

Open Academy Newsletter 6 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

It has been another week to be proud of the academy as we welcomed prospective students to our 6th Form Open Evening. Our 6th Form, along with the whole academy, has been rated Good by Ofsted for some time, and moreover, we know that for the students who choose our provision, we invariably make their choice work successfully for them.

Every year we are delighted by the numbers of our 6th Form students who secure the next step that they need – be that a university place for the majority, or an apprenticeship or employment for others. We are so proud of their achievements it was great to celebrate some of them on our Open evening.

Next week sees the EDP Education Awards and, along with our success becoming a finalist in the Secondary of the Year category, I have my fingers crossed for Shadrak who is one of our amazing ex Year 13s shortly off to university, who has been chosen as a finalist in the Student of The Year category. Fingers crossed on both counts. However, the recognition of Shadrak's excellent commitment to his studies, not to mention his charity work, is as heartening as the recognition for the amazing journey the academy has been on over the last couple of years.

Speaking of our journey – thank you to the few extra people who have added their voice to our bid to become re-designated as a Church of England school. There is still time to respond for the next week or so, so please do add your voice to the form, or drop me an email with your thoughts. I will keep you posted as to how things progress on that front over the coming months. The link is here if you are interested and need a reminder: <https://forms.office.com/e/t7vB073iGE>

On a different topic, I am getting excited about the student elections next week. Mr Dilley has been in assemblies all week sharing his vision of how student leadership will develop in the academy and I believe the elections will take place in all years starting from next week. For me this is a vital process as I am often required to talk to parents, make formal visits and welcome new people in to the academy. To make these activities properly informative and as positive as possible, I always try to ensure the students voice is heard and I therefore rely on at the very least the Head Boy and Head Girl from each year group to represent the Academy on a regular basis. When they travel with me, they are de-facto the Head boy and Head girl of the whole academy. It is a system that works well and means over the 5 years of a student's time at Open, they have lots of chances at key leadership roles – both head students have deputies, there are sports, charity, environment and learning leaders in all year groups too – not to mention buddies, prefects and peer mentors, so overall we rely on many students to help build and represent our community and I can't wait to find out who it is this year! Representatives from each year group come together with representatives from the LGBT group and Open Unite – our Global Majority group as the powerful Open Voice School Council and they play a significant role in academy life.

Do discuss as a family, student leadership opportunities. Whilst they may sound like small fry now, over the year we have got involved in some big issues, there have been some amazing trips. For instance, we were privileged to attend the unveiling of Frank Armes' memorial - our ex-student who lost his life on HMS Coventry during the Falklands war. The memorial was unveiled at Costessey as he had connections to that area and after a solemn and moving ceremony, the students were amazed to find themselves talking to a 3-star general from the USA! Many veterans expressed how pleased they were to see the young people respect their past and we all left feeling a profound sense of honour and duty. These are experiences that stay with students and bring the curriculum to life, so please do encourage your child to get involved. There is something for everyone to get involved in!

Please see Mr Dilley's item below for further information.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Homework

Completing regular homework in every subject is crucial for students to embody the values that we have at Open Academy. It helps them develop independence and take responsibility for their education, which in turn, enables them to aspire to achieve their goals in the future. We appreciate your support in ensuring our students complete their assignments. Thank you!

Here is some important information about homework platforms for different subjects. Each subject sets homework online in Teams, but some of the homework will be on online platforms or apps. Below is a list of the platforms used for each subject, along with details on how to log in:

- Maths – Teams. Students will be set up on Teams during their maths lessons, and they will be given both an online and printed copy of the homework booklet.
- English – Seneca/Teams. English homework will be set on both Seneca and Teams and some tasks may also be provided on paper via Teams.
- Science – Seneca/Teams. During science lessons over the next week, students will be given letters containing login details for Seneca and Teams. All work will be set on Teams.
- History, geography and languages – Seneca/Teams. All students can access Seneca using their school email address and worksheets will be posted on Teams for these subjects as well.

Recognition and Rewards

We want to recognise those students for their great work and the excellent habits they have built. There are two main ways this will happen:

- All completed homework will give students achievement points. Building achievement points shows how well the students are demonstrating our values.
- To support our students, we will also offer support Hubs for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Due to the nature of the homework being technology-based, we will open our computer rooms up on Monday and Tuesday after school. Please contact your Head of Year if you need further information.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

1. Basketball Club

Big shout out for the basketball club this week. We had record numbers with 21 people turning up. Thank you to our KS4 students Riley D, Jacob M and Warren for helping coach the younger attendees. Quick reminder that basketball runs 3pm onwards each Wednesday!

Mrs Pearsall and Mr Willgress (Teachers)

2. Football Club

Well done to the Year 9 girls for competing against Sprowston High on Wednesday evening. Well done Rhianna, Bruna, Millie, Elise, Kiera, Mia, Sasha, Linda, Annalee and Lizzie. You all did a fantastic job in both games.



Mrs Hindry (Teaching Assistant)

3. PE Department Reminder for Clubs After School

Monday: boys and girls football

Wednesday: boys and girls basketball

Thursday: badminton, netball and Year 10 football

Congratulations to all the students who have been awarded the PE reward of the week.

Miss Trail:

Year 7: All Year 7 girls who have been turning up to Netball club - Ashanti for outstanding commitment to PE.

Year 8: George B and Year 8 girls netball team.

Year 9: Year 9 girls' football and netball teams.

Year 10: Great effort to all my class in badminton.

Year 12: Connor for helping ref the U14 girls football game.

Mrs Pearsall:

Year 8 Girls PE class for outstanding effort and care towards others.

Mr Lambert:

Year 7: Dante

Year 8: Zinedine

Year 9: Alfie Swatman

Mrs Whitwood:

Year 7: Bea

Year 8: Talula

A big congratulations to our Year 8 and 9 girls who were amazing in the netball games against Thorpe on Thursday. This fixture was going to be tough due to Thorpe's side being strong, but all girls showed great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm towards being successful.

One of our main aims at Open Academy is resilience and this fixture taught the girls to be resilient from the moment it started. They pushed through and never gave up as a team. The girls were a credit to Open Academy and I'm so proud of them all. More fixtures next week - Miss Trail



4. Student Leadership Project

The Open Academy has been proud to announce the launch of its new student leadership project this week, with assemblies to all year groups (6th Form on Monday), to explain the new structure, the election process and the potential rewards on offer for those who want to be part of this exciting opportunity!

With year council elections set for next Tuesday/Wednesday (10 and 11 October) we would encourage all students who want to develop their team and leadership skills, have their say in the future of the academy and be part of the exciting opportunities ahead, to get their application forms in to their Head of Year office no later than Monday, 9 October at 3pm.

The new project includes:

- A newly devised "Open Academy Student Leader Award", developed by the Academy and designed to grow and enhance student skills in leadership and teamwork, with the ambition to have workshops, guest speakers and trips to support the students' progress.
- Enrolment onto the nationally recognized "Youth Leader Award" scheme: <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/young-leaders-award> a great addition to any students CV in the future!
- Clear definition of student leadership roles and responsibilities with students leading projects throughout the year.
- A clear service and reward system, where students are suitably rewarded for the amount of service they do.

If you have any questions regarding this new initiative, please email me or encourage your child to come and speak to me, Mr Richardson, or their year offices for more information.

We see this as an incredibly exciting opportunity to reimagine and reenergize student leadership at the Open Academy and hope all students will consider getting involved!

Mr Dilley (Teacher)

5. SRB

We are planning on running an Autism and OK programme within the academy after half term. If your child is interested in participating in the programme, please could you contact srblead@open-academy.org.uk for further information or to be sent a parent/carer permission slip.

Introduction



What is the Autistic and OK programme?

Everyone should be able to feel OK at school. But we know that many autistic pupils don't feel OK. They often struggle to have their needs understood, face bullying and are more at risk of exclusion. Four in five autistic young people have mental health conditions.

We know that getting the right help early is vital to ensuring young people can achieve their potential. The Autistic and OK programme has been created to empower autistic young people to take control of their own mental wellbeing, understand themselves and feel OK.

Standing with autistic young people, Ambitious about Autism has developed a ground-breaking new toolkit covering four key mental health topics – identified as areas of importance by young people themselves.

The sessions – on understanding and managing OCD, anxiety, depression and bullying – will equip autistic young people with the knowledge and self-awareness to look after their mental wellbeing. They will also learn the tools and techniques to manage their mental health.

Youth led

Ambitious about Autism runs the Ambitious Youth Network – a successful online network for autistic young people. We know that peer support is vital to help young people build connections, confidence and support.

The Autistic and OK programme will be led by young autistic people. Autistic pupils in years 10-12 will be given support to deliver the four sessions to their younger autistic peers.

The programme will be a real opportunity for these young Peer Facilitators to develop skills and support their autistic peers. They will work collaboratively with school staff, using the materials we provide in the toolkit, to help fellow autistic pupils understand mental health topics and manage their own wellbeing. We hope the programme will encourage positive personal development, such as leadership and communication skills.

Miss Fisher (Teaching Assistant)

6. Year 7

Another busy week here at Open Academy and with only two more weeks until half term and all Year 7s are fully into the swing of high school life. Can I ask that all uniform and equipment are labelled please, we have had a lot of uniform and equipment that has been lost over the last couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, after a very positive start and a worldie from Charlie S, we lost our first game of the season to Sprowston at home on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you to those that were there cheering on our boys, below is a picture of the team before the game:



- Our top achievers this week are: Tilly B, Gracie C, Lily H, Ameera J, Eva L, Sarah O, Azra O, Ella P, Hayley R and Sabrina R. Well done to you all.
- Below are comments from our teacher about the fantastic work and effort shown in lessons this week:
- Lily and Archie for their amazing DT answers - Miss Luter
- Great work from all the Year 7s making their fruit salads - Miss Luter
- Archie McC for always being ready to learn and completing his maths homework - Miss Day
- Ashanti G, Phoebe B and Ellie-Mai B for excellent work – Mr Blanchflower
- Ben S and Isaac H for both making huge efforts to improve in English and gaining much success with impressive writing and ideas – Mr Edwards
- Big Congratulations to Tiegen-Mae M, Lily-May B, Kaylen A and Ben S (again) in English for excellent performance in front of HOY of their own scripted Harry Potter plays.
- All the students in 7H were very well focused in their music lesson this week and learnt to play their first keyboard piece with great success - Mrs Morgan-Hart
- Mason H-R was especially helpful in Tutor time today and deserves a special mention – Mrs Morgan-Hart
- Neveah B for effort - Mrs McEvoy

Well done to everyone above.

- Congratulations to Challenge ATH for winning the tutor challenge and Inspiration for having the best attendance this week.
- We are running an inter-house competition in tutor to decorate their door for Halloween. The winners will receive a prize on the Friday we break up for half term. If you have any unwanted Halloween decorations, please allow your child to bring them in please.
- Students had an assembly today from Mr Dilley regarding leadership roles for Year 7 in school. Applications to be in by 3 pm on Monday please.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

7. Year 8

- Well done to the 8O group this week. We spent a lesson looking at the effects of microplastics and then did a small write up for our progress folders. Reading and marking through them it was apparent that the class really understood them and put a lot of effort into this task - Mr Willgress
- The year 8 boys football team has a game at home on Monday, 9 October against Wymondham High in the county cup, the team sheet is up by the year team office – Mr Lambert

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

8. Year 9

Please can we request that parents let us know if students will be late into school and the reason. It would be helpful if we were aware, if students are anxious or feeling fragile so we can support when they arrive at school. The year team mobile number is: 07949 455935. This is available for calls or texts. For medical appointments we would just need a photo or a copy of the appointment card/letter for school to authorise.

Top achievers this half term are:

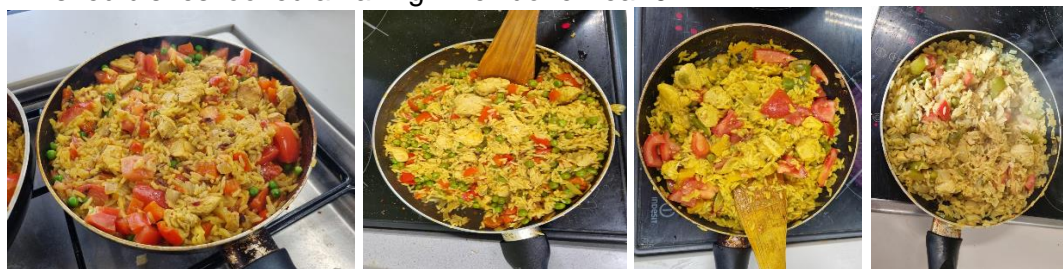
Ayo T, Hannah S, Tiffany S, Ria W, Oliver N, Lena W, Kiera P, Reece Y, Rodrigo F, Logan W, Rianna A, Natacha, Martina V and Kayden SH

Food Tech - I have been really impressed with food tech lessons and have enjoyed seeing what the students are creating. I am sure at home you have tasted their creations. These are some pictures from last Friday's lesson:

Prep stage:



Finished dishes looked amazing - well done Year 9:



- Maths – George P, Ria W, Tiffany S and Mya PG big effort and excellent progress on inequalities this week.
- Great effort from all art classes in year 9 this week on their pop art work.
- German- great effort from Lois L, Happiness O, Lena and Esme W.
- Drama - massive well done to all those who have had a go at stage combat in drama, I'm really proud of how well you have listened and worked safely with control.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Temporary Assistant Head of Year 9)

9. Year 10

- This week Open Academy hosted it's 6th Form open evening and it was fantastic to see some of our year 10 students there, investigating options available to them. For further information on other centres please use the following link <https://www.helpyouchoose.org/>

- If your child has arrived late to school this week, they have missed study skills strategies and information about the new leadership opportunities available. Application forms for the leadership team are available from the Year 10 office. The Year 10 PPEs start on 27 November and in assembly we talked about the difference between learning and the ability to recall information. This was then followed up in tutor time with opportunities to practice revision skills.
- Congratulations to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week: Areen M, Tyler H, Lola B, Lily B and Hallie C.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

10. Year 11

A great week for Year 11 and it's great to see such consistent attendance at the Hub sessions. This is the students showing real commitment to their studies and I am being told that is having a positive effect on their understanding. Just a reminder that Hubs are compulsory and we do take registers. Occasionally a teacher may not be able to run a session, in which case we will inform the students.

I am asking teachers to award students with achievement points for Hub sessions so this will go towards their total for this half term. This will mean I will be able to send lots of reward text messages home at the end of this half term so please look out for these.

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. This is where Hubs can really help in establishing a routine.

Top revision tips from our past Year 11:

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

On the 20 October we will be having a representative from UEA coming to do an assembly on post 16 options and study skills so this will be very useful.

The following students achieved the most points this week:

Madison L, Jessica P, Ameila R, Jake T, Elisa K, Ashley B, Michaela B and Star C.

Some individual praise:

- The following students for effort in history - Scarlett B, Tallulah B, Molly H, Keira W, Suzy L, Emily S and Norah W - Mrs Wenlock
- Kieran P, Ellie R and Benjamin C for fantastic effort in DT- Miss Rednall
- Scarlet B, Sienna B, Michaela B, Lucy W and Lily T for commitment in Art - Mr Walters
- Sienna B, Felix C, Adam L, Maddison S, Ariya R, Ara R and Lucy N for focused effort and engagement in history - Mr Crawford
- Scarlet B again for aplomb in English - Mr Edwards
- Praise for Ariya, Norah, Lucy and Hollie for fantastic coursework in business - Mrs Tyler
- Excellent work by 11C in science this week. We have been doing lots of really difficult concepts this week. Standouts this week were Izaak T and Tallulah B - Mr Willgress

Mr Walters (Temporary Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

11. 6th Form

Personal Statement Online Workshop for Year 13 – Wednesday, 18 October and Wednesday 29 November

Aimed at Year 13 students looking to apply to university, this workshop is aimed at helping you perfect your Personal Statement focusing on strategies to make your statement stylish, concise and accurate with lots of examples to peruse from different subject areas.

Click [HERE](#) to register if you haven't done so already and we'll send the invite out to you the day before.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) – Monday, 30 October (6.00-7.30pm) – online

Medicine in Warzones: What it's like to work for Medecins Sans Frontieres?

A fascinating talk and Q&A session with Chris Peskett, a Norfolk medic and MSF board member and colleague, Gerry, exclusively targeted at all Norfolk students interested in pursuing medicine, Nursing and/or Allied Health Professions as a career.

This is a remarkable opportunity to meet and talk to a warzone field worker, a medic and an MSF Board member. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Routes into Medical Science Series

Operating Department Practitioners live event at the Edith Cavell Building /UES NNUH – Live event Tuesday, 12 December (5.00-7.00pm)

David Huggins and his team are once again opening their doors to students for a live event to help you find out more about studying for and practising as an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP). They will talk about and demonstrate the role that ODPs play in healthcare.

ODPs are a growing profession regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council, who are specialist practitioners work in operating theatres and critical care units, delivering high standards of patient care for those undergoing anaesthesia and surgery.

This live session will talk about the profession and the BSc programme at UEA and will include time in both the teaching building and in an Operating Theatre and include opportunities for students to participate in key skills such as "scrubbing up" for surgery and aiding respiration during operations.

Click [HERE](#) to register your interest

Mock Interviews Season – Monday, 9 November to Wednesday, 22 November

- Each year we aim to give every Norfolk student who will face a live or online interview as part of the application process, a mock interview. Depending on what you will be encountering this might be an online one to one interview, a live one to one interview or a live mini interview sessions – or possibly all three!
- This round of mock interviews is primarily aimed at those students who must meet the 16 October deadline and/or students who know that they will require an interview as part of the application process. It is an opportunity for you to experience an interview with a subject specialist which we aim to make as realistic an experience as possible. After the interview you will also receive useful and constructive feedback to help you in your preparation for the real thing.
- Deadline is Friday, 13 October. Once we have all requests collated we will send you a date and time for your interview.

Register [HERE](#)

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

12. Careers

- We are now well into the season for college and 6th Form open events and many of our Year 11s enjoyed both the taster day and open evening which we held at Open Academy this week. Students who are interested in continuing their education at our 6th Form should apply via the Open Academy

website or collect an application form from me (S12). For details of other open evenings happening around the city, please refer to the Help You Choose website <https://www.helpyouchoose.org/events>

- Our live careers information newsletter continues to grow and develop. This is available on the Open Academy website and contains lots of useful information and guidance for each key stage. If you haven't had a chance to look yet, follow the link <https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/open-academy-careers-newsletter-1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew>
- Year 10 work experience (WEX) will be happening again next summer. The dates are Monday, 8 to Friday, 12 July. Students and parents will be receiving packs outlining the process, but it is never too early to start looking for a placement. Students can seek advice about WEX or any other career matters from me (S12).

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

13. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott (Chaplain)