

## Open Academy Update 6 May 2022

**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child.**

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

Welcome to our weekly newsletter and this week I will keep things much shorter after my extra-long piece last week summarising our developments.

We internally review our provision and how well we are doing in subjects, year groups and for particular groups of students. At the moment as well as our internal review of SEN provision, we are also preparing for an external trust review of our provision. We look at lessons, collect student voice and look at work – and for SEN we also ask for parent views. With that in mind then, this week parents are asked to complete a SEN feedback form created by the SEN department to capture parents views on all things support related – so if you have a student with special needs or potential needs, please do complete the link below:

"Open Academy SEND May 2022"

<https://forms.office.com/r/m07e9FqWUT>

The sun is finally trying to make an appearance but the weather is still as yet variable so we are not quite ready to switch to summer uniform yet. Students are therefore still requested to wear their blazer to and from the academy and around the academy – however teachers will be flexible in allowing student to remove blazers in class where it is warm. Around the academy, between lessons and at break and lunch students should still wear their blazer unless they are playing outside. Even when we switch to the summer uniform (meaning that students do not need their blazer), hoodies will not be allowed and, as now, students will be expected to wear their uniform correctly i.e. with their shirt tucked in to their trousers shorts or skirt. Please note as we expect the students to be formally dressed, which includes a shirt tucked in, leggings must not be worn to school.

I am pleased to report that our phone ban is starting to have an impact, with less than a dozen students having their phone confiscated each day, it appears that the message is getting across and I hope to be able to report a significant drop in online bullying in the next few weeks.

Anyway, I said I would keep it brief this week so I will stop there, now read on!

Jon Ford – Principal

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## 1. Year 9 Options

I have received 93 out of 110 options forms. It is working well and it looks like many of the student wishes will be met without too much challenge. There are 3 subjects currently at risk of not running all of which have fewer than 8 students applying for them. The 2 subjects with the fewest pupils can't run of course. Hopefully not too many people will be disappointed.

There has however been an incredible increase in the numbers of students wanting to take GCSE religious studies. There have been 3 times the number of the applicants than last year and far more applications than we have seats in a classroom for. I would be very unhappy to disappoint so many students. We would only have 10 or so places in that class normally. Therefore, I am trying to ascertain whether we can move GCSE religious studies into a different part of the curriculum outside of the compulsory core of subjects of maths, English, science, German and humanities (history or geography.) If I am successful those that picked religious studies will be able to choose it somewhere else where the class size can be much bigger and more students have the chance. If I am unsuccessful it means that many students who have chosen religious studies will not be able to take it as the class would be full. I will keep everyone informed as I try to find solutions. It is a tricky conundrum.

Only 1 other subject is oversubscribed at the moment. It is likely that sufficient students will change their mind over the coming weeks to resolve it. If not, can I remind you of the criteria that have been agreed.

Thank you for the feedback during options evening. Parents generally thought fairer than first come first served.

1. Time outs in that subject – if you are sent out perhaps it is not the right choice for you!
2. LEARN T points – if you do really well and get rewards it is probably a good choice.
3. Homework scores – the higher the homework score the more likely you are to do well

If it is still impossible to split pupils we will look at:

4. Attendance and punctuality

Pupils were informed of the criteria and none have given feedback negatively.

Mr Ward – Vice Principal

## 2. PE

As a school we always endeavour to listen to student voice and as a PE department we are proud that we were able to meet students wishes in allowing **sports leggings** to be part of the approved kit. However, we have started to notice that several students are not wearing the correct sports leggings and instead are wearing thinner fashion leggings. Students who are not in the correct kit for PE will receive a K (for Kit) next to their name. Failure to bring the correct kit to PE lessons, will result in an afterschool detention. If in doubt of what the correct type of leggings are, please speak to your child's PE teacher before purchasing.

By now all students should have bought and be wearing an Open Academy logo black polo top for PE. If there is a reason for your child not wearing this, or you need further support in purchasing this item, then please contact your child's PE teacher.

We are really pleased at how many students have the correct kit for PE, and how smart the new polo tops are. With upcoming fixtures and sporting events, having the correct kit really does give students a sense of pride and belonging.

Jewellery – can we please remind all students that wearing jewellery in PE lessons is a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other students. We therefore ask that students **remove all** jewellery before the lesson. Where the piercing is new, tape provided by the student may be worn for 6 weeks and then the piercing must be removed for lessons. Wearing tape over the piercing is still a potential hazard and therefore we expect jewellery to be removed.

We also ask students with longer hair styles to ensure hair is tied up. It is a good idea for students to have a couple of spare hair bobbles in their PE bag, in case one breaks.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Richardson - Teacher

### **3. Summer Camp**

Please ensure the balance for camp is paid in full. If you have any problems please contact the finance office or myself.

Mrs Smith – Teacher

### **4. Rhine Valley Trip**

Could all parents of Year 8 and 9 students who are going on the German trip must please communicate with me via the Rhine channel on Teams and check for a response on there.

Emails should not be sent, unless absolutely necessary. This will help to solve problems arising more efficiently.

Mrs McEvoy - Teacher

### **5. Year 7**

Despite the welcome bank holiday Monday off, this has been a tricky week.

Mrs Middleton and I have spent the majority of our time dealing with students that are upset because another student in their year group has said or done something inappropriate or unkind.

Since the start of the year we have had multiple assemblies about being kind, bullying, appropriate behaviour, understanding other people's feelings and what are appropriate reactions.

I do believe that having had 2 years of interrupted schooling and social interaction has impacted on their level of maturity and an impact on what they think is an appropriate way to treat others.

Please continue to reinforce kindness and appropriate interactions at home. Talk to your child about their experiences at school. One of the best ways to do this is to engage them in an activity and let the conversation follow naturally.

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

### **6. Year 8**

Having had the bank holiday on Monday, this week seems to have gone by extremely quickly. However, oddly enough, the shorter weeks sometimes feel almost more tiring! Given this, it has been really good to see the amount of hard work and effort that the year group has put in to maintain our consistently high standards, especially towards the end of the week when you are tired, and when it has been getting warmer in many of the classrooms. We are now half way through this half-term, and it is important to stay focused and keep pushing to achieve your best in every lesson.

Outside of lessons we have responded extremely well to the reintroduction of the mobile phone policy, and we are really pleased to see that Year 8 have been doing the right thing and following the policy with very few exceptions. The policy is designed to help you develop vital social skills and maximise your progress in lessons so that you are developing personally and academically. Just a reminder that we do recommend

that the best and safest place for a turned off mobile phone is in your bag – two (turned off) mobiles were left in classrooms this week having slipped out of people's pockets during lessons.

Something to really be thinking about in the coming weeks is reading. Reading has so many benefits, and the most recent year 8 assessment data has highlighted the importance of reading skills and developed vocabulary in ensuring access to lessons and promoting the best possible attainment and progress. Please do try to read regularly at home, and use our excellent library, and the advice of our outstandingly knowledgeable librarian, Miss Ling, to help develop yourself to your full potential.

Finally, please make sure that you are coming to lessons fully prepared and ready to learn. The vast majority of students are ready for every lesson, and if that is the case, then every student can be ready for every lesson. Make sure that you have a copy of your timetable somewhere safe and know where you need to be and when; make sure that you have a pen, and a spare pen, so that you can start learning as soon as you enter the room without disruption; make sure that you have a bottle of water – refilled at break or lunch if necessary – so that you are comfortable and able to learn. These things are simple and easy to do, and they are your responsibility.

Thank you for your excellent attitude, hard work and achievement this week, and enjoy your weekend.

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

## 7. Year 9

We are now nearly half way through this half term with just 3 more weeks to go to the May half term. Options are currently being chosen for Year 10 with 89 forms having been completed and handed in this morning. If you know your son/daughter has not yet completed a options form, then please encourage them to do so as soon as possible and hand back into either Mrs Smith or Mr Ward. If they need another options form they can collect one from Mrs Smith.

Learnt points keep coming with a great improvement on last week. The current tally for this week is:

AED – 65 (An increase of 19)  
LGA – 76 (An increase of 7)  
RPH – 63 (An increase of 22) – Excellent effort shown  
NST – 89

Hubs are again running but now just once a week for each student who is timetabled to go. Please check your child's timetable to know when they are meant to be attending. If they miss a session they will be receiving a 30-minute detention the next day. These sessions are important to ensure all students complete their courses. If they have no work to complete then they will just need to get registered at Hub and then they will be able to leave.

School uniform is looking fantastic across the year group with only a handful not in full correct uniform this morning. It seems the main sticking point for some is hoodies, which they put on in school instead of their blazers. With the weather now getting warmer there is no need for students to wear a hoodie in school and instead they should have their blazer if they feel cold in lessons. If a student refuses to remove their hoodie when asked politely and respectfully by a member of staff, then they will be given a detention after school. Although uniform is often a small detail in the learning journey of young people, following the school rules about it shows how much respect they have for their learning environment at Open Academy. Thank you again for your support in this.

There has been a growing concern with online safety in regards to mobile phones at school. Some students have been using them inappropriately by taking photos of others without permission, others have been sharing videos online. This now means that the school has returned to its previous policy towards phones, where they should not be seen or heard while in the building. If they are seen or heard by a member of staff then will be asked to hand over their phone. They will be able to collect these at the end of the day from the

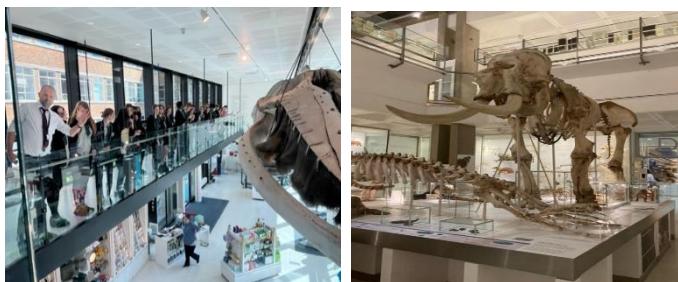
main office. If they refuse this request they will receive a detention for not following the school policy. If you need to contact your child whilst at school please do so via reception or Mrs Smith. Please do not contact your child directly as this could get them into trouble or at the least distract them from their learning. Please allow us to contact you if there is something we need to share or inform you about your child as well, for example if they are ill and need to come home. If you have any questions please get in contact with either Mrs Smith or Mr Pickup.

We hope you are looking forward to a nice sunny weekend and the potential for a BBQ, we know we are. The year group continues to develop and grow in maturity and resilience. It is humbling to witness on a day to day basis. Once again thank you for your support in all things as without that it would be a far greater challenge to support our wonderful students.

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

### 8. Year 10

We hope you all enjoyed the bank holiday. Our focus this week has been resilience, having that resilience when things aren't going well and picking ourselves up and moving forward positively.



The triple science class and art class went to the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge yesterday and spent the day examining and sketching the exhibits. It was a lovely, relaxing day and well worth a visit if you are ever in Cambridge.

We were told that Sir David Attenborough visits the museum once or twice a term, but unfortunately we missed him yesterday.



Thank you to Mr Walters and Mr Murray for arranging the trip. The students were a credit to the school and they and staff enjoyed themselves.

There are a few photos and please look at their website they have excellent online activities: [www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk](http://www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk)



Next Tuesday the food tech class visit City College for a 3 course meal. It is really heart-warming to see trips going ahead again.

Our top achieving students this week are: Lauren Aldous, Lucy Birkett, Scarlett Butler, Josh Mace, Connor Patrick, Mason Perriton, Hayden Purvis, Joe Sanderson, Josh Wilsea and Teyla Young. Well done to you all and there has been a huge surge in achievement points this week – well done Year 10.

We would like to remind students about uniform again. There are still a few that are wearing leggings, incorrect footwear and hoodies. As of Monday, anyone wearing incorrect uniform will have to sit in the inclusion room until we can provide them with spare uniform and/or parents can come into school with the correct items. Please speak to us if there are problems with uniform. We all can appreciate how the cost of living is rising - Norfolk County Council have a money support service who can offer help and advice over the phone, or face-to-face support in your own home if needed. They can be contacted on 01603 223392 (option 4) or email [MSS@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:MSS@norfolk.gov.uk).

The reinforced mobile phone policy is working well with just a couple of students in Year 10 having lost their phone for the day. The students have adapted well and real-life conversations are happening now at break and lunchtime!

Hubs are on your child's timetable. Please can you ask them to attend. It is important for their continued education. We will have to contact home if your child does not attend.

Hopefully all work experience forms are in today and students can look forward to their working week in July.

As always please contact us if you have any queries or we can support in any way. We are happy to help.

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

## 9. Year 11

It's great to see so many Year 11s still attending their Hub sessions – these are invaluable chances to do some revision with a teacher.

We have news regarding prom coming up that will be announced in the parent newsletter next week – so watch this space!

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

## 10. 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Another excellent week at OA6. Lots of useful links in the newsletter this week, so please take some time to look through and book yourself onto anything relevant.

A reminder that if students are going to be absent (for any reason) they must email myself and Ms Davies to let us know. This will ensure that the register for the day is accurate and no 'truancy call' messages will be sent home to parents. If students have blocks of time agreed by me for home study these will be entered on the register first thing in the morning and they do not need to send an email.

It is essential that students email us as early on as possible to let us know if they are going to be absent for any reason. They must then take responsibility to email subject teachers to ask for the work missed to be sent. Any student with no explanation will unfortunately go down as unauthorised.

### **Apprenticeships and other routes:**

If students are considering routes other than university, look out for some excellent apprenticeship opportunities with Aviva and Norfolk Community Health Care. Keep an eye on these key websites too:

- [Helpyouchoose.org](https://www.helpyouchoose.org) - Norfolk's dedicated careers website, with plenty on job skills and [apprenticeship opportunities](#)
- [UCAS Apprenticeships](#) - stacks of advice and opportunities
- [UCAS Gap Years](#) - find your life-changing year out
- [Notgoingtouni.co.uk](https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)
- Technology Apprentice Opportunities at Aviva - Technology drives our business and enables us to put our customers at the centre of everything we do – and we have a whole host of apprentice roles that might suit you. You don't need to have studied a technology subject or worked in tech to join us. Oh and did we tell you there's some great benefits in addition to your salary? [Find out more here.](#)

## Useful courses and events to book onto:

Courses and Careers in Policing, Forensics and Criminology - Wednesday, 18 May

- Enjoy an overview of the many and diverse routes into a career in policing and related professions
- Meet and talk to practising officers - undercover, uniformed policing, detective work, forensics
- Hear about courses and apprenticeships from our local colleges and partner institutions - Click [HERE](#) to register your interest - we'll send the link just before the event

## Courses and Careers in Computing - May 2022

This event will be overseen by Adam Gibson who will be introducing you to a fantastic on-line resource for all aspects of Computer Science A Level. He will be joined by some ex-Norfolk students currently involved in a wide range of exciting Computer related Careers as well as representatives from leading companies - and of course our Higher Education reps to tell you about the exciting range of courses at their own institutions. - Click [HERE](#) to register your interest

## Bespoke Open Day at the University of Suffolk – Wednesday, 8 June

Come along to find out more about the many and diverse courses offered by our very close neighbour, the University of Suffolk in Ipswich. We will travel down by coach from Norwich and the day will include a campus tour, student ambassador Q&A session and course taster sessions. There will be a range of subject areas that students can pick between for our taster session including Business Management, Fine Art, Psychology and Bioscience ( these are subject to change and will be confirmed asap). - Click [HERE](#) to register your interest

## The Norfolk Summer School - July 2022

Check out this amazing summer school, hosted right on your doorstep! Go to the website [here](#) for more information, a booking form and to have any further questions Students go on to secure places at Oxford and Cambridge, medical schools and to study on a wide range of demanding courses around the country and in Europe.

## 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.

Upcoming sessions include:

- 04 May: Biomedicine – [Day in the life of a medical research scientist](#)
- 05 May: International Relations – [Global North vs Global South](#)
- 17 May: Politics – [UK: state of the union](#)
- 18 May: Pharmacology – [Insights through live and interactive drug discovery](#)
- 19 May: Geography – [The fishing industry](#)
- 23 May: The EPQ – [Getting started and planning the summer](#)
- 25 May: Media – [Involvement & production by audience](#)

**Anxious about the idea of university?** Liz Ferguson, **Widening Participation Officer** at UEA, focuses on working with young people who may be nervous or anxious about going to university.

- **Book an informal chat with UEA staff:** [Book a 20 minute virtual appointment](#) with the UEA Outreach Team to ask ANY questions about uni
- **Student Shadowing visit to UEA:** students in local authority care - a [free experience to learn about student life](#)
- **Webchat** with UEA students and staff at [www.uea.ac.uk/ask-us](http://www.uea.ac.uk/ask-us)

## Norfolk Cambridge Society



The Norfolk Cambridge Society (NCS) believes passionately in social mobility delivered through education, encouraging pupils from diverse backgrounds to apply to University and to experience the intellectual transformation of HE. We believe strongly in improving academic aspiration in the East. As a consequence, NCS has again helped sponsor the Norfolk Summer School.

We wanted to make you and your Year 12 pupils aware that registration for the Norfolk Summer School is now open and hope your students will wish to participate. Please note that this is designed for all students who intend to apply for Higher Education through UCAS, irrespective of their chosen universities.

On 9, 13 & 16 July 2022 pupils in Year 12 can experience subject tutorials, personal statement guidance and mock interviews all in preparation for applying to University, delivered by experts and co-ordinated and hosted by Norwich School in the inspiring setting of the Cathedral Close. More information and application details can be found here: <https://norfolksummerschool.co.uk> ([Norfolk Summer School](https://norfolksummerschool.co.uk)).

### 11. Library

#### Warhammer Club

A reminder that our new Warhammer Club will be starting in the library next Monday. The club will run from 3:15-4:15. We hope to see you there!

#### Books of the Month

For our May book and author of the month we have gone for a Read it & Watch It theme, showcasing books that have recently been adapted for TV.

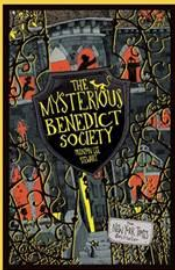
The Mysterious Benedict Society is a quirky and mysterious adventure perfect for fans of A Series of Unfortunate Events. A TV adaptation was released on Disney+ last year.

If our library is anything to go by, it's likely you've already heard about Heartstopper. This joyful story of high school, friendships and relationships is a perfect feel-good read. This can be borrowed from the school library, but if you're struggling to find a copy, it is also available as a webcomic at <https://aliceoseman.com/heartstopper/read-online/>. A TV adaptation has just been released on Netflix.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

Borrow or reserve your copy today!

**KS3**



MYSTERY • ADVENTURE • GOOD VS EVIL

Boy meets boy.  
Become friends.  
Fall in love.

A secret mission.  
An evil villain stealing memories.  
Four children tasked with saving the day!



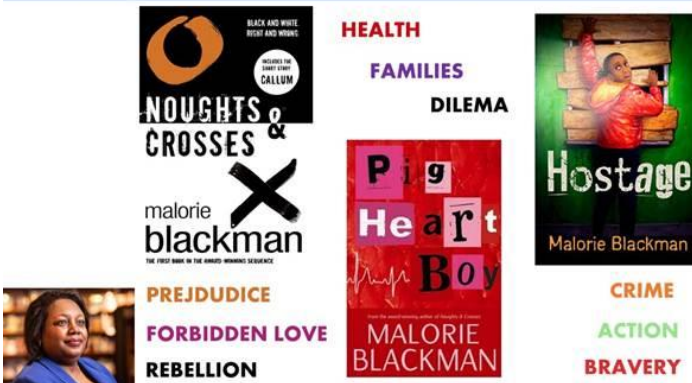
UPLIFTING • RELATIONSHIPS • MENTAL HEALTH

## KS4

Our Author of the month is the prolific Malorie Blackman. If you want a book to make you think and keep you entertained Blackman is a great choice. Blackman is most well known for her dystopian series, *Noughts and Crosses*, a Romeo and Juliet-esque tale set in a racially divided society. *Noughts and Crosses* has been adapted by the BBC and is now on its second season.



## AUTHOR OF THE MONTH: MALORIE BLACKMAN



Miss Ling – Librarian

### 12. Creative Writing Club

A new club for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 interested in creative writing is starting on Wednesday, 11 May after school. It is being run by me, who is working at the academy this summer as an academic mentor. Do mention the club to your child if they have an interest in writing their own stories or poetry and encourage them to come along.

Mr Perry – Academic Mentor

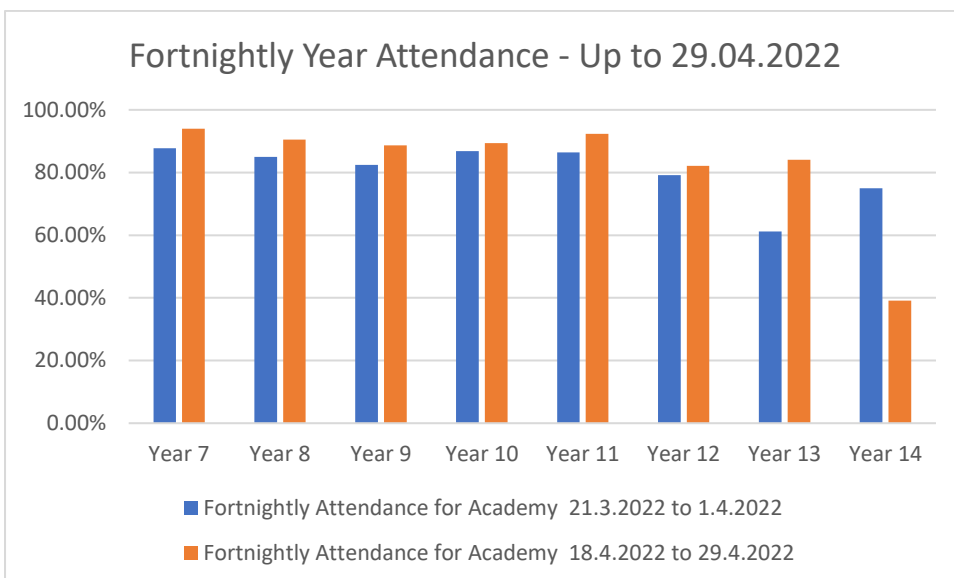
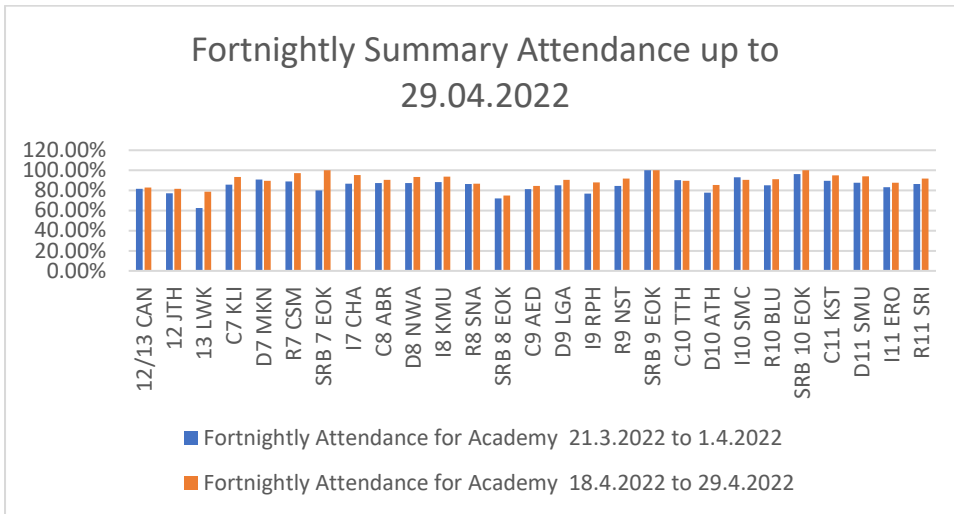
### 13. Music Notes

Calling all musicians! We are looking for students to perform for our KS3 Awards evening on Wednesday, 29 June. If you and your friends are in a band and would like to book your first gig, if you're someone who is learning an instrument outside of school and would like the opportunity to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience, or if you are particularly proud of something you've created in music class, please see me in the music room, F67 after school next week!

This is a wonderful opportunity to build your confidence and display all the hard work that goes into playing an instrument and we would love to hear you.

Miss Lines – Teacher

### 14. Attendance



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 18 April 2022 to 29 April 2022. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

A massive well done to the 310 students who achieved 100% attendance for the month of April and also to the 247 students who improved their attendance between the months of March and April 2022. All of these students have been given achievement points.

If any absence is required, i.e. for a holiday, an absence in term time form will need to be completed prior to the absence. These forms are available from reception.

Mrs Ganson – Attendance Officer

## 15. Cleaner Vacancy

### CLEANER

Part Time – 10 hours per week  
Afternoons - 3:00 to 5:00pm  
Required as soon as possible

Salary NJC Scale A point 1 - £9.25 per hour  
Permanent - term time plus up to 40 hours non-term time.

Duties will include the cleaning of classrooms, offices, toilets and changing rooms and previous experience of cleaning within a school environment would be advantageous but is not essential.

Open Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to relevant checks in line with Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding procedures.

Further information and an application form can be found on our website at [www.open-academy.org.uk](http://www.open-academy.org.uk) or contact Jackie Appleby, Business Manager

## 16. Chaplain's Reflection

A bit of an amusing story to start this week's reflection. A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his torch around, looking for valuables, and when he picked it up to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you".

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit he shook his head, promised himself a holiday after the next big heist, then clicked the light back on and began searching for more valuables.

Just as he pulled the TV out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you". Completely freaked out, he shone the torch around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot. "Yep" the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I am just trying to warn you". The burglar relaxed. "Warn me huh? Who on earth are you?" "Moses," replied the bird. "Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of stupid people would name a parrot Moses?" The bird promptly answered "Probably the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus".

In our lives, it is always good to have someone watching us. I mean this in the way of having people that we look up to, keeping an eye out for us just to make sure that we are ok. If we don't have these kinds of people in our worlds then I would like to encourage you to get some. Pick some people who you know love you to look out for you, give them permission to speak into your lives when things are not ok. Give them permission also to tell you if you seem to be going in the wrong direction in your life and maybe even to correct you. Personally, I am so grateful to the people who have spoken sense to me when I was going off track or about to make big mistakes. Having people there for us is life changing. This can work in the opposite way as well. We can offer ourselves to look out for others too.

In closing, another person that is looking out for us is our heavenly Father. He is always with us and He has said that he will never leave us or forsake us. He is only a prayer away to lift us and encourage us along life's journey.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain