

Open Academy Update 25 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.

With grave developments in the world and a time of transition regarding COVID at least things appear to be getting back to normal in school.

It has been great to see the reduction in absence after half term. Almost all staff are back fit and COVID free and student attendance has continued to improve which is exactly what we are aiming for, so well done to all for your efforts in getting students in.

I am also delighted to report that the standard of uniform and behaviour has markedly improved as we have returned from half term. Almost all students are in full correct uniform now – and those who have not quite got it sorted will be working with the year teams to resolve any last issues.

I will focus this week on the guidance regarding COVID as there are a range of messages in the media which can sound a little confusing. Please see the letter we have sent separately outlining the full policy and approach. Essentially, we are still asking people to be vigilant and not send in students who have any of the main COVID symptoms – high temperature, new persistent cough or loss of taste or smell. If your child does test positive on lateral flow, we would ask that they stay home for at least 5 days. After day 5 you can test and if clear they can come back to school.

We think most families should have some tests left and we do have a small number left to give out to students. However, we have tried to order more and they are no longer available at the moment so we can only assume what we have is it. If you have run out, please encourage your child to collect a pack from G05.

The situation appears as ever to be very fluid so please do watch this space for further developments and updates.

To finish this week, I would just like to ask for your suggestions regarding getting parents views. As you know we do conduct regular surveys, but I am keen to know how else we might get to hear your views. I wondered if some sort of termly social event might be an idea – a quiz for instance? However, I am keen to know if anyone has any suggestions they would like us to try. I'm also keen to get feedback on this newsletter and our social media presence, do we communicate enough in the right way that helps parents? Please do drop me an email I would really appreciate your views

For now – please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

Contents:

- 1. DNEAT “Living with Covid” Letter**
- 2. Year 9 Options**
- 3. GCSE Science**
- 4. Year 7 News**
- 5. Year 8 News**
- 6. Year 9 News**
- 7. Year 10 News**
- 8. Year 11 News**
- 9. 6th Form News**
- 10. Library News**
- 11. Textiles Club**
- 12. Drama News**
- 13. Attendance**
- 14. Chaplain's Reflection**

1. DNEAT “Living with Covid” Letter

Please see attached the Trust’s letter.

2. Year 9 Options

I had a very nice time introducing the options process in an assembly this week. Year 9 were fabulous and attentive when they listened to complicated processes and thought about big decisions. I can’t wait to see you all next Tuesday.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

3. GCSE Science

Please find attached the additional guidance of what will and will not be assessed in the upcoming 2022 GCSE exams.

Mr S Murray
Teacher

4. Year 7 News

The first week back after half term has certainly flown by!

Please discuss the importance of going to lessons and attending on time. In the last week, there were a total of 388 late minutes across the year group. It is vital that students get to lessons on time, as they miss important information at the start of lessons.

A reminder about reading. Unfortunately, due to Covid, some children have missed out on vital skills such as reading. Please could we encourage you to read with your child for as little as 20 minutes a day. It is a key skill, and although there may be some hesitation at first, it is important to set a routine. As the students move through the Academy, exam papers are set with a reading age of 15/16 years so any extra support with reading at home will greatly improve their ability to access exams in the future.

There has been some great work in lessons this week and Year 7 have amassed an amazing 687 Achievement Points.

Our top 5 achieving students for this week are:
Mason Fuller, Zak Lutkin, Evie Timbers, Liam Pickering and Caitlin Page. Well done!

World Book Day is on Thursday, 3 March. It is a “book dress up day”, not a non-uniform day. If students are dressed up on World Book Day, they should have an answer as to who they are if they are asked! There is a £1 fee and is available on Parent Pay.

A couple of shout outs from Mrs Pearsall

- Well done to the Prefects for meeting this week and discussing ideas
- The meditation group who were awesome and fully engaged with giving it a go!
- Logan Whitlam for having an amazing week!

Finally, a reminder about water bottles. There is an increasing number of students who are saying they are experiencing headaches/feeling sick. Often, this is due to them not drinking enough water so please can you ensure they come to school with a refillable bottle.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7
Mr Hawkins & Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 7

5. Year 8 News

The first week back seems to have flashed by, and it is great to see that the vast majority of our year group have come back with a positive mind-set, and have settled back into the routine of school, shown excellent behaviour for learning, and worked hard to achieve progress.

There are a couple of important things to be reminded about this week:

Uniform – we are generally very good at coming properly dressed, looking smart, and ready to learn. However, we would like to remind students that the wearing of non-school jumpers, hoodies and coats in class rooms is currently allowed at the individual teacher's discretion. If a teacher asks you to remove any of these items, they are acting within the defined and communicated school rules. As such, these items of clothing should be removed quickly and efficiently, and at the first time of asking. If another teacher allows you to wear them in their lesson, that is at their discretion, but you need to follow instructions from each teacher within their classroom.

Seeing Mrs Lamb – As you know, Mrs Lamb is our Assistant Head of Year, and she does an outstanding job. She is here to support students and help them to resolve problems. However, students should not be out of lessons to go and see her. She may not be in the office, may be in a meeting, making a confidential phone call, or dealing with sensitive information. If students need to speak to her, talk to her before school, at break time, or lunch time. She can then arrange an appropriate time and can collect from a lesson if necessary. Following this routine means that Mrs Lamb is able to support as many students as effectively as possible, and that they are not missing learning time.

Staying in lessons – although the vast majority of the year group are focused and progressing in lessons, there is a small minority who are negatively impacting their progress by looking to spend time outside of lessons. There is no reason to be out of lessons. Use breaks and social time for things like the toilet, so that you are not missing any learning. Staff will challenge you if you are out of lessons, and it is part of our job to do so.

HUB – after school HUB sessions are there to support you with your homework, learning, and progress. If you have HUB on your timetable, you must attend these sessions.

UEA mentors – lists have gone out for these sessions on maths and English with our UEA mentors. Tutors have informed those who are required to attend. Again, these sessions are to support learning and progress, and you must attend them. You will need headphones, so please bring a pair. We do have some spare sets, but most of you will feel more comfortable using your own. We apologise that these sessions did not start this week, but technical problems meant that it was not possible.

Finally, there has been lots of excellent work this week, and staff would like to pass on particular praise for the following:

Mrs McEvoy - Shout out for Riley Page in German. He wrote some fantastic sentences in German and explained it succinctly to Zac Dyker.

Mrs Clayton - Shout Outs from English: Joel Mace for some perceptive verbal responses in class; Amy Toms, Lucy-Rose Brown and Lily-Mae Holmes for engagement; Jacob Delf for showing respect and always being polite.

Mrs Lamb – For excellent work in HUB: Lily-Anna Nash, Joshua Jordan, Maizi Youngs and Riley Daniels; For general contribution to the positive environment of the school: Max Laskey, Emilia Kerby, Lola Blossom, Tyler Paul and Ella-Rose Key.

Enjoy the weekend, and well done for your hard work and effort this week, from all your teachers and the Year 8 Team.

Miss Whitwood and Mr Crawford (Heads of Year)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

6. Year 9 News

We are into the fourth half term of the academic year and now working our way towards the Easter break (only 5 weeks away). Things are slowly getting warmer and lighter which will help to improve the journey to and from school.

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 – 63 (an improvement of 4)

LGA – 91 (an improvement of 9)

RPH – 64

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).

Unfortunately, some students are making the wrong choices and getting sent out of their lessons to time out. Here they are given the chance to calmly think on their actions and what has led them there. If students are sent to timeout they will receive a 30 minute detention that evening after school and a text will be sent home to let you know. If they do not attend that detention then the 30 minutes will turn into a full hour and again a text will be sent home. If students continue to fail to attend their detention then they will be isolated for a day and work will be provided for them to complete. If you know that your son/daughter has a detention then please can you encourage them to attend. If you wish to know more about a detention then please get in contact with Mr Pickup or Mrs Smith.

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.

I hope you all had a fantastic break over half term and are starting to enjoy the morning and evening light.

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

7. Year 10 News

Hope you all had a lovely half term, can't believe it's now only 5 weeks until Easter holiday, with restrictions lifting can we still possibly test twice weekly and please keep at home if students display any Covid symptoms. Please continue to supply students with a couple of masks and encourage hand sanitising and social distancing as we do in school as much as possible.

Our top achieving students this week are: Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, Lucy Birckett, James Hoyer, Owen Middleton, Gerrard Sandell, William Orr, Joshua Carter-Strike, Mia Crowe and Gera Dergacovs. Congratulations to all.

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

World book day is on the 3 March, Their tutors will be competing in a decorating their door challenge, based on their favourite books/characters, please see any other notices regarding World Book Day in the library section of this newsletter.

All students that are in HUBs must attend, these are put into place for them to catch up on work that has not been completed, a vital part of their ongoing progress within the academy.

A reminder for all students to continue following the uniform policy, including not wearing hoodies in the academy – thank you for your support.

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

Welcome back sixth form! I hope you all had a happy and rested half term.

Year 12 are back with a bump this week as their PPE2 exams will have started – please make sure that students have all noted down when their exams are so that they don't miss any by mistake. Year 13 will be able to get their PPE2 exam results from their subject teachers

I am going to keep it brief this week as below are some really exciting and FREE opportunities for students. I would really like students to get involved and get registered on to at least one of them. Students can come and speak to me if they need any further info.

Norfolk HAS Events and Opportunities:

NORWICH UNDERGRADUATE SURGICAL SOCIETY: Suturing event - see your HAS lead staff at school to book! This is a 'must-attend' event for anyone considering a career in medicine. Students can observe and practice what it might be like to stitch up a patient in surgery and tie knots. Students can see what it is like to use robotic keyhole surgery on a simulation device. For the first time ever, we are looking for an NNUH surgeon delivering a career presentation for us. The organisers have asked you to indicate your availability between 27 May – 10 June (12-3pm ideally on these days). The event will be limited to 15 students per school, and it will take place in Congregation Hall on UEA Campus. Speak to Mrs Molloy if you are interested in this!

Student Shadowing visit to UEA

Sixth form and college students in local authority care are invited to apply to visit UEA for a free Student Shadowing experience: <https://forms.office.com/r/iQNCCMiZgZ> This is an opportunity to find out about life on a university campus and learn about support for students. Let us know which subject you're interested in studying at Uni, and we'll pair you up with a current UEA student who can tell you all about it. These visits typically last for a couple of hours and you are free to bring along a friend, carer, or support worker.

Online subject taster lectures from UEA

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

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

10. Library News

Next week is Open Academy Book Week. We have a variety of exciting activities planned including competitions, a murder mystery, read-a-thon and more, all leading up to our World Book Day celebrations on Thursday, 3 March.

All full timetable of events can be found on the school website:
<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters-2/>

You can also keep up to date with our activities by following the school library twitter account: @library_oa

For World Book Day we are also inviting students to dress up as a book character for the day. There is a £1 charge for students who want to take part and the money raised will go towards the Year 11 Prom fund. This can be paid using the Parent Pay app. Please note that this is not a full non-uniform day - if students do not want to participate in dressing up they should come to school in their normal uniform. We hope to see lots of students joining in and celebrating reading for pleasure!

Miss Ling
Librarian

11. Textiles Club

Please see the poster below for Miss Luter's textile club. Students can sign up for a handful of weeks to make a product. The first product is a gorgeous lined makeup bag with a zip. Students will learn new skills and get confident using the sewing machine. Please see Miss Luter to sign up!

Miss Luter's Textiles Club

Make your own lined make up bag

4-5 weeks
Starts next Wednesday
3-4pm in the textile room
Lots of different fabrics available
Max 10 pupils – come and see me to sign up ☺

What skills will you learn?

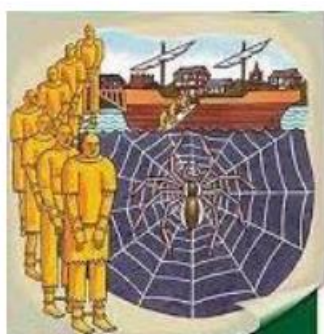
- How to use a sewing machine
- How to use interfacing
- How to insert a zip



Miss Luter
Teacher

open Auditions

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.

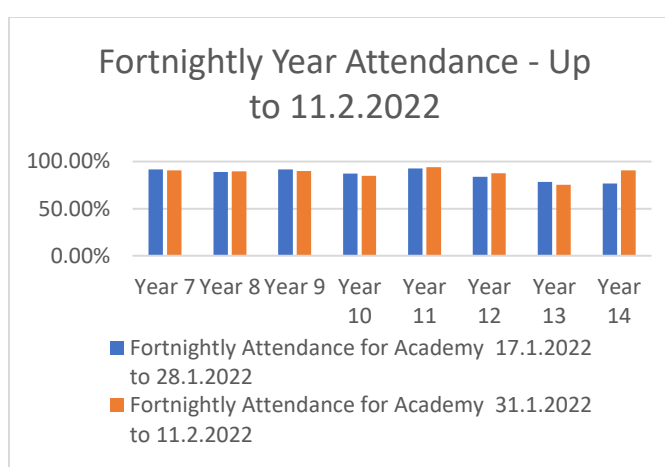
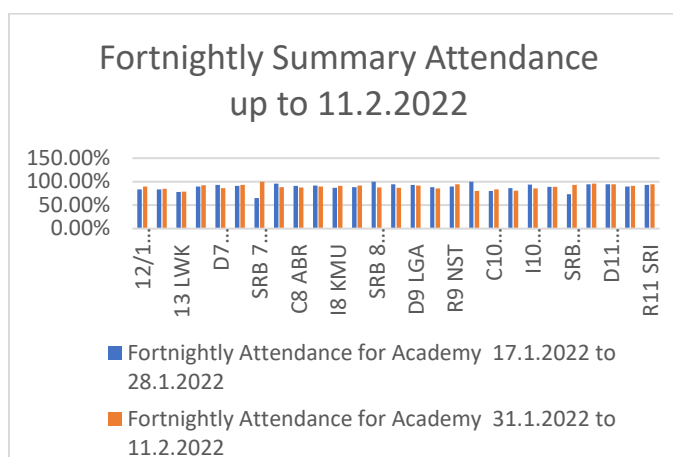
Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

13. Attendance

12/13 CAN	89.41%
12 JTH	85.15%
13 LWK	78.86%
C7 KLI	92.50%
D7 MKN	86.25%
R7 CSM	93.26%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	88.57%

Year 7	90.46%
Year 8	89.63%
Year 9	89.79%
Year 10	84.98%
Year 11	94.03%
Year 12	87.50%
Year 13	75.38%
Year 14	90.48%

C8 ABR	87.80%
D8 NWA	89.40%
I8 KMU	91.25%
R8 SNA	92.01%
SRB 8 EOK	87.50%
C9 AED	86.90%
D9 LGA	91.90%
I9 RPH	85.83%
R9 NST	94.07%
SRB 9 EOK	80.00%
C10 TTH	83.65%
D10 ATH	80.91%
I10 SMC	85.77%
R10 BLU	89.17%
SRB 10 EOK	93.33%
C11 KST	96.04%
D11 SMU	94.55%
I11 ERO	91.00%
R11 SRI	94.60%



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the last two weeks for period 31 January 2022 to 11 February 2022. 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

14. Chaplain's Reflection

This week I want to start off with a quote by **Yann Martel**. "I must say a word about fear. It is life's only true opponent. Only fear can defeat life. It is a clever, treacherous adversary, how well I know. It has no decency, respects no law or convention, shows no mercy. It goes for your weakest spot, which it finds with unnerving ease. It begins in your mind, always ... so you must fight hard to express it. You must fight hard to shine the light of words upon it. Because if you don't, if your fear becomes a wordless darkness that you avoid, perhaps even manage to forget, you open yourself to further attacks of fear because you never truly fought the opponent who defeated you."

There are many things out there in the world that cause us to fear. Before we open our eyes in the morning, fear is there nagging us in our minds, doubting what we are and calling into question what we could be. Fear is a powerful feeling but only if we let it grow and get powerful.

Fear likes to operate in the dark so to speak. What I mean by that is that fear wants to keep you quiet so that you suffer alone, feel lonely, and are paralyzed. Fear is broken and watered down when we bring our

worries and concerns out into the light. In other words, fear is weakened when we talk to others about our concerns. The less we talk, the bigger the fear grows.

We can be especially fearful about what is going on in the Ukraine at this particular moment. There might be fears of what that entails, our involvement, the effect on our economy. More importantly some of us might have family or connections there that we are concerned about. Please be encouraged to talk to someone that you trust and who is level headed. Please, let's be encouraged to not let ourselves become part of conversations that can be fear ridden and cause fear to rise in our hearts.

There's is a story in the Bible where the disciples of Jesus were out at sea in a terrible storm. They grew fearful for their lives in this awful situation. Jesus who was sleeping in the bottom of the boat heard their cries and immediately spoke to the storm and rebuked it. The storm stopped and peace was restored.

So next time the voice of fear whispers in your ear, remember you are not alone and God is beside you and is only a prayer away.

Newsround has a useful page on 'advice if you're upset by the news' which students and siblings can be directed to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

You all remain in my thoughts and my prayers.

God bless you.

I am Here

Just a reminder that I am always here to provide support and encouragement for all our community. If you ever need a chat, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun



MORE
DATES AND
VENUES TO BE
ANNOUNCED
SOON



FOOD
PROVIDED

SIN Cru presents

The Get Fresh Club

Easter fun exploring Hip Hop culture with music, dance, art, food and good times

Monday 4th - Friday 8th April and Monday 11th - Friday 15th April 2022

Venue One:

Sprowston Diamond Centre,
School Lane, Norwich, NR7 8TR
Time: 12pm - 4pm

Venue Two:

Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre*,
Gorleston-on-sea, Great Yarmouth, NR31 7BP
Time: 12.30pm - 4.30pm *Not Mondays

Suitable for ages **9-16 yrs** | Limited spaces available | Free for those who are eligible for means tested free school meals | £26 per day or £100 per week for those without a HAF code | To book visit: www.sincru.co.uk/education