

Open Academy Update 28 January 2022

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

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

I will start with COVID this week. Whilst nationally the talk is of ending restrictions and end of homeworking and other back to normal decisions, the picture for young people has been a little different. With schools locally having to close to key stages and year groups, it is worth noting that the virus is still very much with us at the moment. We have been down by 20% of teaching staff three times over the last fortnight, alongside pastoral staff also being affected, so I just want to say a huge thanks to everyone who is pulling together to keep things as normal as possible in the academy. Yes, that has meant a lot of cover lessons over the last fortnight and people are getting pretty worn out, but hopefully the virus will start falling even amongst young people soon.

We continue to do all we can to keep virus numbers low in the academy and as such we are maintaining a cautious approach to face coverings. For now, we are asking that all staff and pupils who can, continue to wear face coverings in communal areas. Along with all our other measures including extra cleaning, split breaks and lunches, frequent hand sanitising, one-way systems and other actions to cut down face to face transmission, we hope that keeping the face coverings in communal areas will do another small part of lowering the risk.

Finally, on COVID I would just like to thank all of you for your continued support for anything and everything you are doing to help keep our community safe – be it getting your child vaccinated, ensuring they have a face covering or keeping them at home if they are displaying symptoms – whatever you are doing and however you are helping, on behalf of our community thank you!

As COVID hopefully begins to get put in its box, we are looking positively to the future with regards academy activities. We have lots of trips and visits planned for the rest of the academic year including trips abroad. We are investigating holding performances and events too so there is much to look out for in the coming weeks and months. As ever, if you are struggling financially when it comes to trips please talk to your child's assistant head of year about our thankfulness fund.

On a financial note, if you are really struggling to pay your bills at the moment, I would just like to highlight the Norfolk Assistance Scheme. Run by the local authority, it can offer financial assistance with living costs if you are eligible. They might be able to:

- Pay for petrol or your transport costs to enable you to get to work
- Give you a food voucher to spend at a supermarket
- Give you a voucher to buy school clothes from a uniform supplier
- Make a gas or electricity meter pre-payment via Paypoint if you have run out
- Help with moving and storage costs if you have to set up a new home
- Provide an immediate small cash payment for daily expenses in an emergency

I have heard of awards of between £200 and £400 for help with electricity and other bills and I think it could be useful to tide someone over if you have a pinch point.

There is a bit of a process to go through to apply – they reckon it will take about half an hour – and you will need to take photos of bank statements/bills etc and you won't be eligible if you have any savings. However, for 30 mins work, this could take some weight off financially so I do encourage you if you think you may be eligible to apply. If you could, please do let us know how you get on as we are always looking to learn how to support our community.

The place to start is the Norfolk Assistance website here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/support-for-living-independently/money-and-benefits/norfolk-assistance-scheme>

I think that is probably quite enough from me this week, so as we hurtle towards the end of January already I will leave you to enjoy the rest of the newsletter

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Easy Fundraising



Just letting you know that Open Academy are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Plus, you could raise up to £50 donations when you use easyfundraising to save money on your household bills including car and home insurance, energy, phone contract or broadband. Uswitch, GoCompare, Confused.com and many more will all donate to us for FREE!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/openacademy/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-rbd21-e1

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

By downloading the donation reminder to your toolbar it will tell you when a donation is available so you don't have to do anything.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/?efr_source=easyfundraising&efr_medium=product-adoption&efr_campaign=website-footer-links

Any funds raised will benefit all students and be used to subsidise trips and events throughout the year.

Thank you so much!

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Please remind students to continue to log their activities on the DofE portal. If they are experiencing any issues, please get in touch with Mrs Pearsall.

3. Year 7 News

Another great week within Year 7 where a new and exciting mentoring scheme has started. Four students within the year group have been selected to be part of this amazing opportunity, and spent yesterday afternoon taking part in a series of activities being trained to become student mentors.

A HUGE congratulations to Jayce Brighton, Harvey Eastman, Hannah Stagg and Ria Wilsea for being the lucky four!

Our top 5 achieving students for this week are:

Evie Timbers, Layla Smith-Howell, Ross Brown, Tiffany Scott and Isla Armes. Well done!

Some positive shout outs this week from Mrs Reynolds to Ada, Esme, Kenzie, Lena, Erica and Mya for excellent soldering in D&T.

If a student is on report, please encourage them to remember it each day. There is an increasing number of students forgetting to bring in their report cards after taking it home, thus having to be replaced using more resources. When you are checking the reports at home, please could you remind students to put them back into their blazer/bags straightaway. It is essential that students take ownership of their report card and do their utmost not to lose it.

As you can imagine, there are occasions where a student loses an item of school uniform or PE kit. With uniform all looking the same, it is very difficult to be sure 'what belongs to who'. Therefore, please can you make sure that uniform/PE kit is labelled with the child's name so that in the unfortunate event that something is lost, we can return it much easier.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mr Hawkins – Cover Supervisor

4. Year 8 News

It is the end of week three (and a bit), and this half term does seem to be zipping by. It has been lovely to finally notice the days getting slightly longer, along with a bit of sun – even if it still feels freezing outside on break duty!

Year 8 have continued to impress as a year group with their effort and engagement in lessons, and maturity and responsibility around the school. It really does make us, as a year group team, proud to be associated with so many outstanding young people who are working hard to fulfil their potential. As always, keep it up, and think about how you can push yourself to grow and achieve even more academically, and personally.

Just under thirty Year 8 students have taken part in mentor training this week, learning the skills needed to help and support their fellow students. It was a voluntary scheme, so it was great to see so many of our students keen to take the opportunity to develop themselves, and become even more positively engaged in the life and well-being of the school. Mr Ward was extremely impressed with the students' motivation, application, and willingness to learn new skills during the sessions.

There has been a huge amount of outstanding engagement and work this week, but a few classes and individuals have really stood out:

Mr Blanchflower - Whole class praise for excellent attitudes to learning and engagement in 8O German, in particular Areen, Warren, Hallie, Alex, Maizi, George, Zoe, Ellie B and Lola;

Mr Crawford – Well done to 8E history for consistently good work this half term, but particularly for our class this week where there was outstanding effort, brilliant discussion and debate, excellent questions and answers, and focused and precise written work. It was a real reminder of how brilliant teaching can be. Special praise to Lucy-Rose Brown, Tyler Paul, Katy Sutherland, Amy Toms, Max Laskey, Millie Hagger, Madalyn Pirie, Grace Sawicki, and Callum White for their regular hard work, engagement, and willingness to take risks to progress their learning.

Mr Coyne - Chelsea Bale and Lily-Anna Nash who have both shown great application in recent lessons and are building up their confidence in answering class questions;

Miss Clayton - Shout Outs to Grace Sawicki, Lucy-Rose Brown, Lily-Mae Holmes, Max Laskey, Madalyn Pirie and Amy Toms for being consistently amazing in English! They always work so very hard in every lesson and always demonstrate everything LEARN'T;

Miss Reynolds - Shout out to Kayne Banham, Ty Cook and Luke Edge, Theo Powley and Kyran for D&T.

Miss McEvoy – Shout out to Ryan Slack for his great extension written work in German? Also, Rebecca Shapcott and Amy Toms for their continued effort in the subject.

Also, a big well done to Isi Onuchukwu who is on the Youth Board outside of the Academy. It is brilliant to see someone who is so passionate about making an impact, and is proactively using their personal motivation and enthusiasm to inspire others.

Final notes this week: Uniform has been good, and overall is consistently getting better – let's maintain this going forward; students are reminded that they should arrive to lessons on time – remember, you can get around in two, so that you can maximise progress and learning.

Thank you for all your hard work and effort, it is very much appreciated by your teachers and other staff around the school. Enjoy your weekend, and we look forward to seeing you next week.

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

5. Year 9 News

Heading towards the end of the third half term of the school with only two more weeks to go till the break. There is still lots of fantastic effort being put in by Year 9 even with the continued cold weather and Covid cases.

Achievement points still pour in for Year 9 which is great to see and a real testament to the dedication of the year group. The current tally for this week is:

AED – 85 (10 more than last week)
LGA – 108 (22 more than last week)
RPH – 89 (26 more than last week)
NST – 96 (16 more than last week)

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).

Shout outs:

- Poppy E for some great work in maths.
- Daniella R for a brilliant start to history.
- Andrew C for his help supporting a new student into the Open Academy.

- Lilliana R, Sienna B, Emmy R and Hayden B for volunteering to help mentor others in the year group, a fantastic contribution.

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 reasons 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.

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

6. Year 10 Parents Evening

We are very much looking forward to speaking with you next week. There has unfortunately been a computer glitch that has accidentally put some students with a different PE teacher. It is easy to see who, because the teacher is the wrong gender! If this has occurred, please email the office and the correct teacher will contact you next week. The appointments could not be transferred because of other bookings. I am very sorry about the mishap.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

7. Year 10 News

Online parents evening is next Tuesday, 1 February. Please book appointments to see teachers as detailed in the invite sent to you this week.

If your child has Hub on their timetable it is very important that they attend Hub and complete their homework to a high standard.

Our students should be in the process of organising their work experience – please hand in forms as soon as possible.

The students who gained the most achievement points over the past two weeks are: Tommy Bluett, Mia Crowe, Erin O'Neill, Atanas Kyurkchiev, Freya Graysmark, William Orr, Joshua Carter-Strike, Reema Alqurashi, Teyla Young and Gerrard Sandell. Well done to you all.

Have a good weekend everyone, two weeks until half term.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 10

8. Year 11 News

No update.

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

9. 6th Form News

NCS Celebration event

Thursday, 3 February at 2pm. Following on from the low uptake for the NCS celebration event that we planned to originally hold at The Nest, we have decided to rearrange the event for next Thursday at school. This is a **COMPULSORY** event and as such everyone in Year 12 must attend.

CSF

CSF are running a February event. Please click the link below to check it out
<https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/news/ncs-changemakers-sign-up-now/>

PPE2 Exam timetable

Please see below the PPE2 timetable. Please make sure that students have spoken to their subject teachers so they are aware of the exam content that they will need to be revising.

PPE2 Year 11 & Year 13 - Week 1 - w/c 31st January 2022						
WEEK A	PERIOD	Mon 31st Jan	Tues 1st Feb	Wed 2nd Feb	Thurs 3rd Feb	Fri 4th Feb
9.05-10.05	1	Physics Combined & Triple 1hr 15m	Year 13 Mathematics 2hrs	Yr 11 Photography S25 ALL DAY	History 2 hrs Crime & Punishment 1250 to present & Norwich Castle.	Geography 1hr 30m
10.05-11.10	2	1hr 45m	Food Technology Practical All day Year 11	ALL DAY 11A & 11B ART F21 & F23 +		
11.10-11.30	Break					
11.30-12.30	3	English Literature 1 hr 45m	Psychology Introductory Topic Paper 1 - Year 13 2hrs	9AM START Year 13 Biology Paper 1 2hrs	Mathematics Non-Calculator Paper 1 1 hr 30m + Resits	Computer Science Paper 2 1hr 30m + Year 13 History Britain 1hr 30m
12.30-1.30	4		Food Technology Practical All day Year 11			
1.30-2.00	Lunch					
2.00-3.00	5	Spanish Writing 65 mins		+ History Tudor Rebellion 2 hr 30m	Spanish Listening 65 mins	

PPE2 Year 11 & Year 13 - Week 1 - w/c 7th February 2022						
WEEK B	PERIOD	Mon 7th Feb	Tues 8th Feb	Wed 9th Feb	Thurs 10th Feb	Fri 11th Feb
9.05-10.05	1	Biology Combined & Triple 1hr 15m & 1hr 45m	Year 13 Mathematics 2 hrs	9AM START Year 11 Live exam Health & Social Care. 21117K 2hrs.	Mathematics Calculator Paper 2 1hr 30m + Resits	Computer Science Paper 1 1hr 30m
10.05-11.10	2	+ Year 13 Biology 2hrs	+ Year 11 Religious Studies Christianity 1hr 45m			
11.10-11.30	Break					
1.30-12.30	3	English Language 1 hr 45m	Psychology Paper 2 Psychology in context Year 13 - 2hrs	BOTH ALL DAY Year 13 PHOTOGRAPHY S25	Chemistry Combined & Triple 1 hr 15m & 1hr 45m	Mathematics Calculator Paper 3 + Resits
12.30-1.30	4	+ Year 12/13 resits	Year 11 Food Technology 1hr 45m			
1.30-2.00	Lunch					
2.00-3.00	5	History 1 hr Living under Nazi Rule 1933-45	Year 13 History Germany 1919-63	+ Year 13 Art F21	Spanish Reading 45mins	Psychology Year 13 - Paper 3 Issues and options 1 hr 15m Start @ 1.30

Anglia Water Apprenticeship Opportunities:

Applications are open until Sunday, 13 February 2022 and details can be found here on our careers website:

<https://anglianwatercareers.co.uk/search-and-apply/?discipline=Apprentices&orderBy=latest&perPage=20&page=1>

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

10. Library News

Holocaust Memorial Day- Recommended Resources

Holocaust Memorial Day took place this week. To commemorate this important occasion, we have created a recommended booklist for students. These books are all available in the library; we would encourage students who would like to know more to visit the library and explore this collection.



Holocaust Memorial Day Book Recommendations

FICTION



NON- FICTION



Overdue Books Reminder

This week students were informed of any overdue library books on their school library account via their form tutor. Can we please ask parents and carers to help students look for any library books that are at home and to return these to the library as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Attendance

Just a reminder that if your child is absent due to illness, medical appointment etc., please contact Reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us of the reason for their absence before 8.30am.

For any absence in term time ie. holidays, please could you kindly complete and return a form prior to the absence. These forms are available from Reception.

We are currently monitoring punctuality of students to school and also to lessons. Please could you reiterate the importance of punctuality to 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. If you have experience of working in this sector and would like to share your thoughts and ideas with groups of students, please contact me caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

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 their Open Academy email address and set up their own password. Any problems, contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Davies
Careers Facilitator

13. Chaplain's Reflection

For this week's reflection, I want to include a story which teaches a valuable lesson about encouragement. As a group of frogs were traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them.

However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to try and jump out of the pit.

Despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up. That they would never make it out.

Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up, falling down to the bottom. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die.

He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?"

The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time

Our words can have a big effect on other's lives. We need to think about what we say before it comes out of our mouths. It might just be the difference between life and death to some people.



You are
AMAZING.
You are
IMPORTANT.
You are
SPECIAL.
You are
UNIQUE.
You are
KIND.
You are
PRECIOUS.
You are
LOVED.

The Bible also says something about this too. It says that we have the power of life or death in our tongues. Let's be determined this week to be a community that speaks life and encouragement over each other and also to be determined to turn a deaf ear to discouragement. Everyone needs that "life" and everyone needs encouragement.

God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Thursday 10th February Open Academy

Teriyaki Chicken Stir Fry
Sweet n Sour Chicken
Veggie Thai Green Curry

Stir Fry Greens
Sweet Chilli Broccoli
Lime and Coriander Rice

Beggars Noodles
Thai Slaw
Asia Cucumber Salad

