

Open Academy Update 1 April 2022
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

This week I want to thank all of you who have replied to our consultation around the banning of mobiles being present / used in school time – well over 85% of responses have been in support of our suggestion – on top of that a few would like us to have gone further with a total ban – i.e. not allowing them in school with just a couple of people arguing for the status quo. In the light of the latest ‘Insta-craze’ which has arisen amongst a few students in Year 8 and Year 9, which involves flicking coins at knuckles to break the skin, I think it is clear that our actions are both timely and necessary.

So, starting immediately we return for the summer term, we will be rigorously enforcing our long standing written phone policy with a refreshed campaign that we are calling ‘If we see it or hear it, you will lose it’. Phones must be switched off and in students bags or coats at all times and no headphones or wireless devices will be acceptable either. In order to facilitate this, we would also like to remind parents that if you need to contact a student during the day with urgent messages, it is vital that you speak to the school reception. If you need to get a message to your child which is not urgent, can we ask that you text them after the school day has finished. We appreciate your support on this issue. Mr Wilkinson will be sending a separate letter out to clarify the policy as we return.

More changes will be noticeable as we return for the summer term in that we will be changing the lunchtime arrangements to accommodate the longer examinations in the afternoons. From our return Year 7s and 12/13 will join Year 11 on first lunch. Year 8 will have the middle lunch to themselves and Year 9 and 10 will have the final lunch slot in preparation for next year. I know it will take some adjustment, however we are looking forward to this step forward next term.

	Current	Proposed	Impact
12:30 – 1:00	Year 7, 12 and 13	Year 7,11,12 and 13	All students doing exams can get early lunch. Year 7 into lecture theatre. Year 7 have split break lesson at the moment.
1:00 – 1:30	Year 8 and 9	Year 8	Reduce number of students with split lesson at lunchtime by half.
1:30 – 2:00	Year 10 and 11	Year 9 and 10	Year 9 have no more split lessons. Year 10 take atrium, year 9 in lecture theatre.

Speaking of the canteen I am sorry to inform you that prices are going up after Easter. We are blessed with a really strong caterer in Aspens. Jess and the team work hard to deliver food the students enjoy at the best price. However, the overheads for the caterers are increasing as rapidly as everything else at the moment and as the allowance for free school meals rises by around 6% so will the price of our meals and drinks. We will share more detailed information as we return, but I thought I should flag this up now.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some key members of staff this term, so finally before I wish you happy Easter, I would just like to thank Mrs Tomsett who has been supporting students here for over 16 years for all her hard work. I would also like to thank Mrs Reynolds for her fantastic tech teaching of a generation of students since 2007 (don’t worry Year 11 – she’ll be back to support you after the holiday), and finally the warmest farewell to Ms Reed who many of you will know well through her role as safeguarding lead. Ms Reed has ensured that we have a strong culture of safeguarding at Open and we wish her all the best in the next phase of her career.

So, as we say farewell to valued staff members of staff and another spring term, all there is left for me to do is to wish you a lovely Easter.

Jon Ford - Principal

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1. Year 7

We start with some positive news this week regarding those students who achieved 100% attendance last term (September to December).

Unfortunately, it has taken until now for us to get the badges delivered, but achieving their Bronze Attendance star are:

Rianna Aldous, Ross Brown, Alex Clark, Sasha-Mai Patrick, Luke Smith, Alfie Swatman and Kaitlin Williams.

Ria Wilsea and Tiffany Scott organised a cake and book sale for the DEC Ukraine appeal on Tuesday this week. They raised just over £70 which is amazing – well done girls!

Over the last week, we have amassed a grand total of 528 achievement points which is amazing. Even more incredible, is that we have gained 5,198 achievement points this half term!

Our Top 5 Achieving students this week are:

Jayce Brighton, Ross Brown, Kieran Sinclair, Kiera Paul and Evie Timbers. Well done!

As we move into the Easter holidays, please remind students that hoodies and coats should no longer be needed inside the academy, and they will need to be removed whilst in the building.

Again, as with previous newsletter updates, please continue to remind students to bring a re-usable water bottle for them to use throughout the day.

Finally, enjoy the Easter break and keep safe!

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mrs Middleton and Mr Hawkins – Assistant Heads of Year 7

2. Year 8

WOW! We made it! The end of yet another term, with so many amazing things to celebrate. Whilst sitting here writing this, shocked that we only have one more term left of this academic year until our wonderful Year 8s move into Year 9. This week has seen the Year 8s take in their stride some rearranged assessments, in which the year team were proud of the students ability to follow the examination procedures so well.

This week has also seen our Year 8 Head Girl thrive when representing the year at a full council meeting, so well done Isi. We would like to congratulate the following students who were selected to attend the rewards breakfast this week. The reasons that students were selected were due to having the highest number of LEARNT points or highest rubrics score for homework this term. Another group of students were also selected for impressing the year team in a number of ways, including improving their attitude to learning. So, congratulations to the following students:

Tyler Paul, Luke Edge, Latifa Cassama, Theo Powley, Kayne Banham, Grace Sawicki, Areen Mohammed Ali, Amy Toms, Katy Sutherland, Lucy Rose Brown, Brian Bolaney, Callum White, Rebecca Shapcott, Roseanne Gardener, Honey Robertson, Joel Mace, Ruby Anderson.

Mr Walters' tutor group also were awarded for having the highest attendance as a whole tutor group in year 8. We hope you enjoyed your hot chocolate and marshmallows!

We would also like to remind students that as we come into the summer term it is vital that they have the correct uniform. As always please refer to the uniform policy on the website. If there are ever any queries please do contact the year team. We are forever striving to be the best year group in the whole academy and strongly believe that having the correct uniform and having pride in this sets students up for a good day.

We have had a big input to the year group on the importance of being kind and respectful to one another. We would like to reiterate this to all of our students and would like the message and well known saying of "if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all" to be something that all of our students follow. We truly believe that every young person has the right to come to school to learn, be happy and be safe. We would like to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope that students have a well-deserved rest!

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

3. Year 9

The final day of the final week of this term. 2 weeks and 2 days awaits with students returning to Open on Wednesday, 20 April. It has been a fantastic week with its share of strange snowy weather, but it ends on a great note with it once again being a non-school uniform day.

Achievement points - a really great week with a great number of points flooding in across the tutor groups. The current tally for this week is:

- AED – 93
- LGA – 121 (Congratulations for receiving the highest attendance in the Year group (91.32%). They were treated to a special breakfast on Wednesday)
- RPH – 59
- NST – 124 (Massive congratulations to all those in R9 NST who have received the highest amount of achievement points this week in the whole school!)

Congratulations to the following students who received their Bronze Award badge for hitting 100% attendance last term. They now have the chance to progress to their Silver and Gold Awards:

Shout outs this week are:

Blake Bircham, Scarlett Bush, Rosie Coman, Lucy Edmondson, Elisa Kit, Kai Mann, Emmy Ramabulana, Ellie Rowley, Izaak Scott, Emily Summers

English - Harry Gray & Tallulah Brickley are doing amazingly well in lessons with lots of engagement in the learning.

Food Tech - Leo Williams has put in a fantastic effort in lessons this week and created some fantastic food including some delicious kebabs.

Music film soundtracks – Year 9s have done an amazing job. We've had James Bond jumping off rooftops, werewolves jump scaring characters and raining landscapes being created as a backdrop to a couple falling in love! Parents can listen to these tracks, as the recordings can be found on the Music Channel in Teams under files.

Following on from last week's newsletter and the message sent out to students on Monday, if a student does not turn up to a timetabled HUB session they will receive a 30 minute detention after school the following day. HUB is something that is a timetabled lesson and missing it will negatively affect the student's attendance. If a student does not have any work to complete they will just need to register and then they can leave.

Also, if a student continues to miss an afterschool detention they will receive a day in isolation (they will receive break/lunch and work to complete). The student will have 2 chances to attend a 1 hour detention. If missed then the next day they will be in isolation. For further details please read the previous newsletter or get in contact with either Mr Pickup or Mrs Smith.

We hope you have the best break possible and that the weather sorts itself out. We look forward to welcoming back the year group on Wednesday, 20 April for the penultimate half term. I'm sure it will be a fantastic one with lots of great learning taking place. Thank you again for all your great support.

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

4. Year 10

We would like to say thank you to all students and parents for your support this half term. It is much appreciated. It has been tricky with Covid still hanging around. Our students have worked hard and pushed through it.

Lots to celebrate today -

The students with 100% attendance in the Autumn term are:

Tommy Bluett, Isabel Bush, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Hayden Cobbett, Bradley and Luke Copping, Ryan Howes, Hannah Jordan, Bryn Norris, Dylan Scott, Zac Skells, Samuel Yellop. Bronze attendance badges were handed out today.

The following students received a reward breakfast for having the most achievement points or high standard of homework and/or for just working really hard this term:

Dalia Rosca, Mia Crowe, Owen Middleton, Tommy Bluett, Erin O'Neill, Lauren Aldous, Jayden Muzembe, Rose Wheatley, Toby Thompson, Hannah Jordan, Caitlin Parker, Mason Perriton, Torri Ashton, Ashton Buck, Leefna Silva and Corey Sorrento. Well done to you all.

Well done to Ms McEvoy/Mrs Reynold's tutor group who have had the best attendance this term and have enjoyed fish and chips at lunchtime today.

Mrs Reynolds is leaving us today and on behalf of Year 10 we would like to wish her well for the future and thank her for all her hard work with her tutor group and Year 10s.

The top ten achievers this week are: Tommy Bluett, Toby Cane, Mia Crowe, Isla Gardner, Kelsey Holman, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Oliver King, Lisa Kracewicz, Owen Middleton and Erin O'Neill. Well done to you all.

Our top ten achievers this half term are: Kimora Alexander, Tommy Bluett, Bradley Copping, Mia Crowe, James Hoye, Owen Middleton, William Orr, Dalia Rosca, Daniel Smajda and Toby Thompson.

Our football team played in the semi-final on Tuesday night but unfortunately lost in a tense penalty shoot out to Hellesdon. We played really well as a team and roll on next season!

Just to let you know that assessments will start on Monday, 25 April for Year 10 students. All students have had a chance to have training on Seneca Premium during tutor time this week.

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

5. Year 11

We did it – the final Spring term of secondary school! The overwhelming majority of students are working really hard towards their GCSEs and are really doing themselves proud. I'm looking forward to getting back to our Summer term where we will be doing the final revision and the start of the exams.

The prom committee handed out Easter eggs to the lucky winners today and have raised a nice amount towards prom – well done for all your hard work Year 11 – special shout outs to Jess Ramm, Mackenzie Culley & Izzy Taylor for all your hard work selling tickets and handing out the prizes.

We were able to hand out some prizes to the Year 11s today as well:

Top 5 LEARNT points of the term:

Adrain Colcer
Emily Perrett
Sam Atkinson
Alex Money
Mia Baxter

Top 5 Homeworks:

Tom Walker
Jess Ramm
Adrain Colcer
Leah Walker
Izzy Taylor

Year Office 'Wild Cards'

Kye Cooper
Jess Druce
Ema Vaskyte
Sophie Smith

Really well done those students for working really hard – you deserve your Easter eggs!

I hope all of the Year 11s get a chance to have a relaxing Easter break and get a chance to revise a little too!

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

6. 6th Form

What a fantastic term filled with great lessons and great experiences. Enjoy your two weeks off, but please remember to check in on TEAMS for work teachers have set. As I write this newsletter, my Year 12s have just dissected some fish and my classroom is smelling delightful! But this is another example of why life in OA6 is so varied and brilliant. Little did my students know that this morning they would be pulling out fish lamellae and hearts!



UEA

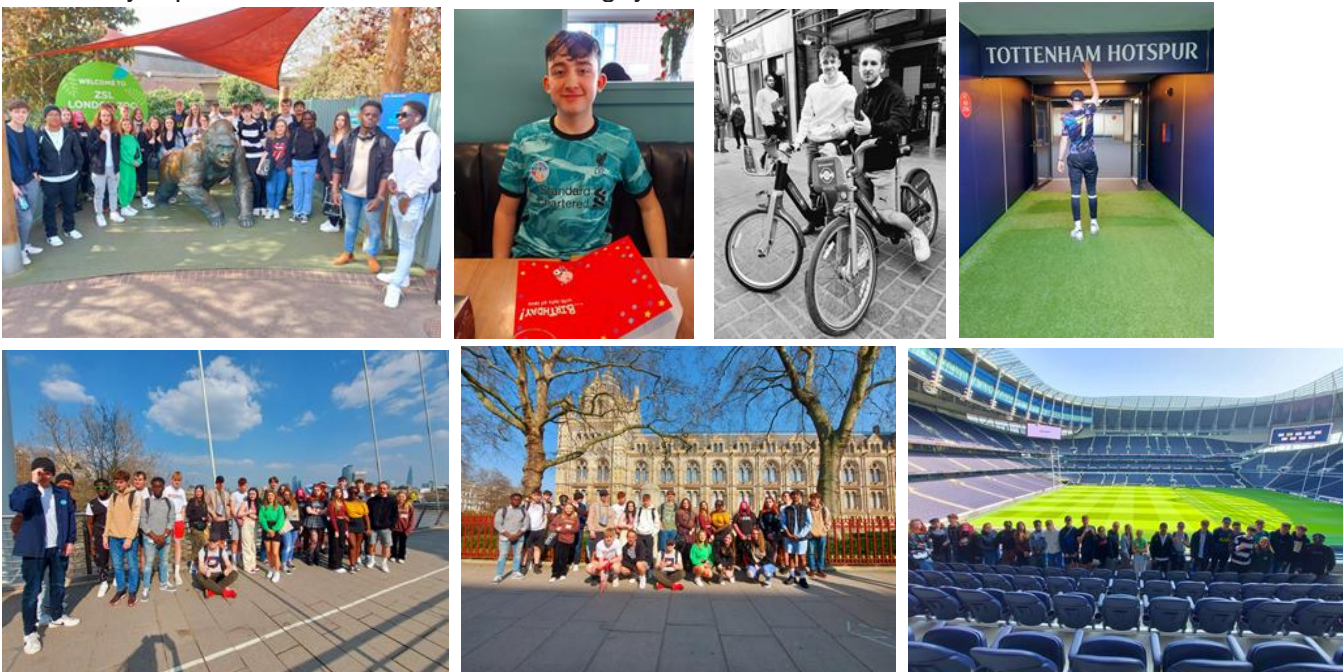
Ms Davis has arranged for the whole of Year 12 to visit the UEA campus on the first Friday back after Easter (Friday, 22 April). A coach will be picking students up at the start of the day and will return to school at the end of the day as normal. A letter will be going home this week regarding this trip.

6th Form Phone Number

I have a 6th Form mobile which I will be keeping on me for emergency contacts: 07949 455885. Please feel free to contact me.

London Residential Trip

Last week the Psychology and Sports students were lucky enough to attend a 3 day residential trip to London. We had an amazing time visiting London Zoo (where the students were tested on their recent psychology knowledge about Pavlov's dogs and conditioning). We visited the unbelievable Tottenham Hotspur stadium, as well as having some time to be tourists in Covent Garden and Southbank. A great time was had by all and I was very impressed with how all students conducted themselves and the way in which they represented the school! Awesome guys!



All that's left for me to say is HAPPY EASTER – eat all the chocolate and rest ready for our final term of the academic year!

Mrs Molloy – Head of 6th Form

7. Library

National Reading Champions

This week we took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz. This is an annual competition that asks students who read widely and are book enthusiasts to compete based on their knowledge of children's books. We competed against 26 schools across the country and our students put in a fantastic effort, showcasing their reading knowledge and having some fun too! Congratulations to the following students who represented the school:

Maddie Anderson, Kate Skedge, Rosie Gardner and Rebecca Shapcott

Easter Read for Refugees Challenge

Following the fantastic fundraising efforts of students this week, we would also like to highlight the following reading and fundraising challenge that is being run over the Easter holidays:

We are inviting pupils to participate in the [Read for Refugees Sunflower Challenge](#), organised by librarians across the UK with support from the School Library Association.

After ten million Ukrainians have had to leave their homes, we are asking students to raise money for the [United Nations Refugee Agency](#) by getting sponsored to read as much they can.

The overall aim is to keep children reading during the Easter break when they're not in school and to do something positive in the face of tragedy.

Students could ask for donations from friends and family per page, chapter, or book read; by hours spent reading; or simply for a flat donation to support their involvement. All sponsors can donate directly on the project's [JustGiving page](#) (and, should they wish, leave messages of encouragement).

If they wish, students can download a black and white sunflower picture (copies available in the library or [can be printed here](#)), and colour in a large petal for each donation. Our school will display our 'completed' sunflowers to represent the money we have raised to support refugees in need.

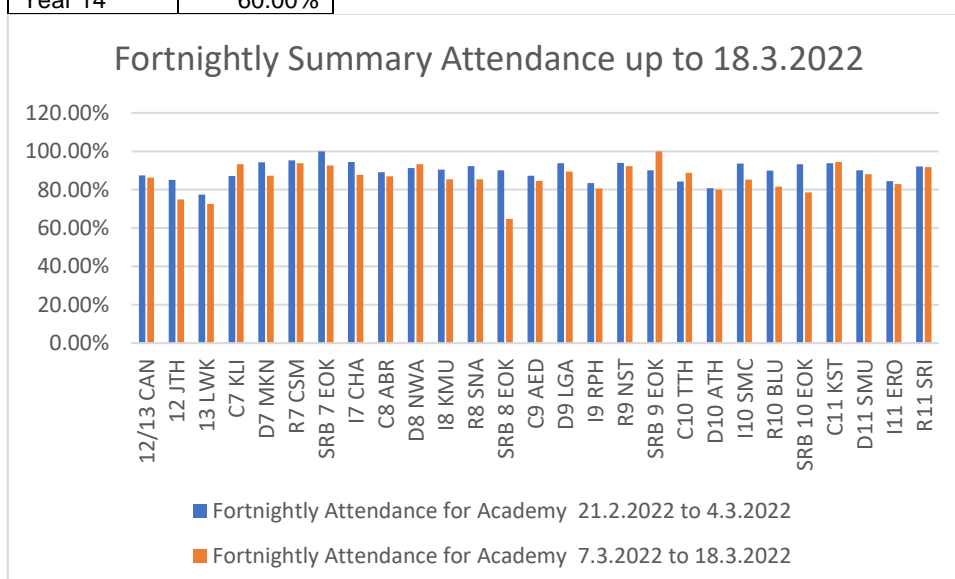
For more information please visit the Read for Refugees website: <https://www.sla.org.uk/read-for-refugees>

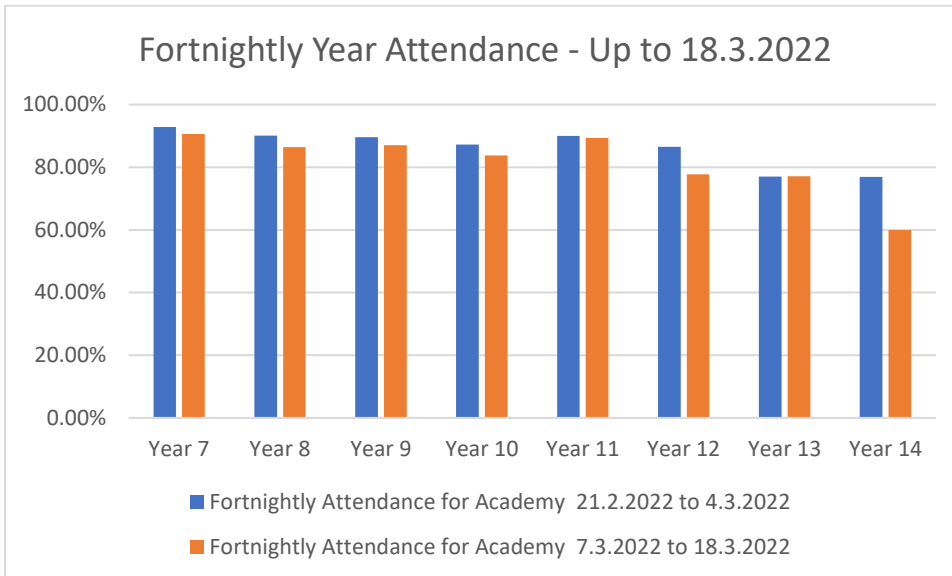
Miss Ling – Librarian

8. Attendance

12/13 CAN	86.25%
12 JTH	74.83%
13 LWK	72.49%
C7 KLI	93.18%
D7 MKN	87.22%
R7 CSM	93.72%
SRB 7 EOK	92.50%
I7 CHA	87.77%
C8 ABR	86.98%
D8 NWA	93.32%
I8 KMU	85.43%
R8 SNA	85.45%
SRB 8 EOK	64.71%
C9 AED	84.50%
D9 LGA	89.47%
I9 RPH	80.64%
R9 NST	92.20%
SRB 9 EOK	100.00%
C10 TTH	88.68%
D10 ATH	80.00%
I10 SMC	85.20%
R10 BLU	81.57%
SRB 10 EOK	78.57%
C11 KST	94.38%
D11 SMU	88.00%
I11 ERO	82.86%
R11 SRI	91.73%

Year 7	90.64%
Year 8	86.41%
Year 9	87.02%
Year 10	83.71%
Year 11	89.35%
Year 12	77.72%
Year 13	77.11%
Year 14	60.00%





Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 7 March 2022 to 18 March 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 186 students who achieved 100% for the month of March 2022. These students will be awarded achievement points. Many Congratulations!

Mrs Ganson – Attendance Officer

9. Chaplain’s Reflection

I’ve been thinking a lot about hope over the last few days. In our lives we need hope to keep going through all the circumstances that we face. We all know what it’s like to look forward to something. Maybe a night out, catching up with friends or even receiving something new. Looking forward to something is hope in its simplest form. We all need to plan something that we can look forward to no matter what place we find ourselves in.

As we approach this time of the year, there is a story of hope that we can look to that will encourage us. On good Friday, Jesus was crucified on a cross and went through an agonizing death, carrying the sin of the whole earth on his shoulders. The followers and supporters of Jesus were absolutely devastated as they believed He was the messiah and He would be the one to rescue them from Roman persecution. Any hope that they had seemed to have died with Jesus.

It didn’t end there though thankfully. God raised Jesus from the dead and all hope was restored. In our lives we can be persecuted by life itself. Problems, tragedies and difficulties often come our way and because of this, our hope can be stripped away. Maybe some of our hopes and dreams have died and we think that’s the end. I just want to encourage you, don’t give up, keep hoping because, as in the Easter story, when all hope is gone, your dreams can still come alive again. Keep hoping for a better day, keep trusting for an answer to that difficult situation and that better day will come.

Have a great Easter. God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain