

Open Academy Update 6 January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Happy New Year!

And a hopeful and joyous welcome back to the Academy for 2023!

As we start the fresh new year, I am delighted to see so many students, in despite all the coughs and colds around, with attendance pretty much back to where it should be.

I am also delighted to report that uniform has never looked so good with 99%. This means that over 500 students turn up in full correct uniform every day. Where a handful of students are struggling to get it right, we have been in touch with parents over the last few days to highlight that the expectation at Open is that all pupils are in full correct uniform at all times. Where there is wilful disregard to our policies we will be forced to teach students in a quieter area of the school with senior staff, where their non-engagement with our policy will have minimal impact on others.

So, we are asking parents and carers to ensure that all pupils are in full correct uniform as usual for most on Monday. I know that most people choose the academy because we have aspirational policies and high expectations of students. I hope that you are aware that if you are struggling to provide any element of our uniform that you just need to speak to your child's assistant head of year and we will be able to offer support.

I am hoping to spend a significant amount of time with many more of you this year, as we begin our parent engagement program. The first element of this is the offer of a series of information sessions to help and support you with your child and the academy. The program will run as below with me kicking off the first session with a general information event regarding our recent Ofsted inspection and judgement. We aim to run these events in the first instance after school on Tuesday evenings (from 5-6pm) in between parents' evening on Tuesdays. I would encourage as many as possible to attend and I will be keen to listen to your views as the sessions will be presentation followed by questions/discussion.

The dates for your diaries are as follows (from 5-6pm):

- 17/01/23 Ofsted report, judgement and progress update
- 31/01/23 Effective revision and exam prep – a parent's guide (Y 9/10/11)
- 14/03/23 Meeting behaviour challenges
- 28/03/23 Helping those who need a little extra support with their learning at home (Year 7-10)
- 25/04/23 Understanding the autistic spectrum
- 09/05/23 Keeping safe online – understanding their digital world
- 16/05/23 Mindfulness, meditation and relaxation – wellbeing for teenagers

If there is sufficient interest after each session we will look to offer the CACHE NVQ Level 2 courses where relevant such as:

- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties
- NCFE CACHE Support Children and Young People's Positive Behaviour
- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health
- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Autism
- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Supporting Individuals with Learning Disabilities

We hope that some or all of these courses may be helpful and beneficial for many and I look forward to seeing you in a relevant session throughout the year!

I'll stop there and make way for the rest of our first newsletter of the year!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Safeguarding



Online Safety Webinars.

Are you a parent or carer, or someone who looks after children?

Norfolk Constabulary's Safer Schools Team and their colleagues in Prevent (Counter Terrorism), Cyber Security and the Safeguarding Children Online Team will be delivering two webinars about keeping children safe online.

Select a session below to reserve your spot:

[Session One](#)
Tue 7 Feb 2023 | 11:00 - 12:00

[Session Two](#)
Tue 7 Feb 2023 | 16:00 - 17:00

The poster features a cartoon character with a red cap and orange shirt, shouting and pointing at a smartphone. Surrounding the character are speech bubbles containing icons for a thumbs down, an angry face, a broken heart, and a skull. The Norfolk Constabulary logo is in the top right corner.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-safety-webinar-session-1-tickets-460817406267>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-safety-webinar-session-2-tickets-460832501417>

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Lead

2. Uniform

Please see the attached letter sent earlier today regarding uniform.

Mr Richardson
Assistant Principal

3. Year 7

It was lovely to welcome the Year 7s back this week from their well-deserved Christmas break. Please see our Top 5 LEARNT achievers for this week:

Benjamin H	25
Logan W	23
Aiden M	23
Ella-Grace S	23
Taylor G	23

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year)

4. Year 8

A fantastic start to the new term for Year 8. Great to see so many in correct uniform and thank you for supporting us with this. If you are having trouble getting hold of uniform please inform the year team.

The drama club had a rewards trip to the pantomime this week and hopefully got lots of experience of live, interactive theatre.

The following students will receive their bronze attendance award for 100% attendance last term which is a great achievement: Rodrigo F, Somaya R, Kieran S, Kate S, Amelia S.

The following students have had the highest achievement points this week making an excellent start to the year: Kayden SH, Martina V, Rehatpreet K, Mia P, Zak L, Zaina A.

Really well done to these students.

Mrs Pearsall and Mr Walters (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 8)

5. Year 9

Welcome back, it is lovely to see everyone again. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. Well done to those who have already made an excellent start to the new term. Remember: if you had a positive last half-term, keep up the excellent work. If you had any struggles, remember that now is the time for a fresh start in the new year and an opportunity to get things right and progress.

Teachers have given special mentions this week for the following:

Jackson made a really good start to drama this term. He read some of the script in front of the class and challenged himself to work with new people. Well done – Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Lucy-Rose B, Layla D, Thomas H, Jacob M, Ben N, Brandon P, Leah S and Callum W for making a very positive start in our new topic in history, focusing on the work, engaging in asking and answering questions, and pushing themselves to think hard about complex ideas related to the causes of the Second World War – Mr Crawford, History;

Layla M for working hard in football this week – Mrs Pearsall, PE;

Madison G and Alexander P for their hard work in lessons – Mr Edwards, English;

Neo for outstanding work in German, GCSE level! - Mrs McEvoy, German

The year team mobile is still out of use. If you need to contact the year team please do so via email or via reception. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

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

6. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 61
- NST – 63
- AED – 67
- ABL – 69

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 9 is 91.21%. 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 356 minutes of learning due to being late to their lessons.

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. Leggings are not school uniform. Thank you again for your support in this and again the vast majority are fantastic.

First few days down and only 5 weeks to go. It is going to be short and sharp with the year group sitting their first PPE (mock) exam in just a couple of weeks. This will give them a great opportunity to show off their fantastic learning and to help identify any gaps which can be filled before their GCSEs next year. Thank you for your continued support from home, it really shows in the student's day to day at Open. We hope you had a fantastic 2 week break for Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to the many and varied opportunities for the year group in 2023.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 10)

7. Year 11

Happy New Year. It's great to see all our Year 11s back at the academy and hope you all had a great Christmas and new year. We are on the home stretch now with their GCSEs with only 89 days left in the academy until exams start. Being in the academy and applying themselves is more important than ever, as well as completing all homework and attending all hubs. Today in assembly I spoke about the importance of continuing to revise with how to organise their time best.

Week commencing the 20 February Year 11 will be doing their second set of assessments which will be their last practice before their GCSEs.

English hub is on every Tuesday after school, apologies this is not shown on Year 11 timetables.



Congratulations to Zac S for winning the World Cup Sweepstake that raised money for the Year 11 prom, his prize was a brand new Nike football from the PE department.

Together with the sweepstake, we had non-uniform day and a cake sale, which all together raise over £400 towards prom, which is a great effort by all.

Congratulations to all Year 11 students with 100% attendance last term, Isabel B, Angelos C, Bradley C, Luke C, Mia C, Oscar F, Nathan F, Isla G, Kelsey H, Hannah J, Erin O, Dalia R, Dylan S and Zac S. All were awarded a badge during assembly today which they can wear proudly on their blazers.

Challenge (Mr Thurston) tutor group were given the prize of a rewards breakfast before Christmas to celebrate his tutor having the best attendance.

Another congratulations to Isla G for achieving her silver Duke of Edinburgh's award.

Anxiety workshops are starting with the mental health support team on the 16 January at lunch times. We are also spending time with all the students to enquire about any extra support we can offer in the lead up to their GCSEs.

Hoodies

Remember we have the leavers' hoodie online shop and details are given below. The process is that you can log onto the site and choose name, size, colour yourselves and pay directly. Hoodies will all be delivered in a bulk order in 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:

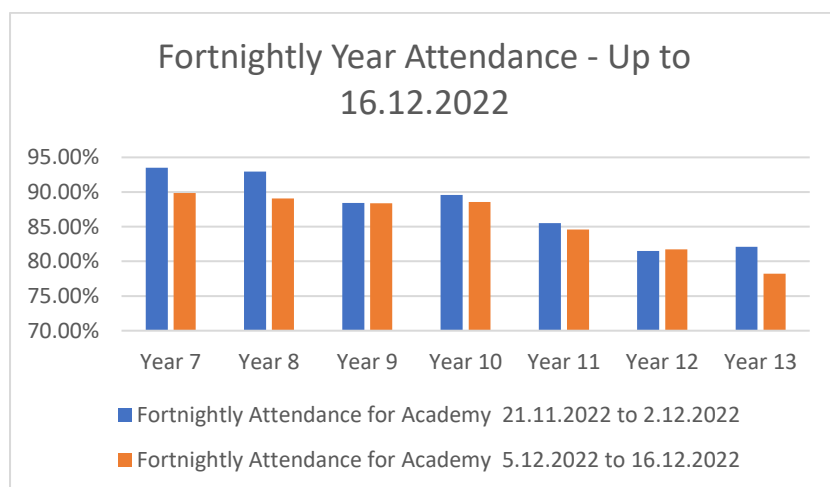
USERNAME: SL61497

PASSWORD: 61497open

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

8. Attendance



Well done to the 236 students who achieved 98% and above attendance for the month of December 2022. In addition, we had 173 students who had improved their attendance between the months of November 2022 and December 2022. Fantastic! All of these students have been given achievement points.

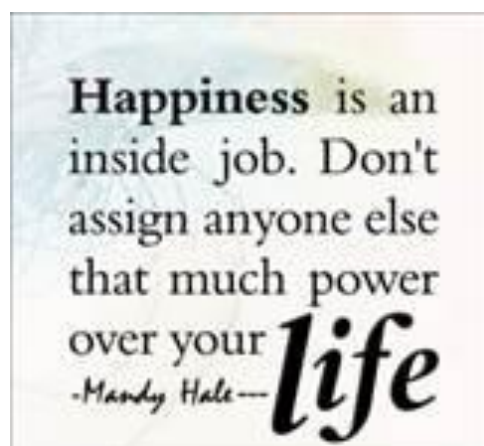
If there have been any recent changes to contact details i.e. mobile telephone numbers, email addresses, please let school know asap in order that these details can be updated.

Just a reminder to continue to use our student absence email address to notify us of your son or daughter's absence, appointments etc. The email address to be used is:

student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

9. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



Be determined not to let anyone or anything steal your happiness today, it will make your world a better place.



Making Sense of SEND

FREE INFORMATION FAIR



Thurs 19 Jan 2023



10am-12pm



North Walsham Community Centre

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



**There will be a presentation at 10.30am from
SENDIASS about SEN Support and EHCP phase
transfer**



**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**



Could your young person aged 11-25 with SEND help us write good questions for the annual SEND survey?

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



Sat 21st January 2023



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 some fun activities and games



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



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