

Open Academy Newsletter 3 February 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your understanding regarding our decision to close to Key Stage 3 on Wednesday for the first day of industrial action. It was necessary as we would have struggled to cope with other year groups too.

There are potentially more days to come and so I will be reviewing carefully with all the information I now have as to what our response will be. At this point in the academic year, however we will always act to prioritise examination groups in Year 11 and 13 and for some of Year 10.

The strike action anticipated is on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 1 March
- Wednesday, 15 March
- Thursday, 16 March

The next date will be Wednesday the 1 March and I will make sure that I update you with our plan via this newsletter in the two weeks running up to the day and **I will aim to confirm what the impact will be with one week's notice this time.**

To increase places for vulnerable students/children of key workers for the next dates, I have asked pastoral teams to work with parents to extend the list of students that, if we do need to close the year group, we can offer them a place in school. If you are interested **please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year.**

I am impressed that the vast majority of students who were due in from Key Stage 4 and 5 attended an albeit eerily quiet academy – well done and thank you to them! I am pleased to say the brief Key Stage 3 blip did not affect our much-improved attendance by Thursday's return, which was right back to its previous high level, so thank you for getting them back in.

I am also very pleased that our uniform drive has been incredibly successful and the only students not in full correct uniform are for known issues i.e medical.

Our attention has moved to the last remaining challenge for a stubborn few students, that of in-school truancy. Our first push over the last week or so has seen truancy drop by more than 50% and we are already down to just over a dozen students who have not yet worked it out that we are determined to tackle this issue.

Students make great progress when they are in lessons and learning. We have great support systems through the pastoral teams and green card approach, so there is no excuse to be wandering the academy. Once students are around 10 minutes late, we are now calling that out as truancy. Teachers are recording it as T on the register and that leads to an automatic day with myself or other senior leaders in the football block the next day. With your continued support, I know we can crack this issue quickly.

That leads me on to finish by talking about our parent engagement program. I was really pleased to see a big jump in numbers from the first session about Ofsted that I ran last month. Last week Mr Fisher and Miss Wenlock welcomed around 25 families to the second session on helping your child learn and revise. There was some lovely feedback and I think a useful session was had by both parents and staff, who got the chance to talk and listen to your views.

The next event will be particularly interesting for parents of students of any age, as we are focussing on managing your child's behaviour. Mr Richardson will be sharing our approach to managing behaviour in the academy, offering advice and asking for your questions and thoughts for what should be an interesting discussion. This event is likely to be popular and is on Tuesday, 14 March at 5.00pm.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Options

Year 9 options process has begun. The students were absolutely brilliant in a long assembly and asked fabulous questions. They were so mature.

Key Dates:

Students given options booklets and assembly	31 January
Booklet on website	28 January
Options evening	21 February
Year 9 parents evening	28 February

Students will start to hand in options forms after that date. Final hand in date is 1 April.

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/student/careers/>

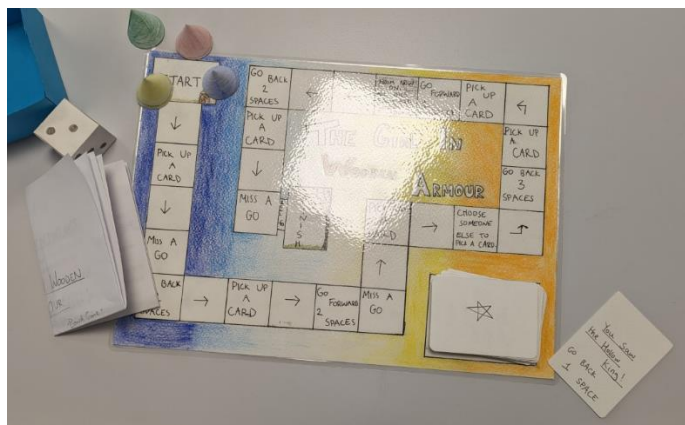
Mr Ward
Vice Principal

2. Year 7

I'd like to start with a massive congratulations to our Year 7 netball team - with sickness taking out the Year 8 team the girls stood up and played against a Year 8 team from another school. Considering they were playing people a year older than them they only lost by a couple of points. They showed huge courage, teamwork and perseverance - well done!

Our Top LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Samuel R	44
Chakib Li	44
Zinedine O	42
Thomas W	42
Anya R	40
Shanelli K	40



We have been running a Book Buzz reading challenge this half-term in Year 7.

I'd like to give an extra special shout out to Hanna K who has been completing all the Book Buzz reading challenges and for one challenge has made an amazing board game! Really well done to Hannah - outstanding effort!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 7)
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 7)

3. Year 9

As ever we have been impressed with the engagement and positive behaviour for learning from the overwhelming majority of the year group and the excellent responses to initiatives such as the drive to improve and maintain uniform standards. We have one week to go until half-term, so keep up your outstanding effort.

Important notice

On Tuesday, 28 February there will be a Year 9 Pathways evening from 5pm-7pm. It is vital that **all** students attend. It will be a hugely beneficial evening for both parents and students as it will provide important information about the GCSE options process and will give you an opportunity to answer any questions you might have. There will be subject teachers available for you to ask questions about the available courses, as well as external guests to answer any questions about life after Open Academy. If you have any questions about the evening then please do contact the year team.

Praise for students this week

Jayden A - outstanding effort with academic work this week; **Steven E** - Going above and beyond with his academic work this week – Mrs Gallard, SRB;

Callum W has been absolutely brilliant in English this week - he has shown maturity with his ideas and worked incredibly hard – Mrs Clayton, English;

Shout out for **Areen M A** and his wonderful curiosity for languages – Mrs McEvoy, MFL;

I have been very impressed with the helpful attitude and willingness to complete work in cover lessons this week – Miss Stickland, cover teacher, and former Head of the Academic Faculty at Open Academy;

Shoutouts to **Riley B**, **Theo P**, **Dorian G** and **Honey R** for their brilliant drawing skills and focus in DT! – Miss Rednall, DT;

Layla D, **Thomas H**, **Ben N**, **Luke E**, **Harley R** for excellent engagement and the willingness to share and explain opinions regarding controversial events in World War II - Mr Crawford, History.

Final reminder

Please do book the pathways event on the 28 of February into your diaries, 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)

4. Year 10

Learnt points: The current tally for this week is:

- RPH – 88 (An increase of 46 – Great effort)
- NST – 92 (An increase of 55 – Fantastic work)
- AED – 65 (An increase of 24 – Wonderful effort)
- ABL – 69 (An increase of 43 – Brilliant effort)

Attendance: Current attendance for Year 10 is 91.19%. A small decrease of 0.11% 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 10 students have truanted lessons or turned up excessively late to their learning. Well done to the 97 students who have continued to access all the learning available to them at Open. Also, across the year group there were 434 minutes of lost learning time due to students being late to their lessons.

Although a short half term, it has been a busy one with a lot crammed in for the year group. We now just have one more week until the half term break. We will then be refocusing our efforts on work experience for the year group. This is something that is incredibly rewarding, but it is down to each student to arrange for themselves. We will obviously support where we can, but if the student takes control it will only improve the process.

Thank you for your support from home, it really shows in the students day to day at Open.

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

5. Year 11



There has been a health and social GCSE exam on Monday and some delicious GCSE food tech pasta making coursework yesterday.

Our top achievers this week are: Jake F, Josh H, Owen M, Harry R, Leefna S, Corey S, Alfie S, Josh T, Millie W and Sam Y. Well done to you all.

Bumper week for achievement points in Year 11.

English hub is cancelled next Tuesday due to Year 8 parents evening.

The link for the leavers hoodies is below. The closing date for ordering is next Friday, 10 February. After that you can still order a hoodie but it will be at a higher price and delivered separately.

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.

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 11)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 11)

6. Library

Bookbuzz Reading Challenge: Deadline Extended!

Entries for the Year 7 BookBuzz Reading Challenge have started coming in and we have been amazed at the creative entries, as well as the hard work that student have put in.

To allow even more students to get involved, we have extended the deadline for entries until after half term - so even if you haven't started yet, there is still time to have a go!

To be eligible for a prize, students should submit their challenge forms to Mrs Gunton by Friday 24 February. Details of the challenges can be found on the poster below.

Bookbuzz challenge



Challenger's name: _____

I aim to complete:

☐ Three tasks ☐ Five tasks ☐ All ten tasks

Completion date: _____ / _____ / _____

**EXTENDED
DEADLINE:
Friday 24th
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

Mrs Gunton
Librarian

7. Careers

Calling parents of Year 10 students! Please encourage your young person in their search for a summer work experience placement, week commencing 10 July. Many students have already been successful, but in most cases some flexibility is required if you don't manage to get your first choice of employer. All work experience is valuable and enables students to acquire those transferable skills, which look so good on a CV. Punctuality, dressing-appropriately, behaving appropriately and building resilience and confidence allows students to show employers that they are gaining maturity and self-awareness. Any questions about summer work experience or how to contact employers, please contact me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

If you haven't done so already, please take a look at our 'live' careers newsletter which features our February Sector of the Month - Horticulture! There is lots of information on careers and education pathways for all ages, even adults! Go to the link via Careers on the Open Academy website or by clicking on <https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew>

Dr Davies
Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

8. Music

THE SONG ACADEMY YOUNG SONG WRITER 2023 COMPETITION – is open for entries!

Calling all young songwriters, singers, musicians and producers.

Aged 8-18? Written your own original songs? Fancy writing your first song? Then get ready to enter The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2023 competition! Open for entries until the 31 March 2023, from around the world. Star-studded judges & fantastic prizes.

Check out www.songacademy.co.uk/SAYS23 for all information, plus song writing tips and guidance.

Mrs Morgan-Hart
Teacher

9. Attendance

Well done to the 227 students who achieved 98% and above attendance for the month of December 2022. In addition, we had 221 students who had improved their attendance between the months of December 2022 and January 2023. Fantastic! All of these students have been given achievement points.

Just a reminder to use the student absence email address when informing us of any absence, appointments etc. relating to your son/daughter - student.absence@open-academy.org.uk



Admissions

Welcome to the two new Year 8 students who have started with ourselves this week.

On Monday, 6 February, we welcome two new students in Year 7 and Year 9. We look forward to meeting them.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

10. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength – The Bible

God bless you

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Image: Freepik.com

Maths Pays

PLAN, SHOP, SAVE! 😊

Weekly 2 hour sessions at the

Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street

Come and join us to.....

Learn how to plan and budget your weekly meals

Cost it out using our simple templates and online tools

Get new ideas for easy low cost recipes

PLUS...take away a £40 Aldi shopping voucher to help put your new meal planning skills into action

All courses are fully funded for people aged 19 and over, living in Norfolk

To book your place, please contact Paul Cleghorn on:

07592 120819 or 0203 8402091 (freephone) or via

paul.cleghorn@clarionhg.com



Multiply



Norfolk
County Council