

Open Academy Update 7 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers and students.

I really enjoy this time of year. The new Year 7 and 12 have settled in. All the other students have got back into the groove of learning following the summer holidays. Then we have the first of our big events, the Open Evening. This year was the busiest we ever saw. As ever our greatest ambassadors are the student volunteers themselves. They explain how happy they are at school, how well they are learning and how they are growing as young people. It is fabulous. It is my pleasure to tour groups of parents following Open Evening. We go into classes, meet students, and watch the students move from class to class. It really helps the younger students get a picture of what life is really like at Open Academy. This year I have been in perhaps 100 classes, seen fabulous work and heard the students excitedly talk about their successes. I hope it gives a reassuring look at what student life is really like here. I would like to thank every single student at the academy that makes the atmosphere so friendly and welcoming. I would like to thank all the parents who have recommended Open Academy. It is that word of mouth recommendation that is by far and away the most informative.

There has been a significant improvement in uniform for the vast majority of students this year. Thank you for supporting the academy policies. Our research shows that the students who attend regularly, are punctual, wear the correct uniform and complete homework done on time, get the best results. It is those little things that build up to a greater whole.

I would like you all to know how you can further help your son / daughter. Seneca is a computer programme that helps revise topics and tests knowledge. It is possible to see how your child is doing in that programme. Many subjects set homework in Seneca. It is really easy and very informative. Those parents who have signed up have really appreciated the information that is shared. Please follow the link to get further information: [Easy Parent Sign Up](#)

I wish you and your family a restful weekend and look forward to seeing all the students again next week.

Kevin Ward
Vice Principal

1. Year 7

Firstly, may I thank all parents for helping the Year 7s access their first round of homeworks. Learning a new system is always daunting and the process is made much easier when they have the support of parents. If you are unsure of the homework system: all homeworks are set via Microsoft Teams and all students have had tutor time training on how to access this. Please ask your child to show you their Teams and where their homework is situated.

Could we take this opportunity to reiterate that leggings are not allowed to be worn at school and shoes needs to be totally black and polishable.

Out Top 5 LEARNT points achieved for this week are:

Cameron S	33
Ben S	31
Hanna K	29
Logan E	29
Evie G	29

Keep up the good work!

We announced the rest of our student leaders this week and I'm pleased to confirm the Year 7 Student Leaders are:

Head Students	Leo C & Ella Grace S
Deputy Head Students	Chakib L, Ella S & Katie C
Open Voice Challenge	Festus A & Summer J
Open Voice Destiny	Elizabeth H & David D
Open Voice Inspiration	Savannah M & Kaelan B
Open Voice Respect	Misha P & Sam G
Sports Leaders Challenge	Freya S & Tallulah M-W
Sports Leaders Destiny	Elizabeth K & Benjamin H
Sports Leaders Inspiration	Destiny O & Zinedine O
Sports Leaders Respect	Ben S & Thomas V
Library Helpers	Ewan C & Jake C
Allotment Helpers	Alex T, Austin L & Karma S
Student Reception Leaders	Betsy K, Kara M & Skye H

We will have other responsibilities come up throughout the year and my hope is that every Year 7 student will be allocated a leadership role at some point this year.

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year)
Mrs Roberts (Assistant Head of Year)

2. Year 8

Please remind your child that phones are not allowed to be used in school. The reasoning behind this is based on educational research around avoiding distractions and higher quality learning. In addition to this, recently we have dealt with a number of students using their phones to bully others. This has included taking pictures/videos without permission, possibly with the intention of posting these on social media platforms to humiliate. Phones need to be switched off and in their bags, not on silent and in their pockets!

I would also ask that you check their phones regularly as we have dealt with issues of bullying in group chats. A number of students in a WhatsApp group have been encouraging other students to fight and take sides against individuals. In Year 8 they are still very young to have such access and some are making serious errors in judgement in posting online abuse. This is from a variety of students across the year group and all students are capable of making a mistake.

Please talk to your child about online safety, including who to talk to if they are worried by either messages or content they have seen, or indeed something they have posted. Please talk to them about what is appropriate to post. A general rule of thumb is 'how would a family member feel if they read your post?'

On a brighter note, as a year group, students have gained 1257 achievement points this week, with the following gaining the highest number of points

Martha, Nivedita, Alfie S, Rusne, Keiran and Somaya

Mrs Pearsall (Head of Year)
Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year)

3. Year 9

Well done for another week of positive effort, engagement and progress. Particular praise from staff for the following:

Grace S & Madalyn P for increased confidence in answering questions in class – Mrs Clayton, English;

Keeley Y and Ellie M for improved effort and achievement in English – Mr Edwards;

9O for outstanding work and engagement in Geography – Mr Mundy;

Well done to the Year 9 Girls for some outstanding work in their cheerleading lessons. They have choreographed and performed some excellent routines – Mrs Pearsall, PE;

Katy S and William D C for consistent effort in German – Mrs McEvoy;

Keira B, Millie H, Jacob D, Leah S and Lily-Mae H for excellent effort green penning their Treaty of Versailles assessments – Mr Crawford, History.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Crawford and Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

4. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

RPH – 82 (An increase of 14)

NST – 81 (A decrease of 16)

AED – 61 (A decrease of 7)

ABL – 86 (An increase of 14)

Shout outs: Owen M and Andrew C for great effort in German and Reece A for excellent work in English.

Attendance: Current attendance for Y9 is 92.66. A slight decrease of 0.14% from last week. If your child is not in school please send in evidence (this could be a photograph of the medicine given).

Late to learning: In the last week Year 10 have missed 492 minutes of learning due to turning up to their lessons late. This is equivalent to just over 8 hours of lessons. If your son/daughter has been late you will receive a text message on Friday to let you know of their detention.

Reminders: Please can all students arrive to school in the correct uniform. Leggings are not correct unless worn under a skirt. Also, all students need a pen/pencil/ruler and reading book (which can be borrowed from the library).

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)

5. Year 11

Please come along to the Year 11 revision and 6th Form open evening on Tuesday, 18 October, starting at 5.30 pm. This will be a valuable evening to kick start the Year 11s GCSE journey with ideas on how to support your child and the chance to learn about the challenges that lie ahead for them and ask any questions. Students will be bringing home a letter giving details of the event.

Our student leadership team has been elected and we look forward to working with them this year. Congratulations to our head girl, Erin O'N and deputy Dalia R and our head boy, James H and deputy Jamil A. Congratulations also to our sports leaders, James H and Charlie P. Prefects to be decided over the next week. Thank you to all those who applied.

Student Voice meetings commenced this week with well-considered contributions from the students to put forward to senior leadership in school.

Prom/leavers committee commences next Thursday for fundraising ideas for the class of 2023.

Period 6 lessons are underway and it is important that students attend. We cannot stress enough the importance of attendance in school for their final year. Every lesson counts.

Top achievers for the past two weeks are: Kimora A, Jamil A, Torri A, Tommy B, Angelos C, Mia C, Jake F, Oscar F, Jess F, Kelsey H, Ryan H, James H, Kasia J, Josh K, Charlie P, Dalia R, Joe S, Daniel S, Corey S and Sam Y. Well done to you all.

Thank you to all those students that helped out with Year 6 Open Evening last Wednesday. They were outstanding tour guides and helpers.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

6. Calling all budding Musicians!

Has your child ever wanted to learn an instrument? Started learning and want to continue?

Well, if the answer is "yes" to either then please encourage them to drop by the **Music Room (F67) next week** and pick up an enquiry form from me. This will give them the chance to tell us what they want to learn/continue learning and give more details about how music lessons at Open Academy work.

We work very closely with Norfolk Tutor service who have provided us with expert tuition in the past, with the chance for students to do gradings - if they wanted - in many different instruments including guitar, drums and singing. A great opportunity not to be missed!

Mr Dilley
Teacher

7. Twisted Tales

Congratulations to those students who made it into the publication of Twisted Tales with their short stories. A fantastic achievement for so many of our students.

Miss Roberts
Teacher

8. Library

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as our library Leaders for this school year. We look forward to them starting their roles in the next couple of weeks.

Year 7

Jake C
Ewan C
Sammy R

Year 8

Maddie A
Ada A
Kate S
Kayden S-H

Mrs Gunton
Librarian

9. Careers

In order to ensure that careers information is as up to date and relevant to students as possible it will now be delivered via a live 'Padlet' or virtual noticeboard. This will be featured on our website and also distributed to staff, students and parents/carers.

It has the advantage of being easily and quickly updateable, so if there is a particular careers area you would like to see featured, please let me know! All feedback or ideas to caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk are welcome. The newsletter is available to view at:

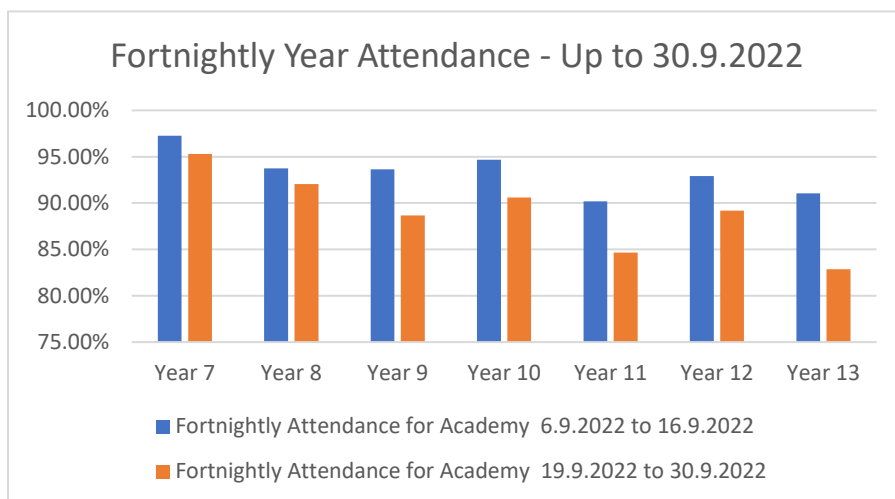
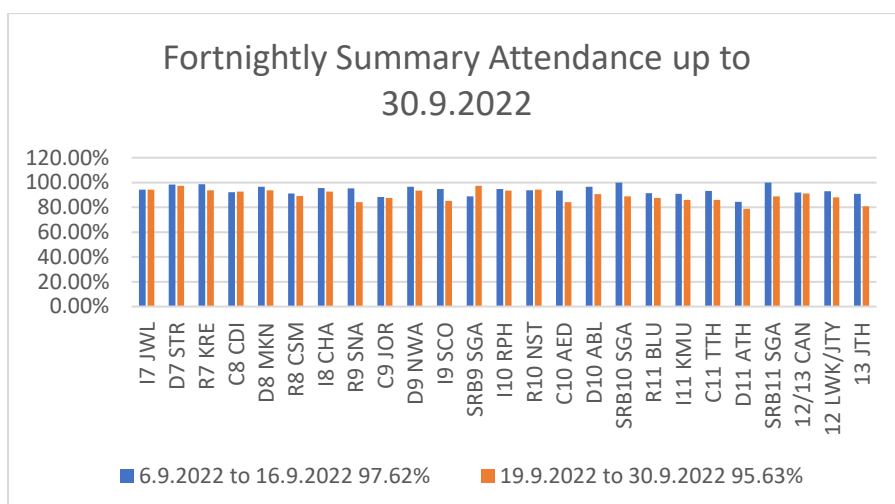
<https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew>

Dr Davies
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

10. Attendance

C7 JDU	95.63%
I7 JWL	94.25%
D7 STR	97.32%
R7 KRE	93.75%
C8 CDI	92.75%
D8 MKN	93.69%
R8 CSM	89.13%
I8 CHA	92.71%
R9 SNA	84.20%
C9 JOR	87.44%
D9 NWA	93.38%
I9 SCO	85.32%
SRB9 SGA	97.22%
I10 RPH	93.44%
R10 NST	94.24%
C10 AED	84.19%
D10 ABL	90.67%
SRB10 SGA	88.89%

R11 BLU	87.65%	Year 7	95.31%
I11 KMU	85.90%	Year 8	92.05%
C11 TTH	85.90%	Year 9	88.67%
D11 ATH	78.63%	Year 10	90.61%
SRB11 SGA	88.89%	Year 11	84.67%
12/13 CAN	91.12%	Year 12	89.19%
12 LWK/JTY	87.96%	Year 13	82.85%
13 JTH	80.75%		



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 19 September 2022 to 30 September 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 237 students who have achieved over 98% attendance for the month of September 2022. All of these students have been given achievement points.

Please notify ourselves of any absences or appointments by using the email address of student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain