

Open Academy Update 13 January 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

The first thing I would like to mention is the start of our parent engagement program. **Next Tuesday, 17 January**, we are kicking off the programme with a session on our most recent Ofsted report. The session will start at 5pm and end at 6pm. After a presentation and talk from me, I will be available with governors and other senior staff to answer questions both as a group and individually. Please do take the opportunity to come in and get to know us a bit better, have your say and share your thoughts, as well as finding out what we have done and what we are doing regarding our Ofsted report. **Refreshments will be available to the tune of teas, coffees and biscuits and everyone is welcome to come along.** If you want to bring your children you can, but the focus of these sessions is for parents.

I do have a huge thank you to parents this week given that we have had such brilliant support in ensuring that all students are in full correct uniform. By yesterday we were literally down to one or two students who were not quite there, but we are confident that **from Monday every student at the academy will be in full correct uniform.** This makes for a much more ordered academy, without the grandstanding of a few proudly displaying defiance, or anyone feeling left out or different because of their clothing. As always if you are having any difficulties in acquiring uniform for any reason, please do contact your child's assistant head of year who will be happy to help.

We have successfully challenged uniform by creating a reflection room in the football block. Where students are not in correct uniform they have been required to work in there throughout the day to minimise disruption to the smooth running of the academy. With your help and support, this has proved most successful and as uniform is now largely correct, we will be turning our attention to in-school truancy next week. During the week we will be warning students found outside their lessons or support that they are truanting internally and they will receive the usual Friday detention. However, we will also be contacting parents and carers to ensure that there are no problems we are unaware of and any issues are fully understood, so that we can ensure they are appropriately supported if they are not already, then from the following Monday, we propose a similar focus as we have started on uniform so...

From Monday, 23 January students picked up outside lessons without permission, will be escorted to truancy reflection where they will remain working with senior staff for the rest of the day and making up time missed after school. Failure to follow instructions will result in suspension for the rest of the day in the first instance. Further failures will be escalated up through our behaviour process with longer suspension and may result in students being put on Individual Behaviour Plans or Personal Support Plans. Once again, we would hope to get your full support for this measure, as it is an important issue to resolve for those involved. Students who are struggling have nominated support plans through our green card system, so as long as they access their agreed support they will not be affected. If you have any concerns, I encourage you to **talk to the assistant head of year** for your child to ensure we have their support package right.

The atmosphere in the academy is, post pandemic, once again returning to being a happy and positive place for all. We are determined to ensure we support all to enjoy their time in the academy and to get the best out of their education. We know at times some students are struggling and we are set up ready to help and support, but they must work with us and use the support offered, so that we can ensure that all students are appropriately supervised and safeguarded at all times.

I will therefore once again **thank you for your continued support** in ensuring that we continue to create an environment a positive and pleasant environment to work and learn

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Year 9

Well done for completing your first full week back after the holiday. It has felt like quite a long week, as lots of us are probably still getting used to early mornings for the first time in a while! Given this, it has been fantastic to see the year group responding positively to school rules and demonstrating enthusiasm and effort in learning.

Your teachers have given special mentions this week for the following:

Callum W - Brilliant effort in lessons so far this half term; Jayden A - Really, really good attitude in class with eagerness to answer all questions; Mohammed S - Work in lessons has been superb!; David C - Very good scientific answers using a wide range of vocabulary – Mr Willgress, Science;

Bubacarr T - for having an excellent first week at the academy and working hard – Miss Roberts, English;

Shout out for 9O please who worked extremely hard to finish their screen-printing project yesterday. They have showed great resilience and absorbed new skills with enthusiasm all project. Great work, keep it up – Miss Rednall, DT

Uniform in Year 9 has been better than ever. There have been more smiles on Year 9 faces this term than ever – Mr Ward, Vice Principal;

I'd like to nominate Troy N for always being a kind and considerate partner in food tech to another student Mrs Day, SRB;

Shout out for Harrison Y, Harvey N, Oscar and Neo for performing their scene in front of the class; Bubacarr T for making a great start in his first 2 drama lessons and to Amelie, Ellie B, Maddie G, Georgia and Isabelle for experimenting with voice and movement in class - Mrs Ormosi, Drama;

Luke E and Thomas H for consistent enthusiasm and engagement in lessons; Leah-Marie J for making a real effort to be positive in classes – Mr Crawford, History.

Enjoy your weekend and we look forward to seeing you again next week.

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

2. Duke of Edinburgh

There is a meeting for Year 9 DofE students on Monday, 16 January (3.00-4.00pm).

Mrs Pearsall
Teacher

3. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 53
- NST – 62
- AED – 50
- ABL – 59

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 10 is 91.16% (this is a small decrease of 0.05%). If not in school please send in evidence (this could be a photograph of the medicine given).

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

Late to learning: This week Year 10s have missed a total of 428 minutes of learning due to being late to their lessons. There have also been 18 students who have been excessively late to their lesson or not managed to get there at all.

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.

Already we have completed 1.5 weeks of this 5.5 week half term. The days are slowly getting lighter and with the added emphasis on uniform this week the year group is look consistently fantastic.

Thank you again for your support with this. Next week there will be a focus on students who repeatedly truant lesson or fail to arrive in a good amount of time. This consistent approach will hopefully see out late to learning time reduce next week. Thank you once again for your continued support with the year team and school.

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

4. Year 11

Our top achievers over the past week are: Jamil A, Tommy B, Rhy-Lee D, Alfie K, Charlie P, Charlie S, Teyla Y, Lacey C, Kelsey H, Jonas K, Jake F, Zac S and Harry R – well done to you all.

A few individual shout outs this week from Mrs McEvoy to Gerrard S, Sean P, Dylan S and Daniel S for excellent written work in Spanish this week.

Shout out to Lacey C and Rebecca K for their excellent coaching during BTEC Sport this week.

Thank you for your efforts this week with uniform. Today we were 100% perfect. Let's keep it that way and concentrate on learning.

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. Please contact us with any issues/queries you would like to raise and we will do our best to resolve them.

As always please find the link for the leavers' hoodies - we will extend the order date but please order as soon as possible.

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 and then 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

Prom is booked for Friday, 30 June 2023.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year)

5. Careers

Please take the time to look at our ‘live’ Careers Newsletter! This contains lots of information relevant to different year groups, our Sector of the Month and details of upcoming Open Events at City and Easton College. It appears on the Open Academy website under ‘careers’ or you can click on:

<https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew>

Year 10 students are working really hard to secure their Summer Work Experience placements with many successes already. If you are the parent of a Year 10 student please encourage them in their search. Help and advice is available in school during Skills for Life lessons and from me in Careers Support (S12).

Dr Davies

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

6. Library

Calling all Year 7s: Challenge yourself this New Year with the BookBuzz Reading Challenge!

- Read your BookBuzz book and complete challenges such as designing a game, making a video or taking the BookBuzz Quiz.
- Pick the challenges that most interest you- or go for Gold and try them all!
- You have all of this half term to complete the challenges (entry forms and any related challenges need to be submitted in the library by Friday, 10 February.)

Check out the challenges and rewards on the poster below. We can’t wait to see your entries and talk to you about your BookBuzz books!

Bookbuzz challenge



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Challenger's name: _____

I aim to complete:

☐ Three tasks ☐ Five tasks ☐ All ten tasks

Completion date: ____ / ____ / ____

**Deadline
for entries:
Friday 10th
February**

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Finish your Bookbuzz book Who would you recommend the book to? <input type="checkbox"/> | Take the online Bookbuzz quiz What was your score? <input type="checkbox"/> | Make a short video for your Bookbuzz book How have you brought the book to life? <input type="checkbox"/> | Read your best friend's favourite book What is it? <input type="checkbox"/> | Create a film poster for your Bookbuzz book Who would play the main character in the adaptation? <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Design a game based on your Bookbuzz book Which games will you use for inspiration? <input type="checkbox"/> | Send a question to a Bookbuzz author What do you want to know about the book or being an author? <input type="checkbox"/> | Turn your Bookbuzz book into a graphic novel Which graphic novels will you use for inspiration? <input type="checkbox"/> | Read three Bookbuzz books Which is your favourite? <input type="checkbox"/> | Super-secret Bookbuzz task Can you come up with your own task? Ask your teacher or librarian if you need help. <input type="checkbox"/> |

Individual prizes PLUS a group prize for the tutor who completes the most combined challenges!

Bronze: Complete 3 tasks
Prize: 15 achievement points + an item from our lucky dip

Silver: Complete 5 tasks
Prize: £5 Book Token or free book

Gold: Complete all 10 tasks
Prize: 15 achievement points + rewards afternoon

Library Activities

As well as being available for quiet reading and homework we host a number of lunchtime and after-school activities in the library. Please see the poster below for all we have on offer!

LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY

MINDFUL MONDAY

Calming activities to help you get your week off to a great start.

WRITING WEDNESDAY

Each week we will share a new prompt to inspire your writing.

THURSDAY

BOOKS & BISCUITS

Join fellow readers for our weekly Book Club meeting.

FUN FRIDAY

Board games will be available as well as a weekly quiz- earn achievement points for getting the top score each week!

AFTER-SCHOOL

MONDAY WEEK A

MANGA CLUB

WEDNESDAY WEEK B

TABLETOP CLUB

(Currently playing: Warhammer)

Be Ready: Remember to collect a library pass at break if you would like to visit the library during lunchtime.

Be Respectful: People are using the library to read and work, be mindful of your noise.

Be Safe: Find a seat and walk around calmly.

Mrs Gunton
Librarian

7. Drama

A reminder that if your son/daughter does not want to remove their socks in drama lessons then they will need to provide a pair of trampoline style grip socks to wear instead. Those that persistently refuse to remove socks or fail to bring the correct uniform will be issued with a detention.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

8. Attendance

We have an email address where you can contact school to inform us of absences or appointments for your child. This is student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

For absences in term time, a form is available from reception for completion. Please let us know if you require a form sending home.

If your son/daughter has medication ie. paracetamol, antibiotics etc. which need to be taken during the school day, these are to be kept in our locked cabinet in G05. A consent form is available for from reception for your completion.

Please do check the parent app for your son/daughter regularly.

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

| In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By... | Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately... | or They Would Have Missed Approximately... |
|---|---|--|
| 5 Minutes | 3.5 Days from School | 20 Lessons |
| 10 Minutes | 7 Days from School | 41 Lessons |
| 15 Minutes | 10 Days from School | 55 Lessons |
| 20 Minutes | 14.5 Days from School | 82 Lessons |
| 30 Minutes | 22 Days from School | 123 Lessons |

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

9. Chaplain's Thought for the Week

This week I want to start with a quote:

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. – Hal Borland

January can be a "different" month to put it mildly. The Christmas blues, some failed new year's resolutions and dark and cold days. But there is something that shines through this month and that is hope. Hope brings a new and encouraging expectation that great things will come along. As in the quote winter doesn't last forever and spring is guaranteed to get here. There may be hopes and dreams in your heart at this time that maybe even the closest to you don't know anything about. Keep hoping and believing that these things will come to pass.

In closing, I share these verses from the Bible which are always a source of great encouragement to me

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God bless.