

## Open Academy Newsletter 22 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I would first like to thank everyone who has taken the opportunity to respond to our consultation regarding our consideration of applying to change designation to become a Church of England school.

With the vast majority – over 90% of respondents across all forms of consultation being in favour and the majority of the rest being neutral – with very few negative comments, I am cautiously hopeful that this indicates a positive backing for the proposal.

At the consultation event in which a very small but committed group came to discuss and question the proposal, the main questions were around whether the change in designation would affect our admissions. Happily, I was and am able to confirm that we will seek to use exactly the same admission criteria if we are successful – ensuring that Open Academy remains – as the name implies, open and accessible to students of all faiths and none.

The reason for re-designation is to ensure that our values based and inclusive approach is secured for the future and when the consultation group discussed this, it was clear this was a shared hope of those present and the leadership of the Academy. There is still time to add your voice or questions and the form will remain live until Monday so If you would like to have your say please do not hesitate:

<https://forms.office.com/e/t7vB073iGE>

The student council took the matter very seriously in our first council meeting of the year, which is also the last student council with last year's elected students. After a good deal of questions and debate there was a clear majority in favour of the re-designation proposal and just 3 abstentions, with no-one against the proposal. I will ensure that their voice is captured in our application too.

I would now like to focus on student leadership generally. I should start this section with a thank you to last year's students as they were so good. It is really important that we listen to the student views as we develop and improve and it has been great to see how our 'Open Voice' student representative council has been developing over the years. I am delighted to say that Mr Dilley has stepped up to work with Mr Richardson to take on a whole school focus on student leadership and I know he is very keen to bring it to an even higher profile.

Over the next few weeks, Mr Dilley will be co-ordinating a series of elections in each year group to find the form representatives to make up the year councils. The years councils will then nominate representatives of the year to be part of the Academy Council – Open Voice. There will be lots of opportunities for student nominations for a range of roles too like; sports reps, teaching and learning reps, student mentors and students to represent the year groups on our LGBT group and our Open Unite global majority groups. We look forward to seeing how the new student leadership work progresses over the next few weeks.

### **STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

Just as I finish writing this I have seen the nominations for the Eastern Daily Press Education Awards. Not only is Open Academy one of 3 finalists in the Secondary School of the year category, we also have a student finalist in the student of the year category – Shadrak Mushengezi! To have been nominated is a really positive accolade, let alone be considered as a finalist, so I am delighted on behalf of our whole community that we are considered a finalist as Secondary of the Year. I am equally delighted for our awesome Shadrack who typifies the Open Academy ethos in his attitude, effort and persistence!

What wonderful news!

Jon Ford  
Principal

## **1. Seneca**

We have invested in Seneca for students to do some homework and revision at home. It is a platform with huge resources in most subjects. Student feedback for it is strongly in favour. Many students like doing their homework on their phone, tablet or laptop and Seneca does this well.

Earlier on today I asked Seneca to send an email to parents inviting you to sign up. Please do so because you can see your child's progress. Should there be an issue please let the Assistant Heads of Year know and we will try to rectify it.

Pupils logging onto Seneca for the first time will need their school email address. If you do not use that then it will not link to the full paid edition and your homework will not look done.

This video shows the steps. All passwords for accounts that have never been used are: F4Bulous

<https://www.loom.com/share/208385588dec4c028349893ca3edbf71?sid=655341d7-3767-48d8-8218-bcac4ceb2de9>

## **TEAMS**

We use TEAMS as the methodology to set and mark homework assignments. This year we had a new company help us set it up. They did a much better job than the last company but there have been a few teething problems on a couple of accounts. A couple of assignments did not show properly and some students were not in the correct TEAM. That means that previously set work will not be present on those accounts. This will resolve itself next time an assignment is set. Where possible we have done a workaround.

I hope to have resolved all of those issues for the future now. Should there be a remaining issue, please let the teachers know and we will try to resolve.

## **National Book Tokens**

There is a national draw to win £250 for books for children. If you are inclined to share your email address here is the link.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/yabooks>

Mr Ward  
Vice Principal

## **2. Calling all singers!**

Choir has now started back and is on Wednesdays after school until 4pm in the music room. It is open to everyone who enjoys singing, even if you think you can't sing! We have lots of fun and students often suggest the songs that we sing.

Singing is proven to lower anxiety/stress & help our general well-being. So, come and give it a go!

Mrs Morgan-Hart  
Teacher

## **3. Year 7**

Great to see the Year 7s complete another full week and it is amazing to think that they have had a full rotation of their two week timetable already. We have had great attendance for extra-curricular clubs this week and would like to see even more next week, please see below for all clubs. Please remind Year 7s to familiarise themselves with their timetable. If there are any problems, all classes lessons are on our notice board outside the year office.

Congratulations to Inspiration on winning the first tutor challenge and Challenge for the best attendance both were awarded a trophy in Monday's assembly.

Well done to Theo L for an excellent start to term and really positive attitude and Bea B for an excellent attitude to learning – Mrs Gallard (SRB)

Well done to our top achievers of the week, they are: Bea B, Charlie S, Theo L, Sarah Oi, Lily H, Sabrina R, Mason, H-R, Lacey-Mae M, Finley L and Azra O.

Extra-curricular clubs after school:

Football for separate girls and boys teams – Mondays

Homework hub – Mondays - all invited

Choir- now Wednesday

Netball -Thursday

We are running an inter-house competition in tutor to decorate our tutor door for Halloween, the winners will receive a prize the Friday we break up for half term. If you have any unwanted Halloween decorations, please allow your child to bring them in to decorate please.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

#### **4. Year 8**

Another great week for the Year 8s! In our assembly this week we were thinking about aspiration and student leadership. Students will be given the opportunity to apply for leadership positions next week during tutor time. Please ask them over the weekend what positions are available and chat about why they may want to apply.

Can we remind parents that summer uniform is now over and students **MUST** be arriving to school with a blazer please. Also, leggings and hoodies are not permitted in school.

Out Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Chakib L	38
Sav M	36
Cameron S	32
Amy J	32
Thomas W	30

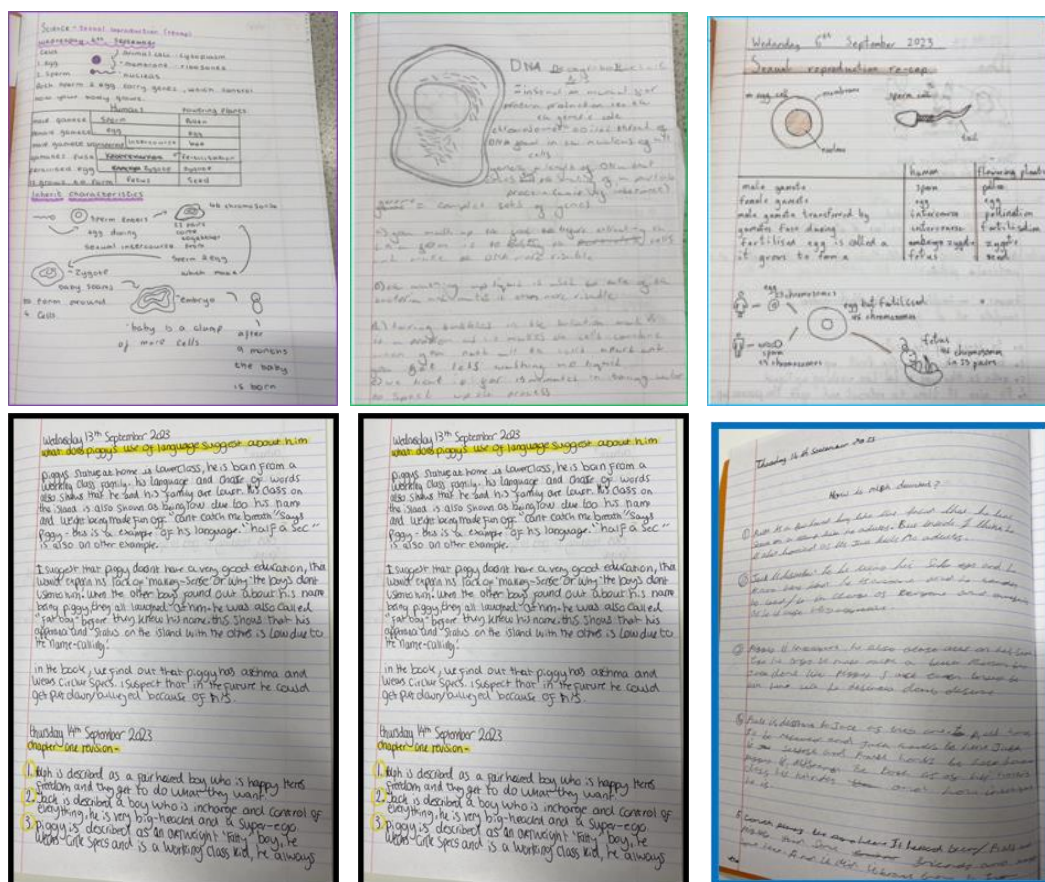
Shout out to all of 8H for their excellent work with their Scandinavian designer investigations. Keep up the good work – Mrs Rednall

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## 5. Year 9

Year 9 science and English work week:



Year 9 have had another positive week and it has been great to see their engagement and progress in lessons. There has been some excellent work in English and Science as seen in the images. Currently Mrs Middleton is unavailable at the moment, but Mrs Edwards is acting as Assistant Head of Year. Our contact details are:

kim.edwards@open-academy.org.uk  
shona.power@open-academy.org.uk

Top achievers:

Kayden, Reece, Ada, Alfie, Harry B, Trixie B, Natacha F, Gille M, Lois L, Zak L, Hannah S and Frazer.

Maths shout outs to: Katie D, Ria W, Kieran V, Caitlin P, Tiffany S, Logan W, Leah S, Phoebe E, Harry B, Amelia S and Eva T.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## 6. Year 10

This week students have had an assembly on what they might be thinking about after GCSEs and introducing study skills. Next week students will be learning more about study skills in tutor time, this will help prepare them for their PPEs (mocks) which start on 27 November.

The link below is to a Norfolk based website called 'Help You Choose'. It has links to the sixth form college websites and information about apprenticeships.

<https://www.helpyouchoose.org/events?pageNumber=1&SearchText=&Audience=&EventType=&LocationTaq=&YearGroup=>

Below are some of the dates of local open evenings. I appreciate that this is early but it can be really motivating for students to know what courses are out there, especially if they currently have no idea.

Sixth Form Open Academy Evening, October 4, 2023 - 6.30pm-8.00pm

City College Norwich Open Evening, October 6, 2023 - 5.00-7.30pm

Sir Isaac Newton Sixth Form Open Evening, October 11, 2023-5:30pm

Sprowston Sixth Form Open Evening, October 16, 2023-6.00pm

Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form Open Evening, October 19, 2023 - 6.00pm

City of Norwich School 6th Form Open Evening, November 2, 2023 - 5.30-8.00pm

Notre Dame Sixth Form Open Evening, November 9, 2023 - 5.30pm-8.30pm

Congratulations to those gaining the highest number of achievement points this week Oskar C, Joel M, Olivia C, Katy S, Brandon P, Roseanne G and Viktoria K.

Big shout out for the Year 10 music class, who are doing really well with their playing skills and understanding of notation – Mrs Morgan-Hart

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## **7. Year 11**

Year 11 continue to have a really positive start to the term with a huge amount of achievement points awarded. The following students top the charts this week:

Sienna B, Athanasios C, Megan C, Star C, Kai M, Lily T, Scarlet B, Emily C and Ebon G.

This shows the commitment we want to see with only approximately 130 school days left until their first exam in May. Well done to these students. Please look out for congratulatory text messages at the end of this half term.

We have some Year 11 students helping at Open Evening next week. They are conducting tours and helping out in various classes for prospective parents so we would like to thank those involved for representing the Academy.

As we head into Autumn, all students are now expected to be wearing their blazer. Also, leggings are not allowed. If there are any problems with this can we ask that you contact the year office so we can support you with this.

Hubs are also compulsory and must be attended.

Some individual praise from class teachers:

Congratulations to Year 11 Silver DofE group who all successfully completed their assessment expedition last weekend. The assessor was very impressed with their map skill and camp craft, but also how well they worked together in their groups. Well done!! – Mrs Pearsall

I have been really pleased with Ellie M in HS Care over the past couple of weeks. Her attitude is really positive and she is engaging in the lessons - Ms Smith

Fantastic presentation in art from Lucy W, Scarlet B, Megan C and Emily C - Mr Walters

Maddison S and Hayden B for excellent engagement. Ariya R, Lucy N and Sienna B for outstanding focus and effort - Mr Crawford

Year 11 drama you are all awesome, keep up the good work and LEARN YOUR LINES! - Miss Omosi

Sienna B and Elisa K, good effort. Chloe B and Ruby T for constant questions in German - Mr Blanchflower

Mayling T for effort in German – Mrs McEvoy

Sienna B, Norah W and Scarlet B for asking probing questions and giving fulsome answers in English. Joel W for bringing Tiny Tim to life - Mr Edwards

### **Monday, 2 October – 6<sup>th</sup> Form taster day**

This will be a 6<sup>th</sup> Form taster day, where Year 11 will all spend the day in 6<sup>th</sup> Form as OA6 students. This is a compulsory day and all Year 11 will be taking part in this. The timetable will be shared with students early next week. There will be 4/5 A level subjects offered per half hour slots throughout the day. More popular subjects will be offered more than once so students don't miss out.

Students will have the opportunity to then sign up for subjects that they'd like to attend by writing their names on a list which will have printed to go on the Year 11 office door. It will be first come first serve, so it is in the students interest to get their names down ASAP. Any students not signed up for a subject in any half hour slot will be placed into a lesson that has space.

The football programme will also be offered as a subject choice. Students that choose this option will be with Cedric for the entire day and should arrive in sports clothing. Students that choose this option will still have the opportunity to put their names down to attend other A level subject choices as well.

This will be a really informative day and give students a feel of what life in OA6 would be like if they were to join us. Please also note that our 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening will take place two days later on Wednesday, 4 October 6.30pm-8.00pm. It would be wonderful to see as many students and parents at this event as possible.

Mr Walters (Temporary Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

### **8. 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

#### **Kingswood Trip**

Please can students return the slips as soon as possible for this trip. Please see Dr Davies if they have not received a copy.

#### **Gresham Lecture Series**

[Lecture Series 2023-24 | Gresham College](#)

#### **ApplyPlus**

Sign-up [HERE](#) to register your interest and ensure that you receive links to all these sessions and any other relevant online events.

#### **Everything you need to know about University/Higher Education – for students, parents and carers Monday, 16 October 6-7.30pm - online**

Register your interest in attending [HERE](#) and get your parents/carers to do the same and we will send links to the event out nearer the time.

#### **Personal Statement Workshop for Year 13 – online workshop**

**Wednesday, 27 September 5-6pm, Wednesday, 18 October and Wednesday, 29 November**

Click [HERE](#) to register.

#### **Working in the Voluntary and NGO Sector – Years 12 and 13**

**Monday, 30 October- 6 -7.30pm – online**

Please click [HERE](#) to register your interest.

#### **Routes into Medical Sciences Series- Orthoptics Day at the James Paget Hospital**

**Friday, 3 November – live event - 1.30-3.30pm**

Register [HERE](#) if you are interested.

#### **Online subject taster lectures from UEA**

Taster lectures can be a great way to discover new subjects.

Upcoming sessions include:



- 20 September: Film - ['Moon' and 'Ex Machina'](#)
- 28 September: Maths - [Mathematical problem solving](#)
- 2 October: Psychology - [Psychopathology](#)
- 3 October: English - [The relationship between creative and critical writing](#)
- 5 October: Politics - [Liberalism](#)

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form)

Dr Davies (Assistant Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Careers Facilitator)

## 9. Careers



**BFI FILM ACADEMY**

# BREAK INTO FILM

**BFI FILM ACADEMY SHORT COURSE**  
**ACCESS CREATIVE COLLEGE, NORWICH**

BFI Film Academy offers opportunities for ambitious 16-25 year olds, anywhere in the UK, to get to know more about film and how to forge a career in the screen industries.

**DATES:** Saturday 21st - Friday 27th October 2023  
**COURSE HOURS:** 10:00 - 17:00  
**COURSE LOCATION:** Access Creative College, Norwich  
**APPLICATION CLOSES:** 02 October 2023  
[www.accesscreative.ac.uk/campaign/bfilmmacademy](http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/campaign/bfilmmacademy)

**AGED 16-25?**  
**APPLY NOW**

Delivered by     

 SCAN ME



**BFI FILM ACADEMY**

# BREAK INTO FILM

**BFI FILM ACADEMY SHORT COURSE**  
**ACCESS CREATIVE COLLEGE, NORWICH**

BFI Film Academy offers opportunities for ambitious 16-25 year olds, anywhere in the UK, to get to know more about film and how to forge a career in the screen industries.

**DATES:** Saturday 21st - Friday 27th October 2023  
**COURSE HOURS:** 10:00 - 17:00  
**COURSE LOCATION:** Access Creative College, Norwich  
**APPLICATION CLOSES:** 02 October 2023  
[www.accesscreative.ac.uk/campaign/bfilmmacademy](http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/campaign/bfilmmacademy)

**AGED 16-25?**  
**APPLY NOW**

Delivered by     

 SCAN ME

- The post 16 transition event which was due to take place at City Academy on Wednesday, 4 October during the afternoon and evening has been postponed. The organisers, New Anglia Careers Hub, are considering moving the event to Spring 2024, to coincide with National Careers Week. In the meantime, Year 11 students should still take up the opportunity of visiting 6<sup>th</sup> forms and colleges, all of whom will have open events this Autumn. Open Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form open evening is on Wednesday, 4 October 6.30-8.00pm.
- Year 10 Work Experience (WEX) week will run from 8-12 July 2024. There will be an official 'launch' with parents and students after half term, however it is a good idea for students to start thinking about where they might want to do their WEX and make contacts with employers. Any enquiries for advice/help should come to me in room S12 or email [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk)
- The Open Academy 'live' careers newsletter is available to view on the Open Academy website. Any ideas for items to include which would be useful for our students please contact me.

Dr Davies

Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Careers Facilitator

## 10. Chaplain's Reflection

"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."

Mahatma Gandhi

#LIVESTRONG

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain