

Open Academy Update 9 December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I will start by apologising that we struggled to get it published last week. We thought it had been sent out, but the size of the attachments meant it got stuck in the outbox. Once we knew it was missing on Monday morning (thank you all those who told us) we did eventually get a message out to say where it could be viewed. We then subsequently managed to get it sent on Tuesday, so hopefully many of you will have already found the bits relevant to you online. However, as you may not have seen it as it came out via our website and then late I am going to re-publish my section on what is happening in the run up to Christmas below to ensure you are aware of various Christmas activities and notices. I would also add that as well as finishing early on the last day of term as usual, I have had a request for the last day to be a non-uniform day to raise fund for the Year 11 prom.

In addition to the Carol concert at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 14 December (open to all), the St Francis Lessons and Carols on Thursday, 15 December morning for Year 7 and the early close reminder for Friday 16 December - students leave at 12.30, I am also now flagging that the last day 16 December is a non-uniform day - nominal fee if you can spare it is £1 for the prom committee. There will also be a bake sale at break time on the last day with festive goodies available, once again in aid of the prom.

Please note the key information below if you missed it:

From that point of view, we hope to welcome everyone into the academy for an evening of carols and Christmas encouragement on Wednesday, 14 December at 6.30pm. This annual well-loved and attended event will see parents, staff and pupils come together to enjoy a Christmassy evening of company and carols – please do come along if you are free – it will be great to see you at this lovely event.

The season gives us the opportunity to explore faith with the students a little more obviously than normal and I am delighted to say that Reverend Janet, at our local church, St Francis, has agreed to host our Year 7 for a traditional service of lessons and carols at St Francis on the morning of Thursday, 15 December. We will make the short walk over to the church and then enjoy singing carols and hearing the readings that make up the Christmas story with an opportunity to reflect and pray in the tradition Christian way. I hope your child will enjoy this opportunity, as previous experience tells me that nothing gets people in the Christmas spirit like singing carols together.

I also need to remind you that as always, the academy closes to students at 12.30 on the last day of term on Friday, 16 December. Students will have break as normal and those who have free school meals will be able to collect a packed lunch at break time. We will register the children before dismissing them at 12.30. A reminder will be sent next week to inform you all. Please note, this last day will be a non uniform day too - see above.

Finally, it is worth repeating just in case: we are hoping to get some sponsorship to fund the purchase of new sports uniforms and kit for, in the first instance our netball teams. If you can help either personally or from your business point of view, we will be delighted to hear from you. Please do contact me or Miss Trail.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Parent Evenings

Parents evenings for 2022/2023 at Open Academy will take place on the following dates:

Year 11 – 13 December 2022
Year 10 – 21 February 2023
Year 7 – 24 January 2023
Year 8 – 07 February 2023
Year 9 – 07 March 2023
Year 12 – 21 March 2023
Year 13 – 21 March 2023

Parents Evenings take place during the evening between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.

You will be contacted, by email, a couple of weeks before the date with more information and guidance on how to book appointments.

The first Parents Evening of the year will be for Year 11. This will be Online using your Childs Microsoft Teams account.

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Breakfast Provision

Unfortunately, we have recently seen a reduction in the bagels provided to us due to supply issues and therefore we are having to supplement this with bread purchased from a local supermarket. We are hoping this is a temporary situation, but with the ongoing cost of living crisis, all areas are being affected. With this in mind we would be grateful if you could take the time to complete a survey being carried out by Magic Breakfast who support our breakfast provision.

They are carrying out the research to support their work and campaign for greater investment in school breakfast provision. We would be grateful if you would take the time to complete the survey at the link below. There is the option to be entered into a prize draw for your time.

Parent link: <https://surveys.qaresearch.co.uk/magicbreakfastparent.asp>

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

3. Safeguarding

Please see the link below for help with living costs if you are struggling – includes money, food, utility bills, advice and support.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/help-with-living-costs>

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Lead

4. Christmas Lunch – Wednesday, 14 December

On Wednesday, 14 December, the canteen will be serving Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. The only other food option available at lunchtime on that day will be cold deli (sandwiches, cold pasta pots, fruit pots etc.)



5. Strep A and Scarlet Fever

A national scarlet fever and Group A Streptococcus helpline is active. It will offer generic, non-clinical advice and members of the public will be referred to the gov.uk website for information on scarlet fever. The line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm on 03333 056671.

This helpline is the first place to call for any queries regarding Group A Streptococcus and Scarlet Fever.

6. Year 7

Another great week for the Year 7s – it's so great to see them continuing to work hard all the way to end of their first term at secondary school!

Our Top 6 LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Noah C	23
Liam M	14
Hanna K	14
Kelsie-Rose B	14

Angel N 14
Alfie L 14

Excellent work – keep it up!

We have some reward activities happening next week for all the students who have not received any behaviour points! I will be coming round tutor groups on Monday morning to let those winning students know and asking them to choose an activity. We have lots going on from Kinball to Science experiments!

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

7. Year 9

As it gets darker and colder, it is great to see that the vast majority are continuing to show great ambition, resilience, and motivation to learn. Please remember that we expect the highest standards of behaviour at all times, even as we get closer to the holidays.

The following have received specific praise from staff for their attitude and effort:

Kian W, Theo P, Alex P, Charlie M, Dorian G, Areen M A, David C, Luke E, Chelsea B, Lily-Anna N, Riley D, William D C, Tyler P, Emilis V, Harley R, Lily-Mae H, Katy S, Steven E, Zoe W, Tia-Louise P, Queenie-Rose N, Daisy N W, Hallie C, Viktoria K, Amelia D-C, Roxanne R, Daisy H, Rebecca S, Grace S, Lucy-Rose B, Madalyn P, Amy T, George T-S, Maizie Y, Lola B, Megan P as they have behaved immaculately for the entire half-term and received no negative behaviour points. They will be taking part in reward activities in the last week of term – Miss Whitwood, Head of Year;

Viktoria K is growing into her leadership role brilliantly, showing great humour, attitude to learning and organisation skills – Mr Coyne, Form Tutor;

Awesome work from Riley P, Ryan S, Louie K and Zac D in their drama assessment. Well done boys – Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Hallie C for reaching out and effecting others. Dato D for staggering bravery and commitment to friendship – Mr Edwards, English.

There will be no Hub session on Tuesday, 13 December. They will resume in the new term.

Enjoy your weekend, and keep up the good effort.

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

8. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 37
- NST – 37
- AED – 41
- ABL – 34

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 9 is 91.62%. A small increase of 0.02% 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 10s have missed a total of 470 minutes of learning due to being late to their lessons. This is an increase on last week of 112 minutes. This will mean many will be catching up in a late detention tonight. 20 Year 10 students have truanted lessons or turned up excessively late to their learning. Well done to the 86 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. Thank you again for your support in this and again the vast majority are fantastic.

Fantastic Students: So far this half term 47 Year 10 students have only received learnt/achievement points. Not one of them has received any behaviour points. This is fantastic and means over 40% of the entire year group is making the right choice every time. These students are being rewarded next week with a lesson off timetable to do a fun activity of their choice.

Just one more week till the end of the term and the Christmas break. Don't forget that Friday, 16 will be a half day with students leaving the school at 12:30. Students will be returning on Thursday, 5 January. Thank you for your continued support from home, it really shows in the students.

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

9. Year 11

Yesterday was an emotional day for our Year 11 students as they received their PPE exam results from their recent round of assessments. These results will now give the students a clearer picture as to how to move forward on their journey to GCSEs. In an assembly yesterday, it was explained that students have only approximately 16 weeks before they start their exams and they need to be in school 100% of the time, in every single lesson, attending their period 6 Hubs, committing to a revision timetable and above all looking after themselves physically and mentally. We are always here to support and parents evening is booked for next week.

As mentioned before we will be starting a support group with our Mental Health Support Team in the new year to help support any students with particular anxiety around exams.

Virtual parents evening is next Tuesday, 13 December. An email has been sent to you about how to book online appointments with teachers. Please note the parents evening is **online** on Microsoft Teams even though the booking system says face-to-face it is definitely online.

We are opening the Leavers Hoodie Online shop today and details are given below. The process is that you can log onto the site and choose name, size, colour yourselves and pay directly and then hoodies will all be delivered in a bulk order next year (possibly May/June). Please click on the link below and any questions please give us a call. The online shop is open until 22 January 2023 to take advantage of the lower price.

A hoodie will cost £21.20 based on a minimum of 71 hoodies ordered. If you require a nickname on the back then this would be an extra £4.95.

Please click on this link to go to your login page:

<https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-login>

Or alternatively go to their website and click on "Login" at the top of their home page.

Your login details are as follows:

USERNAME: SL61497

PASSWORD: 61497open



The year team on Christmas Jumper Day yesterday surrounded by all the students who were desperate to be in the photo!

We are holding a cake/treat sale on the last day of term Friday, 16 December. If possible, could your child please bring in some cakes/biscuits/candy canes etc to sell? We will advertise it around the school and hopefully we will make some money to put towards our prom fundraising.

Our top achieving students this week are: Georgina B, Tommy B, Ashton B, Hayden P, James S, Teyla Y, Jamil A, Charlie S, Sophie S, Josh T, Mia C and Esmat J.

Rewards will be given out to all students that have not received any behaviour points this half term. They have had the chance to choose between activities over the course of the week. We have had well-over half the year group able to join in with these activities and we are very proud of them.

Dates for the diary:

Monday, 12 December	The football team are playing after school in a cup game against Hellesdon. Please come along and support if you can.
Tuesday, 13 December	Parents evening online.
Wednesday, 14 December	Christmas Lunch in school.
Friday, 16 December	Cake and Christmas treat sale/finish school early.

Enjoy the football this weekend – hopefully we will be smiling.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

10. Sixth Form

A few key bits of important information:

London Payment 2

This is due today, Friday, 9 December. The hotel is booked already and this payment will mean that I can go ahead and also book the Harry Potter Studio.

UCAS

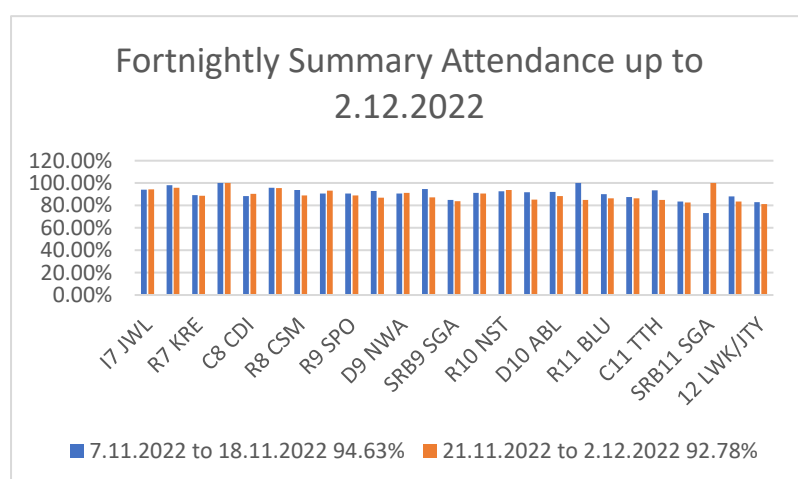
As most Year 13 are aware the deadline for UCAS applications is very fast approaching. If they have not sent a draft personal statement to myself or Ms Davies yet, please get on that asap. No students are permitted to leave site until this is all completed.

Year 12 Residential Trip

I would like to hold an assembly on Monday morning at 8:45 in my classroom (G14) for all Year 12s where I will be discussing a residential trip that I am organising.

Mrs Molloy
Head of Sixth Form

11. Attendance



Please see the abovementioned attendance data for the two weeks for period 21 November 2022 to 2 December 2022 inclusive. Well done to the winning tutor group/s from each year group and SRB, who will be awarded the attendance trophy.

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

If you are intending taking your son/daughter out during term time i.e. holiday, please complete an absence in term time form (available from reception) is completed prior to the absence. Many thanks.

Please do regularly check the Student App for details on your son/daughter's attendance, achievements and behaviour.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

12. 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.

This Week's Reflection

The Christmas story always talks about hope and looking forward to the future. Jesus when he was born, had the hopes of the world relying on Him for a free and great future. He was the Messiah, God's only son sent to this earth to make a difference and as the Christmas story goes, some people did not want this difference to be made. King Herod wanted to cut off the life of Jesus and to stop him from fulfilling the will of God, which was to bring freedom. He even had words with the 3 wise kings in asking them to find out where Jesus was so he could carry out his own evil plan. It did not work, Herod did not get his way.

With lots of things happening at the moment in society and in our communities, we can face many Herods in our lives. Herods being the troubles and difficulties we face. They can often make us short sighted about the future and the good times ahead and when this happens we can lose hope and we can lose our joy.

In closing, I want to encourage you to not lose the hope of the future because of the trials (Herods) of the present. They will not get their way. Let's lift our gaze, things will get better, we are in for brighter days.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

Recycle your unwanted electrical items before Christmas

- 9.30am-1pm
- Wednesday
- 14 December 2022
- Sprowston Recreation Ground, NR7 8EW

Drop off your unwanted small electrical items for free

