

Open Academy Update 11 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and students.

Welcome to our newsletter this week. We have been incredibly busy preparing for and then enjoying our annual prize giving ceremony. This is a real highlight of the academic year. We were therefore delighted to receive class of '22 back in the academy last night to celebrate their amazing achievements.

It was particularly satisfying this year knowing that this year group have made national average progress from starting points. This is a key milestone in the improvement journey the schools has been on since it opened and I am delighted that our progress is now on a par with the majority of other schools – the first time that we have achieved that.

We enjoyed meeting again, so many familiar faces, all substantially more grown up than when we said goodbye in July and I'm sure the students enjoyed the opportunity to get together again. It was a shame so many Year 13 were unable to attend as most were away at their new destinations, but it was great to read in the program what everyone was now up to.

Our guest speaker for the evening was a new member of teaching staff Katherine Rednall, who has started a new career as a design and technology teacher with us. Until now she has been a professional flat green bowls professional, having won the world title on no less than 4 occasions. I was privileged to interview her about her sporting success and journey from school through to world championship success, and she shared some thoughtful advice around meeting challenges calmly and without drama.

The evening, planned and delivered by Miss Whitwood, was a great success so thank you to all the staff who made the event possible. I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated their change for our 'Movember' campaign to raise awareness about men's health issues – testicular cancer, prostate cancer and men's mental health. A group of staff have agreed to be sponsored to grow a moustache during 'Movember' with the aim of raising at least £300 for the Movember charity. Thanks to last night's parent contributions we are over £75 closer to that goal – that is a great amount of small change. Thank you!

Finally this week, we were honoured to receive the friends and family of Frank Armes, our ex student who died serving his country during the Falklands conflict 40 years ago this year. As I have shared before, the Open Ark, our 'green space' of protection for those in need, was dedicated to Frank's memory this year and to have one of his ship mates and representatives from the armed services present for our act of remembrance was humbling today.

As the bugler played the last post, the whole academy mustered around the cross in the atrium and then we all feel silent at 11am to mark the 2 minutes of remembrance observed across the country on the 11th of the 11th. As Reveille was played, our chaplain Mr Pimlott read the remembrance prayer to end one of the most touching moments I have experienced in a school. The silence was observed perfectly by all and I am proud to say that the young generation that makes up our students, clearly and proudly showed their respect towards those who gave their lives to protect our way of life. A huge thank you to all students who behaved so well, not to mention the student leaders who attended our remembrance service in the Ark in the lead up to the silence. A special moment shared by all.

With that I will leave you to enjoy the rest of the newsletter

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Norfolk Assistance Scheme

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme offers financial support to families who are struggling financially. Norfolk County Council are currently working on the Norfolk Assistance Scheme – New Offer and hope to reach a wider demographic of the community.

The target is to get the message out to those families who are not eligible for free school meals, but still need help. They are also trying to promote this through schools. Please see the link below for more information:

[Norfolk Assistance Scheme \(NAS\) - Norfolk County Council](#)

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Officer

2. Year 7

We've had another really positive week this week in Year 7; we are so proud of how they are progressing. I'd like to give an extra special mention to Summer J who showed great courage on Thursday evening by singing at the Presentation Evening in front of a crowd of over a hundred people including staff, governors, last year's Year 11 and 13 students and their parents. A wonderful achievement Summer - well done!

As a year group we will be recognising World Diabetes Day on Monday, 14 November by wearing a blue top. Year 7 students will need to wear their usual school trousers/skirt and blazer the only difference is instead of their shirt and tie they can wear a blue top. There will also be an optional donation of £1 to raise money for Diabetes UK, a charity supporting those with diabetes. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect the £1 in cash, so parents can either pay via Parent Pay or donate directly to the charity via the link:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/>

In order for charity events like this to continue we need to ensure that all students abide by the rules of still wearing their usual trousers/skirts and blazers and that students are not arriving in hoodies under their blazers please, even if they are blue.

We have a top 7 LEARNT achievers this week as we have 5 on the same points. They are:

Caitlyn N	21
Cameron S	21
Destiny O	12
Jasmin C	12
Angel G	12
David D	12
Alex T	12

Excellent work everybody!

We also need to give a big shout out to the Year 7 students who made the Accelerated Reader Top 20 list. This is a list of the students in Years 7-9 who have read and quizzed on the most books. It's great to see that 11 of the 20 are Year 7s! Congratulations to Leo C, Cameron S, Kara M, Hanna K, Ella-Grace S, Elizabeth C, Austin L, Taylor N, Ethan T, Ruby P and Samuel R.

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

3. Year 8

We have had a great week this week in the number of achievement points awarded, our top students are Maverick G, Martha W, Tyler A, Ria W and Peyton W and they have been given a skip the queue and a free tray bake from the canteen!

