

Open Academy Newsletter 17 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Please accept my apologies first of all that we were unable to provide for a full service this week. Although fewer colleagues were on strike, the two strike days coincided with a significant uptick in absence due to illness so reluctantly we had to switch to home learning for Key Stage 3 once again at the last minute (right up until Monday morning we were hoping to remain open, however the illness spike on Monday meant we had to act). There have been some nasty bugs around recently so I'm hoping they work their way through quickly and well before the exams.

With the various announcements and meetings here in school over the last week or so, I am conscious that we have had to change, cancel and re-arrange lots of the usual activities and routines. As far as I know, I think there is nothing else planned now until well after Easter, so fingers crossed we can get back to our Open way and slip back in to our positive, supportive routines. Whilst not exactly looking forward to the return of late detentions next Friday, the number of minutes late being paid back on Fridays after school has been steadily dropping for most of the term, so I hope the break will not affect that trajectory. With less students being late at all, and those who have been are overwhelmingly for brief 5-10 minutes to be paid back for the week, I do believe that, along with our anti-truancy campaign, we are well on the way to excellent behaviour and punctuality in the academy already.

I am very disappointed however to have had to deal with three incidents of fighting inside and outside school this week. This is not what we are about and students are clear that we take any threats to personal safety very seriously. That also goes for students who incite, film or in any other way encourage fighting. These are rare incidents at Open Academy and I expect there is no repeat as we sanction those involved. There is NEVER an excuse to become violent and this behaviour is completely against our values - especially of RESPECT, FORGIVENESS and HUMILITY, so we will be talking to all students over the coming weeks to ensure there is no repeat.

With just a couple of weeks to go before Easter, I am looking forward to a calmer and more peaceful week all-round next week, where we can focus totally on the preparation of the Year 11 and 13 students for the forthcoming exam season. There is still much to be improved on and I am sure exam students will be starting to draw up their revision planners for the Easter break. I hope to be able to share our Easter provision for Year 11 fully by next week's newsletter.

For now, I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and have a lovely weekend

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Free School Meals

Free School Meal allowance will increase after Easter to £2.59 alongside the cost of a meal deal.

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

2. Year 7

My we thank all the Year 7s who worked hard on their online learning on Wednesday & Thursday this week. The tasks in Knowledge Organisers are always a great way to retrieve the information they have been working on in class and consolidate their learning.

Out Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Logan W	20
Amy J	20
Zinedine O	18
Nadia D	18
Callum B	18

A short week, but still a great number of points received - well done!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 7)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 7)

3. Year 8

Well done to the girls' that took part in the Year 8 Football Mash Up, you all did fantastic! Kiera P, Annalee R, Tiffany S, Mia P, Rianna A, Elise W, Millie C & Jasmin – Mrs Hindry

Mr Walters (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 8)

4. Year 10

It has been great to hear so many success stories about our year group this week, as the majority of our pupils continue to show what a fantastic cohort we can be. With that in mind, we think it's best if we leave it to their teachers:

- Drama – Adam L, Maddie S-H, Emily, Deon E, Rosie C, Ruby T, Grace E, Xylia S and Chloe D performed a devised performance for an invited audience - Mrs Ormosi
- English – Gemma S wrote a fantastic essay on Romeo and Juliet - Miss Roberts; Sienna H and Molly H have engaged brilliantly with new poetry. Andrew C, Suzy L, Darasimi O, Steve V and Emily C have been asking perceptive and critical questions - Mr Coyne
- Food Tech – Matthew T, Max L, Billy B, Elizabeth S, Lily T, Alisha C-J and Lacey F had a great practical. Max was even helping others and mastered the deep fat fryer - Miss Luter
- German – Michaela B, Emily C have consistently worked hard. Miss Stickland; Deon E and Jessica B have shown interest in German film and tackled question - Mr Blanchflower
- History – Ara R and Emily C have made consistent effort and shown total focus. Deon E has been engaged and asked lots of questions - Mr Crawford
- Maths – Star C, Ellie R, Bailey S, Elisa K, Thomas W, Chloe D, Rosie C, Ariyan M, Argjend L, Jake T and Ruby T have consistently made an excellent effort and are making great progress - Mr Bradshaw; Jesse C for recent progress - Mrs Power
- Science – Sienna H and Lily E have made a great effort. Harisan M has achieved great results lately - Mr Stephen
- Football team – Great effort and behaviour in a difficult away fixture at City Academy. You were excellent and a real credit to the academy - Mr Lambert

We must be very close to students succeeding in every subject! Some names are here frequently and we applaud those students for their range of achievements, but looking at the sheer variety of people, we think this is a timely reminder as we get close to the end of term that you are all capable of excellence.

Looking at this praise, what stands out is the consistency in terms of effort, engagement and attendance.

With that in mind we would like to ask each pupil to challenge themselves next week to push themselves that little bit further. How will they reach that next level? Even a small extra effort to be more prompt to lessons, answer one more question or engage that little bit more can make a big difference!

Enjoy your weekend!

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

5. Year 11

Our top achievers this week are Esmat J, Hadi K, Hayden C, Mia C, Hayden P, James S, Charlie S, Georgina B, Zac S and Daniel S. Well done to you all.

We left out Erin O in our previous newsletter. Our apologies - well done for achieving your silver Duke of Edinburgh Award – fantastic effort.

Reminders:

- The students' exams results assembly will be on Tuesday, 21 March.
- Students GCSE individual timetables will be given to them on Tuesday, 21 March.
- The Year 11 sleepover in school is Friday, 24 March.
- The end of term non-school uniform, Easter egg raffle and cake sale is Friday, 31 March. Any donations are very welcome. We can't have a raffle/sale without eggs/cakes!
- Prom is booked at Sprowston Manor on Friday, 30 June.



I am also raising money for Year 11 prom by running the Blickling half marathon on the 19 March in a unicorn outfit, thank you to those that already have donated, if you would like to make a donation you have the option to make a donation of up to £10 through the parent app or please contact the finance office. There is no minimum payment so any amount however small will be greatly appreciated.

Leavers' hoodies have been ordered in bulk. You can still order online and have the hoody delivered to your home address. The link is below.

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

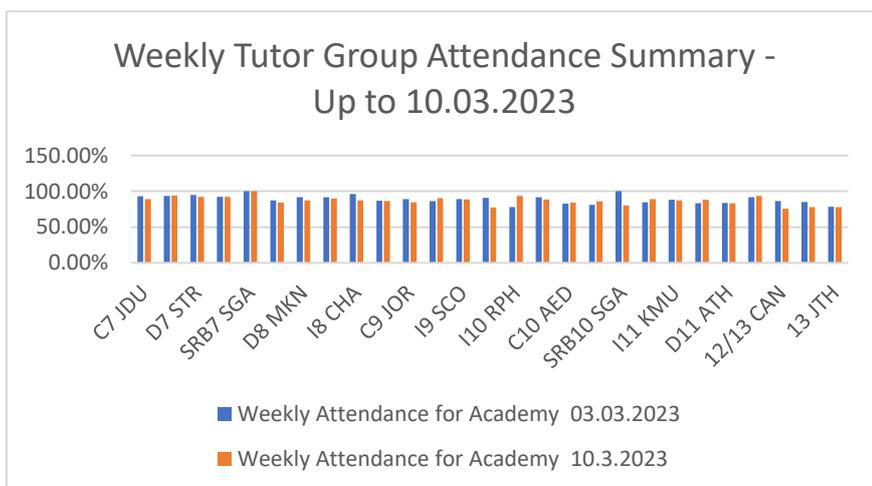
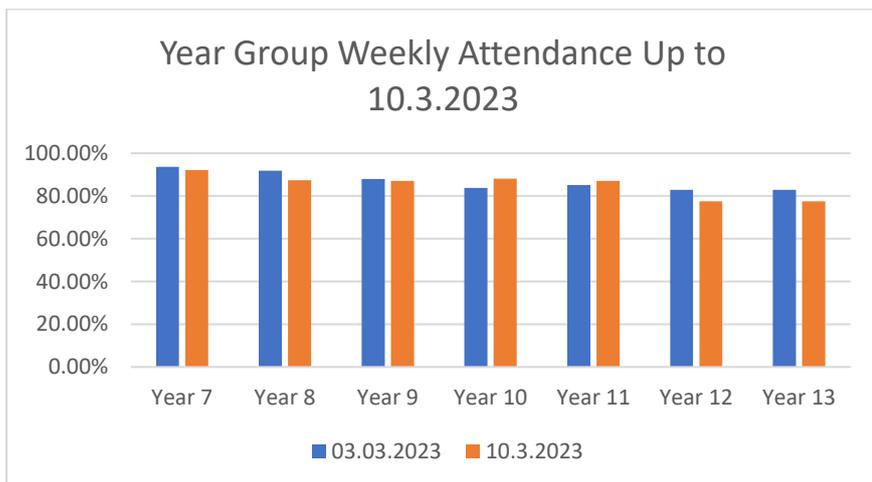
Mr Lambert (Head of Year 11)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 11)

6. 6th Form

I have been extremely impressed and proud of all the Year 12s who have been on the Kingswood residential this week. Every single one of them have come out of their shells and taken a real step forward in their confidence. From public speaking to climbing heights, building buggies to caving in the dark, creating campfires (under supervision) to taking actual leaps of faith. Thank you to all of you for making this an extraordinary residential.

Mr Dunne
Teacher

7. Attendance



Please see the abovementioned comparison attendance data for the weeks ending 3 March and 10 March 2023 inclusive.

For any absences in term, a form is to be completed prior to the absence. These forms are available from Reception.

Please inform ourselves of any change of address, telephone numbers, contact names etc. in order that these can be updated on our system.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

8. Chaplain's Update

I don't know about you, but I look forward to a change of season. Especially at this time when spring is only a few days away. Clocks go forward and lighter nights. A change of season brings so much hope.

All of nature depends on each season for growth. One season for planting, another for dormancy, another for growth and another for harvesting or fruit bearing.

Autumn's arrival signals leaves falling off trees, a change of colour, colder temperatures and a slowing down of growth. The arrival of winter gives way to darker nights, colder temperatures and nature seems to be stripped back and lies dormant.

The arrival of spring brings the start of growth, nature greens up again. Temperatures warm up and everything is brighter. The arrival of summer sees everything cheer and celebrate. Nature is at its most beautiful and growth is everywhere.

Just like in nature, our lives have seasons too. Autumn, winter, spring and summer. We have our favourites, but they are all vitally important to our growth.

An autumn season may signify success and good times just falling away a little. Winter may bring dormancy, nothing seems to be happening. It's cold in our finances, relationships and level of success. The way we feel about ourselves and a time of things going wrong.

Then after a while spring breaks, growth starts again along with movement. Our lives start to warm up again and new hope arises. Then its summer. A time for success, victory over battles that we have fought for so long. A time of happiness and joy.

Those of you that are fighting battles, struggling, feeling the cold of life be assured and encouraged today that as SURE as day follows night, your spring and summer are just around the corner. We then begin to see most importantly the wonderful growth in our lives too.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfilment of your autumn.

In closing there is a verse from the Bible below in which God encourages us with. No matter what season we go though, we have a great future ahead of us.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

You are loved, you are amazing. God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



SENDfest 2023

 **Date** – Saturday 17th June 2023

 **Location** – Easton College

 **Timings** – 10:00am until 3:00pm

SENDfest will bring together children and young people, and their families.

A full day Festival style event featuring multisport activities, musical workshops, vocational opportunities and keynote speakers

- Tennis
- Singing
- Community Sports Foundation
- World Music
- Preparation for Adult Life
- DJ-ing
- Disco
- Track and Play
- Football Fun Factory
- Beatboxing
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Plus loads more...



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