

## Open Academy Newsletter 3 March 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I will be brief as I have noticed my introductions have been growing steadily over the last few years and I'm sure you are keen to get to the year information.

The main thing I would like to do this week is apologise for messing people around regarding the Year 9 options process.

We try very hard to meet students' needs and wishes whilst ensuring that we give the best and most accurate advice for their future. Mr Ward, our curriculum expert works hand in glove with the year group from options evening onwards, which over the last few years, has resulted in far more students following courses they were happier with.

Given significant staff absence anyway over the last week or so, thankfully not COVID for the majority, the news that Mr Ward had COVID with complicating pneumonia was a real challenge for us. I am thankful that he is on the mend now however and am most hopeful that he will be able to kick off the options process with his usual clarity, being clear what we can and cannot offer and what restraints and possibilities we work to in the academy.

To clarify dates for the next few weeks and the options process as we have had to shift things around a little:

- Tuesday, 7 March (5.00–7.00pm) will see the options/pathways evening event that was postponed from this week.
- Tuesday, 14 March (4.30-7.30pm) will be parents evening – in person at the academy.
- Tuesday, 21 March (4.00-7.00pm) KS5 parents evening online.
- The parent partnership event (meeting behaviour challenges) that was due on the 14 March will now happen on the Tuesday, 28 March (5.00-6.00pm).

The dates for the next parent partnership events are as follows:

- Tuesday, 25 April (5.00-6.00pm) - helping those who need a little extra support with their learning at home (Years 7-10).
- Tuesday, 9 May (5.00-6.00pm) – understanding Autism.
- Tuesday, 16 May (5.00-6.00pm) - mindfulness, meditation and relaxation – wellbeing for teenagers.
- Tuesday, 23 May (5.00-6.00pm) - keeping safe online – understanding their digital world.

Jon Ford  
Principal

### 1. Year 7

Firstly, may I say a big congratulations to the Year 7 netball team. They attended the Norfolk County Championships this week! Please find a write up of the tournament and photos from Ms Trail below:

A big congratulations and well done to the Year 7 netball team on Monday. The students went to Gresham's School to take part in the Norfolk County Championships. The nerves were high on the bus journey there, as this was the students first full day tournament. The students played a total of 5 games with 4 wins and 1 loss, making us 2<sup>nd</sup> in our group stage! The students then went through to the semi- final where we sadly lost 2-1, it was such a close game and the students battled hard and showed great resilience. The students team work throughout the day was outstanding and lots of teachers from other schools praised the students for their positivity, respect and politeness throughout every single game.

The students came away with some rewards of the day which was: Most polite team and best dressed of the day. Player of the day was rewarded to Angel – congratulations.

Win or lose the students were amazing and a real credit to the school, the PE team are very proud of them all. We have lots more netball tournaments and football matches coming up in March so we look forward to them with this team!

A massive thank you to Mr Pimlott and Mrs Pearsall for taking us there and back on the day and a massive thank you to the parents who came and supported the students all day – you're amazing. Miss Trail



Also, we like to recognise and celebrate achievements of students outside of school as well as in. A big congratulations to Lizzie who plays for the Norwich Dragons Hockey Club. The team played in the County Championship last weekend and came 3rd! This must have taken great hard work and perseverance, so very well done!

Out top LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Betsy K	49
Issy D	47
Ewan C	38
Bella H	38
Angel N	36
Freddie M	36
Jasmin C	36
Jensyn P	36
Ruby P	36

Keep up the good work!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 7)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 7)

## 2. Year 8

A good start to the new half term for the vast majority of Year 8. It has been good to see lots more achievement points being added for Year 8. This is a great way to monitor your child's performance in school and we will send out reward text messages at the end of term for all those who achieve over a certain amount for the term.

Top achievers this week are:

Harvey E - 45  
Leo H – 36  
Lacey B - 38  
Deacon B – 34  
Natacha F – 34  
Zak L - 38  
Brandon S – 38  
Oliver N - 36

Well done to these students.

On an individual level a big shout out to Hannah S for excellent effort and commitment in English.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that if students wish to wear socks over the top of their tights could they ensure that these are black please.

Mr Walters (Head of Year 8)  
Mrs Edwards (Temporary Head of Year 8)

## 3. Year 9

We have an amazing opportunity for 20 students from Year 9 to take part in a 6-week programme at Hustle Gym, starting on the 24 April. The programme will run on a Monday after school between 3.30-4.30pm. The programme aims to support students' resilience, teach them about respect and improve fitness levels through the use of boxing. If your child is interested in taking part in this programme, they need to register their interest with Miss Whitwood.

Option evening will be taking place on Tuesday, 7 March, 4.30-7.00pm. This is a great opportunity to speak to staff about course contents and how courses are assessed. Different assessment styles can suit different learner styles.

Well done to our tutor group 9NWA/BCR for gaining the highest number of achievement points in the year group last week, and to Tyler P, Thomas H, Leah S, and Layla D for achieving the highest number of points within the form. Excellent work from Katy S and Amy T who have decorated our form room door in celebration of World Book Day.

In history, well done to Millie H and Leah S for focused work when reviewing our assessment task on World War II.

Congratulations - this week Year 9 have gained an astonishing 1784 achievement points. Our top achievers were Millie H, Lily-Anna N, Maddalyn P, Kian W, Max L, Emmanuel Y, Brian B and Dorian Grzelak

Mrs Pearsall and Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year 9)  
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 9)

#### 4. Year 10

Well done year 10, week 2 is done and dusted and a whole weekend ahead to enjoy!

Sending much love and best wishes to Mr Pickup as he leaves us briefly for paternity leave this week! We all wish him and his family the best of luck and look forward to welcoming him back soon!

In the meantime, welcome to Mrs Power, Miss Hawthorne, Mr Dilley and Mr Coyne who are joining the team! Mrs Power and Miss Hawthorne will be working closely with Mrs Smith on day-to-day student wellbeing and behaviour, whilst Mr Dilley and Mr Coyne will focus on attendance and progress! As a team we look forward to working with you and supporting you all over the coming weeks!

**Attendance** – Congratulations to Mr Stephen's form for achieving the best attendance in the year at 93.49%! Let's see if the other forms can catch you next week! Please remember if you are not in school to send in evidence (this could be a photograph of the medicine given). Current attendance for Year 10 is 90.97%. Mr Dilley and Mr Coyne will be working with Mrs Smith and Mrs Ganson over the next few weeks in looking at ways we can help get this number going up!

**Reward Point Roundup** – A double whammy for Mr Stephen's form this week – well done 10NST for achieving a total of 89 reward points! Not forgetting all the other forms who all did really well in surpassing 70 points this week – Lets push for more next week and see if anyone can hit the 100 (for a special form prize!)

**NST – 89**

**RPH – 75**

**AED – 72**

**ABL - 71**

**Celebrating students' behavior and progress** - There are so many students in our year doing really well – and we'd like to start giving shout outs (and 5 reward points) to acknowledge their effort and progress – well done all who get a mention...

Maddison L and Jacob C - Been excellent in math's lessons this week - Mrs Power

In History, Sienna B for her outstanding effort and focus; Emily- Jayne C for consistent engagement and participation in the class and taking risks when answering questions; Adam L for his effort and participation; Ara R for effort, focus, and asking for support to make progress - Mr Crawford

Blake B, Liliana R, Maddison S - For a consistent effort in English this term – Mrs Roberts

Norah white for an outstanding PPE result – Mrs McEvoy

Lucy E, Scarlet B, Sienna B, Joel W, Keira W and Norah W for continued excellence in effort and achievement in English - Mr Edwards

With only 4 weeks left till Easter, we have some very important things to all focus on before we can enjoy those two weeks of fun and rest, they are...

1. **Work experience** – In tutor time on a Tuesday, all tutors together with Mr Dilley, Mr Coyne and Ms Davies will be launching a big push to get as many Year 10 students signed up as possible. Please help us by following these steps...
  - Thinking about what you might like to do – work with us in school to produce some ideas as well as help you develop a CV/application letter etc.
  - Research what options might be out there and contact the one where you would like to do your work experience.
  - Get the form from your pack filled in by the employer and bring it back to school ASAP!

2. **Celebrating success** – We want to know the positive things you're getting up to outside of school – this might be DOE, clubs, hobbies etc. Please let your form tutors know over the next week or so, so we can celebrate these efforts and achievements inside the Academy too!
3. **Student leadership team** – Over the next week, we will talk to all members about their roles and what we can do to improve and enhance this experience! We will be looking for opportunities to help develop students' leadership skills through trips, workshops etc. and provide student leaders with the chance to use those skills in school.

If you wish to know about your child academically, please contact the year team or your child's teachers and we would be happy to discuss their progress!

Finally, thank you so much for your support from home, it really makes a difference, and we are so grateful for it. Best wishes and have a wonderful weekend! The Year 10 Team!

Mr Dilley, Mr Coyne, Mrs Power & Miss Hawthorne (Temporary Heads of Year 10)  
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## 5. Year 11

Another week of exams has passed. One more week to go and they will finish next Thursday. All students should have a revision timetable by now and hopefully feeling confident to ask teachers for help and support if they need to. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us or the teachers.

Hopefully students have applied for 6<sup>th</sup> forms/colleges/apprenticeships etc and interviews, reference requests are coming through now. They should have had at least one careers appointment in school this year. If they haven't applied anywhere yet then please encourage them to do so or ask them to see Dr Davies in school or ourselves to arrange a careers appointment.

We are having a non-school uniform day/cake sale or Easter egg raffle on the last day of term 31 March in aid of our prom funds. Further details to follow.

We are also having a Year 11 sleepover in school on the evening of Friday, 24 March. A letter will be sent home with your child. This is in aid of fundraising for prom and also a contribution towards those affected by the unfortunate events in Turkey and Syria.

Lots of students aiming for the top achievement points this week – well done to Jude A, Kimora A, Jamil A, Hadi K, Torri A, Lucy B, Tommy B, Nathan F, Jawad H, Ryan H, Gerrard S, Summer Mc, Mason P, Connor P, Charlie P, Ella I-H, Isaac N, William O.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 11)  
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 11)



## 6. 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Shout out for excellent attendance and engagement in finance lessons. Participating in the World Book Day competition, decorating the classroom door in the theme of "Alice in Wonderland". This was led by Jess R, Jess W, Tia and Seb.

Mrs Tyler  
Teacher

## 7. Careers

Next Wednesday, 6 March we will be taking Year 10 students to the Norfolk Skills and Careers Festival at the Showground leaving at 11.00am and returning by 1.20pm. Letters have been given to students to take home explaining about the trip and if parents do not wish their child to attend they should fill out the form on the back of the letter and return to the Year 10 team. An email has also been sent to all parents with the trip letter attached. Students who are eligible for Free school Meals will have a packed lunch provided which they can collect from the canteen from 10.30 on the day. If you have any questions please contact me [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk)

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 allow 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 [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto: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 March Sector of the Month – rescue services! 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. Library

Across this week we have been celebrating World Book Day in the academy with a number of activities, competitions and a whole school read. From quiet and cosy reading to an escape room, there has been plenty of opportunities to share the joys that reading can bring! And of course, students have also had the opportunity to visit the library and collect their free World Book Day book!

Moving onto the winners of our door decorating competition, it was an extremely close competition with students and staff working really hard to produce some fantastic and creative efforts. Congratulations to the following winning groups:

Lower School: D7STR

Upper School: 12JTY

Individual Prize: Fraser A (OLC)



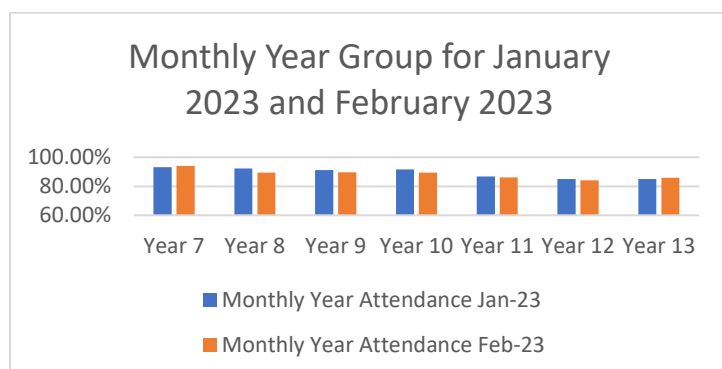
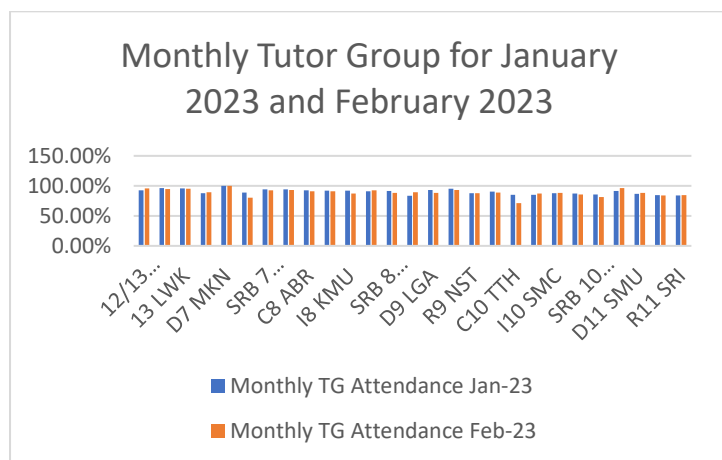
## 9. PE





Miss Trail  
Teacher

## 10. Attendance



Please see the abovementioned monthly attendance data up to February 2023.



A massive well done to the 242 students who have achieved over 98% attendance for the month of February 2023 and to the 183 students who have improved attendance between the months of January 2023 and February 2023. All of these students have been given achievement points.

If there any changes to any contact details, change of address, mobile telephone numbers etc. please let us know as soon as possible.

Please do remember to use the [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk) email address when notifying us of absences, appointments etc.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

## 11. Chaplain's Update



God bless you

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain

## SOS+ Programme

Booking and enquiries:  
[sospluswebinars@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:sospluswebinars@stgilestrust.org.uk)

For more information:  
[emily.roberts@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:emily.roberts@stgilestrust.org.uk)

## Gangs and County Lines

Our gang  
and county  
lines parents'  
session

consists of **speakers with lived experience**  
within the criminal justice system to unpack and  
explore the **realities and consequences** of county  
lines, gang involvement, and serious youth violence.

**Perspectives from previous perpetrators** and  
runners/transporters, combined with relevant case  
studies, aid audiences in gaining an **authentic and  
credible understanding** of  
this complex and cross  
cutting issue.

Register here!



[Click here!](#)

The session will help parents  
and carers to identify the  
**signs and triggers** that  
a child or young person  
might be involved in county

lines and gain an  
understanding  
of **how to  
appropriately  
respond** to  
such indicators.

Parents / Carer Webinar

Delivered by Rosanna

Norfolk

**St Giles**

Turning a past into a future

St Giles is a registered charity No 801355.  
St Giles Head Office,  
64-68 Camberwell Church St, London, SE5 8JB  
[www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk) © St Giles Trust 2021

18:30-20:00

28.03.2023

## SOS Project What to do

**Learn how to challenge** – you need to be able to stay calm, ask questions and listen to answers without losing control. Don't be afraid of confrontations, but try and stay away from accusations.

**If your child is in trouble with the Police or at school** – be ready to challenge obvious signs of unacceptable behaviour – one idea is to make an agreement and have set consequences for misbehaviour.

**Listen and be supportive** – If a young person is involved, they may not want to talk about it or be scared. Ultimately, you want to be the person your child can confide in and is honest with.

This means you need to be prepared to listen to your worst fears without the situation escalating or becoming abusive. It's important that they know you want to listen, support them and work with them to find solutions.

**Don't be afraid to get help** – You are not alone and there is always support out there to help you. In addition to the information in this leaflet, your local council or the Citizens' Advice Bureau have specific groups who can assist you.

But you could start by talking to the school, teachers, faith groups and even other parents. On the back page of this leaflet are organisations that can give you more information and access support.

## SOS Project Get help

**If you're concerned about the issues raised in this leaflet, these organisations and resources are available to help:**

**The SOS+ Service**  
T: 020 7708 8000  
W: [stgilestrust.org.uk](http://stgilestrust.org.uk)

**Victim Support**  
National charity helping people affected by crime  
W: [victimsupport.org](http://victimsupport.org)

**NSPCC**  
A 24hr helpline providing advice and guidance  
T: 0808 800 5000

**Family Lives**  
For advice on all aspects of parenting roles  
T: 0808 800 2222

**Childline**  
T: 0800 1111  
W: [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk)

**Missing People**  
W: [missingpeople.org.uk](http://missingpeople.org.uk)

**Kooth**  
Online mental wellbeing community  
W: [kooth.com](http://kooth.com)

**Norfolk Children's Advice and Duty**  
T: 0344 800 8020

**Norfolk Police**  
T: 101 and ask for Norfolk police

## St Giles

Turning a past into a future

**St Giles head office:** 64-68 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 8JB  
T: 020 7703 7000 W: [www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk) E: [info@stgilestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@stgilestrust.org.uk)  
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## Combating violent crime

Warning signs, practical advice and support for concerned parents and carers.





# St Giles Practical advice and support for parents

SOS+ Programme

Sometimes it feels like crime is getting more serious all the time. We see images of youth violence, stabbings and exploitation all the time. No-one would blame you as a parent or caregiver for worrying about what happens to your child, or asking what they could do to stop their child becoming another victim. Here is some guidance to consider, put together by our experienced SOS+ Service team.

**Don't blame yourself** - Even with good parental support, young people can be attracted into negative associations or habits despite your best efforts.

**Have those conversations** – Young people frequently tell us that if they were in trouble they would not go to an adult for help. Be that a teacher, parent or someone in authority. Why not? Because they fear they would be judged, that adults wouldn't understand or worse they would receive the punishment. To get around this you are going to have to build real trusted conversations your young person. You need to talk about what you will do if they ask you for help. You need to reassure them that you will not judge them and that you will believe them and do whatever it takes to help them. Then when they approach you, take time out and listen.

**It's not just boys that get involved** - Many girls may believe that what they're being pressured or coerced to do is 'normal' and acceptable. They might not realise what's happening to them is wrong. They may be afraid of what might happen if they tell anyone and they may believe no one will believe or protect them.

**Check out their space** – this includes physical spaces such as bedroom and where they hang out but don't forget about the online space. **It's wise to know what social media platforms (TikTok, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat &c.) they use and dependant on age and maturity you should have access to their activity. You don't always need the app to have an account - Google search the logins.**

Be aware that chat rooms and texts can be used to bully and exploit young people to participate in negative behaviour. Monitor sites and games for inappropriate content – maybe even play the games with them!

## Signs and indicators:

**Behaviour** - Most young people go through a rebellious phase, what's essential is that it does not prolong and that healthy boundaries are maintained and challenged.

**Your child's friends** – Friends fall out sometimes and children change their interests, but who are your child's friends? When your child goes out, who are they with and what are they doing?

**Gang names** – Does your child's group of friends have a 'name' and if so, how do they see themselves?

**Tuancy** – Do you check on attendance, are you speaking to teachers, have tutors noticed anything? If kids are not in school the question is, where are they? Some gangs exploit young people by sending them to other areas.

**If your child starts to go missing, make sure you challenge them over their whereabouts** and if they go missing for periods of 24hrs or more ensure that it is reported and that you get help. If you're in doubt as to what your children are doing in their spare time, ask. If necessary, monitor their activities.

**Post codes and unsafe areas** - Harder to spot, but some young people align themselves to post codes and therefore have 'no-go' areas. If your child shows reluctance going to any specific areas, ask why, and be ready to ask again.

**Unexplained cash or possessions** – Has your child bought things they normally couldn't afford? Look out for possession of relatively large sums of money or for expensive items brought home. Be ready to challenge excuses, too.

**Signs of bullying/physical injuries** – Your child may experience bullying and pressure to join a group. They may have injuries which indicate violence from others or self-harming. Either way, they'll need your support. Make time to listen and encourage them to trust you.

## Understanding the music -

this can be a bit of a minefield because although music associated with gangs can be threatening, violent and glamourise the myth surrounding the culture it does not guarantee involvement. I

It makes sense to know what your child is listening to and what the music is about, and so to have those conversations about what the lyrics mean before you take any action.