Well done to Alfie S for excellent work in German and Paige W, Jasmin C and Alex M for excellent homework in English.

In the Accelerated Reader Quiz, making the top 20 list (for the entire school), are Somaya R, Esme W, Olivier K, Kate S and Kayden SH. What a fantastic achievement!!

Mrs Pearsall (Head of Year)

Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year)

4. Year 9

Well done for all of your hard work this week.

Particular praise for the following for their hard work, effort, and for representing the school:

Steven E, Dorian G (Deputy Head Boy), Oskar Coleman, Emilia K (Deputy Head Girl), Isi O who represented the school at a memorial ceremony for Frank Armes (a former Heartsease High School student who was killed on HMS Coventry in the Falklands War in 1982) – the Year 9 team;

I would like to praise the following students for excellent contribution to class on a regular basis, and for consistently high levels of effort: Keeley Y, Millie H, Theo P, Oscar B and Thomas H. It is very hard not to name over half of the class, but I had to draw the line at 5! – Mr Bradshaw, Maths;

For science in 9H: Riley B - attentiveness and quality of spoken answers;

Kayne B - quality of written answers; Viktoria K - Written answers and readiness in lesson – Mr Willgress;

Special praise for Zoe W in English for performing her special birthday poem and dance. Steven Ellis for spitting facts like a trooper! – Mr Edwards;

Shout out for George T-S for his work in lessons – Mrs McEvoy, Modern Foreign Languages;

A big shout out to all the Year 9s who have been challenging themselves to work collaboratively with different people in drama, especially Issy, Brian, Emilia, Louie, Chelsea, Emilis, Yousif, William, Thomas, Maddie, Roxy, Riley D, Kayne and Tia – Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Rebecca Shapcott who scored 97% in her recent assessment – Mr Murray, Head of Science.

Improved Effort and engagement in lessons, Ella-Rose W and Riley B – Mrs Lamb.

Enjoy your weekend,

Mr Crawford and Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year)

5. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 59 (An increase of 11)
- NST – 52 (An increase of 3)
- AED – 72 (An increase of 32 – Fantastic effort)
- ABL – 60 (An increase of 18)

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 10 is 92.27%. A nice increase of 0.29% from last week. If not in school please send in evidence (this could be a photograph of the medicine given).

Late to learning: This week just 15 Year 10 students have truanted lessons or turned up excessively late to their learning. Well done to the 91 students who have continued to access all the learning available to them at Open.

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: It was a great trip for Year 10 photography students last week. Lots of fantastic learning taking place outside the building/county. Excellent behaviour from all, well done.

11 November is a day to remember and respect those who have fought/been injured/died to protect and uphold the freedoms we enjoy today. We need to remember how amazing Year 10 can be. Although there have been challenges, the vast majority have been excelling themselves. It is only with the joint support of school and home that we can hope to help to keep this going in the future. We will never give up on students in their quest for knowledge and achievement. Thank you for your support from home, it really shows in the students' day to day at Open.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year)

6. 6th Form

English/Maths Resit

Mrs Power has alerted us to the fact that attendance at Maths GCSE resit lessons is very low. It is vitally important that students attend all these lessons to prepare them for their exam and to ensure that they have the best possible chance of achieving a Grade 4 or above. Places in 6th Form is dependent on attending these lessons and will be reviewed if necessary. This also applies to GCSE English resit lessons with Mr Edwards.

Subject Taster days for Year 12

Subject Insight Days, part of [Explore](#), provide Year 12 pupils with a hands-on university experience within their subject of interest. From how they learn at university, what being a university student is like to looking at different subjects through various lenses. Our aim is to help students make informed decisions for their future. Students should see Ms Davies if they are interested in attending one of these:

Subject Insight Days will likely include:

- Biology (27 March 2023)
- Business, Economics and Law (June 2023)
- Health Sciences (June 2023)
- Humanities (April or May 2023)
- Medicine (January 2023)
- PE, Sport and Health (July 2023)
- Social Work (March 2023)
- Sociology, Education, Criminology, Psychology (June 2023)

Aviva Trip

Ms Davies took a group of 6th Form students to Aviva last week. They had a tour of the head office building including the fabulous Marble Hall, and they learnt about apprenticeships that are offered there. Ex student Harry Rose (3rd from right) told the students all about his apprenticeship as a Business Analyst. What a great opportunity!



NCS

Please see below the photos from the NCS events last week. Well done to everyone involved. The students raised £172.49 for RSPCA and so far the amount raised for Victim Support is £309. Huge congrats guys – what amazing causes!



Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

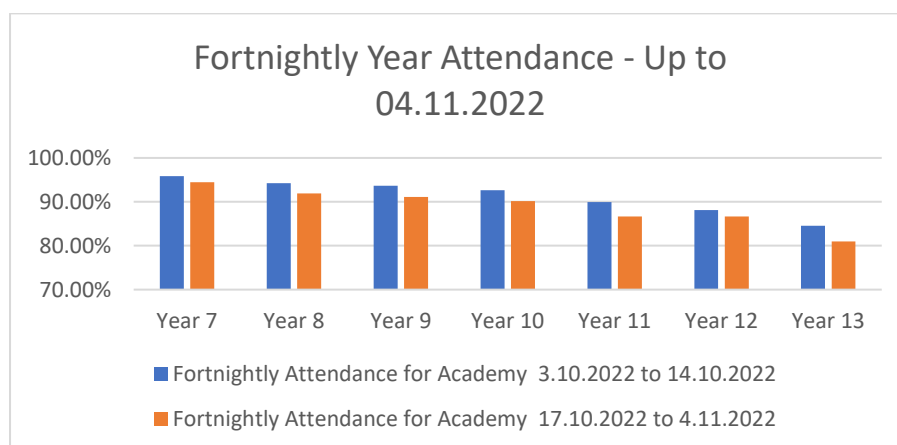
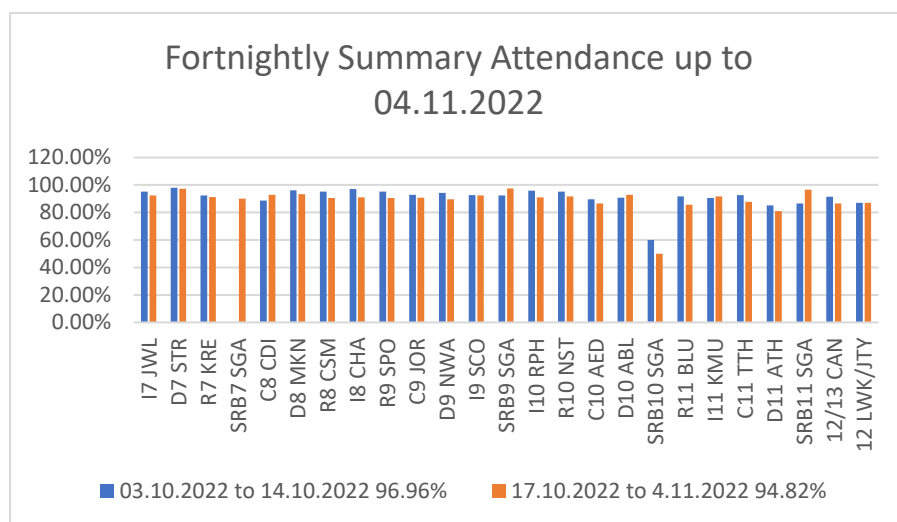
7. Careers

The Open Academy Careers Newsletter is available on the Academy website or alternatively by using the following link <https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew>

There is lots of useful information about careers and opportunities for each Key Stage as well as reminders about local university and college Open Days. Please give any me feedback at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Caroline Davies
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

8. Attendance



Please see the above attendance data for the two weeks for period 17 October 2022 to 4 November 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Well done to the 284 students who achieved 98% and above attendance for October 2022 and also to the 198 students who have improved their attendance between the months of September 2022 and October 2022. All of these students have been given achievement points.

When contacting ourselves to advise of your son/daughter's absence, appointments etc. please continue to use our email address of student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

9. Chaplain's Reflection

This week in school we have been reflecting on Remembrance Day and the importance of it in regards to the freedom that we have and the great unimaginable cost to so many. Remembering something can be very powerful because it brings past situations to the forefront of our minds.

We are often conditioned to forget the past, particularly if it has been a negative one, but I want to encourage you to remember the different victories that you have had in your life and bring them to the forefront of your mind instead.

There is a story in the Bible which talks about remembrance. After the children of Israel had been led out of Egyptian captivity and experienced the miracle of the red sea parting, they had another obstacle in the way

of them reaching the promised land. It was a fast-flowing swollen river. They cried out to God because they couldn't get over it and He stopped the flow of water and they crossed to the other side. After they crossed over they placed 12 memorial stones in the river at a place called Gilgal to remind them and others what God had done.

Over the years, the children of Israel used Gilgal as a base to operate from and if they ever got discouraged in life or came across obstacles, they would look at the memorial stones and remember what God had done there in giving them the victory. This would encourage and spur them on.

I want to encourage you if you are feeling discouraged today to reach back or remember those "Gilgal or victorious moments" in your life, bring those thoughts to the front of your mind and tell yourself, if I won then in life, I can do the same now and in the future.

God bless you all.



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain