

Open Academy Update 16 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Once again, I will keep this communication brief in the light of the period of national mourning for Queen Elizabeth II.

Please note that the academy will be closed on Monday, 19 September for the Queen's funeral bank holiday.

Students have had some reflection time about the Queen's life of service in assemblies this week and of her always positive attitude.

Please note the following useful information.

Jon Ford – Principal



1. Homework

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify and explain the expectations around homework for the academic year ahead. Homework will continue to be set either online or on paper. All tasks, regardless of type, will be explained on Teams assignments, where copies of work will be available.

Each subject will set homework at different frequencies, for example, maths is set once per 2 weeks. This will also be different for each key stage. This allows us to remain flexible depending on the course (for GCSE/BTEC) and workload. If you are concerned about homework from a specific subject, please contact the appropriate faculty leader in the first instance.

To help you see when homework is set, a half-termly homework rota will be published in the parent's new letter. For this to be effective, and to address parents' concerns about short homework deadlines, most of the homework will be set for a reasonable amount of time, usually covering a weekend. Exceptions for this will be shorter vocabulary and recall homework that is essential between lessons (such as in languages). By using Teams assignments, we will maximise the ability of students to communicate with their teachers in a single place. The integration of Teams into Office365 means that students now have access to several resources.

For students with specific Special Educational Needs, homework documents, which can now be opened in Office365's Accessible Reader can change background colours, translate languages, audio describe images, and change text font/size easily. To continue to support students who find working at home difficult, or do not have access to a device or the internet, we have restarted after-school homework Hub support. Two Assistant Heads of Year are available to support students from 3pm until 4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, in the IT rooms. With all these provisions in place, we expect homework to be completed to the best of a student's ability. If your child does not complete Homework we will invite and add them to the Homework Hubs to their timetable. This will be to help them and support them manage the demands of the homework.

Questions about specific homework can be addressed by contacting your child's teacher, or the subject leader. More general questions or concerns, or indeed suggestions for improvement, can be sent to me via my email ian.fisher@open-academy.org.uk

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Maths

Firstly, we would like to say a big well done to the students for the way that they've started the school year in maths. They have shown excellent attitudes towards their learning and we are seeing students making great progress already.

We also wanted to make sure that all parents were aware of the online resource available to all of our students; Mathswatch.

All students have an individual login and have been assigned a task about what they are learning this half term. If they complete this task using the videos to help where necessary, it will really support their learning and boost their progress in maths. They also have the opportunity to learn or practice any other maths skills using the videos and interactive questions available.

Website:
<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

Username:
studentname@open-academy
e.g mickeymouse@open-academy

Password:
Mathswatch

Mr Bradshaw
Teacher

3. Library

Next week we are launching this year's lunchtime and after school clubs in the library. Students are welcome to visit the library to read, complete homework or take part in one of our daily activities.

Please see the timetable below for more details about what we have planned for this term. If students or families have any questions please do get in touch.



Library Opening Times

Tutor: Open every day
After School: Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. **Closed Tuesdays.**
Break & Lunch: Open to all years unless specified below.

Week A	Week B
Tuesday: Break : Closed to all years Lunch: Closed to all years	Tuesday: Break: Closed to all years
Wednesday: Lunch: Closed to Year 10 & 11	Friday: Break: Closed to all years. Lunch: Closed to Year 10 & 11

LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY

MINDFUL MONDAY

Calming activities to help you get your week off to a great start.



WRITING WEDNESDAY

Each week we will share a new prompt to inspire your writing.



THURSDAY

BOOKS & BISCUITS
 Join fellow readers for our weekly Book Club meeting.



FUN FRIDAY

Board games will be available as well as a weekly quiz- earn achievement points for getting the top score each week!



AFTER-SCHOOL

MONDAY WEEK A

MANGA CLUB



WEDNESDAY WEEK B

TABLETOP CLUB
 (Currently playing: Warhammer)



Be Ready: Remember to collect a library pass at break if you would like to visit the library during lunchtime.

Be Respectful: People are using the library to read and work, be mindful of your noise.

Be Safe: Find a seat and walk around calmly.

Mrs Gunton
 Librarian

4. Attendance

Year 7 96.37%
Year 8 91.98%
Year 9 94.74%
Year 10 94.53%
Year 11 92.17%
Year 12 92.51%
Year 13 94.83%

Please see the abovementioned attendance data for week 6 September to 9 September, for your information.

Please remember that tutor starts at 8.40am. Late students are to sign in at Reception upon arrival.

Just a reminder that for any absences, appointments etc., please do let us know either by telephone or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

5. Careers

This year we will be delivering careers information to parents via a 'live' newsletter. This will contain information for parents and carers as well as up to date news on what students need to think about each year regarding careers.

You can see this week's edition here <https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew> The newsletter is currently 'work in progress' so I would appreciate any feedback or ideas to make it as informative and useful as possible. Please contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Davies
Careers Facilitator

6. Other

- Please ensure you ask your child to comply with the appearance policy. It helps students to be in the right frame of mind for learning as well as helping to prevent bullying as students look the same. Shoes must be polishable and jewellery is limited to one pair of stud earrings, a nose stud and a watch <https://www.open-academy.org.uk/parent/uniform/>
- If you have any changes to family contacts, please let us know so that we can keep these up to date. Also, if you have any concerns or there have been significant family changes please let your child's tutor know.
- It has come to our attention that some students are trying a craze on TikTok where they pinch the chin and flick it until it becomes a bruise. Please talk to your child about the dangers of attempting these sorts of things on TikTok.