

Open Academy Update 21 October 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week I am excited to share that we will be welcoming a new member of staff. However, this one is 4-legged! Maisie the therapy dog will be joining us after half term, and I hope that students will start getting to know her over the next half term. Maisie is owned by Mrs Gallard - our new Lead teacher for our autism Specialist Resource Base. At first, Maisie will be helping out in the SRB, but over time, we hope she may work with a number of students from across the academy.

Maisie is a cocker spaniel who unfortunately lost her sight a few years ago. However, she is an incredibly happy, obedient and affectionate dog with a very waggy tail, so I think she will be very popular. As this is a new intervention for us, we will be introducing activities to Maisie gently to explore her potential, so she may not be available for walkies at break straight away!



Moving on, this week I would like to thank everyone who came in for the study skills evening on Tuesday. Over two thirds of students in Year 11 brought a family member along and heard a number of presentations about being ready for the exams this year. On the evening, feedback was very positive, with many saying it was a useful event. I would like to thank Mr Fisher who organised the event, Miss Wenlock and Mr Ward who delivered sessions, and all the staff who took the time to prepare a display of revision material. I will also thank the 3 students who attended my wellbeing session, although I would concede the other sessions were probably more pressing at this time!

As the year wears on, however we will be putting on wellbeing sessions within school to help Year 11 get through. With that in mind, as the football world cup starts soon, we are going to offer Year 11 students who will be in the middle of their first Pre-Public Exams (PPE1 or Early Mocks) for England's group game against Iran, the chance to watch the match in school after the 2 exams they have scheduled for that day. Hopefully this will be a useful time out from their hard work and revision throughout the exam season.

Finally, this week I was delighted to see so many students remained after the study skills event to attend our OA6 Open Evening. We have a very successful Sixth Form at Open and we pride ourselves on being able to create a bespoke offer depending upon the needs and interest of children who commit to us. Although choosing to keep our 6th Form quite small, we always get good outcomes which show that students make good progress with us and being accessible and inclusive means that we can tailor a pathway that suits most students. If you missed the event, but would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ward or Mrs Molloy who will be delighted to talk to you about our offer and how you will fit here. I would also like to thank Mrs Molloy and everyone involved in preparing for, and supporting the evening, especially Mrs Appleby our Business Manager, Dr Davies our assistant Head of Year for 6th Form, Mrs Wilkinson our Data and Communications Manager and also Cedric Anselm our ex professional footballer, who along with Mr Richardson shared the opportunities available on our successful specialist sixth form football course.

I will finish by wishing you a lovely holiday and I look forward to our return for the second half of the autumn term on Monday, 31 October, which will see the student returning to winter play areas outside (not on the grass due to mud), back to plates, knives and forks for main meals in the canteen (to reduce costs and help the environment) and for the short focussed learning sprint to the festive season - I can't wait!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Half Termly Rewards

This week has been a great week, celebrating the many successes of our wonderful students across all year groups. The tutor group in each year group with the highest attendance this half term received a delicious breakfast and the attendance trophy. An extra big well done to Miss Trails Year 7 tutor group who achieved the best attendance in the whole academy and therefore received a tub of celebrations to share!

Winning Tutor Groups:

Year 7 – Miss Trail

Year 8 – Mr Knight

Year 9 – Mr Walters

Year 10 – Mr Phillips

Year 11 – Mr Thurston

Sixth Form – Cedric Anselin

The top 10 students in each year group who have received the highest achievement points this half term, or have demonstrated positive changes to their behaviour and attitude to learning have also been rewarded this week. A number of activities (making fireworks, creative writing workshop, football academy and dodgeball) have been put on for students to select taking part in. It is great to be able to recognise the hard work of so many of our students.

The students who took part in these sessions are as follows:

Year 7: Noah C Kara M Jake S Hanna K Ruby P Jacob W Leo C Jamie P Chakib L Samuel G Ben S Thomas V Ella Grace S Ella S Elizabeth K	Year 8: Ria W Leo H Rodrigo F Rianna A Jason J Martha W Kaitlin W Natacha F Kaden S-H Ada A	Year 9: Jessie T Queenie Rose Nk Luke E Thomas H Lola B Warren M Riley D Harvey N Dato D Callum W Lucy Rose B Amy T Katy S Ellie B	Year 10: Andrew C Thomas W Arjend L Ethan W Reece P Kai M Reece A Mayling T Max L Ariya R Emily-Jayne C Sienna B Lucy Norris W	Year11: Torri A Dalia R Isobel B Teyla Y Isla G Jake F Daniel S Robbie R Corey S Leefna S Zak S Sam Y James H Josh K Harry R
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Congratulations to all students involved. Every half term is a fresh start with the achievement data, and therefore all students have the opportunity to be part of these rewards afternoons.

KS4 and KS5 Presentation Evening

A date for the diary – Thursday, 10 November at 7pm. Students who sat their GCSEs and A levels in June 2021, have been invited to come to celebrate their successes with us and collect their examination certificates. Letters have been sent out, so please ensure you let us know if you are able/unable to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ms Whitwood
Teacher

2. Year 7

A huge congratulations to all of Year 7 for having an amazing start to their year. They have all earned a well deserved rest over half-term and we look forward to welcoming them back on Monday, 31 October!

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

3. Year 9

We have come to the end of the first half-term! It always feels long and quite gruelling, so well done for applying yourselves so positively, and for maintaining high standards until the very last day.

Special praise this week for:

Roman T for writing a fantastic rap! – Mrs Day, OLC;

Jayden A for his work in his maths class – Mrs Gallard, OLC;

Riley D, Dorian G, Charlie M and Theo P for continuing excellent positive attitude all term – Mr Blanchflower, German;

Amy T for a tremendous start in English and Dylan M for massively improved effort and application in assessments – Mr Edwards, English;

Lucy-Rose B, Jacob D, Luke E, Thomas H, Lily-Mae H, Tyler P, Madalyn P, Grace S, Leah S, Katy S, Callum W, Keira B, Millie H, Max L and Troy N for consistent effort, engagement and willingness to push themselves to develop their understanding – Mr Crawford, History;

Rebecca S for amazing work in food tech – great work and helping others – Miss Luter, Food Technology;

I had a group of students from 90 who came and spent lunch time cutting their stencils ready for screen printing after half term. Great commitment to learning – Miss Rednall, Design and Technology.

Enjoy your half-term break and we look forward to seeing you back at the end of the month,

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 – 48 (An increase of 19)
- NST – 49 (An increase of 23)
- AED – 40 (An increase of 1)
- ABL – 42 (An increase of 15)

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 9 is 92.41%. A slight decrease of 0.2% from last week. If 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 383 mins of learning due to turning up to their lessons late. This is a very small increase of 1 minute from last week. If your son/daughter has been late you will receive a text message on Friday to let you know of their detention.

One half term done 5 more to go for Year 10 who are performing fantastically well. We have started to see the great improvement in attitude to learning from a vast majority who are getting stuck into their GCSEs. 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.

There will be a Year 10 Parent/Carer Information Evening on Student Work Experience on Wednesday 2 November 6.30-7.30pm. A short presentation will take place in the Lecture Theatre followed by Q&A.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year)

5. Year 11

Thank you to all those who attended on Tuesday evening for our revision and 6th Form Open Evening. We hope you found it beneficial and it was great for us to put parent faces to voices/names. Revision resources and guides have been given out to students. If your child hasn't received theirs please encourage them to ask their teachers for a copy.

The first set of GCSE mocks will start week commencing 7 November and students will be given a timetable of what exams are what days.

With this in mind can we reiterate how important it is for all students to attend school every day. We have got through our first half term and we want the short time that they have left in school to be as smooth as possible and this involves attending school, in lessons, attending revision hubs, correct uniform and engaging in their futures. **Remember our motto is Be Kind, Step Forward and Aim High.**

Our top achievers this half term are: Zac S, Josh K, James H, Jake F, Harry R, Robbie R, Sam Y, Corey S, Leefna S, Isabel B, Dalia R, Isla G, Teyla Y and Torri A. They have all enjoyed a treat over this past week. Well done to you all.

We have a full leadership team now in Year 11 – added to our head students James H, Erin O'N, Dalia R and Jamil A, we have our sports leaders – Charlie P and James H. Open Voice – Isla G, Daniel S, Charlie P, Klaudia B, Lucy B, Grace M, James H, Erin O'N and Jamil A. Prefects - Gerrard S, Kimora A, Kasia J, Sara S, Zac D, James S and Sean P. We also have a prom committee too up and running. Thank you to all these students that have stepped up to take on more responsibility.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

6. 6th Form

What a long half term we have had. I am so proud of how hard students have all worked these past few weeks. Year 12 have settled in really well and Year 13 have continued with their subjects and are hurtling towards the end of their UCAS applications and exams! The time is flying.

Year 13 PPE1 Exam Timetable

All year 13 will have now been emailed a copy of their exam timetable.

Please make sure that student note down the dates and timings of their exams, including any retake maths and English GCSE exams. The rooms for all exams are also on the timetable. All students must be on time to all exams. If they turn up late or miss an exam, they will most likely be charged for it so please ensure that this does not happen.

Year 13 UCAS

Please make sure that you are still working on your UCAS applications over half term. Remember that the deadline for the entire application is before we break up for Christmas. If you need help with drafting your

personal statement or choosing courses, please see one of the sixth form team asap. Remember we need to read your personal statements and re draft it a few times before it is up to the perfect final standard. Your teachers will give you your predicted grades after they have marked your PPE1 exams. I would like to have received a copy of everyone's personal statement by Friday 18th November please.

Neaco Sign Up Sheet

Students should speak to Ms Davies about the sign up sheet for One to One sessions with Miranda our NEACO Higher Education Champion. Miranda comes into the Academy every Tuesday and is available to talk to students and give advice on anything to do with university, personal statements, apprenticeships or anything else around post 18 options. She will be based in S14.

Interview Success

Interview Success, part of [Get Ahead](#), demystifies the interview process and arms students with the right techniques to approach their interviews with confidence. These sessions are aimed at health science courses, which include - nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, operating department practice, speech and language therapy and paramedic sciences. Students will get to chat with current UEA students who have been through the process and getting 1-2-1 feedback from mock interviews.

Activities

These sessions are in-person and hosted on UEA campus (Nov - Jan)

Application support and interview training for the selection process associated with Health Science courses

Mock interviews and individual feedback with current students who have succeeded in getting through the process themselves

Interview preparation and interview techniques to construct great answer when the time comes

These sessions are aimed at Y13 / L3 Y2 / Access students. For more info, dates and the booking form please visit: <https://outreach.uea.ac.uk/projects/interview-success/>

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. Careers

Please take the time to read the latest version of our Careers Newsletter which has lots of useful and interesting information for all year groups – available via the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3eg7cbm>

Those of you who are parent/carers of Year 10 students will find the Parent Information Evening on work experience very useful. This will take place on Wednesday, 2 November at 6.30-7.30pm. There will be a short talk explaining how Work Experience is run at Open Academy plus the opportunity to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dr Caroline Davies
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

8. Library

We would like to say well done to our Library Leaders who have gotten stuck into their roles and are already doing a great job. A big thank you to Ada A and Kayden S-H for their work creating a Halloween themed Kahoot for students to enjoy, as well as to Kate S, Maddie A, Tia P and Olivia C for helping to decorate the library for Halloween and creating a display of spooky stories. You can see some of their recommendations below.

We hope all of our students have a restful break over half term. As the nights get darker and cooler, why not cosy up with a good book or two!



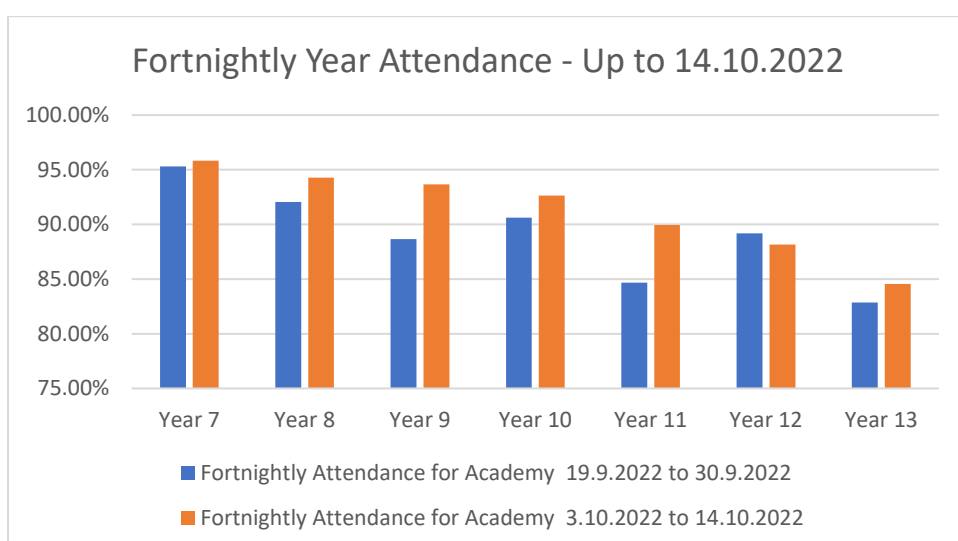
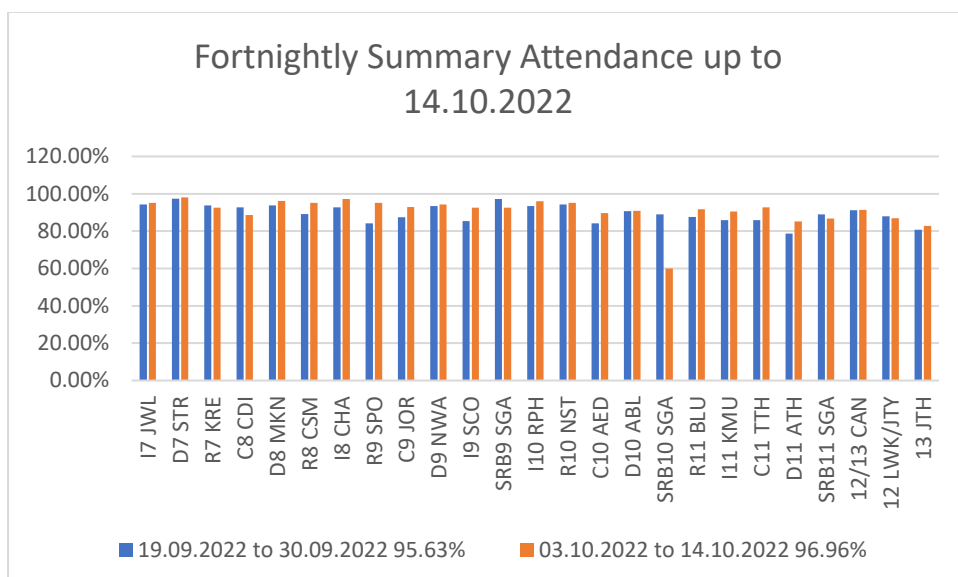
Mrs Gunton
Librarian

9. Attendance

C7 JDU	96.96%
I7 JWL	95.18%
D7 STR	98.10%
R7 KRE	92.50%
C8 CDI	88.70%
D8 MKN	96.14%
R8 CSM	95.15%
I8 CHA	97.17%
R9 SPO	95.19%
C9 JOR	92.83%
D9 NWA	94.20%
I9 SCO	92.55%
SRB9 SGA	92.50%

I10 RPH	95.96%
R10 NST	95.18%
C10 AED	89.62%
D10 ABL	90.80%
SRB10 SGA	60.00%
R11 BLU	91.67%
I11 KMU	90.52%
C11 TTH	92.69%
D11 ATH	85.19%
SRB11 SGA	86.67%
12/13 CAN	91.38%
12 LWK/JTY	86.93%
13 JTH	82.74%

Year 7	95.83%
Year 8	94.27%
Year 9	93.65%
Year 10	92.64%
Year 11	89.94%
Year 12	88.15%
Year 13	84.57%



Please see the above-mentioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 3 October 2022 to 14 October 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Absences

If your son/daughter is ill and is unable to attend school, please contact the Academy on 01603 481640 or alternatively you can contact us on our email address for absences - student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

10. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain