

Open Academy Newsletter 10 November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter. I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all our new student leaders. It is great that they have metaphorically 'stepped up' to support and improve the Academy and today I called on them to ensure that we respected a moment of remembrance appropriately for our community.

I decided not to hold a full service as Remembrance Day falls over the weekend, although retrospectively I think I was in error there as it would have been fine to hold it today instead. However, when planning a school year calendar in June and July, November was a distant consideration!

Although we did not hold a full service, we were delighted to welcome Gavin and Trudi Scott. Gavin was a ship mate of the ex-Heartsease High student Frank Armes, who tragically lost his life in the Falklands war just over 40 years ago. Gavin attended this morning to lay a wreath in Frank's honour and the whole student leadership body showed their respect by forming a guard of honour to escort Mr Scott from reception up to the Open Ark. Gavin laid a wreath below the lifebuoy from HMS ARK Royal, which was donated to the Academy in Frank's memory and is installed as a permanent memorial to Frank.

Ada, one of our student leaders then laid a poppy artwork she had created at the memorial and the silence was observed. The moment of remembrance, witnessed by the key stage 4 and 5 student leaders was observed not just in the Open Ark, but was marked as the whole Academy fell silent and respectfully remembered those who have died for our freedom.

I am humbled that we can honour one of our own and very thankful to Mr Scott for bringing Frank's memory back to us here at Open. I am also delighted to share that however society views young people today, we are fortunate to have an Academy full of respectful students, who are fully prepared to acknowledge what others have done for us all.

I think that is probably an appropriate place to end for me this week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter and I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Citizenship

Next week there will be special assemblies for Years 7 to 10 with Police Constable PJ and myself. They will focus on contextual safeguarding issues that are current in the community. The content of the lessons are being made by the police themselves.

Anticipating some of the themes that may emerge, tutor times this half term have some special tutor lessons. These are relating to vaping, alcohol and drugs.

As you know the health risks of vapes are not yet fully understood and yet many seem designed to appeal to young people. which we find very worrying. We will continue therefore to do all we can to stop students using them.

Mr Ward (Vice Principal)

2. Duke of Edinburgh

There is no DofE meeting after school on Monday. The next session will be on Monday, 20 November. It is important that all participants attend. In the meantime, students should be logging onto their account and adding all their activity details. If students do not have an activity for a section they can come and see me at break or lunchtimes in school.

Mrs Pearsall (Teacher)

3. Year 7 Camp

Please ensure your child's permission slip for Year 7 camp is returned to me and the deposit is paid via parent pay. If you need support with payment of this trip, please apply to Thomas Anguish or do not hesitate to contact me for more information and guidance.

Miss Whitwood (Teacher)

4. Year 7

I hope everyone had a great week and saw some amazing fireworks. With Halloween and bonfire night behind us is it too early to start thinking about Christmas? Attendance in Year 7 is improving so a big thank you to all students that are coming into the Academy even when they're not feeling a hundred percent. We pride ourselves as the best year group for attendance and want that to continue. We have explained to students that we will not be sending them home if they have a headache or minor symptoms – thank you for your support with this.

Tutors are now collecting any donated food for their hamper so if you have anything spare, please allow your child to bring food appropriate to go in the hamper ready for 'acts of kindness' at Christmas time.

Congratulations to our top achievers: Harrison A, Gracie C, Theo L, Jack S-H, Elias S, Isaac H, Ella-Mai P, Charlie Swa, Charlie Sla and Rowan S.

Congratulations to Inspiration ABL for having the best attendance and Destiny TTH for winning the tutor challenge.

Teacher praises this week:

Kaylen A and Harrison A for massive improvement in attitude, effort and achievement in English – Mr Edwards

7M1 maths have been awesome the last 2 weeks, working hard and showing good focus – Mrs Power

Chloe J and Eva L for consistently good work in German – Mrs McEvoy

17 Inspirationalists this week – most achievement points: Harrison A and Emily B – Mr Blanchflower

For German this week, Sabine L, Tegan P and Lacey-Mae M – Mr Blanchflower

7E for all the positive effort in science and also their fantastic work in art this week - Miss Moy

With the terrible weather on Wednesday all the year group played Kin-Ball in the sports hall and had a great time with Miss Trail caught up in the middle

Congratulations to our girls' netball team with an amazing win on Wednesday night. Fantastic!

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

5. Year 8

As the weather is starting to turn colder, may I remind parents that hoodies and leggings are not permitted to be worn in school. If students are cold even with their blazer and shirt on, then our school jumpers can be purchased via the parent app.

Shout outs from me this week to Festus A, Kara M and Maisey C for excellent engagement shown in English.

Miss Marsham would like to give a huge shout out the following students for their excellent work in Maths this week to Alfie L, Jacob W, Aiden M, Callum B, Rose N, Connor B, Angel N, Destiny O, Zinedine O, Ruby P and Hope T.

Our top LEARNT point achievers this week are:

Ewan C	33
Thomas W	22
Sav M	22
Amy J	20
Kaelan B	20
Jensyn P	20
Cody H	20

Keep up the good work!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

6. Year 10

Congratulation to Year 10 for gaining over 1000 achievement points this week, which is an increase of more than 300 points from last week. Our top students this week are Areen A, Tyler H, Hallie C, Viktoria K and Maizi Y.

Next week we have an exam stress workshop running. If there are any students who are not on the workshop and would be interested in this activity can they please see Mrs Lamb and we can organise another event.

Permission slips must be returned for the Cambridge science/art trip asap otherwise students will not be able to attend. Also, if you have not made the payment, please do so otherwise the trip may not be able to run if costs are not covered. If payment is an issue please speak to one of the year team.

Well done to Layla M and Leah-Marie J for their work in science this week - Mrs Molloy

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

7. Year 11

A good productive week for Year 11. It has been great to see the vast majority of students maintaining their work ethic in this final vital year.

An outstanding 531 LEARNT points were given out for Year 11 this week! The following students stood out:

Deon E, Elisa K, Lily T, Scarlet B, Aukse J, Adam L, Sienna B, and Emily Jane C.

I could have added many more names so please look out for congratulatory text messages at the end of term.

Some individual praise from teachers:

Scarlett B, Megan C, Emily S, Jess B, Lily T and Emily- Jayne C for great effort and attitude in PE - Mrs Pearsall

German ABL group – Reece A for three good lessons in a row, effort and work. Sienna B and Athanasios C for good work and attitude – Mr Blanchflower

Excellent work on Seneca for Evie G – Mr Ward

Chloe D. Always totally focused, works incredibly hard, asks the very best questions and has developed excellent independent research skills – a total star in HS Care - Mrs Smith

Lucy E excellently crafted homeworks and written answers in English – Mr Edwards

Please can you praise those students that came to hub, in particular: Dylan, Billie, Ariya, Lucy and Norah who worked well on their promotional campaign timeline - Mrs Tyler

I was really impressed with the attitude and effort made by Jake T and Lewis S towards their progress folder assessment in English – Mr Coyne

A few reminders from the year team:

Now that the weather is getting colder we require all students to wear their blazers in the school building. This the policy across the Academy and we want to be setting a good example for the younger years.

If your child wants a school leavers hoodie can they please see Mrs Smith in the year office.

Mr Pickup and Mr Walters (Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

8. 6th Form

Fabulous Kingswood

Wow. What an absolutely awesome week at Kingswood. Some brilliant memories made and some memories that I'd rather forget! But all in all, I am so proud of everyone for giving it their all and pushing themselves out of your comfort zones. These skills will be with them for life, even if it doesn't seem like it right now. And a huge thank you to Mr Willgress, Mr Phillips and Miss Trail for giving up their time (and sleep) to help make this trip happen. Here are a few sneak pics of the week:





Year 12 PPE

Please see the timetable below for the Year 12 PPE week. Please make sure that students have spoken to their subject teachers so that you are aware what content will be included in the exam.

WEEK B	PERIOD	Mon 11th Dec	Tues 12th Dec	Wed 13th Dec	Thurs 14th Dec	Fri 15th Dec
9:05-10:05	1	Sociology 1 hr	History Germany 1 hr	Health & Social Care 1 hr 30m	Photography All day	Art 3 hours
10:05-10:30	2A	Chemistry 1 hr	Physics 1 hr 15m			
10:30-10:50	Y12 Break					
10:50-11:30	2B	Maths 1 hr 30m & Core Maths 1 hr	Biology 1 hr	History Britain 1 hr		
11:30-12:30	3	Business 1 hr 30m		English Lit. 1 hr		
12:30-13:00	Year 12 Lunch					
13:00-14:00	4	Psychology 1 hr				
14:00-15:00	5					

Year 13 – UCAS Day

All Year 13 will be off timetable on Tuesday, 21 November in order to spend the day completing their UCAS applications. There will also be a session running for those that wish to apply for an apprenticeship scheme next year instead. It is compulsory that ALL students attend this day. It is also really important that prior to this day, students have a draft of their personal statement to bring. You can do this via the personal statement builder in UNIFROG.

Useful Information:

- Webinar: A step-by-step guide to writing a standout personal statement. Join UEA for a friendly webinar giving you a step-by-step guide to writing a standout personal statement, with hints, tips and real examples. You'll also be sent a free workbook to help you get going. 14 November:
[A step-by-step guide to writing a standout personal statement – details and booking](#)
- Building and Presenting an Online Art/Media/Film/ photography portfolio – NUA - Wednesday 6th December 4.30-5.30pm. Join us for an insight into what is required for university portfolios. We will look at how these differ between universities and will offer you some tips and tricks to make sure your portfolio stands out from the crowd. Sign up link:
https://your.norwichuni.ac.uk/form/book-your-info-session?event_id=472
- Health and Life Sciences Taster Day – University of Suffolk Wednesday 14th 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
- 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. Take a look at the [‘writing about taster lectures’ worksheet](#) to find out more. Upcoming sessions include:
 - 14 November: Drama – [A Doll’s House](#)
 - 14 November: Philosophy – [The philosopher’s toolkit](#)
 - 15 November: Law – [Legal reasoning](#)
 - 15 November: Engineering – [Computer-aided design](#)
 - 16 November: Literature – [The Duchess of Malfi](#)
 - 21 November: International Relations – [Dominant themes in IR](#)
- UEA Undergraduate Open Day – Saturday 18th November 2023. We have an Undergraduate Open Day coming up on Saturday 18th November 2023. We have various activities happening throughout the day such as Campus tours, talks and having the chance to explore the campus in general. If you are interested in attending, please book yourself a place by following this [link](#)
- Open Days Coming Up at City College Norwich Higher Education. Interested in attending, please complete the form for the taster session you’re interested in, and we will send out the details to you:
 - Animal Studies: 1st November 13:00-16:30 @ Easton College; [Microsoft Forms](#)
 - Childhood Studies: 10th November 14:00-16:00 @ Norfolk House; [Microsoft Forms](#)
 - All HE courses: 22nd November 16:00-19:00 @ Norfolk House; [Microsoft Forms](#)
 - BA (Hons) Public Sector Leadership: 23rd November 16:00-17:00 @ Easton College; [Microsoft Forms](#)
 - BA (Hons) Psychology with Sociology: 27th November 14:15:30 @ Norfolk House; [Microsoft Forms](#)

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

9. Careers

We will be holding a parent information evening for Year 10 Work Experience (WEX) on Wednesday, 22 November (6.00-7.00pm). This is open to both parents/carers and Year 10 students. During the evening we will explain how the Year 10 WEX week (8-12 July 2024) runs and how students can best prepare for it. There will be a short presentation by myself explaining how we support students in their search for a placement followed by an opportunity to ask questions, talk to the Year 10 team and also Mr Ward, Vice Principal. Supporting paperwork will be sent out to all families prior to the evening with more details and guidance.

Next week we welcome a new visiting Careers Adviser, Tracey Scarsbrook, who will be working with Year 11 and Year 13 on their next steps. Tracey is a fully qualified Level 6 adviser with many years' experience of working in secondary schools.

Last Friday, a group of Year 13 students visited the brand-new offices of local insurance giant Marsh McLennan. The students enjoyed chatting to staff about the business and were wowed by the in-house catering and gym facilities. In addition to a full apprenticeship programme, Marsh run an exciting summer work experience programme open to 16-20 year olds. If your child is interested in applying for this, details are available from me.

Dr Davies (Careers Coordinator)

10. Chaplain's Update

Christmas Hampers 'Random Acts of Kindness'

This year we are giving out Christmas hampers as random acts of kindness to our community again. Students are aware of this in school, but we would appreciate your support in this too. Below is an item list of goods that can be donated for the hampers so please feel free to send items into the academy with your child. Please note, it is very important that we stick to the hamper list. Perishable food vouchers can be given as well as donations. The last day for donations will be Tuesday, 12 December. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

Christmas Hampers, what to bring

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/
Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes



A Celebration of Christmas

You are warmly invited to a Celebration of Christmas. This will be a great night of festive cheer for the whole of our community. There will of course be carols, student performances, snacks and a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere. We would love you all to come and invite friends and family too.

The date is Wednesday, 6 December at 6.30pm and it's a free event. We look forward to seeing you there.



Mark Pimlott (Chaplain)