

Open Academy Update 18 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and students.

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

I am tempted to say that you may have had more than enough news from me this week given the take from the local papers regarding our Ofsted report. However, I would like to reassure you that as it says in the paper, we have already taken significant steps to ensure our safeguarding processes are fully able to ensure all elements of safeguarding are effective. It is so long ago since the inspection, I am actually looking forward to the inspectors return soon to be able to evidence that we have resolved the issues identified.

I am currently working on a program of information evenings in the new year to help parents engage with the academy and, in the light of the report recently, I will aim to include an update around the Ofsted report comments as well. The program is likely to include:

- Meeting behaviour challenges
- Helping those who need a little extra support with their learning at home
- Understanding the autistic spectrum
- Effective revision and preparation for exams – a parent's guide
- Ofsted report progress update
- Mindfulness, meditation and relaxation – wellbeing for teenagers
- Keeping safe online – understanding their digital world

These sessions will be delivered by senior and experienced staff, involve a relaxed sociable atmosphere with free refreshments and, if people are interested, could turn in to credits towards NVQ cache qualification units with further work.

Please do let me know what you think by dropping me an email. Are these the right sessions? Is anything missing?

I would also be delighted to hear from anyone with further thoughts about what we can do to engage with you, our parents and carers, more effectively.

Please do email me via principal@open-academy.org.uk and let me know your thoughts.

Last week was incredibly hectic so it has been pleasant to get back to a reasonably event free week, although the festive season will be upon us before we know it.

Thank you for everyone who has contributed to the Movember campaign which currently means that team Open Mo, mainly my senior leadership team and a few others like Mr Davis and Mr Wilgress are being sponsored to grow a moustache during November to raise money for the men's health charity Movember, which aims to fight male suicide, prostate and testicular cancer. If you wish to donate, please do find Movember please use <https://uk.movember.com/team/2415282>. We would be grateful for a donation no matter however small or large.

I think that is definitely enough from me this week – I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Year 9 Options Process and Timeline

The process and timeline for the options this year will reflect the dual requirements to ensure that the students have the maximum time to consider their choices and change their mind, as well as ensuring we meet value for money guidelines from the DFE. Please see attached booklet.

The following dates give the approximate timeline so that all stakeholders are fully informed:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| October / November 2022 | Academy to check latest DFE targets and guidance relating to GCSE courses including which courses should run. |
| 28 November 2022 | Staff to have edited and submitted their pages for the Options Booklet |
| January 2023 | Year 9 reports to parents |
| 28 February 2023 | Year 9 Options Evening |
| 7 March 2023 | Year 9 Parents' Evening |
| 31 March 2023 | Students hand in first draft of Options Form (they can change their mind still) |
| May 2023 | Organise curriculum and choose which courses can run |
| May / June 2023 | Hire teachers if required |
| 7 June 2023 | Options offer letters returned to students confirming their courses for Year 10. |

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

2. Spare Uniform

Have you got any spare uniform that is perhaps too small? Old blazers or ties especially. Please could they be donated to help others who may be struggling at the moment. Donations of uniforms could really help some families at this time.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

3. Sponsorship Opportunity

The PE department are looking to fund new football kits for our boys' and girls' teams. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to support our students, please get in touch. We love to hear from local businesses who would like to get involved. Please contact scott.richardson@open-academy.org.uk or bethany.whitwood@open-academy.org.uk

Approximately £500 would provide a full match kit, with embroidery and sponsorship for a team. Any contributions would be much appreciated.

Mr Richardson
Assistant Principal

4. Year 9

We are three weeks down, so nearly half way through the half-term! We have seen some outstanding effort and achievement this week, with special praise for the following:

Abi M for outstanding results on her latest core knowledge test for English – Miss Roberts, Head of English;

This week I'd like to put forward Tia-Louise P and Riley P for brilliant efforts made in class leading to great progress – Mr Bradshaw, Head of Maths;

All credit this week to Tyler H for his fantastic airs and style; and to Asha K for singing her birthday song with aplomb and for her showing gumption in lesson – Mr Edwards, English;

9E on the whole for being brilliant in their first screen printing lesson and the select few from 9E who came at lunch time to do some extra printing work! – Miss Rednall, Design and Technology;

Great effort from 9H in art lessons recently. Especially Olivia, Tia, Kayne, Dorian and Theo – Mr Walters, Art;

Really impressed with 9P this week for giving detailed presentations about the gothic genre. Especially proud of those who were confident enough to stand at the front of the class whilst giving their presentations – Miss Hawthorne, English;

A shout out for Neo for his amazing sentences in German on rap music – Mrs McEvoy, Modern Foreign Languages;

Lucy-Rose B, Lily-Mae H, Madalyn P, Grace S, Katy S, Troy N, Max L and Tyler P for always being polite, hard-working, and brilliant examples of outstanding Year 9 students – Mr Crawford, History;

Ella-Rose Woodcock for making a positive effort to improve her engagement with lessons – Mr Crawford, Head of Year.

Enjoy your weekend, and keep up the good effort,

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 – 54
- NST – 52
- AED – 51
- ABL – 54

Attendance: Current attendance for Y9 is 92.06%. A small decrease of 0.21% 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 Year 10 have missed a total of 426 minutes of learning due to being late to their lessons. This will mean many will be catching up in a late detention tonight. 17 Year 10 students have truanted lessons or turned up excessively late to their learning. Well done to the 89 students who have continued to access all the learning available to them at the academy.

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.

Energy Drinks: A reminder about energy drinks not being allowed in school.

Fantastic Students:

- Michaela B, Reece A, Lilly T, Argjend L, Athanasios C, Ebon G, Joel W – Excelling themselves in History. Showing a lot of determination to succeed, well done.
- Poppy B, Jessica W – Working really hard to have successful reports. The effort and focused attitude to your learning is showing, keep it up.

Well it is now just 4 weeks left to go before the end of this 1st term. The weather is getting more unsettled with the wind and rain. Also Work Experiences is fast approaching and the sooner students begin to think about and choose the kinds of work they would like to experience the better. Norwich can be a small place with many Y10s across the city all thinking about working for a week in the same places. The sooner this is

sorted the less stress/anxiety it will provide to all. If any further information/advice is needed please get in contact with the Year office. Thank you for your continued support from home, it really shows in the student's day to day at Open.

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

6. Year 11

First full week of PPE 1 (Pre-Public Exams) exams have taken place this week. We are so proud of our Year 11s. They have been amazing! They have followed the necessary procedures e.g. getting into school on time and done everything we have asked of them and routines have been established. Results will be formally given to students in December.

Please find the schedule for next week's continued exams:

Monday 21.11.22 9 a.m. English Literature
11.30 a.m. Computer Science

Tuesday 22.11.22 9 a.m. Spanish speaking

Wed 23.11.22 Art and photography all day

Thursday 24.11.22 9 a.m. Physics
11.30 a.m. Maths

Fri 25.11.22 11.30 a.m. RS

The Year 11 boys played a friendly match against UTC on Monday after school and after a solid performance the result was 9-1 to us. Well done to all our players. Good team effort.

Next Monday after the exam there will be an opportunity to watch England's first World Cup Game or spend some time with Miss Roberts. Hopefully a win on Monday will give students a bit of a boost.

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

7. Calling all Budding Musicians

Thank you for all those who have submitted their contracts so far!

However, it's not too late if your child is interested in learning a musical instrument this academic year!

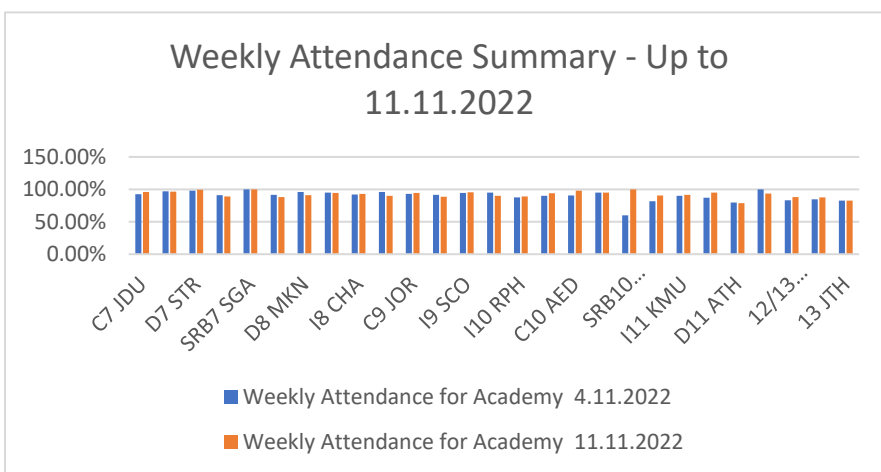
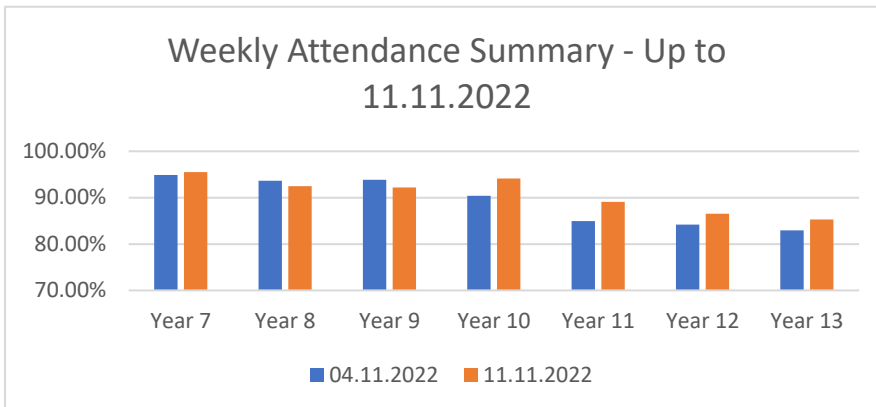
We are currently in the process of organising tutors for different instruments so if there's an instrument your child would really like to either learn from scratch, or develop their current skills, then they should come to see me in the music room for a letter and contract by Friday, 25 November 2022.

African Music Course Support

As part of our music course in Year 7, we will be studying African music in January! If you, or someone you know has expertise in this style, we would love to talk to you about potentially supporting and enriching the course in some way! Please email me if anyone comes to mind.

Mr Dilley
Teacher

8. Attendance

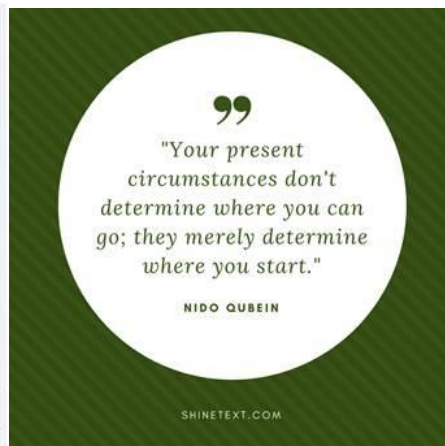


Please do keep us updated with any change of address or contact details, so your son/daughter's details can be updated on our system. Thank you.

If your son/daughter is unwell and therefore unable to attend school, please do contact ourselves before 8.30am (if possible) either by telephone or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

9. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott
Chaplain