

Open Academy Newsletter 29 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

I would like to start this week by drawing attention to the extension of our consultation period for the consultation on whether we should formally become a Church of England Academy. We think this is a good idea as it formalises and clarifies our inclusive Christian ethos for our community as being the drive to ensure the young people of Heartsease – of all faiths and none have access to this great academy.

I am copying the consultation letter in with this newsletter with the extended deadline to capture comments from anyone who has not yet had the chance. Thank you to everyone who has so far shared their opinion. Whilst we do not have any further consultation events planned, if you would like to discuss this proposal with me, please do contact me via the school office and I will be happy to arrange a discussion and to collect your thoughts in person.

With the student body firmly in favour through the school council and staff fully behind the proposal, I am pleased that by far the vast majority of people are understanding this proposal as a means of securing our inclusive Christian ethos for the future. Over the years of the new Open Academy we have developed a reputation for being an integral part of our local community, which we see ourselves as here to serve. I am recommending this change in the spirit of that local service – remember, re-designation will have no effect on admissions or our methods – this is to secure what we do now! So, if you have not had chance to add your opinion and you would still like to, the link to the online questionnaire is in the attached letter and below:

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

I will be pleased to take your views right up until Friday, 13 October, or you can contact me at any point during that period for a conversation to add your view.

The other subject I would like to discuss this week is last night's Open Evening. These are important events in the life of the academy as they ensure a full intake for the next academic year. Moreover, they are an opportunity for us to see ourselves at our best and what a best.

We had over 80 students volunteer to come in and help the academy present itself as well as possible. I can honestly say I could not have been prouder of the students - immaculately turned out and bursting with enthusiasm and confidence – every single volunteer was a total credit to yourselves and the academy. Staff put on a great event, but it would not happen without the student helpers, demonstrators and tour guides.

I must especially mention the 5 students who helped me with the talks. With almost 3 halls full of parents, talking to the prospective students could be quite daunting, but all of the students who prepared their own speeches were great. Tilly in Year 7 did a great job in talking about the first few weeks and our transition program, Ella and Ella were superb in sharing about our fab canteen and also our trips visits and extra-curricular activities. Areen spoke very professionally about student leadership and I could not be more proud of how Wiktorina described her classroom learning experience – it would have made the teachers blush!

The feedback I received on the evening was incredibly positive about how wonderful it is to see so many happy and engaged staff and students. As we continue on our improvement journey, it is nice to reflect that this is the day to day experience of the vast majority of people for the overwhelming majority of the time. Yes, there are always challenges along the way, however, it is fantastic to work in a place where so many are working to create such a positive strong community!

So, to all the staff and volunteers last night – thank you, your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Now read on to enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Open Evening

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped at Open Evening. The students were impeccably dressed and were so very excited to show off their fabulous school. It was the enthusiasm for their school and the warm welcome by the community that parents repeatedly commented on.

We estimate that 320 families came to visit us and that is more than ever before. It seems as though everyone is excited about applying to Open Academy thanks to the volunteers.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

2. Fundraising

Open Academy has been successful with an application to be included in the Tesco blue token voting. From the first week in October until mid-January you should see us named on the voting containers in local Tesco stores, so please support us next time you shop at Tesco!

Depending on the number of votes we get we will receive a grant towards the running of our breakfast club of up to £1,500. We are fortunate to be part of the National School Breakfast programme which subsidises some of the cost of the bagels and cereal, but the weekly cost is still approximately £30 plus the additional costs in providing the milk, margarine and fruit. We don't charge for our breakfast offer so rely on sponsorship and fundraising to provide this.

Please remember to ask for your blue token when you shop.

3. Year 7

Another great week in the academy for our Year 7s. It's wonderful to see so many engaging so well into high school life, being respectful around the academy and thoroughly enjoying all their classes. For myself, I have the delight of teaching Year 7 in PE and science and they have been a pleasure to teach.

There has been issues with accessing homework, most should be able to access it through Microsoft Teams. If there are still issues, I encourage the students to speak to tutors and they will resolve the problem with our IT technician. There is always homework hub after school on Monday.

There seems to be a few of the year 7's chewing gum in the academy, this is a prohibited item and must not be in school. Warnings have been given so any that are seen chewing will be given a detention.

School shoes must be polishable, for example Nike air force ones are fine if they are all black and polishable.

On Thursday lunch time the sports hall is available to our year 7's to use, trainers must be worn in the sports hall.

Thank you for those that helped the Academy for open evening last night, it was a wonderful night and great to see so many helpers in year 7.

Congratulations to Inspiration (Mr Blanchflower) for winning the tutor challenge again and Inspiration again for having the best attendance this week.

There is no football club on Monday after school due to a fixture. Year 7 boys football team have their first fixture on Tuesday at home to Sprowston, please come and cheer on our boys.

We are running an interhouse competition in tutor to decorate their 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.

Our top achievers this week are, Ameera, Theo, Tilly, Phoebe-May, Lacey-Mae, Azra, Charlie S, Rowan, Ellie-Mae and Eva. Congratulations.

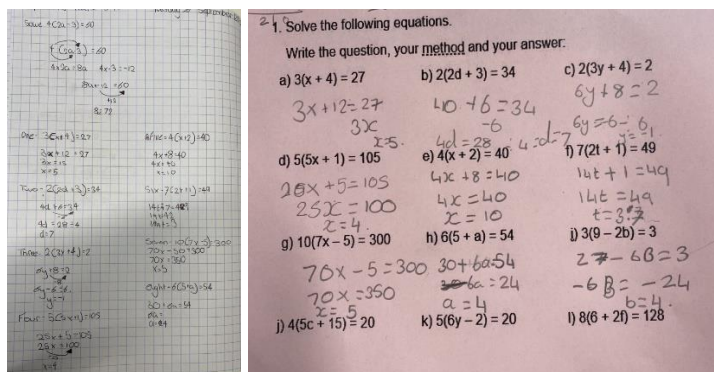
Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

4. Year 9

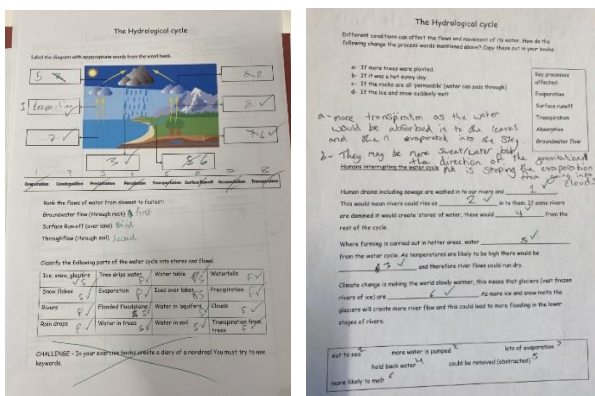
Year 9 shout outs to:



DT - Well done to Kiera P and Martina for creating some excellently composed repeat prints for their Grayson Perry Textiles project.



Maths – Katie and Ria for excellent work on solving bracket equations.



Excellent geography work from Alfie and Sasha.

Bruna R, Martha W, Natacha F and Annalee W have been making excellent progress in pickle ball due to their effort and positive attitude.

This week Year 9 had a uniform focus this week, students must make sure they have their blazers everyday now the weather is cooler. Trousers or skirts must be worn no leggings please from Monday, 2 October.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)
Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 9)

5. Year 10

Just a reminder that Open Academy has its 6th Form open evening this Wednesday and many other 6th forms will have open evenings in the following weeks. (Refer to previous newsletter for dates of local centres or look on the Help You Choose Website <https://www.helpyouchoose.org/>)

Congratulations to the following students gaining the highest amount of achievement points this week:

Tyler P, Warren M, Dylan M, Keira B and Chelsea B.

Well done to Tyler H for excellent work in German - Mrs McEvoy

Ms Rednall has been very pleased with the year 10 in their DT work. Year 10 have been working on prototypes for their Alessi inspired project. Resistant materials students have been using foamboard to test out their measurements and bring their designs to life whilst textiles students have been using a mannequin to drape paper to create an outfit. Students will go on to create desk tidies and clothes inspired by Alessi in their lessons going forward. Well done to all for their hard work and perseverance.



Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

6. Year 11

Another great week for Year 11 with the following students achieving the most LEARNT points:

Scarlet B, Jake T, Madsion L, Reece A, Jessica P, Star C, Ariya R, Rosie C, Jessica B, Emmy R and Gemma S.

Please look out for reward text messages at the end of half term.

Thanks to all our fantastic Year 11 ambassadors for running tours etc. at Open Evening last night. You were a credit to the academy.

Just a couple of notes about the taster day on Monday:

- No need to wear uniform – please come into school dressed in smart clothing. No crop tops, crocs, sliders etc!
- If you are signing up for the football programme for the day, please come in sports clothing/pe kit with footwear that you can train in or play a match in.
- PLEASE make sure that you sign up for a lesson for each half hour block by signing up outside the Year 11 office. Anyone that hasn't signed up by Friday will be put into an available slot.
- We will begin the day with an assembly, so please head to your **normal tutor rooms** first thing to get registered, and then head to the lecture theatre for assembly.

Hubs are also compulsory and must be attended. This is the two-week timetable for after school HUBS. They are vital and will make a difference:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Sci	Block 3	Humanities	Maths	Eng
Sci	Block 4	German	Maths	Eng

Top Tips for Parents:

This is a stressful time for parents of those in Year 11 as well as the Year 11s themselves! Help them to see the year as one goal at a time, to take it in their stride. Help them to identify their personal targets and encourage them to do one clear activity everyday that's focussed on that target. Creating a routine with them can also help them manage their time.

Top Revision Tips from our past Year 11:

- Create a revision timetable
- Take regular study breaks
- Use spider diagram to connect ideas

Some individual praise:

Praise for my HSC group, who have been working really hard preparing for their next PSA. Some beautiful work taking place, really pleased - Miss Whitwood

Great effort in English for Lily T - Mr Edwards

Preston B and Lucy E for progress in German – Mrs McEvoy

A massive well done to Harry G, Ellie M, Jess W and Jesse C who done some fantastic work in their BTEC exam catch up this week. All students had a great attitude to learning and great results were achieved from all. Well done!- Miss Trail

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.

Mr Walters (Temporary Head of Year 11)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

7. 6th Form

Kingswood

The deadline for bringing in forms for the trip is Monday, 2 October.

If we don't have enough students wanting to attend this trip, we will not be able to go ahead with it, which will be a huge shame! Ideally, I would love everyone in 6th Form to come. We had so much fun last year.

The cost is £90 fee. This is a reduction of the normal cost and includes 3 amazing meals per day, accommodation, coach getting there and back, and also all of the amazing activities that we will be doing. Payments can be spread over three months (£30 per month).

- Please remember if your child had free school meals last year you do not have to pay.
- Please also note that if your child has any SEN, then you do not have to pay.

If you are unsure if your child qualifies for either of the above, come and speak to me, Dr Davies or their tutor.

A few pics from last year:



Year 11 Taster Day

On, Monday 2 October, we will be welcoming Year 11 into 6th Form and they will have the opportunity to be a sixth former for the day!

Open Evening

Wednesday, 4 October is the 6th Form open evening. 6th Formers are encouraged to help out in their subjects and tell parents and students about how wonderful it is.

Shout Outs

A double celebration in the EDP Education Awards 2023. Not only has our academy been nominated for the Secondary School of the Year, but our wonderful ex Year 13 students Shadrak has got into the final 3 in the Student of the Year category! What an unbelievable achievement and one to shout from the rooftops. The winners will be announced at a ceremony event next month. Keep everything crossed for us.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23806422.meet-finalists-edp-education-awards-2023/>

Another massive big up has to go to our very own artist extraordinaire in Year 12, Lisa K. Her beautiful painting was being displayed in the reception area of the academy, a parent has seen it and would like to purchase it. Well done Lisa – that is a huge achievement. Next up – the Louvre!



Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Dr Davies (Assistant Head of 6th Form and Careers Facilitator)

8. Drama Club

Drama Club has moved. Drama club will now be running on a Monday 3.15 - 4.15. Open to all year groups, drama club is a great way of meeting new people, building confidence and developing performance skills.

We will be working towards two shows this year, one as part of the Christmas Carol concert and one in the summer term. People can be involved as much or as little as they like. For more information, students can speak to me in F62.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

9. Football Club



**GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING
MONDAYS**

3-4 pm

Years 7,8 and 9

**Fixtures coming up before half term so
we need girls at training!**

Girls Football club with Mrs Hindry

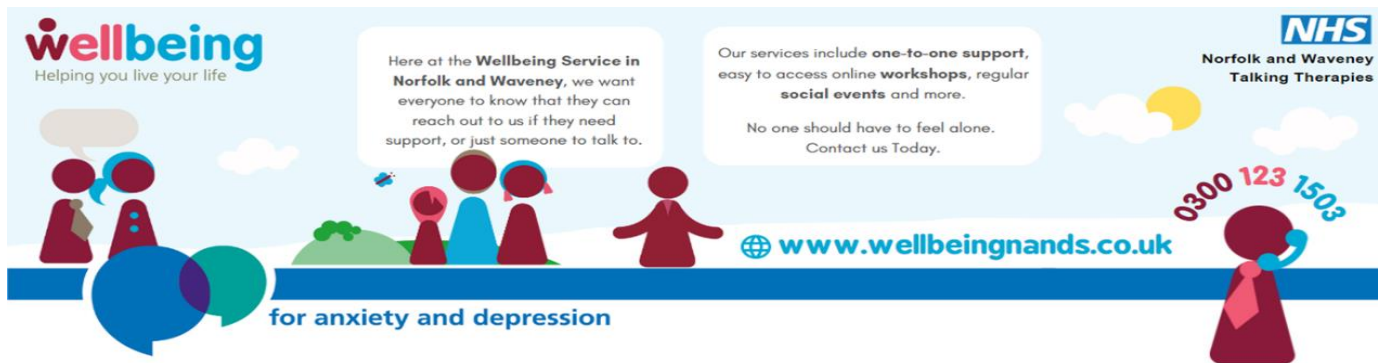


10. Wellbeing

For the past two Mondays the 6th Form have been using tutor time and period 1 to receive some vital information from the NHS about anxiety and low mood. Our guest speakers from the wellbeing team were incredibly impressed with how polite and well behaved our students were and we were all given some useful top tips about how to empty our stress buckets and calm ourselves with square breathing and progressive muscle relaxation techniques. Both talks were accompanied by an information stand in the atrium signposting useful techniques and services available to young people.

If you know a young person who may benefit from support with anxiety or low mood, then please have a look at some of the following online resources left for us by the team.

- wellbeingnands.co.uk
- kooth.com
- themix.org.uk
- the.studentroom.co.uk
- riseabove.org.uk
- childline.org.uk



Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

11. Chaplain's Reflection

I read this wonderful story this morning and would like to share it with you. It's called the perfect mistake.

My mother's father worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he was building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to orphanages in China. On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he mentally replayed his earlier actions, he realised what had happened; the glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates, which he had nailed shut. His brand-new glasses were heading for China!

The Great Depression was at its height and Grandpa had six children. He had spent \$20 for those glasses that very morning. He was really upset by the thought of having to buy another pair. "It's not fair," he told God as he went home in frustration. "I've been very faithful in giving of my time and money to your work, and now this".

Months later, the director of the orphanage was on furlough in the United States. He wanted to visit all the churches that supported him in China, so he came to speak one Sunday at my grandfather's small church in Chicago.

The missionary began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting the orphanage. "But most of all," he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way of replacing those glasses. Along with not being able to see well, I experienced headaches every day, so my co-workers and I were much in prayer about this. Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses wedged between two blankets.

The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued: "Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom made just for me! I want to thank you for being a part of that".

The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no glasses on their list of items to be sent overseas. But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, an ordinary carpenter realised the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way.

In life when we make mistakes or something negative happens to us we can think that nothing good can come out of it. I want to encourage you today that everything happens for a reason. Why? I don't know, but a lot of negatives can sometimes be blessings in disguise. Let's try to look for the good in mistakes and negative circumstances and seek out what life is trying to teach us through it all. If the man in the story didn't lose his glasses, a miracle wouldn't have happened.

In closing the Bible says that "ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called to his purpose".

Let's trust this week that all the things in our lives are working together for our good. God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain