

Open Academy Update 4 February 2022

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

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

This week January turns to February and we see students leaving the academy in brighter sunshine and in warmer weather at last. In recent weeks the challenge of managing the academy during this recent Omicron wave has certainly been interesting with staff and students coming and going with illness and quarantines. There has been quite a lot of disruption. However, we have been blessed so far that we have had sufficient staff and students to stay open. Now the weather has got a bit warmer keeping warm and well ventilated is certainly easier. Students leaving school at the end of Hub now do so in the light. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the students, parents and staff for working so hard to make the best of the situation and ensure learning continues.

In the next half term we should be able to return to normal school uniform – currently students are allowed coats on above their blazers and trousers/skirts. This modification has meant that the students are keeping warmer when it is particularly cold. We will update you as time progresses. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that leggings and hoodies are not part of our uniform policy? 96% of the students get it perfectly right and have great looking uniform. Thank you to all the parents who help their sons and daughters be in the correct uniform every day. It makes a real difference.

Year 11 and 13 are currently doing their pre-public exams. Whilst coming out of a lesson yesterday some of them asked me about Hubs. They said that they were so pleased that the staff have put the Hub sessions on. The pupils liked that it was compulsory so every had to go every night or every week. The students then asked me how much revision had they done. In total Year 11 have clocked up an incredible 5904 hours of extra lessons between September and January. That is the equivalent of 31 extra school years worth of study. Across all year groups we have over 8000 hours so far. Amazing. Thank you to staff for putting on the sessions, to parents for encouraging your sons and daughters and to the pupils involved who have taken the opportunity given.

I would like to thank all the parents for ensuring that the students take full advantage of the opportunities at Open Academy.

Kevin Ward
Vice Principal

Contents:

1. **Free School Meal Vouchers**
2. **Year 7 News**
3. **Year 8 News**
4. **Year 9 News**
5. **Year 10 News**
6. **Year 11 News**
7. **6th Form News**
8. **Library News**
9. **Music Notes**
10. **Attendance**
11. **Thomas Anguish Educational Foundation**
12. **Careers**
13. **PE**

1. Free School Meal Vouchers

Students entitled to Free School Meals will once again be issued with vouchers for the February half term holiday period. Norfolk County Council are using the grant from the governments DWP Household Support Fund to provide support for all families with children eligible for means tested Free School Meals. These will be issued in the usual way via Edenred vouchers with each child receiving £15.

Anyone experiencing hardship may be able to receive support through the NAS, which may be able to provide support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. Wider support from a range of partners can then also be made available with NAS working alongside the Children's Services Community and Partnerships service.

Families can get in touch with NAS via their dedicated website which includes an online application form at [Norfolk Assistance Scheme - Norfolk County Council](#) or if they cannot access the internet, they can call 0344 800 8020.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Year 7 News

WOW! We cannot believe how quickly this half term has flown by since our return after Christmas. A great effort from all of the students so far. Let's keep going, one more week to go!

A HUGE shout out from Mr Fisher, to the Highest Performing Year 7 students for their homework this term. Congratulations to Alfie Swatman, Kieran Sinclair, Paige Wright, Luke Smith, Natacha Frutuoso, Kate Skedged and Lily-Mae Warren-Davies. Well done to you all – keep up the great work!

This week has been amazing with 1,698 achievement points so a massive well done to you all. The Top 5 students for achievement points this week are:

Deacon Bobbin, Maddie Anderson, Lily Allen, Dylain Banham and Rianna Aldous.

There is an increasing number of students forgetting to bring a bottle into school for water. Unfortunately, it seems to be the same students regularly not bringing a bottle into school. Although we have some plastic cups, there is not a limitless supply. Please remind students to bring in a bottle so that they can re-fill it during the course of the day.

Moving on to chewing gum. This is a banned item in the academy, and there are a number of students chewing in lessons, and gum getting stuck to the floor and carpets. Please remind students that it is not allowed.

A reminder from last week about labelling uniform. 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.

Year 7 Camp

Students had an assembly this morning from Mrs Smith who runs camp and has done for the last 17 years! Mrs Smith gave all of the student's information about the camp around activities, food and sleeping arrangements. This helped them understand what goes on during their time at camp in July. It is an expectation that all students will attend camp, and if you have any queries or questions about this, please contact Mrs Smith who will be happy to help. Her email address is: Carole.Smith@open-academy.org.uk

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

3. Year 8 News

Another week down, and just one to go before a chance to rest and refresh at half-term. Year 8 have maintained their excellent standards, and as Heads of Year it has been brilliant to observe some of the learning this week. Students have been engaged, focused, displaying clear understanding of learning, and a willingness to push themselves to achieve their best. It is vitally important that we keep this same attitude going into the final week, to maximise every opportunity to progress.

A number of teachers have contacted the year team with praise for classes and individuals, and it is fantastic to be able to include them in the newsletter to give them the recognition they deserve:

Miss Clayton - for English, Madalyn Pirie for raising her hand in class to answer questions, and Evie Ward for effort in her creative writing;

Miss Marsham - Kian Wright for his team work in maths, helping with the organisation of the class activities, holding up question cards and selecting card names. Madison Gray for her helpfulness and support in maths towards other students.

Miss Hawthorne - 8H have been doing really well in English. We've been doing hands down lessons this week and I have been randomly picking students names to answer my questions. All of them have really risen to the challenge and have really impressed me this week.

Mr Coyne - Brian Bolaney – Consistently good attitude towards English and I admire your bravery in testing ideas and experimenting with language techniques. Yousif Al-Sadoon – Well done for always coming up with original and authentic ideas and structure within your writing. Amelie Dalton-Cozic, Isi Onuchukwu, Rebecca Shapcott, Lily Blyth, Emilia Kerby – Great discussions and remarkable bravery to share your creative work in front of an audience including Mr Ward!

Mr Crawford – Lily-Mae Holmes for her consistently positive attitude towards work, and her outstanding effort in every lesson.

Mr Lambert – A fantastic lesson with 8P with excellent debating skills, especially from **Rebecca Shapcott** and **William Della Corte** on one side and **Amelia Dalton-Cozic** and **Brian Bolaney** on the other side.

The year group have received over 2000 achievement points this week, with Mr Bradshaw tutor group C8 leading the way with a fantastic 636 points.

Well done to the whole year group for your high standards of behaviour and hard work. Keep pushing for the final week.

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

4. Year 9 News

Nearly half way through the school year and now just one more week till our next week off. The days are getting longer and the students are still putting in the effort to succeed.

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 – 100 (15 more than last week)
LGA – 118 (10 more than last week)
RPH – 90 (1 more than last week)
NST – 100 (4 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).

Late detentions - if a student is 4 or more minutes late to a lesson/registration then that time is collected and the total missed time is made up at the end of the week in a detention. If the student is in total 1-10 mins late, they have a break detention. If they are 11-20 mins late they have a lunch detention. If they are more than 21 mins late in the week then they will have an afterschool detention. This week we have a total of 826 minutes missed learning time to catch up on. This is an improvement from the previous week of 550 minutes. Hopefully we will see less and less missed learning time throughout the year.

Shout outs:

- Matthew T for consistently showing fantastic effort in his learning. Ella R, Ashley B and Louis L for always trying their hardest in science.
- Leah-Louise Lovett and Caitlin Applegate for creative ideas in making musical sound effects, Ethan Walker, Adam Lowe, Izaak Turner and Ebon Gossland for being a very organised and creative team, Jessica Brighton, Rosie Coman and Ellie Rowley for amazing short compositions and Hollie Smith, Ariya Rashid, Elisa Kit, Michaela Browne and Ella Ramm for great engagement in lessons.

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 towards the light and warmth of spring.

Mr Pickup – Head of Year 9

Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 9

5. Year 10 News

Thank you to all parents who participated in the parents evening on Tuesday. If you would like to talk to any teachers about your child then please let us know. One more week until half term and then everyone can have a much needed break.

Our top achievers this week are: Josh Carter-Strike, Owen Middleton, Mason Perriton, Jonas Kieras, Rhy-Lee Dawson, Joe Sanderson, Scarlett Butler, James Self, Tommy Taylor, Harry Robinson, Lisa Kracewicz, Leefna Silva, Millie Woodhouse and Abigail Hickman. Well done to you all.

Shout outs to the following from Mr Walters – Ahmed Tsinev for good effort in art, and from Mr Coyne – Ella Iftimie-Hau and Ruby McCormack for good effort in English. Well done too.

As always if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. Have a good weekend.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 10

6. Year 11 News

We're half-way through the last set of mock exams and I am really happy with the maturity and hard work the majority of the Year 11s have shown this week. The mocks are so important, as they give the students a chance to experience what a real exam 'feels like' and this will stand them in great stead when it comes to the official GCSE exams next term.

Revisions Hubs are going really well and once they start up again after the half-term break it will be great to see the students getting all that valuable extra assistance and guidance from their teachers.

After half-term the weather should start getting warmer, so the need for coats in classes to keep warm will start to really reduce, can I ask that any uniform needs be sorted during the half-term break, so students return with full and correct uniform to minimise any potential distractions in the run up to their exams please. Just as a reminder, skirts should be just above the knee or longer (no leggings) and polishable shoes should be worn. A blazer should be worn at all times.

Our top five LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Noah Scott	32
Anya Cramp	32
Mollie-Mae Birchenall	30
Lily Keating	30
Amelie Treacy	30

Well done and keep up the good work!

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

7. 6th Form News

London Trip Payment

A gentle reminder for Year 12 Psychology and Sports students who are attending the London residential trip – the second payment is due just before half term on the 11 February. Please make sure that this payment is made via ParentPay.

Careers Talk Friday, 11 February

Next Friday at 2pm we will be having a talk by Jan Davis, councillor on Broadland District Council in the football block.

6th Form Area Mess

The Futures Area in particular is looking very untidy at the moment. I did a spot check yesterday and there were papers, used masks, bottles, food waste, and books everywhere. I have said this a number of times, but if I get any more complaints from the cleaners regarding the state of these areas, I will have no choice but to close them for the first week back after half term. I really do not want to take this space away from them. Please encourage your child to clean up after themselves!

Useful Links:

- **Visit a London Russell group university** - register for a trip to Queen Mary's University London later this term: Monday, 28 March 2022. The campus visit will include 2 workshops, a tour of the Mile End campus and a Q&A with current students. [Register your interest here](#).
- **Third Thursdays:** Sign-up links for our Third Thursday expert insider support sessions, with guest appearances from former Norfolk students...

- **Year 12 – 17 February at 4-5pm - super-curricular exploration:** a second session exploring the key ingredient of all great applications - exploring your subjects beyond the classroom. [Sign up here](#)
- **Careers in veterinary** - Tuesday, 22 February at 7-8.30 pm - online via Teams. For students considering a career in any veterinary field (veterinary surgeon, nurse, equine science, conservation officer and more). It will involve a panel of veterinary specialists from Taverham Vets, Lincoln University, City College and Banham Zoo. [Sign up using this link here.](#)
- **Meet the Apprentices** – Tuesday, 8 February 5-6pm. **In collaboration with 'Pathways to Work'** - A brilliant opportunity to hear from a number of higher and degree level apprentices to answer questions about why they chose this route, how they went about securing their place, the application and interview process, what their day to day experience is, the way their apprenticeships is structured, pay scales and conditions and anything else you would like to know. Click [here](#) to register.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

8. Library News

LGBT Badge Design Competition

February is LGBT+ History Month. We are celebrating this in the library by highlighting LGBT+ authors and their books. We are also promoting the official badge design competition being run by Schools Out UK. Follow this link, or visit the library to find out more: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/badge-comp/>

Books & Author of the Month

We know that it can sometimes be difficult for students to find books they enjoy. With thousands of books to choose from, and fantastic new books published all the time, the choice can be overwhelming. To help with this we are creating a new monthly spotlight to help highlight books and authors that students might be interested in. These are all books and authors that can be found in the school library.

For our February books of the month, we picked two titles published by [Barrington Stoke](#) who specialise in super-readable books. Their short-size, accessible print, and easy to follow stories written by popular teen authors make them perfect for all readers.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Borrow or reserve your copy today!

KS3



Could you survive without your phone for 6 weeks to win £1000?

We thought it was just a game, but then Kate went missing!

GAMING • DYSTOPIA • VIRTUAL REALITY

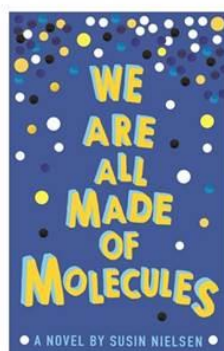
KS4



SOCIAL MEDIA • SCHOOL • PEER PRESSURE

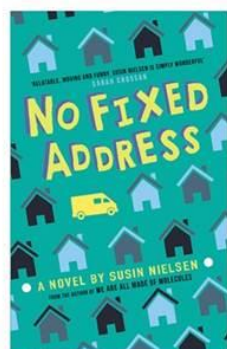
Our February author of the month is [Susin Neilson](#). Susin writes contemporary teen fiction that explores a variety of issues affecting young people in a funny, sensitive and realistic way.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: SUSIN NIELSEN



BULLYING
FITTING IN
LGBT

FRIENDS
FAMILIES
TEENAGE LIFE



DISABILITY
MENTAL HEALTH
RELATIONSHIPS

Overdue Library Books

Thank you to all the pupils who have returned their overdue library books in the last week. We still have a large number of books that are overdue. Can we please ask for your support in looking for these books at home and returning these to the library as soon as possible. If you have any queries about outstanding books on your child's account please get in touch at library@open-academy.org.uk

Miss Ling
Librarian

9. Music Notes

A reminder to students receiving drum lessons that the timetable is up on the music board and it is their responsibility to check and attend their times. Mr Skinner sends his apologies for his absence this Monday but should be back on Monday, 7 February.

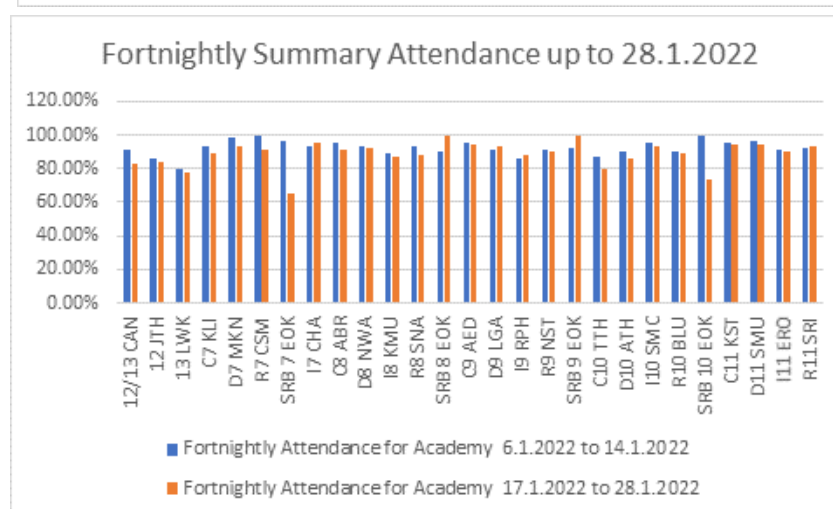
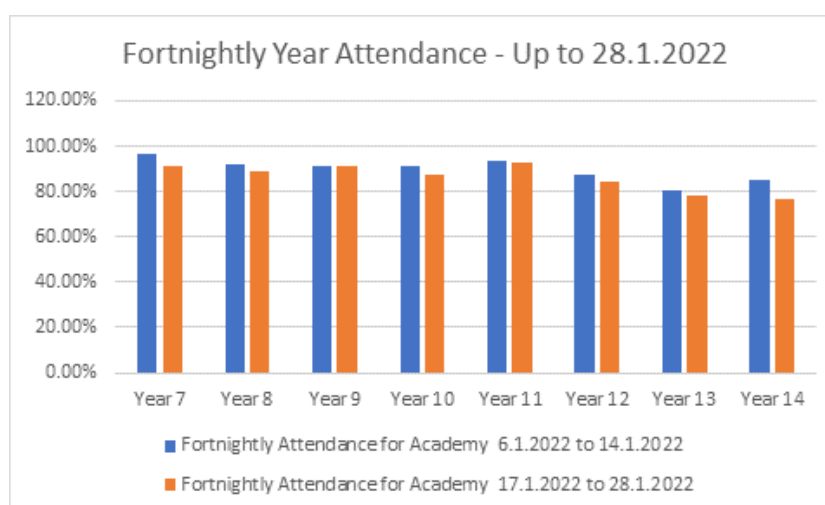
If your child would like to take up drum lessons, we have a few spaces available! Students should ask me for an instrumental contract which details all relevant information about receiving tuition.

Miss Lines
Teacher

10. Attendance

12/13 CAN	83.40%
12 JTH	83.81%
13 LWK	77.78%
C7 KLI	89.55%
D7 MKN	93.00%
R7 CSM	90.87%
SRB 7 EOK	65.00%
I7 CHA	95.70%
C8 ABR	91.00%
D8 NWA	91.80%
I8 KMU	86.61%
R8 SNA	87.96%
SRB 8 EOK	100.00%
C9 AED	94.40%
D9 LGA	92.91%
I9 RPH	88.54%
R9 NST	89.85%
SRB 9 EOK	100.00%
C10 TTH	80.00%
D10 ATH	86.08%
I10 SMC	93.69%
R10 BLU	88.91%
SRB 10 EOK	73.33%
C11 KST	94.17%
D11 SMU	94.20%
I11 ERO	89.80%
R11 SRI	93.00%

Year 7	91.59%
Year 8	88.91%
Year 9	91.56%
Year 10	87.28%
Year 11	92.83%
Year 12	83.97%
Year 13	78.40%
Year 14	76.70%



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks for period 17 January 2022 to 28 January 2022. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Well done to the 219 students who achieved 100% for the month of January 2022 and also to the 185 students who have improved attendance between the months of December 2021 and January 2022. Achievement points have been given to all of these students.

If there have been any changes in your son/daughter's details, please let us know in order that these details can be updated. Thank you.

Just a reminder that our designated email address to notify us of any absences, appointments etc. is student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Thomas Anguish Educational Foundation

Anguish's Educational Foundation

Are you struggling to pay for school uniform, or need help to pay for your child's residential school trip?

If so, financial help may be available from Anguish's Educational Foundation.

This charity supports Norwich families on a low income, whether you are working or receiving benefits.

You can contact Anguish's Educational Foundation by emailing:

info@norwichcharitabletrusts.org.uk

Or leave a message on: 01603 621023

A Grants Officer will contact you to discuss whether we can help you.



ANGUISH'S
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

12. Careers

Next week is 'National Apprenticeships Week' – this is an annual event which showcases the amazing range of opportunities available to young people at both post 16 and post 18 and encourages young people to consider training for a qualification whilst gaining valuable work experience. Opportunities are offered in a wide range of industries from Hospitality through to Healthcare, Construction and Business/Finance.

To support the event Norfolk County Council's Pathways to Work Team have arranged a series of drop-in sessions (**no appointment necessary**) for parents and their families. These sessions are for young people to ask the Team any questions about their next steps into work and training via the apprenticeship route.

The team will be available throughout National Apprenticeships Week on Monday, 7 February – Thursday, 10 February from 4pm – 6pm and on Saturday, 12 February from 10am – 2pm.

If your child has questions about apprenticeships, traineeships, T Levels or other work-based options then please encourage them to come along to these sessions.

Links for each session are below:

Monday:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWmZnTIIMTEtN2Q4NS00YzMXLWExYzQtM2QxZjJiNWE1YzA2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22beb0ee39-c8ac-44be-b158-d479b9e4b9fa%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d&btype=a&role=a

Tuesday:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_N2RIMjNkZDgtZGZiMS00MmNkLTk0YmQtNmlzZGFmZTA1MmUx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22beb0ee39-c8ac-44be-b158-d479b9e4b9fa%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d&btype=a&role=a

Wednesday:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NzMzMZDIOWMtYWUzZS00YzdlLTlhMDAtYmYxMGJhNzlmN2Nk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22beb0ee39-c8ac-44be-b158-d479b9e4b9fa%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d&btype=a&role=a

Thursday:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NmFhODBiM2YtZDAwOS00MDU5LTkwZWQtZDg5MDI2ZDFiYjE0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22beb0ee39-c8ac-44be-b158-d479b9e4b9fa%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d&btype=a&role=a

Saturday:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2E3MzlhYWUzZS00YzdlLTlhMDAtYmYxMGJhNzlmN2Nk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22beb0ee39-c8ac-44be-b158-d479b9e4b9fa%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d&btype=a&role=a

Our Sector for the week 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 are working in any area of Digital/IT and would like to share your experiences and ideas with groups of students, please contact Caroline Davies caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Davies
Careers Facilitator

13. Sport

Firstly, a massive congratulations to three of our students who represented the academy at this year's Norfolk schools' cross-country championships. Elise Whitley (Y7), Asha Kandola (Y8) and Samuel Yellop

(Y10) each represented our academy and were fantastic in their efforts against the best of Norfolk's runners. Elise and Asha competed in their first cross-country event for the academy, and each ran a very good race. Both Asha and Samuel qualified to represent Norfolk at this year's Anglian schools' event. Well done to all three.

In other news, the PE department have now begun organising and running after-school clubs for students. We currently have a limited number of clubs available with the intention of increasing this offer soon. Unfortunately, due to teaching commitments, we are unable to offer lunchtime clubs. However, we are looking at making these happen to boost sports participation at lunch. Please see the attached extra-curricular timetable to see which clubs are on offer!

Finally, a gentle reminder that following February half-term, we will be removing the option of students wearing their big winter coats in outdoor PE lessons. The days will begin to warm up, therefore a black jumper and tracksuit bottoms will be sufficient on cooler days. It is our expectation that students are wearing their Open Academy polo shirt for PE, with black shorts/bottoms or sports leggings. Any other kit must be discussed with your child's PE teacher for temporary use.

After-school PE Extra-Curricular Timetable

All extra-curricular clubs run from 3:15 – 4:15. Any fixtures against other schools will have a varied finish time.

Students should wear their PE kit for all clubs.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AFTER-SCHOOL				
Year 7 Football training Mr Lambert		Year 8 Football training Mr Pimlott	Year 9 Football training Mr Richardson	
Year 10 Football training Mr Lambert		Girls' Basketball club (All Years) Mrs Pearsall	Just Dance (Year 11 only) Mrs Pearsall	
Badminton club (All Years) Miss Whitwood				

Mr Richardson
Teacher