

## Open Academy Update 23 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter

As we begin to get back to normal after the momentous events nationally, it is good to be able to finally say welcome to the new year properly.

There has been one major change in the academy over the summer as we have installed glass corridor walls as a reassuring addition around the balconies. Whilst not detracting at all from the amazing building they do remove the possibility for an accident. This represented a major investment from the Trust for which we are most grateful.

Term has started very positively for the vast majority of students and we all doing all we can to support everyone to get the year off to a strong start. This year we have chosen to focus on supporting children's mental health and have already had four training sessions from Trauma Informed Schools UK as we continue our journey to become a trauma informed school. To that end we will be using the Thrive approach starting with a pilot programme in Years 8 and 10, where students will complete self-assessments of their mental health and wellbeing and then organise supportive intervention for those who are in need. With so much going on for young people, we think this is a key next step for us and I am looking forward to running both Trauma Informed sessions and Thrive session for parents later on in the term.

There are lots of shout outs to follow this week as we have been collecting them throughout the period of national mourning so there is plenty to discover this week.

For parents of new Year 7s we try to include helpful information, celebratory messages and wellbeing and support information in these newsletters as well as a roundup of trips, events and activities in the academy. There is always something going on here – I have just reported to governors on last year's 86 trips – despite the pandemic - including residential to Germany, Spain and Hautbois! As we speak Year 12 are enjoying their National Citizenship program induction and before we know it, expeditions will be setting off for our Duke of Edinburgh programs. But I digress!

For now – please find our newsletter for the week – I hope you find it useful and informative.

Jon Ford – Principal

## 1. Calendar

It is that time of year where we parents have to juggle all the different dates coming through from every club, school and society for our children. With that in mind here are some key dates. As with last year caution must be offered in case the dates need to move a little due to unforeseen circumstances.

Date	Activity
07/10/2022	Year 8 HPV Immunisation
11/10/2022	Study Evening Year 11 and 13
2/11/2022	Year 10 Careers Evening 6:30 – 7:30
04/11/2022	Visit to Aviva Year 12 and 13
10/11/2022	Speech night
13/12/2022	Year 11 Parents' Evening
14/12/2022	Carol Concert
19/01/2023	Year 9/10/11 HPV Immunisations
24/1/2023	Year 7 Parents' Evening
7/2/2023	Year 8 Parents' Evening
21/2/2023	Year 10 Parents' Evening
28/2/2023	Year 9 Pathways Evening
7/3/2023	Year 9 Parents' Evening
21/3/2023	KS5
27/6/2023	SRE Consultation Evening
27/06/2023	Celebration events year events
30/06/2023	Prom
10/07/2023	Year 7 CAMP
10/07/2023	Work experience
11/7/2023	New Year 7 Intake Evening

Mr Ward  
Vice Principal

## 2. Lost Property

There are already a number of items in lost property that haven't been returned to their owners because they are not named.

Please mark your child's name on all items of uniform, including PE kit as well as bags, water bottles etc Your child can check at reception for lost property at the start of the day, during break or lunch time or at the end of the school day.

Mrs Wright  
Receptionist

## 3. The Open Academy Rewards Policy

The academy recognises that the motivation of students is critical in achieving high standards of students' behaviour. This is central to our teaching and learning methods and to the way we offer rewards for good work and conduct.

## Aims

We use rewards to:

- Motivate and encourage **ALL** students to do their best and achieve their potential.
- Provide opportunities for students to raise their aspirations.
- Ensure effective teaching and learning can take place.
- Engage students in their learning and encourage them to take pride in being a member of The Open Academy community.
- Reward a variety of qualities, activities and achievements.
- Support students in feeling valued and helping to raise their self-esteem.
- Set goals for personal achievement.

## LEARNT Achievement Points

LEARNT is at the forefront of the day to day learning for students at the Open Academy and therefore it is a crucial part of our rewards system.

- Form Tutors will have the responsibility of monitoring LEARNT points weekly as part of the tutor programme. We also encourage Parents/Carers to monitor their child's achievements on the SIMS Parent App.
- Students will be recognised for their achievements in the parent newsletter and through the forum of celebratory year assemblies (see below).
- Half termly activities will take place for those who have achieved the highest amount of LEARNT points, highest average rubrics score for homework and students who have made the most improvement (*nominated by Year Team*). This will be for the top 10 students in each year group per category. These activities will include an afternoon off timetable, but remaining in the academy.
- Each half term the top student in each year group for LEARNT achievement points, highest average rubrics score for homework completed and the most improved will receive a £5 cinema voucher.

## End of Year Celebration Activities

Each year group will have a celebratory activity or event in which students can participate in at the end if they are able to fulfil the criteria. Parents and students will be made aware of the criteria and this will be regularly communicated to the students to allow them to monitor their progress towards the event or activity:

- Less than 15 behaviour points
- No unauthorised absences
- No gross misconducts
- No truancy
- All homework completed to an average score of 3 on the rubrics scale

## Attendance

Attendance has a very high profile at the academy. We expect all students to achieve a minimum of 98% attendance per academic year and we count on parents to support us in our aims. To support the Open Academy attendance aims, students will be awarded for achieving good and improved attendance.

Rewards will be as follows:

- Fortnightly tutor award – The tutor group from each year group with the highest attendance will be awarded the attendance trophy – this will be presented in Year assembly by the Head of Year.
- Improvement in attendance – Each month, students will be given 15 achievement points if there has been an improvement in their attendance and for having 98% or above attendance during the month.
- Monthly attendance – any student who has achieved 98-100% attendance for the previous month will be awarded 15 achievement points.
- Half-termly rewards – At the end of every half term, the tutor group with the highest attendance overall and the top tutor group from each year group will be provided with either a breakfast in their tutor rooms or fish and chips from the canteen on the last Friday of the half term.

- All students who have achieved 100% attendance each term will be awarded a lapel pin. If it is their first time achieving 100% attendance that academic year, they will be awarded a bronze lapel pin, if it is their second term achieving 100% attendance they will receive a silver Lapel Pin and if they achieve 100% attendance for the full academic year they will be awarded a Gold Lapel Pin. These pins should be worn on their blazers. If a student has been awarded a lapel pin they go to the front of the queue on a Friday lunchtime.

The full Rewards Policy will be available on the academy website in due course. If, however you have any questions please contact me on [bethany.whitwood@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:bethany.whitwood@open-academy.org.uk)

Miss Whitwood  
Head of Whole School Rewards

#### 4. Year 9

Well done for another fantastic week of effort and progress. Special mentions for:

- Steven E for his enthusiasm and positive attitude to learning at the start of the new year - Mrs Gallard;
- Georgia B, Tyler P, Maddison G and Max L. Excellent in maths - ask questions, offer answers, great attitude to learning - Mrs Power;
- Jayden A has made a fantastic start to the year! He has just started a new mainstream maths lesson and got on really well with the work and his peers – Miss Power;
- Olivia C for having a really positive attitude in English! – Miss Roberts;
- Thomas H and Jacob D for excellent engagement in history – Mr Crawford;
- Steven E for his enthusiasm and George T-S for his intellectual answers in English. Warren M for his good and improving nature – Mr Edwards;
- Joel M for making an overall very positive start to the year – Miss Lamb.
- Madalyn P and Grace S for great effort and focus in German – Mrs McEvoy;
- Katy S, Lucy-Rose B, Thomas H, Jacob D and Amy T for engagement and giving high-quality answers in History – Mr Crawford.
- Viktoria K for her conscientious attitude towards improving her reading in English – Miss Roberts;
- Katy S, Amy T for great work in Art – Mr Walters.
- 9H German, who are working very well - Mr Blanchflower;
- A big shout out to all of year 9 who started their stage combat work in drama, they have been able to fight using some excellent control and clear use of technique – Mrs Ormosi;
- 9E History for consistently good engagement and desire to progress – Mr Crawford;
- 9O for DT today doing a rotational workshop on observational drawings, leading to their final outcomes. They were brilliantly engaged and produced high quality work. Ty and Ellie in particular were really engaged and positive – Miss Rednall.

Enjoy your well-earned weekend rest.

Mr Crawford and Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year)  
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

#### 5. Year 10

Three weeks into the first half term of the academic year and it is fantastic to see the dedication, hard work and grit on display across the year group. This is the year that will set up students for a great next step after high school. It will allow them to develop their academic interests and will give them the opportunity to work outside the school during work experience week. The sooner students decide what they would like to do for this the better.

**Learnt points:** The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 49
- NST – 36
- AED – 37
- ABL – 62

**Attendance:** Current attendance for Year 10 is 93.06%. A great start to the year, thank you for your support so early on. If not in school please send in evidence (this could be a photograph of the medicine given).

**Super Students:** These people have really excelled in their learning and social maturity so far this term at Open Academy. Keep it up you fantastic people.

- Reece A
- Daniella R
- Owen M
- Thomas W
- Ellie M

Once again thank you for all your support. It is only with this joint team effort that all students are given the tools and strategies to succeed.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year)

## 6. Year 11

Welcome back to our final year! We will probably say this a lot over the next academic year, but we really can't believe that our students are Year 11 already. Our motto this year will be:

### Be Kind, Step Forward and Aim High

It's been a busy time already this term with a wonderful visit to Madrid and a geography trip yesterday. Period 6 lessons and triple science lessons have commenced and are now in full swing. It is very important that students follow their timetable and attend to benefit from the revision and teacher knowledge.

Our top achieving students since the beginning of term are: Bradley and Luke C, Katie E, Georgina B, Owen M, Zac S, Daniel S, Colm S, Josh K, Seazyn R, Jude A, Leo D, Harry R, Samuel Y, Josh M, Charlie P, James S and Leefna S. Congratulations to you all.

Uniform on the whole has been good. Our Year 11s are the role models for the rest of the school and our expectations are high for them and this includes uniform, behaviour, time-keeping etc. As the weather has changed battle of the hoodies has commenced – please note hoodies are not allowed in school and detentions will be set for anyone not following our uniform policy. If there are any problems with uniform please contact their form tutor or us.

Next week we start our student leadership meetings and also prom/leavers committee – we will keep you informed as and when ideas are decided upon.

School photographer is in on Tuesday, 27 September for their final photos in school uniform.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

## 7. Library

# YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

**Are you...**

Enthusiastic about books and full of ideas?  
 Friendly, reliable and polite?  
 Keen to help other students and staff?  
 A good team worker?

**APPLY TO BE A LIBRARY LEADER**

Library Leaders help in the library at lunch and work closely with the librarian and other library leaders.  
 Full training will be given.

**Interested?**

Collect an application form from the library and submit this by thursday 6th October.

\*Applications open to students in Year 8 and above.



Mrs Gunton  
Librarian

## 8. Attendance

C7 JDU	97.62%
I7 JWL	94.25%
D7 STR	98.28%
R7 KRE	98.62%
C8 CDI	92.27%
D8 MKN	96.46%
R8 CSM	91.06%
I8 CHA	95.50%
SRB8 SGA	0.00%
R9 SNA	95.30%
C9 JOR	88.29%
D9 NWA	96.53%
I9 SCO	94.64%
SRB9 SGA	88.89%
I10 RPH	94.64%



We are now recruiting Library Leaders for this academic year. Library leaders help in the library one lunchtime a week. This is perfect for students who love reading and want to get more involved in school life.

Students who are interested can speak to me for more information or to collect an application form. Students have until the Thursday, 6 October to submit their applications.



R10 NST	93.84%
C10 AED	93.59%
D10 ABL	96.44%
SRB10 SGA	100.00%
R11 BLU	91.33%
I11 KMU	90.81%
C11 TTH	93.09%
D11 ATH	84.40%
SRB11 SGA	100.00%
12/13 CAN	91.80%
12 LWK/JTY	92.99%
13 JTH	90.95%

Year 7	97.25%
Year 8	93.76%
Year 9	93.64%
Year 10	94.66%
Year 11	90.17%
Year 12	92.92%
Year 13	91.06%

Please see the above-mentioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 6 September 2022 to 16 September 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

## 9. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain



# THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

greathbiggreenweek.com

**Biodiversity & Climate  
Change in Norwich**

**St Peter Mancroft  
Church, Norwich**

**Drop-in 12-4pm**

**Sunday 25th September**

Watch live or catch up:



<https://youtu.be/V6d-z2ZiwmQ>

Join us for a series of short talks  
followed by questions/discussion!



The countryside charity  
Norfolk

