

**Open Academy Update 4 March 2022**  
**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.**

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter and this week I would like you to spend the time you might have used reading my introduction on completing a brief feedback form about this newsletter.

We are really keen to find out how people feel about the newsletter, our communication in general and how easy it is to engage with the academy.

This week my single request is, if at all possible, please complete the form at the following link:

[Newsletter Feedback And Parent Engagement Form](#)

Thank you.

Jon Ford  
Principal

**Contents:**

1. **Year 7 News**
2. **Year 8 News**
3. **Year 9 News**
4. **Rhine, Germany Trip**
5. **Year 10 News**
6. **Year 11 News**
7. **6th Form News**
8. **Library**
9. **Attendance**
10. **Careers**
11. **SEND Support Survey**
12. **Chaplain's Reflection**

**1. Year 7 News**

Another great week within Year 7 with a massive 1,868 achievement points!

Our top 5 achieving students for this week are: Jayce Brighton, Ryan Clarke-Jarvis, Rodrigo Furia, Leo Hindry and Mia Palmer. Well done!

Please can we remind students to bring a refillable water bottle into school. There are many occasions where students do not have a bottle.

Another reminder about labelling uniform. 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.

Finally, some positive shout outs from:

Mrs Reynolds – The following 2 students did amazingly well with their soldering in DT this week, they finished their amplifier circuit in 1 lesson. They are...Mara Sim Sim and Zalan Babics - well done, maybe electrical engineers in the making!

Miss Ling – For the tutor door decorating competition for World Book Day. We loved the explosion of books in 17CHA and the amazing illustrations on the SRB door. However, the winning design showed a real creative flair (and came with a brilliant pitch from students). The winners were...C7 for their amazing Harry Potter design!

Mrs Ormosi – Well done to Maddie Anderson, Catherine Baker, Layla Smith-Howell, Jason Juhasz, Mia Palmer, Lacey Berry, Zena Ali and Ria Wilsea for auditioning and getting a part in the school play *Anansi*. Also, massive well done to the whole of 7O for working really well in their drama lessons.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mr Hawkins & Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 7

## 2. Year 8 News

Coming to and leaving school with light outside has certainly given us all a boost this week, and there has been a really positive and purposeful attitude around Year 8. It has been great to see our students focused, engaged and participating in their learning, to ensure that they are maximising their progress and potential.

It was lovely to see that a few of them came as their favourite book characters on Thursday, and that lots had been 'caught reading' by staff during social time. Reading has a massively beneficial impact on students' school progress and personal development. Research and data have consistently and clearly proven that it has a significant positive effect on GCSE and A-Level outcomes. For those students who are regularly reading, well done and keep it up. We have a fantastic library, so make the best use of it! For those who are not so keen, why not pop in to the library to speak to Miss Ling. She will be able to guide you towards books around your interests, and appropriate for your level.

A few points to bear in mind this week:

Firstly, headphones should not be worn around the academy. An example of why not comes from Miss Whitwood, who was calling to a student to give them something important earlier this week and was seemingly completely ignored! In fact, the student had air pods in. It goes without saying that headphones/earphones absolutely should not be worn in lessons.

HUB / UEA sessions. Mr Wilkinson has asked us to remind you that these sessions are not optional. They are on your timetable to support you and improve your progress, so attendance is expected. The year team will be following up absences.

Miss Whitwood and Mr Crawford (Heads of Year)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

## 3. Year 9 News

Now into spring and working towards Easter, the days are drawing out and there is proper daylight at both the beginning and end of the school day. This half term is getting off to a great start with lots of learning taking place across the academy.

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 – 35

LGA – 67

RPH – 48

NST – 69

Thank you for attending the Options Evening, it was a very positive and successful evening with many great conversations aimed at the future choices students will be making in their learning. If you did not attend do not worry, all the information is within the booklets the students took home before the night. There is still plenty of time for discussions with subject teachers before any final decisions need to be made.

Please ensure students are arriving to school in correct uniform (blazer, black shoes, skirts/trousers). 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 timeout. 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 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.

Hopefully this half term will prove to be the most successful yet with a continued high degree of learning taking place. Thank you again for your continued support of the learning and well being of these fantastic students.

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

#### 4. Rhine, Germany Trip

A Rhine Trip channel has been set up on Teams. Can students please comment on it, answering the question:

Do you have a passport and when does it expire or have you paid £5 to be included on the collective passport?

Mrs McEvoy  
Teacher

#### 5. Year 10 News



We had World Book Day yesterday and it was good to see students dressing up and reading. Unfortunately, they were too shy to have their photo taken but the year team weren't!

Our top achieving students this week are: Kimora Alexander, Eadie Ambrozevich, Bradley and Luke Copping, James Hoye, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson, Jayden Muzembe, Ahmed Tsinev and Teyla Young.

A letter has gone home to all parents regarding the careers trip on Wednesday, 9 March. All Year 10s are attending and will be taken

by coach to and from school. We will be back in school for 12.30 pm. If there are any issues or you do not wish your child to go then please contact us.

Please let us know if your child can not attend Hub and it is on their timetable. Students do need to attend if it is timetabled for them.

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

### 6. Year 11 News

Please see the information letter given to students this week regarding their leavers' hoodies.

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

### 7. 6<sup>th</sup> Form News

No update.

Mrs Molloy  
Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

### 8. Library News

#### Open Book Week

We have had a brilliant week celebrating books and reading for pleasure. It has been an absolute delight talking to students about their favourite books and characters and of course seeing them dressed up as their book characters on Thursday.

As part of our celebrations tutor groups were challenged to decorate their classroom doors on the theme of a book. Congratulations to Miss Lines tutor group C7 for their winning Harry Potter design!

We would also like to offer a big well done to the 26 students who took part in our read-a-thon on Wednesday. Collectively they read for 28936 minutes and read 10793 pages. I'm sure you'll agree that this is an amazing achievement and we are extremely proud of their efforts! The students involved were:

Fazer Amos-Saunders  
Millie Slater  
Martha Wardell  
Maddie Anderson  
AJ Bale  
Hayden Taylor  
Ada Anil  
Catherine Baker  
Olivier Kracewicz



Tiffany Scott  
 Kate Skedge  
 Layla Smith-Howell  
 Evie Timbers  
 Lena Wawryzniak  
 Esme Whitehead  
 Ria Wilsea  
 Ty Cook  
 Maddison Gray  
 Daisy Norris- Waterfield  
 Ellie Blake  
 Jay Lawson  
 Scarlet Bush  
 Emily Summers  
 Lucy Norris-Waterfield  
 Star Cook  
 Lily Turner



Of course, reading for pleasure is a big focus for us in the academy all year round- not just during World Book Day. If you would like any support regarding your child and reading please do get in touch with me at [library@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:library@open-academy.org.uk) and I will be happy to help.

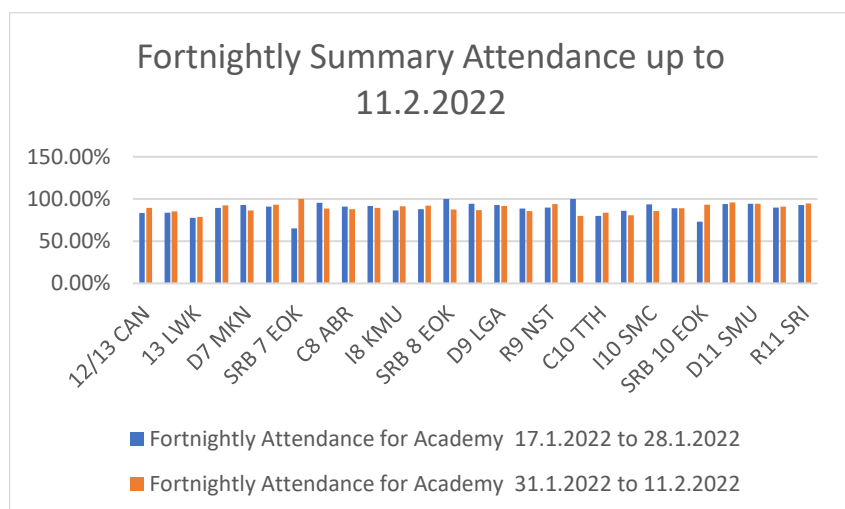
**National Reading Champions Quiz Try-Outs**

Do you love reading? Then come along to our try-outs for the National Reading Champions Quiz. At the end of the month the school will take part in a national competition that puts your knowledge of different books to the test. We are looking for 4 avid readers from Year 7-9 to represent the school and make up our team. We will be holding a mini-quiz at lunchtime on Thursday, 10 March to decide the members of the team. Come along to have a chance of being involved!

Miss Ling  
 Librarian

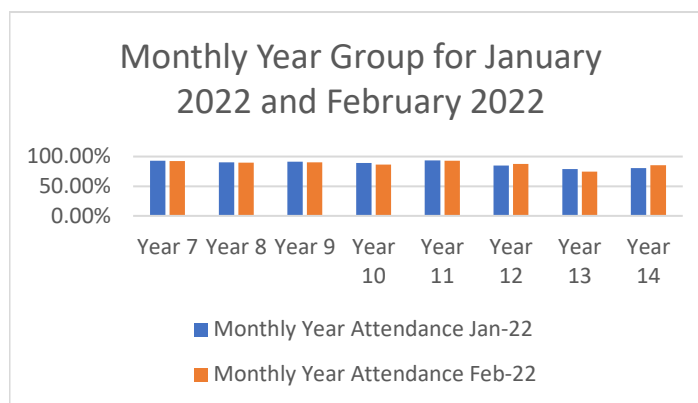
**9. Attendance**

12/13 CAN	88.98%
12 JTH	85.51%
13 LWK	77.15%
C7 KLI	90.91%
D7 MKN	89.33%
R7 CSM	95.38%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	92.99%
C8 ABR	87.47%
D8 NWA	89.60%
I8 KMU	91.90%
R8 SNA	92.45%
SRB 8 EOK	88.33%
C9 AED	87.94%
D9 LGA	91.43%





I9 RPH	86.48%
R9 NST	94.32%
SRB 9 EOK	80.00%
C10 TTH	84.23%
D10 ATH	80.68%
I10 SMC	89.36%
R10 BLU	90.97%
SRB 10 EOK	91.11%
C11 KST	95.69%
D11 SMU	93.56%
I11 ERO	89.04%
R11 SRI	94.61%



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%

Well done to the 252 students who have achieved 100% for the month of February 2022 and to the 185 students who improved their attendance between the months of January 2022 and February 2022. Achievement points have been given to all of these students.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

## 10. Careers

It was wonderful to see so many Year 9 students engaging with the GCSE options process last Tuesday evening and talking to our visiting experts in the 'Careers' area. Many thanks to Carrie from UEA Outreach, Pippa from mentoring programme Future Forward and Alex from the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (NEACO). All of these partners are regularly in school working with students and can be contacted through me at [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk)

As part of National Careers Week we will be taking the whole of Year 10 to the Norfolk Skills and Careers Festival at the Norfolk Showground next Wednesday morning. Last year the event did not take place due to the pandemic, so it will be great to see students have the opportunity to meet representatives from colleges, training providers, apprenticeships and employers in the local region. For more information about National Careers Week go to:

<https://nationalcareersweek.com/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7kx47h>

Dr Davies  
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

## 11. SEND Support Survey



February 2022

Dear parent/carer,

We really need you to give 15 minutes of your time to fill in a survey about SEND services and support in Norfolk.

We hope this is a great chance for you to tell the organisations responsible for SEND in the county what you think of the services and support you and your child or young person receive and what the issues are which matter most to you.

We want to hear what's working well for you and what needs more improvement. The survey has lots of multiple choices so you can fill it in quickly and easily, but there are also opportunities for you to tell us more if you want to. It can be completed anonymously.

The questions cover everything from education, EHCPs, health, social care, and wider support. They have been put together by a partnership of professionals and parent/carer representatives.

The survey is split into three versions: one for children and young people with SEND aged from 11 to 25; one for parents/carers and one for professionals. You can fill it in as many times as you'd like to.

It's really important we hear from as many people as possible, so we can use all the information to make the right plans for improvement for the rest of 2022 and beyond.

The survey can be found <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SENDSurvey2022/> or by [clicking here](#). We have an Easy Read version for children and young people.

The survey will be open for four weeks from Monday 7 February to 5pm on Monday 7 March.

Thank you so much for your time and your responses.

**Michael Bateman**

**Assistant Director of SEND Strategic Improvement and Early Effectiveness**

The survey can be found <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SENDSurvey2022/> or by [clicking here](#). There is an Easy Read version for children and young people.

Ms Hewitt-Coleman  
SENCO

## 12. Chaplain's Reflection

### Easter Egg Hampers/basket Random Acts of Kindness

Every year at Christmas we always give out hampers as random acts of kindness to our community. It would be great if we could do something similar this Easter with eggs and chocolate. Please could I call on your generosity to donate some eggs or chocolate to this initiative so we can make someone's Easter better. All chocolatey treats can be brought in by yourselves or by students at any time and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

### This Week's Reflection

In this reflection I just want to encourage us to be thankful for the people around us and not to take anyone for granted. Life can be very short and we never know what is around the corner. We can often pass by the people in our world because life is so full. This has been on my mind a lot recently as one of my best

friend's wife passed away in January. After a recent chat with him he said this to me. "Why do we wait for funerals to say nice things about and to be thankful for others". This statement struck me to my core. Being thankful for others is not an event, it should be a lifestyle, an everyday occurrence. Thankfulness is a verb and so is appreciation.

We are all different but there are many ways to appreciate others. Tell someone today that you are thankful for them being in your world. I love this quote as it says "Be thankful for everybody in your life, good and bad, past and present. They all made you the person that you are today".

This week and the future, let's be determined to be more appreciative of others. Value them, love them and speak words of life over them.

God bless you all

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain