

Open Academy Update 18 March 2022
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week

Partial closures: It has been another really tough week from the COVID point of view with staff going out faster than they are coming back. Thank you so much for your understanding regarding the partial closure this week – I was especially humbled to hear about the thank you text sent to an assistant head of year appreciating all that the staff team have done to try to keep going.

It looks like we will have to continue the cycle of closures into the middle of next week, and, as we have taken the decision not to close Year 11 or 6th Form classes as they are so close to their examinations, I am afraid it will be back to Year 8 and 9 out next Tuesday, 22 March and Wednesday, 23 March. It then looks like we should have enough returning staff to keep the whole school open for the rest of the week at least. So please accept my apologies – I know how disruptive school closures can be – and that is why we are at least trying to stay open to 2/3 of the school despite our staffing challenges.

Mobile phones: In the final couple of weeks before Easter we have been working on tackling a developing issue in the academy – that being the use of mobile phones during the day. The student council brought to our attention their concerns around increases in cyber bullying post lockdown and that fits with our own analysis of our behaviour data. With frequent fake sites being set up on various platforms encouraging students to take and post illicit pictures of staff and students, it is clear that we must act. The leadership group of the school have discussed the full range of options from no restrictions at all, allowing phones to be out on desks visible to all, to the other extreme of a total ban where they are not allowed in school at all. Options were discussed in a staff meeting and the most favoured option is to just re-launch our current long-standing policy, which we have allowed to lapse post pandemic (by allowing phone use at break and lunch where the problems appear to be increasing), but with a refreshed clear approach as to how we will implement it.

Our proposal is that students will be allowed to bring phones in to the academy, but we will operate a 'See it. Hear it. Lose it' approach so that if a student gets a phone out during the day they will have it confiscated. Mr Wilkinson is therefore very keen to get parents views. The letter with the background to the issue and the full proposal is attached, so please do complete the online form with your views.

Charity events: Finally, this week I would just like to flag up a couple of charity fundraising activities in the academy in the run up to Easter. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh students are fund raising for their expedition – and there will be a non-uniform day on the last two Fridays of term with proceeds going to that and the prom fund. They are also running an anti-bullying poster competition with a £25 cash prize, so please do encourage your child to get involved – entry has a small fee. We will also be having a book and cake sale for a few lunchtimes during the next week or two to raise money for the Ukraine Disaster Emergency Committee DEC fund so if you would like to contribute then please feel free via your child.

Fingers crossed that next week will be the last to be COVID disrupted and by the time I am writing next we will be on a healthy run in to Easter!

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

A huge congratulations to Oliver North, Alfie Hindley and Noam Murray who have joined the Student Leadership Team.

Our top 5 achieving students for this week are: Ada Anil, Ryan Bath, Ross Brown, Tiffany Scott and Alfie Swatman. Well done!

Please, please, please ask students to bring a bottle into school for water. Unfortunately, it seems to be the same students regularly not bringing a bottle into school. Please remind students to bring in a bottle so that they can re-fill it during the course of the day.

A reminder from the last couple of weeks 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.

Online Learning:

As we move to online learning for a couple of days, please help students logging into the various programmes and websites.

To access Microsoft Teams go to:

Google → Office365 → log in with your school email address and password → click Teams logo



This should bring up all of your classes. Then, click on your lesson and your work will be posted in there.

To log into Mathswatch:

Username: FirstnameLastname@open-academy

Password: mathswatch

If you have any issues with logging in, please email us.

Keep safe, and see you on Tuesday, 22 March when it will be week A.

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mrs Middleton and Mr Hawkins – Assistant Heads of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

After the very odd Sahara sand rain the other day we are warming up for spring. The sun shining and flowers starting to flower always puts a positive spring in our step. We thought we'd start by celebrating some of the year group achievements.

Students have received over 31,000 achievement points so far this academic year, which is amazing. The top ten students are Tyler Paul, Luke Edge, Isioma Onuchukwu. Milli Hagger, Kian Wright, Latifa Cassama, Lucy-Rose Brown, Georgia Brown, Areen Mohammed-Ali.

Tutor group totals so far for the year:

Mr Bradshaw C8 – 7806
Mr Walters D8 – 7487
Mr Munday/Mr Coyne I8 – 7956
Mrs Napthen – 6845
SRB 8 (4 students) 1104

It is fantastic to be able to include lots of praise for classes and individual students from a range of staff here are a few from this month so far:

- Mrs Thurtell – Oskar Coleman for being a good role model
- Mr Lambert - Callum White and Harvey Nyemba in PE and they did the 12 minute copper run. They were the only 2 that were able to run consistently for the whole time, Callum completing 14.5 laps (2.9 kilometres) and Harvey 15 laps (3 kilometres). Excellent effort from them both
- Mrs Ormosi - Well done to Katy Sutherland, Madison Gray, Lily–Anna Nash, Ty Cook and Hallie Chandler for auditioning and getting a part in the school play Anansi
- Miss Moy - A very big well done to Riley Benfield and Mohammed Suliman for fantastic poster work in Science recently.

Our school choir took part in a choir competition on Tuesday we had a number of Year 8 involved and we are very proud of you. Well done to all Miss Lines and all those involved, feedback has been awesome and inspiring.

On Monday the focus of the assembly will be friendships. Miss Whitwood and Mrs Lamb will run an assembly for the girls while the form tutors will have input for the boys. We have chosen to do it this way as we are discovering they are having different issues, so we will be able to focus on each group's concerns.

As the weather is getting warmer a reminder that hoodies are not part of the school uniform. They should not be worn in school, leggings and trainers are also not allowed. As a year group we have a high standard of correct uniform. Any student who repeatedly wears the incorrect uniform will receive a detention, and further sanctions if they continue to not follow the uniform policy unless we have been informed by parents of a justifiable reason.

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

3. Year 9 Parents' Evening

Please see attached letter explaining why the Year 9 parents' evening has been postponed. If the software is not back up and running we will run the appointment diaries on paper - the old fashioned way. This of course had a knock on effect on options. However, the impact will be less planning time for the academy. No student will be impacted.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

4. Year 9 News

Well it has taken a strange turn once again with the rise of COVID cases over the last week. This has led to Year 9s not being in on Wednesday and Thursday this week. However, they are now back in and there is definitely a greater sense of calm around the building. Hopefully the coming couple of weeks will be settled and successful before the Easter holidays.

Achievement points, although the count is only for 2 days the year group have made a great effort and the dedication is still strong. The current tally for this week (only 2 days worth) is:

AED – 16

LGA – 25

RPH – 13

NST – 26

Uniform is great for the vast majority of students in Year 9. Please can you ensure that students are leaving home in the correct uniform. Our uniform policy states: Plain black polished shoes only. No training or other similar sports shoes (regardless of colour), no boots, no 'designer' shoes. Plain black trousers and plain black knee length skirt.

We have struggled to get texts sent home in the last few days when a student has received a detention. For these cases we have made the exception and not increased the detention the following day as we understand the lack of communication makes a consistent message difficult. Moving forwards if your son/daughter is sent to timeout during the day they will have a 30 minute detention after school and a text should be sent home. If they receive 2 timeouts during a day then they will have to stay for 1 hour. If this is missed without a reason given from home the detention will be increased and if consistently missed will mean that the student will end up in isolation for a day.

I know that for the vast majority of Year 9 this will never be an issue as we have a fantastic group of students. If you wish to know more about a detention then please get in contact with Mr Pickup or Mrs Smith.

Finally, students will have Hub sessions on their timetable. These are considered to be a lesson and as such need to be attended. If students truant from a Hub session they will receive a detention, unless a reason is given from home.

It is at this time when some fantastic learning can take place, as there are never many in the group and students have the opportunity to catch up with missed learning or get future homework completed. If they arrive and there is no work for them to complete they will be allowed to leave, but they must get registered first.

It has been a strange week to be at Open, but it is lovely to have the year group back. It is now just 2 more weeks until the Easter holiday. I hope you are all well and enjoying the improved weather. I hope you have a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing the year again on Monday.

Mr Pickup – Head of Year 9

Mrs Smith – Assistant Head of Year 9

5. Year 10 News

It has been a quiet week with year groups out of school, but as always our resilient Year 10 students have just got on with it. Just a reminder that Year 10s are not in school on Monday, but we look forward to seeing them back on Tuesday. There is work set on Microsoft Teams for them, please ensure that they use Microsoft Office from the Open Academy website. If there are any problems please let us know.

Unfortunately, our football fixture on Tuesday was cancelled, but will be re-arranged as soon as possible.

Our top achieving students this week are: Josh Mace, Bryn Norris, Gerrard Sandell, Tommy Taylor, Hannah Jordan, Isaac Newrick, Mason Perriton, Joe Sanderson, Ahmed Tsinev and Teyla Young. Well done to you all.

The usual reminders about attending Hubs and returning work experience forms please. The uniform standards have been excellent this week. Thank you as always for your help with this and please contact us if you have any queries about anything.

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

6. Year 11 News

Another great week for Year 11. It was good to see many engaging with our sixth form event this week: I do hope many make the decision to continue their learning with us in September.

With Easter just around the corner and students thinking about more independent revision, a revision pack went home this week with every Year 11 student to help them with their at home studies filled with revision materials and a book with revision tips and techniques.

After Easter our period 6 classes will become optional where students can 'drop in' to sessions to get help on areas where they feel they need it most, giving them greater control over their own learning and ensuring they can manage their workload effectively. These sessions will be very valuable and I would encourage as many students as possible to make use of them.

Our top 5 LEARNT point students this week are:

Emily Perrett
Amber Cleverley
Ethan Brown
Jess Druce
Jess Wicks

Well done!

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

7. Year 11 Prom

To raise funds for the Year 11 prom (taking place on Friday, 8 July) we have organised some events. Firstly, we are holding a non-school uniform day on Friday, 25 March, we are asking students to pay £1 as a contribution towards the prom fund. Additionally, we are holding an Easter egg raffle that will take place on the last week of term (week commencing 28 March). We will be charging 25p per ticket, and £1 for a strip.

On another note, the website to order school leavers jumpers is now ready for orders to be placed. The details are below. Students will have the opportunity to customise the colour and will have the chance to add a nickname for a small additional fee. The opportunity to place orders will close on 10 May 2022.

Please click on this link to go to your login page:

<https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-login>

Or alternatively go to our website and click on "Login" at the top of our home page.

Your login details are as follows:

USERNAME: SL57896
PASSWORD: 57896open

Thank you.

Year 11 Prom Committee

8. 6th Form News

NCS workshops

As part of the NCS contract, they are now offering PHSE style sessions in school for all Year 12 students. These will cover a range of really useful topics. As before, these are compulsory and a register will be taken so every single student must attend. They will run on the following dates, but I will remind students nearer the time about each session and what the topic will be covered:

Wednesday, 30 March – am (9am – 12pm)
Thursday, 21 April – pm (12pm – 3pm)
Monday, 23 May – pm (12pm – 3pm)
Tuesday, 7 June – am (9am – 12pm)
Monday, 20 June – am (9am – 12pm)

UEA EVENTS

Science webinar with TV presenter Ben Garrod: Chasing chimps, digging dinosaurs and asking Attenborough

Why do so many people feel scared of science? When is it okay to let small children handle eyeballs when eating muffins? How can we channel our 'Inner Attenborough'? Ben Garrod is Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at UEA. After completing a PhD he got ready for a career of research, but instead followed a passion to share science with as many people as possible. Now, as a successful author and award-winning BBC presenter, Ben believes that science belongs to us all. In this talk, Ben shares his adventures about excavating mammoths, being chatted up by a robot, and why there's a whole career in sharing science with others.

Wednesday 23 March, 15.35-16.35 - [details and register](#)

From our partners at NUA

There's a huge range of really exciting events and activities both live and on-line happening at the university over the next few months including:

Exhibitions
On-line Study at NUA events in March and April
Saturday Art Clubs
Interchange 2022

Check out the possibilities below:

<https://www.nua.ac.uk/events/>

Key websites to look at for key information on apprenticeships:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships>

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/adult-learning/apprenticeships>

<https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

9. Library News

This week is British Science Week and in keeping with this theme our books and author of the month for March are all fiction titles with a STEM focus. Both books for KS3 and KS4 have a space theme and combine excellent stories with scientific facts and concepts.

BOOK OF THE MONTH
Borrow or reserve your copy today!

KS3

Sometimes, there's something worse than being alone...

Space is a dangerous place and when his dad's mission goes wrong, can Jamie prove that he's a hero too?

FAMILY • ADVENTURE • SPACE

STEM/SPACE • ROMANCE • SURVIVAL

KS4

Alex Scarrow, our author of the month, has a variety of Sci-Fi books with something for all ages. *TimeRiders* (Year 7+) is a time-travel adventure, great for fans of Alex Rider. The *Plague* trilogy (Year 9+) is a survival horror series based on a world-wide pandemic.

Finally, *Last Light*, is a survival doomsday story, recommended for our sixth form readers. If you are looking for an action-packed adventure, you can't go wrong with a book from Alex Scarrow!

**AUTHOR OF THE MONTH:
ALEX SCARROW**

SPECIAL AGENTS
TIME TRAVEL
HISTORY

SURVIVAL
HORROR
VIRUS

THRILLER
DISASTER
APOCALYPSE

WE ARE LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY FROM THE END

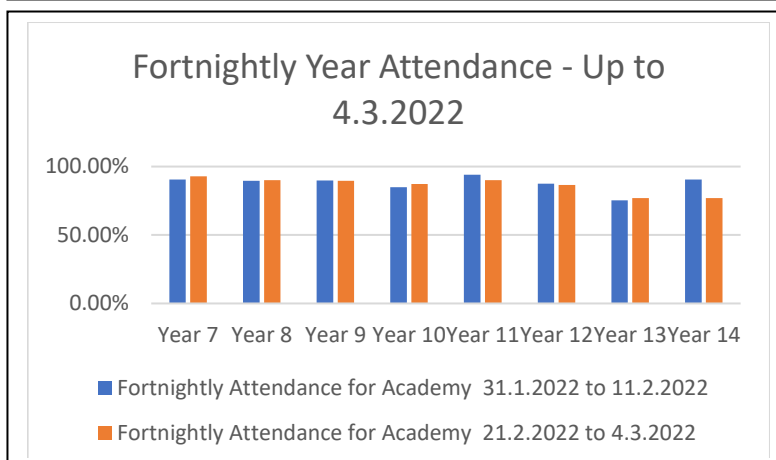
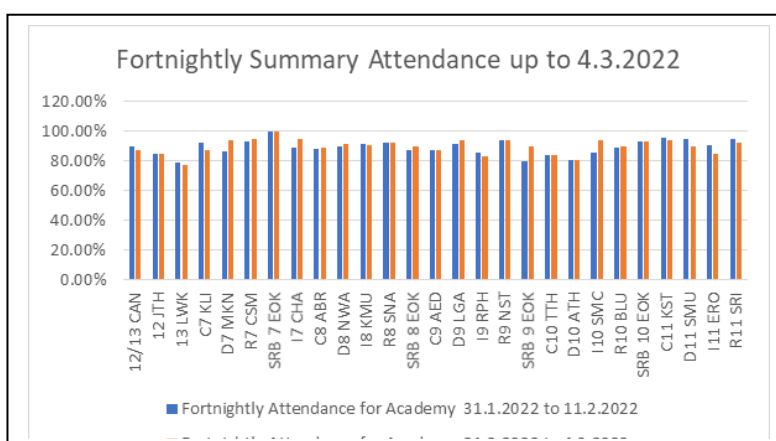
THRILLER
DISASTER
APOCALYPSE

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance

12/13 CAN	87.45%
12 JTH	85.06%
13 LWK	77.35%
C7 KLI	87.05%
D7 MKN	94.25%
R7 CSM	95.23%
SRB 7 EOK	100.00%
I7 CHA	94.44%
C8 ABR	89.00%
D8 NWA	91.20%
I8 KMU	90.36%
R8 SNA	92.22%
SRB 8 EOK	90.00%
C9 AED	87.20%
D9 LGA	93.75%
I9 RPH	83.40%
R9 NST	93.89%
SRB 9 EOK	90.00%
C10 TTH	84.23%
D10 ATH	80.74%
I10 SMC	93.65%
R10 BLU	89.87%
SRB 10 EOK	93.33%
C11 KST	93.75%
D11 SMU	90.00%
I11 ERO	84.48%
R11 SRI	94.60%

Year 7	92.85%
Year 8	90.14%
Year 9	89.53%
Year 10	87.18%
Year 11	90.02%
Year 12	86.48%
Year 13	76.98%
Year 14	76.92%



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 21 February 2022 to 4 March 2022. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Just to remind you that if you have any changes to contact numbers, address etc, please let us know as soon as possible, in order that these details can be updated on our system.

Please continue to use our student absence email address to notify us of any absences, appointments etc. student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's News

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 my reflection today, I have involved a poem by Catherine Pulsifer and its very encouraging:

You developed your goals and now have a plan
You know deep in your heart that you can
You may feel at times that you have failed
But by persevering you will fill your sail.

Continue to take it step by step
The goals you set are your prep
When progress is slow and you are feeling down
Keep moving forward and hold your ground.

When obstacles are around every turn
You must stay focused on what you yearn
You see success you will find
When you persevere and focus clear in your mind.

The mountain may seem overwhelming
Your dreams out of sight
But determination brings on a great night
Persevere and keep moving forward
Never doubt that the day will come

You can make it, keep going.

You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. Have a great week. God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain