

Open Academy Update 25 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

This week I would like to focus on the Academy's charity and community work.

I would first like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Movember campaign, which currently means that team 'Open Mo' composed of my senior leadership team and a few others like Mr Davis, Mr Wilgress, Mr Phillips and Mr Crawford, have already raised over £500 for men's health charities. Most of us can't wait to get rid of the face fuzz, but it has been a small price to pay to help raise funds and awareness of this charity which aims to fight male suicide and prostate and testicular cancer. The generosity of you, our parents and carers, and the staff is fantastic even in these difficult times so huge thanks. If you wish to donate we are still going until the end of Movember, please do search for Movember on the web and search for the 'Open Mo' team or use the link below. We will be grateful for any donation no matter how small or large.

<https://uk.movember.com/team/2415282>

The Movember efforts are just one part of our charitable work. I know that once again this year form groups are busily working on filling Christmas hampers which we will distribute locally where we know there are needs. Mr Pimlott has successfully coordinated this program for years where we send out between 40-50 hampers full of the best quality items required to make a lovely Christmas dinner, including a voucher for the butchers for a fresh turkey. It is shocking how many people are in desperate need through these tough times and I am pleased that we can at least make sure that Christmas lunch is special for some.

The new student council, Open Voice, met for the first time this academic year and high on their agenda was the annual discussion about charity support. The council agreed that they wished to support 'Save The Children' Christmas jumper appeal as usual, having raised over £250 recently for this campaign. They resolved to go back to their respective year teams for further specific suggestions. Last year we supported Water Aid, Cancer Research and a range of other smaller charities through the 6th Form National Citizenship program.

Finally, we will be holding quiz and chips events for staff and for the community to raise funds for our Thankfulness Fund, our own charity that we use to provide essentials for those in need in our own community. I will share more details and advertise these events nearer the time.

Overall, I will finish by saying thank you everyone for their generosity for our Academy, our community, our country and the wider world. Our generosity of spirit is a wonderful feature of Open Academy and for that I know Mark would say we are blessed.

Please do enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Year 7

A huge well done to Year 7 involved in the maths event with "Talent Foundry" this week with Mr Phillips. Maths was brought into the real world as they designed and organised a concert for 10,000 people.

They made a survey and represented their market research on various statistical diagrams, in order to find out what to include on the day.

From catering to lighting and food, costs were considered and profits calculated before presenting their ideas to the group.

Brilliant teamwork and courage, well done!



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

2. Year 9

We have now broken the back of this half-term and the countdown to the Christmas holidays can almost begin! We have had lots of positive reports from staff this week, with special praise for the following:

I have been really impressed with Leah S in Drama. She has been able to work maturely with a variety of people and has been starting to work on some very creative ideas. Megan P for her ability to organise a group and make sure that the tasks were completed on time - Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Keeley Y for encouraging her friends to get to English on time and helping to bring out the best behaviour and effort in others in their assessment. Bright student, super teamwork – Mr Edwards, English;

Jacob D and Thomas H for their consistent engagement in history and willingness to ask and answer questions. Max L, Harley R, Luke E, Keira B, Millie H and Leah S for always getting on with their work calmly and efficiently, helping the class to run smoothly – Mr Crawford, History;

Well done to Jayden, Tyler P, William and George for their unbelievable efforts in the last unit of fitness. The boys worked incredibly hard in every lesson. All four students will be receiving a cinema voucher. This will be coming their way soon! Well done! A big well done to David and Joshua who achieved amazing scores on their reading homework for PE. David scored 85% accuracy and Joshua scored 99% accuracy.– Miss Whitwood, Physical Education;

I have been really impressed with the maturity of some of the Year 9s this week, and their ability to come and see the year team to talk about issues they have been facing. It takes a lot of courage at times to talk to someone about issues you may be facing, so I feel incredibly proud of those who have been to see us and ask for support – Miss Whitwood, 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)

3. Theatre Trip

A theatre trip has been planned for Year 9 students who are interested in taking GCSE drama or have shown aptitude in class work:

I am very excited to have been able to arrange a theatre trip to see the highly acclaimed **'Teechers, Leavers '22'** by John Godber at the Norwich Playhouse on 21 February 2023. This hilarious, high energy and full blooded show, brings to life an array of terrifying teachers and hopeless pupils through the eyes of Salty, Gail and Hobby; three Year 11 students facing a scary world, armed only with imagination and a joy of theatre.

"Teechers will have you in stitches, and at other points leave you angered at the injustice of our education system. It is wonderfully funny and thought provoking and well worth a watch".

There are still a few places still available, so if your son or daughter would like to see this outstanding show, please ensure that they return their letters to the finance office or see Mrs Ormosi as soon as possible.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

4. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 46
- NST – 43
- AED – 29
- ABL – 36

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 9 is 91.81%. A small decrease of 0.25% 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 453 minutes of learning due to being late to their lessons. This will mean many will be catching up in a late detention tonight. 12 Year 10 students have truanted lessons or turned up excessively late to their learning. Well done to the 94 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:

Xylia S, Sienna B and Keira W have stepped up to do a number of extracurricular and helpful activities and have shown fresh ideas and enthusiasm in their English classes.

Now into the final 3 weeks before the Christmas Holidays, the vast majority of Year 10 are continuing to make fantastic positive progress. 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)

5. Year 11

One month until Christmas day! Time is whizzing by.

Another week of PPE exams has been completed and now students can relax a little and enjoy the next few weeks before the big day. Those who have created a revision timetable would be encouraged to keep this going as it is beneficial.

Hubs (apart from English) are still running after school. Attendance is high and we think students will agree they are helping with revision and reinforcing their learning. For those that have missed any exams over the past three weeks, they have been either given the opportunity to re-sit them or will re-sit next week. Students' results will be formally handed to them in an assembly on Thursday, 8 December and there will be a virtual parents evening on Tuesday, 13 December for parents to gain more information about their child's progress and raise any concerns.

We are also hoping to run some exam anxiety sessions with our Mental Health Support Team before and after Christmas and give some valuable strategies to help support those students that have found the last three weeks particularly stressful. This will be optional to whoever would like to attend.

Geography students are participating in their fieldwork in Norwich City Centre next Tuesday, 29 November and a letter has been given out to students today. Please return them on Monday/Tuesday morning.

Our football cup game is cancelled for Monday evening and rescheduled for Monday, 12 December.

On Monday we all watched England's First World Cup Fixture as a reward for working hard during their PPEs. It was a great atmosphere and result. Hopefully we will get another great result tonight against USA.



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

6. 6th Form

Thomas Anguish Assembly

On Monday, 28 November there will be a talk during tutor time from Thomas Anguish Educational Foundation about post 18 funding opportunities. These funds are for anyone interested in taking place in a community or voluntary project either in this country or overseas. This could be for just a few weeks or a longer 'gap year' period. It's a fantastic opportunity to get financial support for doing something really amazing!

UCAS – Personal statement deadline

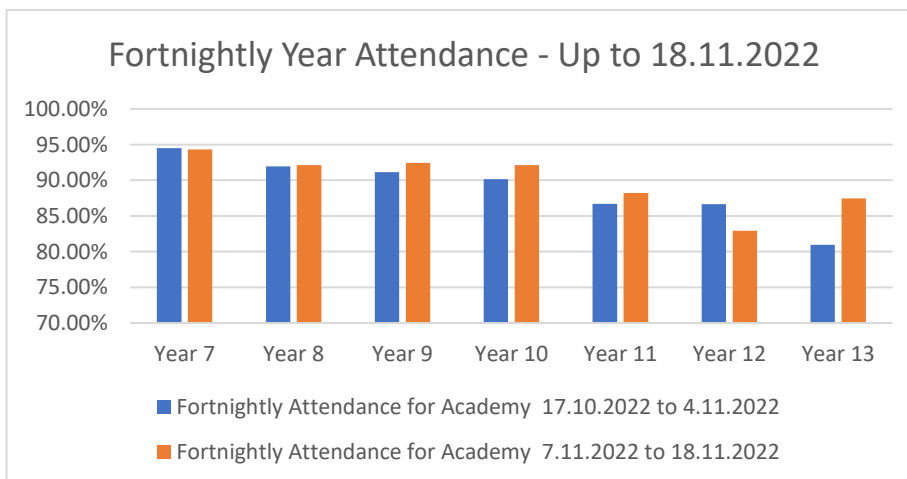
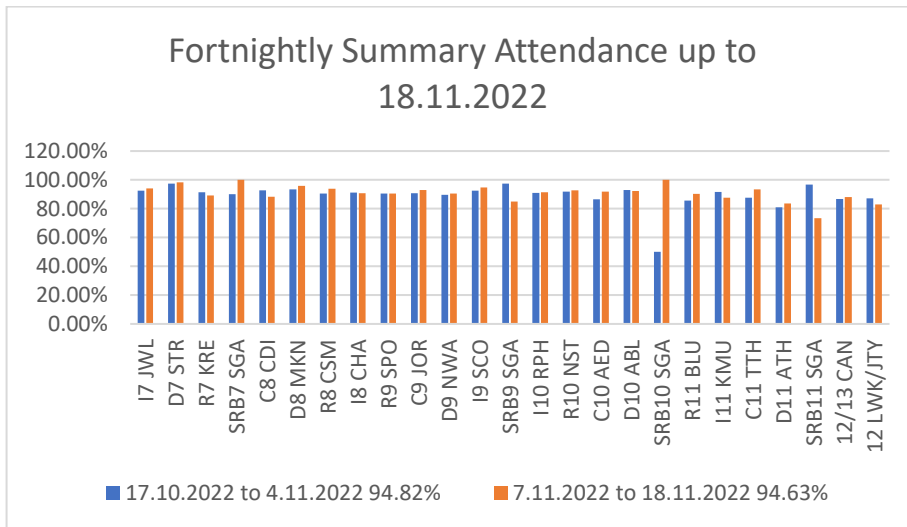
I would like all Year 13s to email me and Ms Davies at least a first draft of their personal statements by next Friday, 2 December please.

London Trip Payments

If your child has not done so already, please ensure that the first London payment for the trip has been made asap. The second payment is due Friday, 9 December. Any problems, please let me know.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

7. Attendance



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 7 November 2022 to 18 November 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

8. Chaplain's Update

Carol Concert:



Just a reminder that our carol concert will be taking place on Wednesday, 14 December at 6.30pm-7.15pm. This is a free event, all are welcome and it will be a great night of Christmas cheer. There will be carols, student performances and the Open Drama Club will be performing in "An Open Christmas Carol". Refreshments will also be served during the course of the evening.

Booking is not essential but we would love to know that you are coming. Please feel free to contact the school or email me mark.pimlott@open-academy.org.uk to do this, or if you have any other questions. We look forward to celebrating this great season with you.

Christmas Hampers:

This year we are giving out Christmas Hampers as random acts of kindness to our community again. This provided a lot of wonderful surprises to many people last year. Students are aware of this in school, but we would appreciate your support in this too. Please see the list of goods that can be donated for the hampers so please feel free to send items into the academy with your child. **Please note, it's very important that we stick to the hamper list.** Perishable food vouchers can be given as well as donations. The last day for hamper items/donations will be Monday, 12 December. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity:

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes

This Week's Reflection

In these times, people need a lot of encouragement. There are many hurt people who have nowhere to turn, or no friends to talk to. People, our friends, family and colleagues carry inside themselves fears, worries and problems that they are reluctant to share with others. I'm sure there are many like that who keep those feelings to themselves and don't want to talk about them.

In our communities and all around us there are people who are crushed and broken by life and have nowhere to turn. Many people, including ourselves when asked "are you ok" will immediately respond "yes, I'm ok" even when our worlds are falling apart. I want us all to be encouraged to be extra vigilant when it comes to the people around us. Not just asking the "are you ok" question just once, but asking a few times, not invasively but gently. I am so thankful for the people in my life who asked me that question more than once.

Be encouraged to talk to the people about what is going on too. When we receive their encouragement, it brings new life to us. The Bible talks about this in saying, "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength".

In closing, let's be determined to speak life into each other, it's a gamechanger.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Could your child or young person with SEND help us write good questions for the annual SEND survey?

We are running a participation event with a pizza lunch for children and young people with SEND to help us design the next SEND survey.



Sat 3rd December 2022



10.30am-2pm



Margaret English room, County Hall

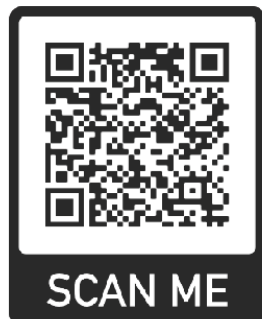
Meet other young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Share ideas on how to write good questions for young people

Enjoy a sprinkling of pre-Christmas fun! 



All children and young people with SEND who attend to give their views will receive a certificate and a gift voucher.



If you would like your child or young person to attend this event, please register through Eventbrite using the QR code.