

## Open Academy Newsletter 20 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It has been back to normal this week after my conference and the awards ceremony that kept me out of school last week. This meant Mr Ward shared his thoughts with you instead of me, deputising as he had been for me, since Wednesday.

The conference was about ensuring the best education for all; ensuring equality of access no matter what background children come from.

I am delighted to say that it felt very much like we are fully aware and already making significant strides down the road of ensuring that all students are supported here at Open. I am particularly keen to talk to our global majority group, Open Unite, about some of what the speakers shared regarding the slave trade and its long-lasting legacy in British society, as I was shocked by lots of what I heard. I'm hoping Open Unite's curriculum work will allow us all in school to explore this controversial topic in more depth.

It was, as I say though, heartening to note how genuinely inclusive a school we are. Where some schools can appear to have become hostile environments for children who struggle, driven by our Christian ethos, we are keen to do all we can to support those children to succeed. The feedback we have received around our application to become a Church of England school very much reflects that. Whilst the initial consultation phase is now technically closed, it looks like we will have a second consultation window in November where we actively engage with other local organisations to ensure we have a wide enough view of our proposals. To that end I will be creating a page on our website dedicated to our proposal in the next week or two.

Whilst today is the greyest and grimmest of autumn rainy days, the warmth and welcome in the academy is undiminished here as ever. We have great systems to ensure that we get everyone inside the building immediately and our 3-way split lunches mean that wet breaks and lunches are as pleasant as always, because there are always enough seats for everyone in the canteen.

Speaking of the dreadful weather this morning, could I remind everyone to stick to the speed limit on site, especially in poor conditions. We have more children than ever before and the car park gets very busy. In poor conditions, no matter how much of a hurry we are in, it is important to slow right down to ensure everyone remains safe! Also, there were a few students who did not have a coat – please do try to get them to dress appropriately for the walk in – a few were drenched to the skin on arrival this morning!

So, with those most practical of reminders I would like to close this half term by saying a huge thanks to everyone for all the support you have given the academy. Uniform has never been better with less than a handful of children now struggling with that basic. We are successfully working in partnership with so many parents to ensure we do the best by all students. It is thanks to you that the academy continues to grow from strength to strength.

I therefore hope you have a wonderful time for the half term break. Whether you are at home re-connecting with each other, off on your travels, holidaying or visiting relatives, or doing nothing special at all, I hope your half term break is full of joy and we will look forward to seeing everyone back, bright, early and in full uniform on Monday, 30 October.

Jon Ford  
Principal

## 1. Year 7

Can't believe it has been a whole half term already, it has been a great 7 weeks getting to know all the students. Mrs Roe and I have enjoyed every minute and would both like to thank you for all the support you have given us. We pride ourselves to be the best year group for uniform and look forward to that continuing. I am thoroughly looking forward to the next half term and the lead up to Christmas.

As you know there was a Halloween door competition between tutors and Open Pathways, the pictures are below. As you can see the standard was very hard and the decision for the winner was extremely difficult, but with their door being 100% handmade we went with Challenge ATH tutor, congratulations.

Challenge ATH:



Destiny TTH:



Inspiration ABL:



Respect LMH:



Open Pathways:



Open Pathways:



We can start planning for the Christmas door decoration competition after half term (too early)?

Because of the wet weather year 7's had the opportunity to play a little bit of Badminton at break time:



Congratulations to Inspiration ABL for having the best attendance and winning the Tutor challenge this week.

"Well done to Respect for the amazing teamwork this week, preparing for and decorating the double doors of the music room. It was a great achievement that everyone contributed something and you even had a reference to All Saints Day (originally All Hallows Day, where we get Halloween from). As your tutor, it was brilliant to see you working together so well and I am very proud of you all! Ma'am" – Mrs Morgan-Hart

Praise from teacher:

Well done to all of Year 7 who have completed their first textiles practical workshop of the year on Tie Dying. They worked sensibly and with great focus to achieve brilliant outcomes, which they will now use to complete parts of their handwarmers – Miss Rednall

Elias S, Lacey M, Phoebe B, Amalie T and Esme T for excellent achievement and efforts in English assessments – Mr Edwards

Praise to Zakery P for good effort in all his studies – Mrs Napthen

Jack, Teja, Ben, Amalie, Emily, Tiegan, Ezio, Elias, Rose, Jessica, Eva, Jess, Alex, Phoebe, Stefan and Tyler have been outstanding this half term in their attitude to learning and their achievement in Maths. Well done - Mrs Power

Top achievers this week:

Hattie A, Phoebe A, Kaylen A, Emily B, Sophia E, Ashanti G, Bianca M, Lacey M, Hemin R, Jack S-H, Isabella W and Alfie War.

Top achievers this half term:

Phoebe A, Tilly B, Ameera J, Finley L, Theo L, Lacey M, Matthew O, Sarah O, Charlie Sla and Charlie Swa.

Well done to all the Year 7 girls that participated in the year 7 netball games on Wednesday nights. Miss Trail and all of us are very proud of you all.

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

## 2. Year 8

It's the end of the first half-term of Year 8 and what a great start the students have had. They have approached Year 8 with a mature attitude and are progressing well in lessons.

There is so much excellent work going on in lessons some special mentions below:

Well done to 8P and 8E for completing their Marimekko inspired prints with such focus and resilience. Shout outs in particular go to Elyisa C, Jamie P, Angel G, Kaelan B, Angel G, Charles M, Jess Thompson, Hannah T, David D and Conner P for such brilliant outcomes

Next steps for these students is to sublimation print their designs onto their fabric using the printer and heat press. More photos to follow – Mrs Rednall



A huge well done to all the students who have received zero behaviour points this half-term. They enjoyed a celebration this week and got to watch a movie in the lecture theatre. I'm so pleased to say we had so many Year 8s who were invited that there are too many to mention individually, but well done to all!

Out top LEANRT achievers so far this year are:

Chakib L	183
Kara M	175
Talula E	159
Sav M	157
Jake C	146
Kaelan B	139
Thomas W	131
Ruby P	129
Amy J	125
Cameron S	124

Keep up the good work!

I hope you all have a restful and fun half-term break and Mr Hawkins and I look forward to welcoming the students back for the second half of their Autumn term.

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

### **3. Year 9**

Students with 95% attendance:

Rusne B, Harvey E, George F, Olivier K, Ollie L, Zak L, Oliver N, Kiera P, Mya P, Annalee R and Hannah S.

Students with 100% attendance:

Kayden S, Tiffany S, Ria W, Ayo T, Millie C, Natacha F, Deacon B, Kate S, Kieran S, Mia P, Tyler A, Elise W, Harry B, Dylain B, Brandon S, Layla S, Lois L, Leah S, Aisosa H, Alfie S, Luke S, Noam M, Sasha-Mai P, Owen B, Happiness O, Somaya R, Ryan B, Peyton W and Erica J.

Students with zero behaviour points and enjoyed their rewards afternoon:

Rianna A, Ada A, Ryan B, Deacon B, Rusne B, Alexander C, Evie D, Rodrigo F, Samuel H, Jason J, Lois L, Happiness O, Samuel O, Kieran S, Kate S, Alfie S, Ayo T, Martina V, Martha W, Kaitlin W and Ria W.

Top achievers this half term:

Lena W, Kayden S, Kiera P, Tiffany S, Ria W, Hannah S, Ada A, Rodrigo F, Annalee R, Esme W, Martha W, Ayo T, Reece Y, Millie C, Maddie A, Jason J, Martina V, Logan W, Natacha F, Deacon B and Oliver N.

Teacher praise:

9Maths2 in general for excellent efforts towards their Maths and great progress being made. Special shoutouts to Lily, Bruna, Dylain, Elise, Owen, Reece, AJ, Ryan, Luke, Noam, Brandon, Ayo, Millie, Rusne, Rianna, Max and Oliver N for their consistent maximum effort in class.

9O History - Bruna R, Linda H, Lois L, Happiness O, Martha W and Jasmin C for excellent work in their assessments on the problems of Weimar Germany, and for their hard work and effort in their post-assessment green pen feedback tasks.

German-great understanding of past tense-Hannah S, Lena W, Esme W,

Kayden S for his help with Samuel in German

Well done to Rianna, Sasha, Hannah and Kiera for some good verbal feedback in drama and Jason, Zak and Ryan for being confident enough to show their performance video to the class.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Temporary Assistant Head of Year 9)

### **4. Year 10**

First half term of Year 10 - well done everyone you are doing amazing. This was reflected in our assembly this week where we celebrated the successes of some of our year 10 students.

The year group have received a fantastic 7340 LEARNT achievement points with every single student in the year group has achievements points this term.

Homework is set online. If your child can't access the work, please let us know. Homework club is held after school on a Tuesday 3-4pm in room S56 for anyone needing support. After half term those not completing homework will be expected to attend.

A general reminder as the weather is getting cooler, hoodies and jumpers are not part of the school uniform, neither are leggings which should not be worn in school. If you intend to purchase any new items of uniform, please refer to the website if you are unsure of the uniform policy. After half term any student

not in correct uniform will be receiving a 30-minute detention after school. We appreciate there are exceptional circumstances when a student may not be in correct uniform, e.g. injured knee or broken arm and we do make allowances. Parents/carers must contact the year team if your child isn't in correct uniform with the reason why.

Year 10 PPE 1 will start the week commencing 27 November. Revision techniques and support is provided at tutor time. We have noticed that some students have been coming into school late or not attending tutor because they arrive so late. They will be missing out on vital support. Students should be in school no later than 8:40am.

Teacher praise:

Really well done to Year 10 drama who have made a great start to the course and produced their first whole class performance. Looking forward to starting the first assessed unit with them after half term – Mrs Ormosi

We hope you all have a well-earned rest over half term.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## **5. Year 11**

It's been a great first half term for Year 11. Uniform has generally been good and there has been a perceptible atmosphere of determination. It has been great to see the students fully engaging with the Hub sessions after school and maximising the learning available to them. These will continue after half-term, and I am being told it is making a genuine difference to student outcomes so please support us with this. In our final assembly I wanted to recognise the efforts of as many students as possible, so I asked teachers to give me the names of any Year 11s who have consistently applied themselves over the last 6 weeks.

I have listed them below via subjects:

Top scientists - Harisan M and Hayden B  
Top English students - Norah W, Scarlet B, Max L and Ashton T  
Top artists - Lucy N, Megan C and Kai M  
Top historian - Emily S  
Top linguist - Mayling T  
Top mathematicians - Lucy E, Reece A and Jessica B  
Top geographer - Emmy R  
Top cooks - Chloe D and Evie G

We also had 3 students who achieved the most LEARNNT points for the term:

Scarlet B, Alice G and Reece A

Please look out for reward text messages (based on achievement points) for your child as we are sending those out today.

Some individual praise from teachers:

Well done to the Year 11 food prep and nutrition students who have completed their final practical for their first piece of coursework. Great work everyone - Miss Luter

Joel W excellent effort and achievement in English assessment - Mr Edwards

Well done to Ethan, Ara, and Felix for solving the Blood Brothers puzzles and managing to escape first - Miss Hawthorne

Mr Walters (Temporary Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

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

### Kingswood

The residential is on and we will be going on the first Monday back after half term! Very excited for you to all experience the highs of this trip. I have emailed you all packing list. Please email me if you have any further questions over half term.

### Personal statement & UCAS Day

All Year 12 will be off timetable on 21 November for the entire day. We will spend this day having talks and workshops from external providers and getting your UCAS application close to completion. Those of you who don't want to go to university will also be having talks about apprenticeships on the day. I would like ALL students to do two things over the next few weeks until this day:

- Start the UCAS application. You need to register and create an account on the UCAS website. This is a simple process and will enable you to start filling in the basic details of your application and adding courses to your shortlist. To link your application to Open Academy (necessary for references) you must enter the 'Buzzword' - OpenAcademy24.
- Using the Unifrog 'Personal Statement' tool, start writing a draft of your personal statement. This can be accessed via the student home page under the application materials section 'UK Personal Statement'. The tool breaks down the statement into 3 sections and provides useful prompts and ideas for what you can (and cannot) include. You can save sections as you go along:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/personal-statement>

### Study Skills for 6th Formers

This is a really useful study skills website and students should be using during private study periods:

<https://sixthformstudyskills.ncl.ac.uk/>

### A few useful events to sign up to:

- Medicine in Warzones: What it's like to work for Medecins Sans Frontieres? - Monday, 30 October- 6-7.30pm – online. Click [HERE](#) to register
- Routes into Medical Sciences Series - Orthoptics Day at the James Paget Hospital - Friday, 3 November – live event - 1.30-3.30pm. Click [HERE](#) to complete the parental consent form.
- Studying Abroad - Opportunities and Possibilities – Tuesday, 5 December 7.00-8.30pm. Come along and talk to the experts to find out more about the exciting prospect of spending time in Europe, Canada or the USA as part of your next educational steps. Register your interest [HERE](#)
- Working in the Voluntary and NGO Sector – Years 12 and 13 – Wednesday, 6 December 6-7.30pm. Please click [HERE](#) to register your interest.
- Building and Presenting an Online Art/Media/Film/ photography portfolio – NUA – Wednesday, 6 December 4.30-5.30pm. Sign Up link - [https://your.norwichuni.ac.uk/form/book-your-info-session?event\\_id=472](https://your.norwichuni.ac.uk/form/book-your-info-session?event_id=472)
- Routes into Medical Science Series – Operating Department Practitioners live event at the Edith Cavell Building /UES NNUH – Live event Tuesday, 12 December 5-7pm. Click [HERE](#) to register your interest.
- Online subject taster lectures from UEA. Taster lectures can be a great way to discover new subjects, or demonstrate your interest on your personal statement. Upcoming sessions include:

19 October: Biology - [Cancer](#)

19 October: History - [Insights into university modules and the learning experience](#)

07 November: Computer Science - [Developing secure software](#)

07 November: International Relations - [China](#)

08 November: Business - [Examining global trends](#)

17 October: ['How to pay for university' webinar series – details and booking](#)

19 October: [A step-by-step guide to writing a standout personal statement – details and booking](#)

- University of Suffolk – Health and Life Sciences Taster Day Wednesday, 4 February 2024.

The day is aimed at students in year 12 and will run from 10am-2pm. Students will be able to choose to attend 1 or 2 taster sessions. Click [HERE](#) to register your interest in attending this event. The HAS scheme will be running a coach/coaches from Norwich. Plus:

Art & Design Conference – Wednesday, 14 February 2024

Law, Social Sciences & Social Work Conference – Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Business, Computing & Games Conference – Wednesday, 7 February 2024 & Friday, 22 March 2024

As with last year, the HAS scheme will be working alongside UOS to offer coaches to transport students to these events. Look out in later bulletins for registration details

Have a great half term everyone. I hope you come back recharged and ready for another festive half term!

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

## 7. German Trip

Final reminder for the German trip for Years 8 to 11. The due date for the deposit has been extended until the 30 October, but this will be the last day.

Mrs McEvoy (Teacher)

## 8. PE

### Reminder for Clubs After School:

**Monday:** Boys and girls football

**Wednesday:** Boys and girls basketball club

**Thursday:** Badminton club, netball club + Year 10 boys football

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

Miss Trail:

Year 7: Year 7 girls netball team

Year 8: Noah C

Year 9: Year 9 Girls football team

Mr Lambert:

Year 7: Dante

Year 8: Chakib

Year 9: Harry B

Mrs Whitwood:

Year 7: Amalie

Year 8: Jennifer B

Year 9: Alfie S

Well done and congratulations to our Year 9 girls football team who went to a football tournament on Thursday. 2 draws and 1 loss but the girls grew in confidence and skill every single game. A special mention to our captain Evie who was outstanding throughout the day. She was motivating, kind and compassionate towards all staff and students. Congratulations girls – Miss Trail and Mrs Hindry



A massive congratulations to our Year 7 girls netball teams who had their first ever fixture on Wednesday. The girls went to Thorpe to attend a smash up and played multiple games. The girls grew with confidence throughout all the games. All girls were hard working, supportive and motivating towards all staff and students. To have one team in this was good but to have two teams from Open Academy is amazing. All girls were a credit to the Academy. Congratulations girls – a lot more fixtures after half term! – Miss Trail



Miss Trail (Teacher)

## 9. Chaplain's Reflection



Mark Pimlott (Chaplain)

