBC from 17.00-18.00. Food will be provided at the meeting.

There are only 14 spaces available so get yourself signed up quick by following the link in the description of this post on our Instagram @noyouthboard.

10. Library News

This month we have been showcasing our Reading Well: Shelf Help collection in the library. This collection includes books on mental health and wellbeing as well as inspirational stories and mood boosting fiction.

Studies have shown that reading can improve mental wellbeing by reducing stress, allowing you to relax and providing a safe space to explore feelings and emotions. Some of the highlights of the collection have been featured in the poster below, but we encourage students to visit the library and check these titles out for themselves!



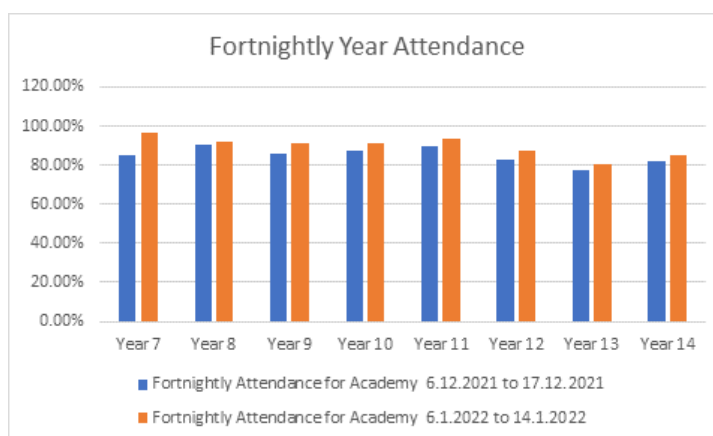
If you would like any further information about Reading Well, please follow this link: <https://reading-well.org.uk/books/books-on-prescription/young-people-mental-health>

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Attendance

2/13 CAN	90.86%
12 JTH	85.71%
13 LWK	79.63%
C7 KLI	93.71%
D7 MKN	98.41%
R7 CSM	99.29%
SRB 7 EOK	96.15%
I7 CHA	93.77%
C8 ABR	95.67%
D8 NWA	93.70%
I8 KMJ	89.29%
R8 SNA	92.98%
SRB 8 EOK	90.38%
C9 AED	95.61%
D9 LGA	91.47%
I9 RPH	85.80%
R9 NST	91.59%
SRB 9 EOK	92.31%
C10 TTH	87.20%
D10 ATH	89.97%
I10 SMC	95.27%
R10 BLU	90.54%
SRB 10 EOK	100.00%
C11 KST	95.10%
D11 SMU	96.88%
I11 ERO	90.97%
R11 SRI	91.85%

Year 7	96.25%
Year 8	92.28%
Year 9	91.16%
Year 10	91.01%
Year 11	93.79%
Year 12	87.25%
Year 13	80.24%
Year 14	85.29%



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks for period 6 January 2022 to 14 January 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Please continue to use our absence email address of student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to notify ourselves of any absences, appointments etc. for your son/daughter.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. Careers

Our sector for January and up to half term is Digital/ICT. This is a hugely expanding sector in our region with specialisms in Communications Technology, Digital Media and Publishing and Cyber Security. Further information on the career pathways in Norfolk and Suffolk can be found at:

<https://www.icanbea.org.uk/app/explore/industries/ict-tech-digital-creative-2/> and more widely on www.unifrog.org. Here at Open Academy, we are fortunate to have an Enterprise Adviser at Aviva who is able to provide sessions to classes on the varied opportunities for young people in this sector and will soon be presenting to groups in KS4 and KS5.

A reminder that all Open Academy students have access to our online careers platform Unifrog. This not only contains a wealth of information on career routes, courses and job opportunities but also lots of tips and advice on making applications, CV writing. The 'Read, Watch, Listen' tab offers students of all ages the chance to read blogs and articles around their subjects of interest, watch topical video clips and improve their general knowledge! Log in to www.unifrog.org using your Open Academy email address and set up your own password.

Any problems, contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Davies
Careers Facilitator

13. Chaplain's Reflection

I just want to encourage us to be honest with ourselves. In life we go through lots of hard times and testing situations. During these times we can withdraw from life and go quiet. When we go quiet we can stop a process that is very important to our mental health and wellbeing. That process is talking to others about how we are feeling. We all have loved ones, people that we look up to and respect, friends, neighbours and others that we can talk to. When we keep problems to ourselves, they grow in size and intensity and before long can really bring us down.

Opening up to others is one of the hardest yet most rewarding things we can do. Don't be embarrassed or think our concerns are insignificant, let's share them with the people that love and care for us and watch the worries shrink in size.

In closing, prayer is a great way of unloading our problems. God is always willing to listen and to lighten the load.

Have a great week, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

