

**Open Academy Update 22 April 2022**  
**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.**

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term.

And with only three staff COVID absence as we return, I am hoping that this term will see us finally move on from the pandemic and fully back to usual service.

Thank you for your responses to our phone consultation. We are confident that we have the backing of a good majority of parents and the student council so from this week we are now asking that phones are switched off and in students' bags for their time in school. Our approach will be – if we see it or hear it, we will confiscate it.

In the first instance the student will be able to collect the phone at the end of the day from reception, but repeated breaking of this rule will mean that we will ask you to come in to collect it and to encourage your child to follow our phone rules. We would very much appreciate your support on this approach and, as it is actually already academy policy, there is no change to what you signed up to as parents as your child started at the academy, we are just being really clear that we will now fully implement the long standing policy at all times. In this way we hope to start helping to reduce students' reliance on their phones, reduce inappropriate phone behaviours, online bullying and harassment and inappropriate use of phone cameras and videos etc.

Another huge thank you too for your efforts in ensuring that students attend in full uniform. We know many parents choose the academy precisely because we have a smart formal uniform policy and we believe the uniform is an essential leveller to remove distraction and comparison between students. We will be in contact where items of uniform are not correct or missing, but I must say the start of term has been the best ever with less than a handful of students not quite getting things right.

This term will see the all important external exams returning fully for the first time for 3 years, and as always we will do all we can to support the Year 11 and 13 students to perform at their best – to this end we will be changing the Year 11 lunch arrangements in the next couple of weeks and as they complete subjects we will shuffle the timetable to ensure they focus on subjects to be tested towards the end of the exam period. We will once again this year aim to run the Year 11 internship program – where those who volunteer to go through our intern training for 2 weeks can then be paid for 3 weeks to come back and support the younger students. Last years' Year 12 found this a great preparation for 6<sup>th</sup> Form so we will do all we can to make it a success again this year.

Later in the term there will be an extended induction for Year 6 into 7 where we are hoping to welcome the new students for 3 days. This term will also see the welcome return of camp for the Year 7 students, and work experience for Year 10. With an exciting guild program for the last few weeks of term for all, sports day, prom and a key stage 3 celebration event – this term is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and busy terms for a long time.

As the holidays came to an end, I caught my first Sea Bass of the year off the North Norfolk coast (only a little one), which is a sure sign that summer is on its way, so after celebrating the renewal of Easter I hope you are looking forward to an exciting summer term ahead. We have opened up new social areas for break and lunchtime to ensure we can make the most of the sun as it arrives, and we are set well for all the excitement to come.

Please do now enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford - Principal

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### 1. Covid Guidance

As we move to learn to live safely with COVID-19 we will continue to follow our risk assessment and continue to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

There is no longer a requirement to take lateral flow tests and we are no longer provided with test kits to send home. Therefore, in order to support us with reducing the spread of COVID-19 we ask that if your child is unwell especially with one of the following symptoms they remain at home until they feel well again:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

If they take a positive LFT then students should remain at home for at least 3 days or until they do not have a high temperature.

Mrs Appleby – Business Manager

### 2. Year 7

Welcome back to the Summer Term!

Before Easter, Mr Ford gave information about implementing a firmer stance on mobile phones within the academy from this term. Students have been informed of this and have adhered well on the whole. Students are still able to have their phones with them on their journeys to/from the Academy, but will need to be switched off, and in their bags whilst on site. Please remind students of this and if you need to urgently contact them during the day, please call reception and a message can be delivered to them.

With the weather warming up, coats and hoodies should not be worn inside the building. However, if the British summer does its usual thing, a navy/black sweatshirt may be worn outside for PE lessons. Continuing on the uniform front, students are expected to bring a bag every day so that they can carry their PE kit on the relevant days, stationery for learning and also a reading book.

There are still a number of students without a bottle. As the weather warms up, please remind students to bring a re-usable bottle so that they can continue to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Despite being back from Easter for only two and a half days (up until midday today), Year 7 have gained an incredible 1,072 achievement points which is absolutely amazing!!

Our Top 5 achieving students this week are:

Maddie Anderson, Ross Brown, Rodrigo Furia, Mia Palmer and Kieran Sinclair. Well done!

Also, continuing on a positive note, congratulations to Mr Knight's tutor group, D7MKN who had the highest attendance.

Finally, we have an exciting project starting up to restore and recreate the allotment. We have some very keen volunteers who are helping to clear the weeds and overgrown grass within the allotment area on Monday. If anybody else is interested in getting involved with this opportunity, please see Mrs Pearsall or Mr Mundy.

Keep up the great start to the term and let's keep this positivity rolling!

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 7

Mrs Middleton and Mr Hawkins – Assistant Heads of Year 7

### **3. Year 8**

A warm welcome back to all in Year 8. We hope that you had a good holiday, and the opportunity to both rest and to enjoy yourself, especially in the second week when we had such lovely weather.

We have made a really positive start back, with students ready to learn and actively engaging with their learning from the very first lesson of the week on Wednesday. An excellent example of this was 8E history, who carried on as if they had never been away, did focused individual work, engaged in complex discussion, and provided a model of excellent behaviour and learning in their classes.

Just a few reminders:

Getting to lessons on time. Assessment data from this year has shown a strong correlation between punctuality and improved progress, and lateness and slower rates of progress. There is no reason to be late for lessons in our building – you can get from anywhere to anywhere in two minutes. Note that break time in the morning is from 10.05 to 10.25 (not 10.30), so students should be in lessons from 10.25.

Students have worked well with the new phone policy, as a year group very few students have been reminded to put their phones/headphones away. Well done all. They will be challenged if phones are seen or heard as part of our 'soft start' to this policy so that we can get used to it before it is fully implemented. This policy will help to improve social and communicative skills, which is something that students have asked for in student voice meetings, and which are vital for their personal development and to enhance their future opportunities both at Open Academy, and in further education and employment.

Uniform for most students has been really good this week, but please remember to make sure that hoodies or coats are removed when entering the building, and that shirts are tucked in. Plain black trousers should be worn pulled up to the waist and it is permitted to wear a plain thin black belt with an unobtrusive buckle. Plain black knee length skirt. Not "skinny" style, hipsters or with unnecessary accoutrements (extra zips, buckles etc.) If you are smart and ready to learn, this translates into a positive start to the day, and good classroom performance.

Rules on jewellery have been communicated and expectations on this should be followed. The vast majority do follow these expectations. Students will be challenged if they do not conform to the uniform policy, but we should not need to challenge them on this. Enjoy your weekend.

Mr Crawford and Ms Whitwood – Heads of Year 8

Mrs Lamb – Assistant Head of Year 8

#### 4. Year 9

We have now begun the final 3rd of the school year with the 5th half term. One of the shortest at only 5 weeks and a few days. It should be a great journey moving towards the May half term with lots going on in school. Very shortly students will be having their parents evening on Tuesday, 26 April and then they will have the opportunity to choose their options for their future GCSE's.

Learnt points:

A wonderful start with the points flooding in across the tutor groups. The current tally for this week (3 days) is:

AED – 35  
LGA – 39  
RPH – 21  
NST – 35

Parents evening on Tuesday, 26th April will be held online, you should have received a link to make an appointment with the appropriate teachers. If there are any issues then please get in contact with either Mrs Smith or Mr Pickup.

This will be a great opportunity for you to discuss what each subject looks like at GCSE and have any questions answered. After this evening the options forms will be handed out in school and once complete to be handed back into Mr Ward.

There will be plenty of time to make decisions and if a wrong choice was made then there will be time for this to be corrected.

Hub sessions have been re-timetabled this week so please check your child's timetable to see when they are due to attend HUB if they should be. The expectation is that these are lessons and must be attended. Failure to do so will have a negative effect on the student's attendance and if a session is missed they will receive a 30 min detention.

The expectation is that they arrive on time, log on to the computer and complete any homework or outstanding work. Once done or if they have no work to complete then they will be able to leave.

Also, as some students struggle to attend detentions after school it has been decided that if they miss a one hour detention twice in a row they will receive one day in isolation. They will still receive work to complete and given time for break/lunch. If you wish to know more please get in contact with either Mrs Smith or Mr Pickup.

Finally, some students have been having an issue with getting to their lessons and have been truanting them. This has been a slowly growing problem for some Year 9 students and to try and keep the approach clear and consistent if a student has not gone to their lesson and does not have a valid reason they will receive a 30 minute after school detention.

We hope you have had a fantastic break in the last 2 weeks in the sun. We are looking forward to getting back into the swing of school over the next few weeks and enjoy the successes of the year group. Thank you again for all your great support.

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

## 5. Year 10

Welcome back to the Summer Term and hopefully the sun will shine. Assessments have started this week and the students have made an impressive start with the expectations that go alongside exams. We do expect students to be in full uniform to sit the exams and if they are not in the correct uniform then spare uniform will be provided. This is essential as preparation for their GCSEs next year. Can you please ensure your child is in correct uniform every day, to reiterate leggings, hoodies, excessive piercings are not allowed. There is no need for coats in school now due to the weather getting warmer.

We have been enforcing our mobile phone policy of if we see it or hear it then students' mobile phones will be taken away from them. Please remind your child to keep their mobiles in their bags switched off – thank you.

Work experience forms need to be handed in by the end of next week – please encourage your child to find a placement and get their forms in.

Photography trips are going ahead to Norwich Cathedral next Thursday and Friday.

The trip to the Museum of Zoology for Triple Science/GCSE Art students is going ahead on Thursday 5th May. Please return your forms by the end of next week.

Mr Lambert – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roe – Assistant Head of Year 10

## 6. Year 11

We have had a great start to the summer term with students arriving back to school feeling positive and focused on their upcoming exams.

A few changes this half-term to be aware of are:

- Period 6 Revision Hubs are now optional; however, I would urge students to make the most of them where appropriate, as it's a great opportunity to revise with friends and get advice and help from teachers.
- As the weather is improving hoodies/coats will at no point be allowed to be worn around the academy. Students should take their coat off, if they have one, when they arrive to school and should be wearing full school uniform including their blazer, black shoes and no leggings.
- Phones are no longer permitted during social times and should be kept in students' bags whilst in school.

We've had a wonderful start with LEARNT points in Year 11 and our top 5 students this week are:

Chloe Smith  
Alfie Deadman  
Annie Tipple  
Lola Cook  
Amber Mawby

Well done – keep up the good work!

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 11

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 11

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

Welcome back everyone! I hope you are all well rested and full of Easter chocolate. I am currently 95% Cadburys egg, so am feeling full of energy for the new term!

Just a few reminders this week:

### **PPE3 exams**

Unfortunately, I made a mistake in my last newsletter by saying that students would all sit a final set of formal exams before the end of this term. This is not the case. No formal exams have been planned, however teachers will most likely still set in class assessments. Students should speak to their individual subject teachers to determine if and when these will be. With regard to the predicted grades that we will enter onto student UCAS application, these will most likely be based on PPE1 exams that they will sit in Year 13. I hope that all makes sense!

### **National Universities Week – 23 - 27 May**

Pre-registration for this national online event is now open. A full on programme of online information sessions and Q&As dedicated to helping your students with everything they need to know about going to university. <https://nationaluniversityweek.co.uk/>

### **UCAS Reply dates**

Year 13s that have applied to UCAS should be getting ready to make their firm and insurance choices, if they haven't done so already. I know many students have been visiting universities recently, ready to make these final decisions. The deadline dates for making choices are based on when students get the last decision in from universities or colleges. **Students should check their application to see their personal deadline.**

If the last decision on or before **19 May 2022**, the reply date is **9 June 2022** (except if using extra to find a place).

If the last decision on or before **14 July 2022**, the reply date is **21 July 2022** (including extra choices).

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

## 8. Library

Welcome back to a new term. We have lots planned for the coming months and today we would like to share details of the clubs that will be running in the library over the summer term. Please find all the details below!

### **Books & Biscuits**

#### **When: Thursday lunchtimes (for all year groups)**

This term our book clubs will be shadowing a national book award to help find the best book released in the last 18 months. Each week we will focus on one of the shortlisted books, talk about it and complete an activity based on the book. Come along to an introductory session on Thursday, 28 April for more information and to sign up.

More information about the award can be found here: <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

### **Warhammer Club (New for Summer Term!)**

#### **When: Monday's 3:15-4:15**

Warhammer is a tabletop game set in a fantasy and sci-fi world. As part of the club you will learn about the Warhammer world, be taught how to play the game, paint your own miniature figures to play with, and play games against each other.

This club will start in May and places are limited. Please speak to Miss Ling if you are interested.





# WARHAMMER

**Monday**  
**3:15-4:15pm**

Learn about the game and lore.

Build and paint your own miniature figures.

Play against each other!

New Club for Summer Term.  
Places limited.  
Speak to Miss Ling if you are interested.

## Library Club

**Wednesday-Friday 3:00-4:00**

The library is open for students to use after school. Laptops are available for homework and revision.

\*A reminder that Manga & Comics club is not running this term but will return next academic year. Students are of course still welcome to meet in the library informally if they would like to.

Miss Ling – Librarian

## 9. Careers

Year 10 students have just over a week to return their work experience placement forms for processing. If you have a child in Year 10 who is still arranging their placement for the week commencing 4 July (Monday to Friday) please encourage them to return their form to Dr Davies (S12) by next Friday, 29 April. University Technical College Norfolk (Old Hall Road, Norwich) are hosting a STEM careers fair on 12 May 2022 from 4-6pm. This will be of particular interest to students and their families who are interested in pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths as well as scientific careers in the Health Industries. To register please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/303564739307>

Mercedes-Benz are currently recruiting for apprentices across a variety of roles, in our nationwide network of retailers and dealers. They have vacancies for light vehicle and heavy vehicle technicians, customer Service Experts and Retail Parts Advisors.

If you have a son or daughter who may be interested in doing an apprenticeship, please direct them towards the website at <https://mercedes-benztraining.co.uk/mercedes-benz-academy-programme.aspx>

Using your home postcode, you can search for vacancies in your local areas and then make an application. Vacancies are constantly changing, with new positions being added regularly. If a student is unable to find something in their local area initially, please do encourage them to check back regularly as new positions may become available. Apprenticeships are open to students who are 16 and over (they must be 16 to start the programme in September, so can apply whilst they are 15), and ideally Mercedes-Benz look for students with a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at GCSE. The company does offer

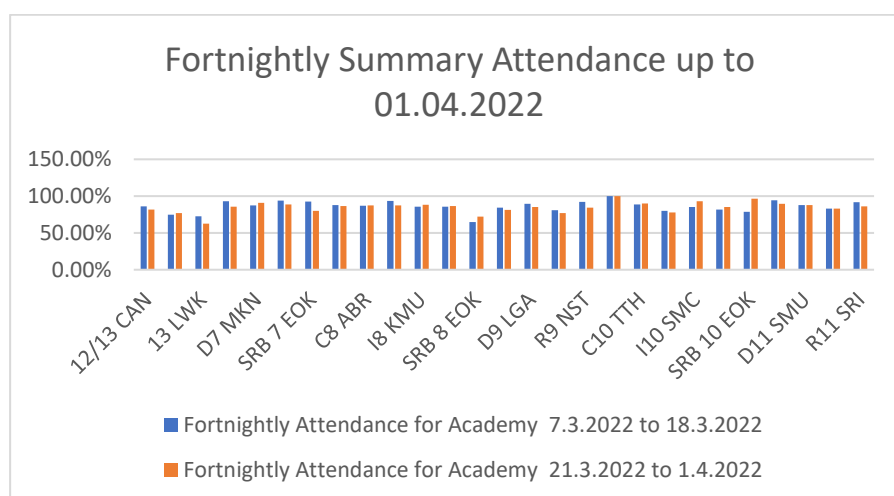
functional skills where these grades have not been achieved. Further information can be found on our website, as well as some hints and tips about writing an application.

Dr Davies  
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

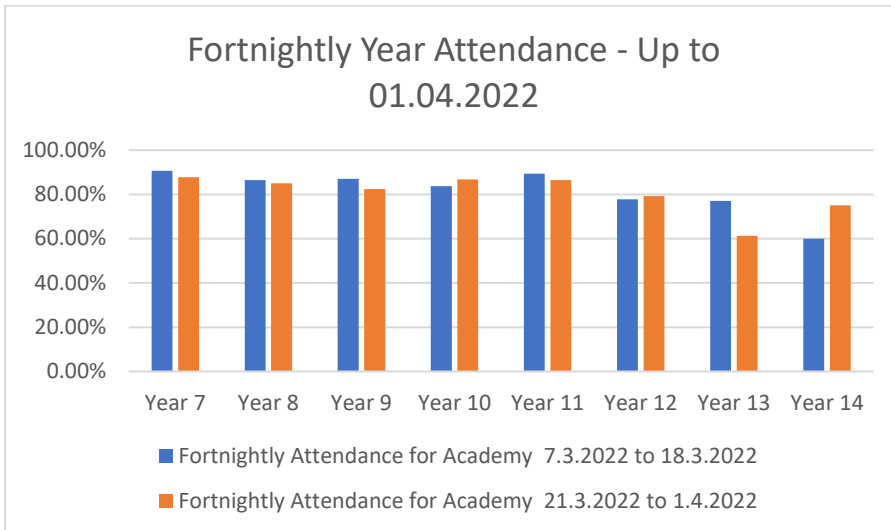
### 10. Attendance

Year 7	87.77%
Year 8	85.01%
Year 9	82.45%
Year 10	86.79%
Year 11	86.44%
Year 12	79.18%
Year 13	61.23%
Year 14	75.00%

12/13 CAN	81.55%
12 JTH	77.14%
13 LWK	62.44%
C7 KLI	85.80%
D7 MKN	90.88%
R7 CSM	88.89%
SRB 7 EOK	80.00%
I7 CHA	86.61%
C8 ABR	87.47%
D8 NWA	87.50%
I8 KMU	88.38%
R8 SNA	86.47%
SRB 8 EOK	72.06%
C9 AED	81.22%
D9 LGA	85.00%
I9 RPH	76.81%
R9 NST	84.46%
SRB 9 EOK	100.00%
C10 TTH	90.19%
D10 ATH	77.95%
I10 SMC	93.06%
R10 BLU	85.10%
SRB 10 EOK	96.30%
C11 KST	89.58%
D11 SMU	87.80%
I11 ERO	83.13%
R11 SRI	86.25%







Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 21 March 2022 to 1 April 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 165 students who have improved attendance between the months of February 2022 and March 2022. These students have been awarded achievement points.

Just a reminder for any absences, appointments etc. for your son/daughter, please could you use our email address of [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk)

### Admissions

The following new students have started with us this week:

Annalee Robinson – Year 7  
 Jasmin Cusick – Year 7  
 Emilis Vaikus – Year 8  
 Reece Cameron – Year 9

Mrs Ganson – Attendance Officer

### 11. Chaplain’s Reflection

In this week’s reflection I just want to share below with you, written by Melanie Koulouris

“Everyone has a story to tell, a lesson to teach, and wisdom to share...Life is a beautiful masterpiece bound together by your experiences. Open up and share your story; become an inspiration to others. You can make a difference because you matter. You were created with purpose. Live your life with intention, go out there and make a difference by being the difference.”

This piece of writing can be of great encouragement to us all as we all have a story to tell of life’s experiences. We all have stories to tell of how we got over problems, came through dark times and succeeded when life was difficult. Sometimes we need to look back upon our lives and realise what we have come through and how we overcame and got the victory in those times. It can really spur us on when facing new challenges

Also, I want to encourage you to tell your story to others, don’t be afraid or embarrassed of your life experiences. Your story could be the very thing that the people in your world need today. Your story may well be the inspiration for others to get through their situations too.



Have a great week, you are all in my prayers.

God bless.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain