

## Open Academy Newsletter 24 November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

You will notice that I have already emailed you this week regarding our proposals to become a Church of England Academy. I know I have gone on about this a number of times already so please excuse me for just one last plug today.

The final formal consultation window of 4 weeks opened on Wednesday and will close on the last day of term. Hopefully by then we will have all the evidence we need to make the business case for our change to C of E status.

So far, we have collected a significant number of responses from staff and parents already after various events and the students view has been debated and voted on at student council. So, to everyone who has already emailed or filled in a response form or the online form – great thank you – It has been lovely to read so many positive and encouraging comments too!

If you haven't yet responded and you would like to, please email the office directly with your comments before the end of term. The documents emailed out on Wednesday clearly describe our rationale and clarify that this proposal is to secure what we do - our current ethos and values, reinforcing Open as a proudly inclusive school for its community, serving all faiths and none.

Outside the consultation, there is as always lots going on in the Academy. I know lots of students enjoyed the trip to the Natural History Museum in Cambridge last week to improve their observational drawing skills and others enjoyed an Aim Higher trip to UEA to see what Higher Education is all about. It was also great to welcome lots of people to the Work Experience event on Wednesday evening to hear about what is in store for the Year 10 and 12 students in the summer term.

From an internal quality perspective. I know I have mentioned our 'faculty review' process before, where leaders conduct a deep dive into the learning experience for students in one particular faculty per week – looking at; student work, lessons, student voice and the curriculum. These have now finished for the autumn term, and it is great to be able to reflect that we have seen so much excellent practice in the academy. Tweaks and improvements as always can be found, and we have shared them for action which we will follow up during the next round of faculty reviews in the spring term. We now switch our attention to 'year group review' to look at the Academy experience from a student point of view, particularly their pastoral support and their overall engagement with the Academy. As usual it is a mix of observation, student voice, and work checks. This is a new way to look at things and as we have completed the Year 11 review this week, we think it might be a good idea to add parent voice in to the mix. Too late for this week's review, but I hope that from the next one we will be asking parents of the year group to give their view on how we support them and their child in the Academy – probably through a feedback form through the newsletter – so watch this space – I think the next year review is the week after next and will focus on Year 10, so hopefully we will have a feedback form to make it easy to get involved.

I think that's plenty for now save for me to say a huge thank you to parents for your efforts getting students to school on time and in uniform – Almost everyone gets it right now in terms of uniform, and lateness is improving all the time. I know there are so many road works across town, planning to get across the city can feel like mounting an attempt at Mount Everest, but everything that you do to get the students here on time is most appreciated!

Jon Ford – Principal

### 1. Children's Commissioner

The Children's Commissioner has launched [The Big Ambition survey](https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition) to understand what children want ahead of the next General Election. Please share this link or QR code with young people so they can have their say: <https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>

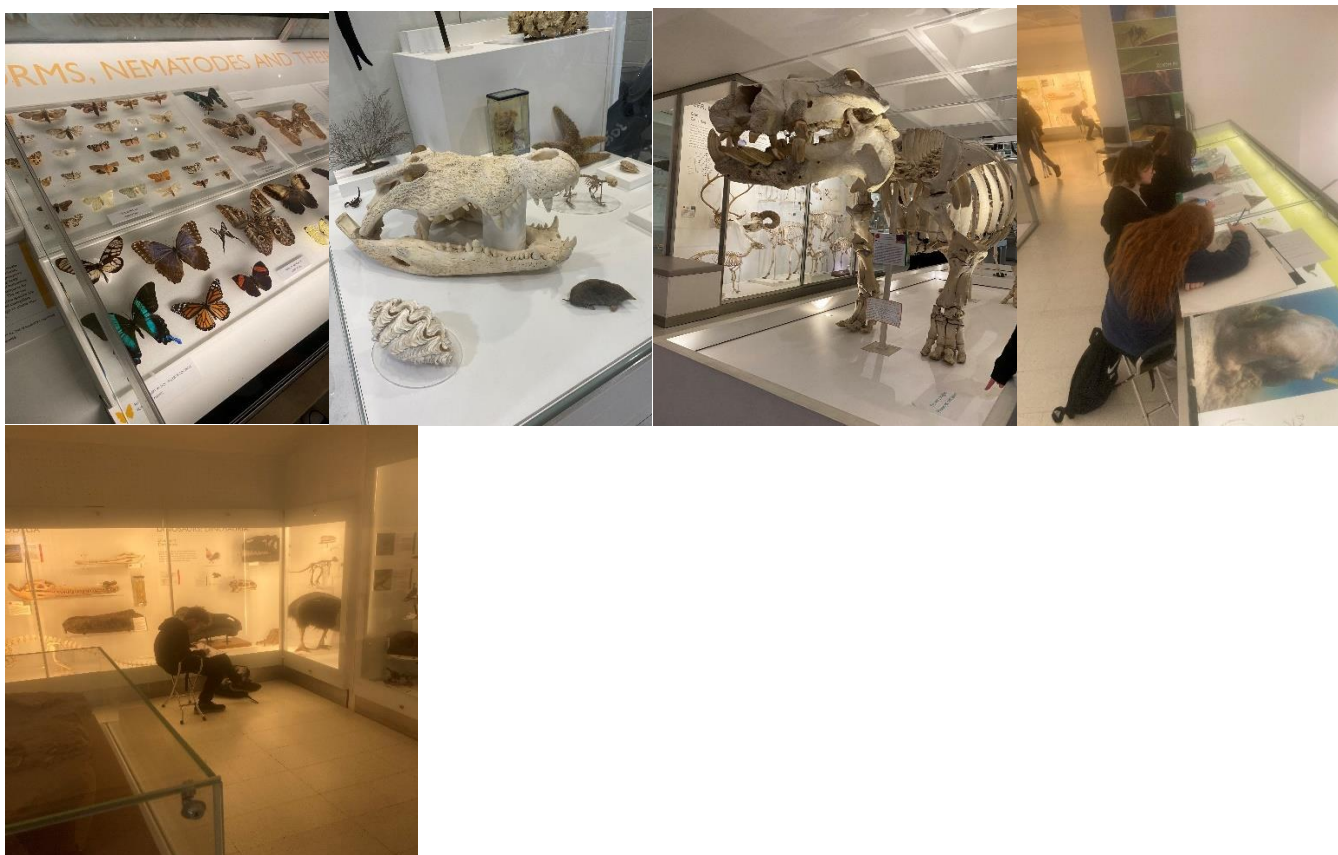


## 2. Art/Science Trip

On the 17th November myself, Mr Dunne, Mrs Lamb and Mr Pimlott had the pleasure of taking a large number of Year 10 students and Sixth Formers to the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. This trip was designed to support the students with their GCSE Art and Science work. There were lots of fascinating and unusual specimens on display and the positive student response was great to see. All the students were a credit to the Academy and we had a lovely comment from a member of staff at the end of the visit.

She said how impressed she was with the “maturity and work ethic of the students and how engaged the teachers were in supporting them around the museum.”

Thank you to all those involved. I have attached some photographs from the day.



Mr Walters - Art Teacher

### 3. Catering

Please note on Christmas dinner day 13 December 2023 the kitchen will only be offering roast dinner with pudding and a full cold deli. There will be no pizza, pasta or wraps.

#### Menu

Roast Turkey with sticky chipolata, roast potatoes, Christmas vegetable medley and gravy OR  
Roast Vegetable Puff Pastry with Stuffing, Christmas vegetable medley and gravy

Plus, a Christmas Shortbread or White Chocolate Snowball Cookie

Jess – Aspens

### 4. Parent Mail App new payment provider

A few parents have commented that they are required to input card details into Parent Mail when they were previously saved. On further investigation it would appear Parent Mail changed payment provider for credit and debit card payments.

For security reasons your saved cards were removed and when making a payment after the switchover date, you must now enter your card details and can save them again for future use.

Jackie Appleby – Business Manager

## 5. Understanding Addictive Behaviour

# Understanding Addictive Behaviour

What is addiction and how can we help them?



**30th November** 18:30 - 20:30 online

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE  
giving a two hour talk to parents (and teachers!)

Book online now £24 [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](https://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

## 6. Year 7

A good productive week in Year 7 and another week closer to be able to put the Christmas decorations up on the 1st of December (no sooner). The football team performed well on Monday against Acle but were unable to make a comeback so unfortunately lost 4-2 to Acle, our next fixtures will now be after Christmas.

This week Year 7 attendance has dropped, thank you to those that are in the Academy when not feeling one hundred percent, as a year group we need to try our absolute best to get into the Academy whether we have a cold or a headache, often when up and in the Academy, you can start feeling better. We are very reluctant to send students home ill, as a year group and a goal of mine, is that we need to build resilience and stay in lessons. Of course, if they are really unwell, we will send them home but lately we are inundated with students with minor headaches/colds. If unwell, please bring in paracetamol and fill out a form at reception so we can give them medication if needed.

In my Year 7 PE class they have been learning the Haka, a tribal dance performed by the New Zealand Rugby team which they perform before every game they play.





Congratulations to Destiny TTH for having the best attendance and Respect LMH for winning the Tutor challenge.

Top achievers this week are, Dante D, Alessia P, Ashanti G, Ellie-Mae B, Kaylen A, Lacey-Mae M, Phoebe B, Esme T, Sabine L and Sarah O

#### Year 7 praise:

7E this week worked so hard on their textiles handwarmers, showing resilience towards new and tricky practical skills. They asked questions and also demonstrated an excellent level of independent thinking. Well done and keep up the hard work! – Mrs Rednall

Top 5 – Ellie Barrett, Alessia Plant, Ashanti Gaff, Dante Daynes and Kaylen Ashman. I know that's 5, judge me – Mr Blanchflower

Joel M for great answers in History – Mr Walters

Phoebe S in English, for her good-natured understanding of other's mistakes, plus excellent focus skills and effort on her own work and ability to help other students – Mr Edwards

7E for great work in Art this week – Miss Moy

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 7

Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 7

## **7. Year 8**

The Year 8s have had a brilliant week with lots of great activities going on. A huge well done to those students who went on the STEMM trip to the John Innes Centre. Mr Hawkins said he was very proud of the behaviour of our students. Please see some photos he took below:



Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Rosie Norris-Waterfield	24
Chakib Ladjali	24
Sammy Rodden	20
Kaelan Barber	20
Cameron Shapcott	20
Thomas White	20
Sav Marrison	20

Mrs Clayton - Head of Year 8

Mr Hawkins - Assistant Head of Year 8

## 8. Year 9

Year 9 Students of the week:

Alfie S

Lily A

Evie D

Well done to them for being excellent Open students

Top reward points this week:

Ollie L, Maddie A, Rodrigo F, Hannah S, Martina V, Ryan B, Mia P, Esme W, Kiera P, Jason J

Overall Year 9 Leader board for reward points:

Kiera P 194, Hannah S 183, Lena W 182, Ria W 165, Tiffany S 164, Esme W 162, Ayo T 162, Rodrigo F 162, Martina V 161, Kayden SH 156

Shout outs:

Art: Lily A for outstanding work in her Art assessment.



9E and 9P in general for good effort in Art this week

This week, Year 9 have been working in the style of Grayson Perry to complete a screen print which captures a cartoony, abstract, style yet displaying accuracy and demonstrating the precision needed to achieve a successful print. They have embraced the new practical skills and will now be developing them further to create a detailed, colourful tapestry using stitching, appliqué, fabric pens and block printing.



Mrs Power – Head of Year 9  
Mrs Edwards – Assistant Head of Year 9

## 9. Year 10

Next week the PPE's start and we are seeing some students become more anxious. In assembly we talked about strategies to reduce stress, this included if we feel well prepared we can feel less stress, so for example if we have attended lessons and completed some revision this will help us feel better prepared. We also talked about managing stress, breathing techniques, taking breaks, planning a revision timetable around hobbies and fun activities to help support our mental health. In addition, we recapped revision methods and tips for studying.

Students who arrive late to school miss tutor sessions on revision techniques and the opportunity to practice these. This week we have had a total of 612 minutes late to school and lessons. We have also noticed some uniform is not correct in the last couple of weeks and we have spoken to individuals and mentioned this in assembly. As of Monday, if students are not in correct uniform then they will have a detention. Students need to be organised and smart for attendance at the Academy, it sets a good tone for learning.

Well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week, Maizi Y, Oscar B, Leah S, Oskar C, Hallie C, Tyler H and Ayo T.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood - Heads of Year 10

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 10

## 10. Year 11

Three and half more weeks of term 1 to go and the last autumn term for Y11s. It has been another great week with lots of positives and progress going on in the year group. Although we know that this year is difficult the majority are stepping up to the challenge of all the learning that needs to take place. We are also getting closer to our evening on revision (13th December), more on this in future bulletins.

Learnt Points: For this week (4 days when writing) the total amount of learnt points achieved so far is an amazing 189. Well done everyone.

The following students have had a great week and achieved the most LEARNT points:

- Ebon G
- Preston B
- Maddison L
- Amelia R
- Mayling T
- Lewis S
- Star C
- Michaela B
- Gemma S
- Leo W

Fantastic effort from these students. Keep it up.

### Positive Praise

Ebon G for persevering to complete a historical computer game from 1971 (Oregon Trail), a true adventurer.

Preston B, Lewis S, Amelia R, Maddison L for meeting with a governor and discussing progress across Y11.

Kai M is working fantastically in art as is Michaela B, keep it up.

This week, Year 11 conducted a material testing experiment for their coursework and worked professionally and independently recording their findings. They are all displaying excellent independent work as we reach the half way mark with their NEA portfolios. Kieran and Ara experimented with using air dry clay to create



models of their hands, Emmy, Ellie and Ariya worked in their usual methodical way to record their findings with great detail and Preston, Ben and Reece P displayed excellent time management to make sure all tests were complete. Keep up the hard work all!

Amazing extension work for Ella R in German.

We are starting to notice a worrying trend between attendance and achievement across the year group. It is essential that your son/daughter attends as much learning as possible. This is especially important in this school year. The more learning opportunities students receive the greater chance they have of achieving their full potential in the spring/summer. We will be putting on more support for the year group in the coming months to try all we can to assist but it is difficult if the student isn't in the building. We understand that there may be certain circumstances which keeps students out of school and are happy to try and support wherever we can. Finally, thank you for your continued support and determination to support the learning of your child at Open.

Mr Pickup and Mr Walters - Head of Year 11

Mrs Smith - Assistant Head of Year 11

## **11. Sixth Form**

### **UCAS**

Well done to the Year 13's who had a day off timetable this week to get a head start on their UCAS application. Please continue to work on your personal statements and send us your draft as soon as possible. Please also get visiting some Universities for their Open Days. It is the absolute best way to get a taste for a city and a Uni! Scan this QR code to give you dates for all Uni Open Days!



### **Trips**

Next week sees two exciting trips for our 6th formers. On Tuesday 28th November, the Y12 and 13 Health & Social students will be travelling to London to enjoy an exam skills day – perfect timing before the PPE1 exams that are upcoming! Then on Thursday 30th November, the Y12 and 13 Biologists will be joining a really fascinating talk and various workshops at Norwich School. If you haven't doesn't so already, please return any outstanding reply slips asap.

Talking of trips, I sent details about this Health & Life Science Taster Day out a couple of weeks ago and so far, 2 students have signed up to go. We have been told that if enough students want to go, then we can get a free coach to the University – an absolutely excellent opportunity for a day out, to visit a lovely University, and to also get some taster sessions in the below courses. We are more than likely going to be running this as a trip for the whole of Year 12 so I just wanted to make you all aware of this!

#### **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 from the following choices:

Adult Nursing  
Biological Sciences

Biomedical Science  
 Children's Nursing  
 Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy  
 Diagnostic Radiography  
 Mental Health Nursing  
 Midwifery  
 Nutrition and Human Health  
 Paramedic Science  
 Physiotherapy  
 Psychology and Counselling  
 Sports and Exercise Science  
 Sports Performance Analysis  
 Therapeutic Radiography  
 Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science

Click [HERE](#) to register your interest in attending this event. The HAS scheme will be running a coach/coaches from Norwich

### PPE1 Exams

Year 12 exams will be commencing week beginning 1st December. Please make sure you have a timetable and are aware of content that you need to revise for your subjects. Year 13 exams will take place in January (date tbc).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>PPE1 GCE's Year 12 All in S04</b>						
2	<b>WEEK B</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>Mon 11th Dec</b>	<b>Tues 12th Dec</b>	<b>Wed 13th Dec</b>	<b>Thurs 14th Dec</b>	<b>Fri 15th Dec</b>
3	9:05-10:05	1	Sociology 1 hr <small>III</small>	History Germany 1 hr <small>III</small>	Health & Social Care 1 hr 30m <small>III</small>	Photography All day	Art 3 hours
4	10:05-10:30	2A	Chemistry 1 hr <small>III</small>	Physics 1 hr 15m <small>III</small>			
5	10:30-10:50	Y12 Break					
6	10:50-11:30	2B	Maths 1 hr 30m & Core Maths 1 hr	Biology 1 hr <small>III</small>	History Britain 1hr <small>III</small>		
7	11:30-12:30	3	Business 1 hr 30m <small>III</small>		English Lit. 1 hr. <small>III</small>		
8	12:30-13:00	Year 12 Lunch					
9	13:00-14:00	4	Psychology 1 hr <small>III</small>				
10	14:00-15:00	5					
11							

### Other useful bits:

Personal Statement online workshop for Year 13 - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Our final workshop this UCAS season for anyone still struggling to get started (or finished!) with their Personal Statement, this session covers getting started, structure, what to avoid, good examples and top tips.

Click [HERE](#) to register – invite will be sent the day before.

#### Studying Abroad 2022 - Opportunities and Possibilities! Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 7.00-8.30pm

David Hawkins a leading expert in the field (see 'The University Guys') and Rowena Boddington from the Fulbright Foundation and Sutton Trust are lending us both their vast knowledge and expertise as well as their excellent links to universities and organisations.

The evening will include presentations from, and opportunities to talk to:

- David himself – an expert on all aspects of study abroad
- Experts from Education USA at Fulbright and Sutton Trust about opportunities and scholarships offered
- Representation from Handpicked International Universities
- A representative from Medical Doorway focused on opportunities to study medicine in Europe
- The Study Abroad Team Leader from UEA talking about the many programmes offered which include a year abroad as well as the Turing scheme to facilitate study abroad
- A representative to talk about Sport Scholarships to universities in the USA

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](#)

#### 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](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 12th December 5-7pm**

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

#### 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:

- 23 November: Healthcare – [Mental health and wellbeing of NHS nurses/medics](#)
- 27 November: Economics – [Analysis of current UK economic performance](#)
- 27 November: Art History – [Analysing previously unseen art \(or 'What the hell is that?!'\)](#)
- 28 November: Chemistry – [Inorganic chemistry](#)
- 30 November: Sociology – [Global development](#)

To view the full programme, visit [www.uea.ac.uk/study/tasters](http://www.uea.ac.uk/study/tasters).

## 12. 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 good vouchers can be given as well as donations. The last day for donations will be Tuesday 12th 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 be 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 6th December at 6.30pm and it's a free event.

We look forward to seeing you there.



## Reflection



Mark Pimlott - Chaplain