

Open Academy Update 11 February 2022
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week and the last newsletter of this half term.

It has been a tough half term too, with lots of staff out thanks to the virus, a fate I finally succumbed to myself over the last 10 days. The virus really seems to take it out of people despite being triple vaccinated so as well as people out, we have had people fighting to get fit again as they have returned, so we have been battling through without our full complement of people resources – I do apologise where that has meant we have been a little slower to respond, and I also know that the knock on effect has been unsettling for some students – especially those who are facing difficulties already outside school. All I can do is to thank my Vice Principal – Mr Ward and the staff that are managing to stay upright for the fantastic job they have done in keeping us going and despite at times having 15-20% of staff off on some days recently, we have managed to stay open to all – so I hope you will join me in thanking all for their efforts. As with staff so with students and attendance did indeed dip somewhat during this term but I am delighted to say it was back up over 90% as we arrive at half term.

With so much disruption, lots of cover and supply teachers in, and the fact we are still ventilating the building, we have noticed a few students trying to push the limits of our uniform policy. We believe that one of the strong selling points of the Academy is our smart formal uniform which we expect all to wear with pride. Can I therefore remind all parents that the expectation is that all students are in full uniform all day every day. Where required, teachers can give permission for an extra layer i.e. a coat on top of the blazer, may be advised if the classroom is cold, the general expectation however is that students should always be in full correct uniform. A small number of girls have arrived recently in leggings or skinny trousers which are not part of our policy and we are warning them now that choosing to come in without being in full uniform may lead to us choosing to educate them for the day in the withdrawal room. Students can wear either knee length school skirts, tailored shorts or black school trousers only – leggings and skinny trousers and jeans are not allowed. Likewise, black school shoes must be worn by all – not trainers. Thank you for your support in this matter – We think it is crucial to keep the uniform right as it removes significant pressure to conform to fashions and we will be rigorously re-enforcing our Academy uniform policy as we come back after half term – so please no more leggings trainers and hoodies.

Uniform came up in our Open Voice Academy council today, with a request from students in Year 10 for the Academy to allow one nose stud in the same way we allow one ear stud. Given that we accept a single nose stud as smart professional attire for staff we considered this a reasonable request and so I will be putting that to the governors. This request was discussed at Open Voice with a special guest attending. Our local MP Chloe Smith accepted our invitation to attend an Open Voice Academy council meeting, where she heard the students discussing a range of topics including uniform, mobile phones and whether we should be banning their use in school, our progress on tackling bullying and other items raised by the year councils. Chloe Smith was very open in responding to questions posed by the students on topics from how she got in to politics, to how does she feel about politicians behaving badly. She was frank and honest in her replies and incredibly encouraging to the students on the council to keep up their excellent work. Having had visits from one of our Governors recently and Michael Gurney, the High Sheriff of Norfolk last year, the Open Voice school council are getting a great insight in to how politics and governance works and I would like to thank Chloe Smith MP for giving an hour of her ministerial time to spend it with our students.

So, as I slowly catch up on everything I have missed out on through COVID over the last fortnight – I look forward to joining you in reading the rest of the bulletin. I will therefore stop there and wish the most enjoyable of breaks and I look forward to seeing the students back in full correct uniform on Monday 21 February – straight back in – no testing just bright and early!

Jon Ford
Principal

Contents:

1. **Year 7 News**
2. **Year 8 News**
3. **Year 9 News**
4. **Year 10 News**
5. **Year 10 Madrid Trip**
6. **Year 11 News**
7. **6th Form News**
8. **Library News**
9. **Drama Update**
10. **Football**
11. **Assistance**
12. **Attendance**
13. **Careers**
14. **Vacancy**
15. **Chaplain's Reflection**

1. Year 7 News

An amazing final week of half term within Year 7 and since the beginning of January, the students within the year group have amassed an incredible 5,503 Achievement Points! Well done everyone!

Our top 5 achieving students for this week are:

Paige Wright, Ross Brown, Lacey Barrett, Natacha Frutuoso and Kieran Sinclair.

The Year 7 Boy's Football team played Hellesdon High yesterday, and despite the challenging conditions with the sunlight, and conceding a number of goals, the boys showed great resilience and still kept giving it their all right through to the final whistle. Mr Lambert was very impressed with the team not dropping their heads, and was proud to see them keep trying their best.

There are loads of positive shout outs this week from the following teachers:

Miss Cheung:

Shayleigh Loveridge - enthusiastic and focused in Maths

Martina Vaskyte - Enthusiasm and continuous strive to develop her learning in Science.

Miss Lines:

Ross Brown, Max Skells, Martha Wardell, Erica Johnson-Jacob and Rianna Aldous for excellent ostinato compositions in Music.

Mrs Ormosi:

A huge well done to 7O and 7E for completing their whole class performance of 'The Blood Curse of the House of Atreus' in Drama. Both classes worked really well to be able to perform to camera, showing great commitment and concentration!

Miss Luter:

An amazing effort in class today! The teamwork and general helpfulness of everyone during the lesson was great. The room looked cleaner after the practical than before so well done!

After half term, please encourage students to bring a refillable bottle to school so that they can continue to stay hydrated. There have been a number of students coming to the Year 7 office complaining of headaches and after having some water, they begin to feel better in themselves. There is a very limited supply of cups in the office, but it is becoming too regular than for emergency use.

A gentle reminder from previous newsletters about naming items of school uniform and PE kit. Please can you make sure that uniform/PE kit is labelled with the student's name so that in the unfortunate event that something is lost, we can return it much easier.

Keep up the great work, enjoy half term and keep safe! 😊

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

2. Year 8 News

Here we are at the end of half-term three, and it is really lovely to be able to look forward to a rest with longer and brighter days (although the weather forecast is not looking too promising at the moment!). It has been a shorter half-term, but that also means that we have packed in a lot of learning in a short space of time, so a break is well deserved!

As always with this year group, there has been a lot of outstanding learning and progress, and it is a real pleasure to be able to highlight some of those who have been consistently excellent in their attitude to learning. The following in particular have been mentioned by their teachers this week:

Mrs McEvoy, German - Big shout out for Joshua Jordan, William Della Corte, Yousif Al-Sadoon, Harley Ringer, and Brian Bolaney in battleships work in German. Also Amelie Dolton-Cozic and Izzy Onuchukwu for consistently outstanding effort and attainment;

Miss Lines, Music - Warren Middleton, Harvey Nyemba, Areen Mohammed Ali, Dylan Morter, Tyler Hanwell, Steven Ellis, George Tozer-Smith and Liam Kerr for an amazing performance in Jazz!;

Mr Blanchflower, German - Excellent work from some of my 8O German group yesterday. Hallie, Ellie B, Lola, Maizi, George, Areen in particular;

Mrs Marsham, Maths - For the effort of my students in Maths, they really are working hard;

Mrs Clayton, English - A shout out to Callum White for working really hard on his resilience in English and trying hard;

Mr Crawford, History – Lucy-Rose Brown, Latifa Cassama, Luke Edge, Millie Hagger, Thomas Hardy, Tyler Paul, Madalyn Pirie, Grace Sawicki, Katy Sutherland, Amy Toms for consistent engagement in lessons, asking and answering questions, and taking risks to progress their understanding.

One reminder for next half-term: we have had positive meetings with our UEA mentors who are due to be coming in to support students with English and Maths after half-term. These sessions are aimed at improving learning and progress, so make sure that you have checked if and when you are expected to attend.

Enjoy your half-term, and we look forward to welcoming you back looking smart and ready to learn later in the month.

Thank you for your hard work and excellent attitude to learning this half-term.

The Year 8 Team:
Miss Whitwood and Mr Crawford (Heads of Year)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

3. Year 9 News

Well its now the end of another half term. We have made it through the darkest & coldest months of the year and are now progressing towards the sunshine and warmth of spring. It has been a struggle at times with this being the 1st academic year not fully disrupted by covid with most staying in school throughout. It is a fantastic achievement and shows the dedication of the students with the great support of the parents/guardians.

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 – 59

LGA – 82

RPH – 66

NST – 78

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:

- Leah LL & Caitlin A for creative ideas in making musical sound effects
- Ethan W, Adam L, Izaak T and Ebony G for being well organised and creative in their learning.
- Jessica B, Rosie C and Ella R for great short compositions in music.
- Hollie S, Ariya R, Elisa K, Michaela B and Ella R 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.

Save the date! We have options evening on 1st March between 5 and 7pm. It will be in the Academy building. The options booklet is being printed this coming week and will be available straight after half term.

I hope you are all well and are staying safe and have a fantastic week break to recharge. We return on Monday 21 February when hopefully the weather is again warmer and the days longer.

Mr Pickup – Head of Year 9

Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

We've made it to yet another half term. This time last year we were in lockdown and we had snow – bit different this year thankfully.

Lots of achievement points have been awarded to students this half term as they have ploughed through the weeks. We hope you enjoyed parents evening this week. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Letters have gone home for those students attending hub after half term. If you would like your child to attend after school then please let us know.

Our top achieving students this week are: Nathan Freeman, Freya Graysmark, Charlie Palmer, Abigail Hickman, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Gera Dergacovs, Jayden Muzembe, Toby Thompson, Erin O'Neill, Reema Alquarashi, Atanas Kyurkchiev and Teyla Young. Well done to you all.

Our top achieving students this half term are: Erin O'Neill, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Joshua Carter-Strike, Mia Crowe, Tommy Bluett, Lisa Kracewicz, Lauren Aldous, Owen Middleton, Dalia Rosca and Jude Abramson. Congratulations to you all.

Can we encourage students to find their own work experience and return the forms by the end of April please?

Please see the notices regarding World Book Day in the library section of this newsletter.

Uniform standards have slipped this week – please use the half term to adhere to our uniform and PE policy – thank you for your support.

Have a healthy, restful half term everyone.

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

5. Year 10 Madrid Trip

If your child is coming to Madrid in September, please ask them to open the Madrid Trip 2022 Team and write a few words in Spanish. We will be using the Team to communicate with you from now on, and parents and students are welcome to ask questions and add useful information there too. I have put a link to the hotel so you can see where we will be staying.

<https://www.mediodiahotel.com/en/>

6. Year 11 News

A quick message this week just to say, a HUGE well done to the entire year group for approaching their exams with maturity and an excellent work ethic. They have all earned a well-deserved rest over half-term!

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

Well done to our fabulous students who have managed to complete their second set of mocks. Teachers are marking the work some have already begun feedback.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

7. 6th Form News

Happy Half term everybody! It has been a wonderful half term and you have all worked so hard. There have been times that we have all started to flag, but the amazing thing about OA6 is that even on our low days, there is always someone there to pick us up and dust us off. I feel so very lucky to be part of such an amazing team of staff and students.

Y12 PPE2 exams

These will take place in the two weeks after half term. Please speak to your subject teacher to find out how many papers you will be sitting and what topics to revise. Please also check your exam timetable to make sure you do not miss any exams.

Y13 PPE2 exams

A huge well done to Y13 for completing these exams. They will all be marked and feedback given to you after half term. If you were absent for any of these exams, your teacher will be arranging for you to re sit them at some point.

Amazing University Offers

Emma Amies in Y13 has just been offered a place to study Crime and Investigative Studies at Anglia Ruskin University. Absolutely amazing! But even more impressive is that the University has taken into account the fact that she was Head Girl during her time at Sixth Form, and have therefore offered her a £1000 bursary towards her first-year fees! This is a great reminder to our current Year 12 students that stepping up and getting involved within the Academy and OA6 really does pay off in the long run!

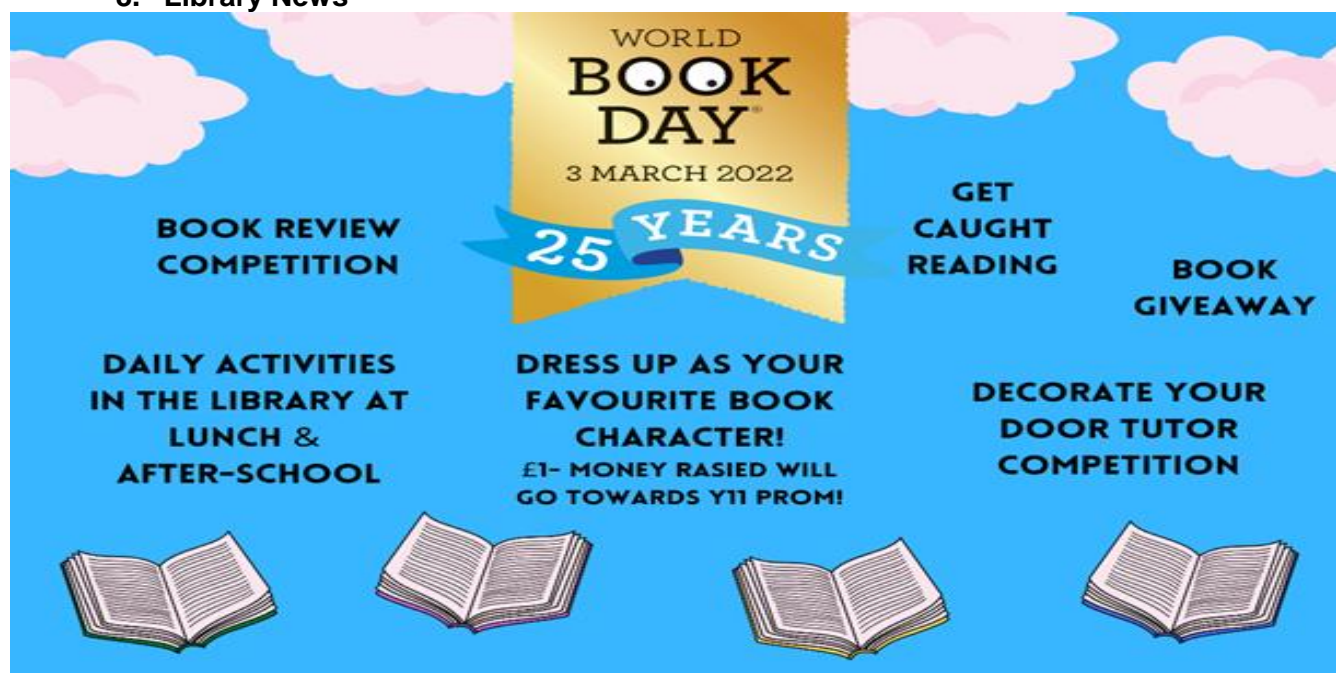
In reviewing your full application, I noted that your personal statement helpfully identifies your experience of being Head Girl, showing that you can commit to extra pursuits alongside your studies, and manage your workload well. At ARU we value your skills and experiences. This £1000 reduction on your first-year tuition fee will be awarded should you achieve BBB or 120 tariff points or above in this coming year.

Year 12 Psychology Egg Babies

This last week our Year 12 students have become parents! To lovely little egg babies. Their assignment was to look after their babies, nurture them, keep them safe, and love them like they would a human non-egg baby! We have had a few unfortunate accidents, however, there have also been some lovely moments too! I wonder what half term will bring for the eggs?!

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

8. Library News



In just a few weeks we will be celebrating World Book Day. We have a variety of activities planned to celebrate reading for pleasure.

From competitions to dressing up, reading themed lessons and special events there is something for all year groups to get involved in. Please see the timetable below to find out more about what we have planned.



LIBRARY BOOK WEEK



Daily events and activities in the library to celebrate reading!
Ask Miss Ling for more information about any of these activities.

| TIME | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY: WORLD BOOK DAY! | FRIDAY |
|--------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| TUTOR | Door Decorating and tutor activities | Door Decorating and tutor activities | KS3 Read-a-Thon | Door Decoration Competition Judging | Door Decoration Winner Announced |
| BREAK | | | In the library all day. <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up.</small> | Book Swap & Giveaway | Book Swap & Giveaway |
| LUNCH | Get Caught Reading - every lunchtime this week | | | | |
| | | | KS3 Read-a-Thon | KS3: Share your Favourite Book KS4: Travelling Library | |
| AFTER SCHOOL | Bookmark Crafting Workshop <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up All Years.</small> | Murder Mystery: Can you solve a murder? <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up Y8 and above.</small> | In the library all day. <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up.</small> | 3:05-3:15 Costume Parade 3:15-4:00 Library World Book Day Party <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up All Years.</small> | Comic Making Workshop <small>*See Miss Ling to sign up All Years.</small> |

Follow the links below for more information.

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Miss Ling
Librarian

9. Drama Update



**Calling all actors, singers,
dancers**



We are holding auditions for the summer terms production of *Anansi* by Alistar Campbell on **Wednesday 23rd February** and **Monday 28th February**. 3.15 – 4.15 in the Drama Studio.

Open to all year groups.

For more information, please see Mrs Ormosi.

10. Football

Well done to our Year 9 Boys football team who played their first match back after covid restrictions against Jane Austin. It wasn't the result we were looking for but it was great to see them back on the pitch playing games.

Well done boys.

Mr Richardson – Head of Applied Faculty

11. Assistance



As the cost of living is rising sharply, help is available. Please find below the details of Norwich foodbanks if needed

St Elizabeth's, Cadge Rd, Norwich NR5 8DG (Mondays)

Witard Road, Norwich Baptist Church NR7 9XG (Mondays)

Wymondham Baptist Church NR18 0AZ (Mondays and Fridays)

Oak Grove Chapel, 70 Catton Grove Road, Norwich NR3 3NT (Tuesdays)

St Stephen's Church, Rampant Horse St, Norwich, NR2 1QP (Wednesdays and Saturdays)

New Hope Christian Centre Norwich NR1 2JA (Wednesdays)

Wroxham & Hoveton United Reformed Church, 114 Norwich Road, Wroxham NR12 8SA (Thursday)

Mile Cross Methodist Church 341 Aylsham Rd, Norwich NR3 2RU (Thursdays)

Norwich Central Baptist Church, Norwich NR3 3BB (Thursdays)

Mark Pimlott

Chaplain

12. Attendance

Monthly Tutor

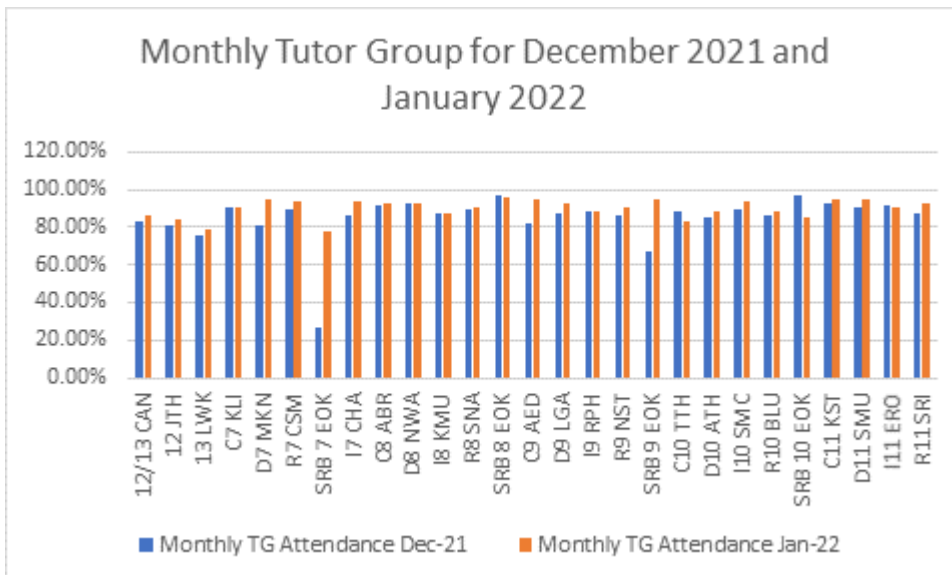
Group Attendance

| Month | Jan-22 |
|-----------|--------|
| 12/13 CAN | 86.02% |
| 12 JTH | 84.42% |
| 13 LWK | 78.28% |
| C7 KLI | 90.66% |
| D7 MKN | 94.66% |
| R7 CSM | 93.64% |
| SRB 7 EOK | 77.78% |
| I7 CHA | 94.17% |
| C8 ABR | 92.43% |
| D8 NWA | 92.61% |
| I8 KMU | 87.60% |
| R8 SNA | 90.13% |
| SRB 8 EOK | 95.41% |
| C9 AED | 94.41% |

| | |
|------------|--------|
| D9 LGA | 92.88% |
| I9 RPH | 88.02% |
| R9 NST | 90.61% |
| SRB 9 EOK | 94.44% |
| C10 TTH | 83.40% |
| D10 ATH | 88.79% |
| I10 SMC | 94.04% |
| R10 BLU | 88.40% |
| SRB 10 EOK | 85.19% |
| C11 KST | 94.76% |
| D11 SMU | 95.09% |
| I11 ERO | 90.29% |
| R11 SRI | 92.39% |

**Monthly
Year
Attendance**

| Month | Jan-22 |
|---------|--------|
| Year 7 | 92.88% |
| Year 8 | 90.18% |
| Year 9 | 91.58% |
| Year 10 | 89.13% |
| Year 11 | 93.21% |
| Year 12 | 85.06% |
| Year 13 | 78.73% |
| Year 14 | 80.68% |



Well done to the 185 students who improved their attendance between the months of December 2021 and January 2022. Achievement points have been given to all of these students.

If there are any changes to your contact details, including mobile telephone number and email address, please let us know, in order that this information can be updated on our system.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

13. Careers

Norfolk County Council conclude their drop-in sessions for 'National Apprenticeships Week' with a session on Saturday 12 February 10.00am-2.00pm. If your child or young person has questions about apprenticeships, traineeships, T Levels or other work-based options then please encourage them to come along to these sessions. They are FREE and no appointment is necessary with the following link

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2E3MzlhYWEtNWYzNi00MmU3LTliNjktMjhiN2FiYWl2Zjgw%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%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a

If you have a child in Year 10 please encourage them in their efforts to find a work experience placement for the week 4-8 July. This week I have spoken with many Year 10s who have found a placement after several months of trying and are delighted that their efforts have paid off. One of the benefits of running work experience is the confidence it gives to young people at all stages of the process, not just when they are with the employer. The deadline for forms to be returned to Dr Davies (S12) is Friday April 29 – this ensures that all Health and Safety checks can take place in good time.

Dr Davies
Careers Facilitator

14. Cleaner vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a cleaner, if you or someone you know might be interested please visit the vacancy page on our website for details

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/vacancies/>

15. Chaplain's Reflection

This Weeks Reflection

I've been thinking a lot this week about life's detours. We can be going along nicely along life's road and then something happens that can be negative or an inconvenience to us. We then find ourselves in unknown territory and wondering what is happening. I know in my life when I've been taking someone to the airport and on the way there an accident happens up ahead and suddenly the road gets closed and a new direction is needed to make the flight time. Confusion and fear creep in and so does worry. I can honestly say that every time this has happened, I have always made it to the airport on time even by the skin of my teeth.

I just want to encourage you today that when the detours come along in our lives, we can still make it. We can still arrive at our destination of happiness and peace. We might not be on the right road of our choice at this particular time, hang in there, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

In closing, sometimes a detour can bring many great things into our lives. A new route does not always mean negativity, it can bring along great opportunities, blessings, and wonderful people to us that we would never have come into contact with, had life continued as normal.

The Bible says that what was put in our life to cause destruction and pain, God will turn it round for the good. Our steps are ordered and have purpose, nothing is wasted with God.

God bless you all, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain