

Open Academy Update 4 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Firstly, this week I would like to draw your attention to the attached letter regarding the publication of our Ofsted report from our inspection in June 2022 as this has now been published. The attached letter has all the relevant information and has a link to our website where you can read the report in full. It does feel a long time ago now – just as we were recovering from the pandemic outbreak that saw us having to close the school to pairs of year groups at a time due to staff absence and high rates of virus infection. Thankfully we have moved on significantly since then.

I apologise for the avalanche of paperwork this week. I also need to share with you the trust admissions policy for the year ahead. This is an important document which must be accurate given that we have been oversubscribed with first choices both last year and for the year ahead. The letter from the trust is self-explanatory about how you can feedback regarding the update. In essence however, there is no substantive changes in the effect of the policy so I am assuming there is nothing controversial to note here.

It is a busy time at the academy, however there has still been time for light relief. I was a little concerned when I was told we had a dinosaur running amok on the top floor, however one of my senior team was able to repair the fence and turn the electricity back on in true Jurassic park style (well persuaded the 6th Form fundraisers to keep the fun until break time). I was stuck in meetings, however, the dinosaur was entertaining students at breaktime by playing the piano – all in the name of fund raising for their National Citizenship program.

Next week will see our Year 11 Awards Evening where class of '22, our best ever year for GCSE progress, will receive awards and their GCSE certificates. As always, we look forward to catching up with some familiar faces and finding out the next steps of those who have not chosen to stay with us.

Finally, on Friday, 11 November from 10.40am we will be holding a remembrance service in the Open Ark to mark the Armistice, which will culminate in 2 minutes of silence at 11am. I am pleased to say that thanks to a shipmate of Frank Armes – who is memorialised in the Open Ark, we will have a bugler for the last post and we hope to receive an artefact from the Ark Royal on which Frank served before his fateful posting on HMS Coventry from which he was sadly lost. Later in the day, I will take a group of student leaders to a service in Costessey, near where Frank lived, where a memorial bench is being unveiled. Huge thanks to Mr Gavin Scott, Frank's shipmate, and members of Frank's family who will be in attendance at both events, for allowing us to be part of the commemorations of this true local hero.

So, with much to read, I will leave it there to let you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Safeguarding

We are aware that over the past year or so the Discord app has become increasingly popular, especially with young people; using it as a way to communicate with friends via message, voice or video chat. We have collated a few tips for students using the app:

1. Discuss how to behave on the internet.

The anonymity of social media can lead children to behave in ways they wouldn't otherwise. Tell your child about the seriousness of cyber-bullying and sending nudes.

2. Talk about your standards and expectations.

Remember that Discord is all about how you use it. What servers are they allowed to join: only people they know in real life or other servers by interest? Who are they allowed to direct message?

3. Go through Discord's safety settings together.

Follow Discord's Four Steps to a Super Safe Account to turn on direct message filtering and limit who can send them direct messages. Remember that **there are no parental controls on Discord**, so your child can change these settings at any time.

4. Teach your child to be suspicious of unsolicited invites.

Pornography and predators may sneak in via server invites they didn't request, have never heard of, and have low membership. They should also **reject friend requests they weren't expecting**.

5. Make a game plan for dealing with bullying or adult content.

Make sure your child knows they won't be in trouble or lose access to the app if they report a problem to you. You want to be on their side, not have them dealing with the dangers of Discord on their own where predators might manipulate them. Go over Discord's reporting procedures. Make sure they know how to block users. Blocking removes a person from your friend list. The message history remains (which they should share with you), but they cannot send any further messages.

6. Set a follow-up appointment to check out your teen's Discord every few weeks.

Make sure the safety features are still enabled. Check out what servers they are on and take a glance at their friends and direct messages. Ask them if anything on Discord has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Mr Davies
Safeguarding Officer

2. Free School Meal Vouchers

We have been notified that financial support in the form of supermarket vouchers will continue from Norfolk County Council where pupils are entitled to free school meals. These will be issued to the value of £15 per month per child as follows until April 2023, an additional £30 per child is being included in December.

11 November 2022 - £15
2 December 2022 - £45
6 January 2023 - £15
3 February 2023 - £15
10 March 2023 - £15
7 April 2023 - £15

If you have any queries, please contact me or your Assistant Head of Year

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

3. Year 7

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It's been wonderful to see the Year 7s return with such enthusiasm and looking forward to getting back to work.

Some Year 7s entered a poetry competition last half-term and we were fortunate enough to have a number of winners, who will be included in an anthology of poetry! Congratulations to: Tallulah E, Sam G, Kara M, Logan E, Jess T, Ella S, Thomas V, Misha P, Ewan C, Summer J, Jennifer B, Issac C, George B and Katie C.

Out Top 5 LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Jacob W	48
Taylor G	47
Freddie M	44
Angel N	42
Betsy K	42

Really well done - keep up the good work!

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

4. Year 8

Well done to our year group for gaining a staggering 2331 achievement points this week, I think that has to be a record!

Our top achievers are AJ B, Ada A, Rodrigo F, Caitlin P, Olivier K, Mya P and Maddie A

Also shout outs for amazing work for Kayden SH and Alfie S for excellent translations in German and Logan W for work in maths.

As the weather becomes increasingly wet and cold please ensure your child is suitably dressed, this includes kit for PE. Students are allowed to wear black or navy jogging trousers/ leggings, hoodies/ jumpers or fleeces for PE.

As per the appearance policy school shoes should have leather uppers and they need to have shoes for school and separate trainers for PE.

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

5. Year 9

We hope you had an enjoyable half-term, and were able to recharge. The year group has hit the ground running this week, which has been excellent to see.

Special praise this week for:

Luke E, Ben N, Thomas H, Leah S, Tyler P, Callum W, Millie H, Riley D, Madalyn P and Jayden A for achieving the most points from our LEARNT behaviour system for asking and answering questions in lessons. They received a 'jump the queue' pass for the canteen and a free snack – the Year 9 Team;

Some Year 9 students entered a poetry competition and we were lucky to have a number of winners! These students will have their poem included in a poetry anthology and have received a certificate this week: Lily-Mae H, Katy S, Troy N, Lucy-Rose B, Layla D, Thomas H, Jacob D, Millie H, Lauren S, Keira B and Tyler P – Mrs Clayton, English;

Keira B, Lucy-Rose B, Jacob D, Joel M, Troy N and Grace S for their outstanding work in their recent assessment on problems for the Weimar Government. Ruby A, Layla D, Luke E, Millie H, Lily-Mae H, Madalyn P and Caleb P for their excellent focus and effort in the assessment review and improvement lesson – Mr Crawford, History;

Lily-Ann N, Kian W, Ruby A and Callum W engaged well in the A* Centre this week! – Mrs Tyler, Literacy Intervention;

Massive well done to Harvey N, Neo Y, Brian D, Dato D, Alex P, Daisy H and Emilia K for using their rehearsal time wisely to be ready to perform their movement piece in front of the class – Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Joel M has been trying hard in Geography in lessons and did well in his waterfall test. Brian B also performed well in the same test – Mr Mundy, Geography;

Jacob D - Excellent piece of English poetry – Mrs Gallard, OLC;

Callum W and Harvey N played for our year 10 team on Tuesday when they won 5-1 against Sprowston. Callum also scored a hat-trick, last goal being a 40 yard screamer in the top corner – Mr Lambert, PE.

Enjoy your weekend.

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

6. DofE

Please accept my apologies for the late cancellation of last Monday's DofE meeting, this was due to a family emergency.

The meeting is rescheduled for Monday, 7 November, 3-4pm. We will be logging on to students DofE accounts so it is essential that all students attend.

Mrs Pearsall - DofE Manager

7. 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 10 is 91.98%. A slight decrease of 0.43% 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 529 mins of learning due to turning up to their lessons late. This is the same as 8 hrs and 49 mins of lost learning in a week across the year group. This is an increase of 146 minutes 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.

Uniform: Although the vast majority are getting this right we need to ensure that all are. Please can you ensure that your son/daughter leaves for school in the full correct uniform. Just wearing leggings is not school uniform. If students want to wear leggings then please can they wear a skirt on top, then everybody gets what they want. Thank you again for your support in this and again the vast majority are fantastic.

Fantastic Students: A big celebration to the amazing Open football team who thrashed Sprowston 5-1. Could this be the start of a comeback for Open in the football scene?

It was also a great turnout for the work experience evening with the vast majority of Year 10 taking a keen interest in their future time out in the workplace. Don't worry if you didn't manage to attend, there will be time to find out more and ask any questions you may have later in the year.

Eight weeks down in this term. Now heading towards winter and don't forget, Christmas is just next month. For the year group they have really settled into their GCSE life with a lot more mature attitudes to learning being shown.

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)

8. Art & Science Trip

On Friday, 21 October, Year 10 students from GCSE Art and Triple Science visited the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. The museum has a fascinating collection of preserved animals from all over the world including a gigantic skeleton of a Fin Whale and a selection of beetles collected by Charles Darwin!

The students made sketches of the exhibits and learnt about the incredible diversity of species on display.

They represented the Academy brilliantly and the museum commented to me how impressed they were."

Mr Walters
Teacher



9. Year 11

Welcome back and we hope you all had a restful half term break.

We have lots of top achievers this week. It's been a good week for achieving as students are settling into their lessons and revision. Well done to everyone and especially to Jude A, Isabel B, Ella I-H, Lisa K, Kimora A, Owen M, Lola P, Toby T, Torri A, James H, Jawad H, Oliver K, Sophie S, Rose W, Leefna S, Georgina B and Toby C.

Some students have been meeting with our careers adviser and lots of students are starting to apply to 6th forms/colleges and thinking about life after GCSEs which is encouraging to see. All Year 11 students will have a chance to talk to our careers adviser, Dr Davies, during the course of the year and PHSE lessons cover careers advice too.

We had our GCSE procedures assembly this morning and students have been reminded of the expectations for exams e.g. phones to be handed in etc. This is to build confidence and procedures become 'one less thing to worry about'. The procedures and expectations are straightforward with no surprises e.g. students will have the same seat in the exam hall for every exam etc.

Thank you for your support with this. For those students that missed the assembly it will be run again on Monday at 3 pm. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

The planned mock exam schedule is attached to this newsletter and students are aware.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

10. 6th Form

October's Non-Uniform Fundraising

We have made a Go Fund me page for students who haven't paid for non-school uniform.

<https://gofund.me/ea0d2541>

UCAS application

Please can Year 13 students ensure that they are using any free time/tutor times to continue with their UCAS applications. You only have 6 weeks until our deadline date for completion! Please feel free to email myself and Dr Davies copies of your personal statements so far!

Imperial College event

This week I had the pleasure of attending a Stem Point East event alongside the Nuffield Foundation with Shadrak who completed a mind blowingly amazing research project this summer. The standard was similar to that of a final year university students dissertation, and it was wonderful to be able to go to this event to celebrate all of the hard work that he has put into making this a success. Check out Twitter for the pics.

Important dates and opportunities

Personal Statement Online Workshops - Choice of dates: Thursday 17th November / Wednesday 14th December 5 - 6.30pm

Aimed at Year 13 students looking to apply to university, this workshop is aimed at helping you perfect your Personal Statement focusing on strategies to make your statement stylish, concise, and accurate with lots of examples to peruse from different subject areas. Click [HERE](#) to register yourself

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Studying Abroad 2022 - Opportunities and Possibilities!

Monday 21st November 7.00-8.30pm

Whether you're just curious or already determined on your route come along and talk to the experts to find out more about the exciting prospect of spending time in Europe, Canada or the USA as part of your next educational steps.

Click [HERE](#) to register

Years 12 & 13 - Presentation / Talk by Médecins sans Frontières – Tuesday 29th November 6.30-7.45pm

Medicine in Warzones: What it's like to work for Medecins Sans Frontières?

A fascinating talk and Q&A session with Chris Peskett, a Norfolk medic and MSF board member and colleague, Gerry, exclusively targeted at all Norfolk students interested in pursuing medicine as a career.

What it's really like to work on major MSF programme

An overview and focus on what doctors actually do in the field: diagnoses, treatments etc

Research aspects: HIV / TB programmes; major medical interventions etc – an insight into the scope of activities for nurses

MSF as a leading international non-governmental organisation (INGO) for humanitarian activities (though Chris will also talk about other non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Ways of accessing volunteering experiences in the charitable /medical sector

This is a remarkable opportunity to meet and talk to a warzone field worker, a medic, and an MSF Board member. Click [HERE](#) to register

Introduction to Apprenticeships on-line Evening - Wednesday 23rd November 7-8pm

Curious about Apprenticeships? Remember these now go all the way to degree level and beyond. Parents are welcome to attend with you if they too would like to know more.

Click [HERE](#) to register

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

11. Careers

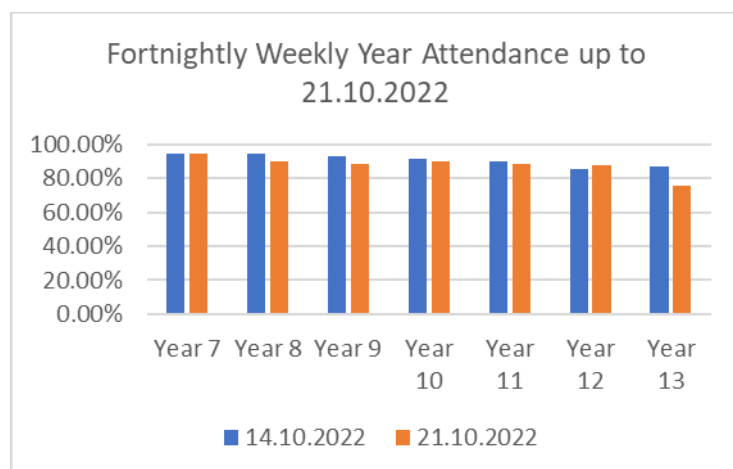
For the latest careers information, including details of our November aviation sector of the month please go to our 'live' careers Newsletter:

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

This is also available on the Open Academy website.

Dr Caroline Davies
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

12. Attendance



Just to remind you that if you have any changes to contact numbers, address etc, please let us know as soon as possible, in order that these details can be updated on our system.

Please do continue to use our student absence email address to notify us of any absences, appointments etc. student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

If you intend to take your son/daughter out during term time i.e. holiday etc. please complete an absence in term time form. These are available from Reception and need to be completed prior to the absence. Many thanks.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

13. Chaplain's Reflection

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."

Mother Teresa

Often we face problems in life and many of them can be big. When we look at the size of a situation it can seem impossible to deal with and we can shy away from dealing with it. I want to encourage you to face it a little at a time, it's amazing and how we can dismantle something that seems so big with small steps even with slow (as it seems) progress.

We all know the Bible story about David and Goliath. A nine foot tall giant was dealt with, with a small stone.

Start small today and you will see the giants fall.

God bless you all.



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Making Sense of SEND

FREE INFORMATION FAIR



Tues 22 Nov 2022



10am-12pm



The Willow Centre, Cringleford

**For parents and carers of children aged 0-25
with SEND. Information stands will include:**



**Educational Psychology
& Specialist Support**



**There will be a presentation at
10.30am about the Big Norfolk
Holiday Fun programme.**



**Refreshments will be provided,
and you are welcome to stay for
as long as you'd like.**

**For more info and to book
your free place through
Eventbrite, scan the QR code**