

Open Academy Newsletter – 5 January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Happy new year!

It is always fantastic to start a fresh new year – where we can choose to consign the challenges of last year to the history books and set our sights optimistically on the future!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas – it did feel like a quick holiday this year as it was not quite two full weeks, however I hope that everyone had an enjoyable festive time and that all our students are bright and refreshed ready for learning!

As Year 11 & Year 13 are no doubt realising, things move very quickly as we get older and with just 10 weeks to go until Easter now is most definitely the time to focus and work. They should have been preparing for their Mock / Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) over Christmas and before we know it they will have had their full rehearsal for what is to come in the summer. They will receive a clear indication of their strengths and areas to work on and we will be providing all manner of help and support in both lessons and hubs to ensure they improve before their exams.

Everyone, no matter their starting point, improves between PPE and actual exams if they attend and engage – so no matter what, attendance is vital from this point onwards. If you are struggling, talk to someone and we will get you support.

For non-exam year groups, it is equally vital that they are in school and taking full advantage of all the Academy has to offer. The new year is the perfect time to re-focus and really go for it in terms of studying and improving in school – your teachers will be delighted to help!

Traditionally it is a time when we as an Academy refocus on standards and I am delighted to say that the term has seen a tremendous start uniform wise – just 5 students out of 600 were not in full correct uniform as we onboarded the students first thing – well done everyone – the few who were not had reasons/ notes and issues are being resolved rapidly so please do be encouraged – your partnership with us on uniforms means that we can focus far more on the quality of learning.

A few students have needed phone reminders though, so please talk to your child regarding phone use in school – it is not allowed. We operate a policy of, if we see it or hear it we will confiscate it. Your support on this matter is most appreciated!

So, before we know it, Easter, exams and nicer weather will be upon us, so let us enjoy the last of winter, fingers crossed we avoid snow again this year, and look forward to a spring term full of promise and hope for the future.

Please do read on for important notices and information about the Academy.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Parents Evening, Hubs and Mocks

Year 10 Parents Evening:

You will receive an invitation via email or text next week to schedule an appointment for the Year 10 Parents Evening. The event will take place on Tuesday, 16 January and you can book appointments between 4 pm and 7 pm.

Year 11 Hubs:

Year 11 students are scheduled to attend Period 6 lessons leading up to their exams. All students must attend these Hub lessons as they provide valuable revision resources and support. Please note that attendance will be monitored, and the Head of Year 11 will contact parents if a student is not attending these sessions.

Year 11 and 13 Mocks:

The Year 11 and 13 PPE examinations are scheduled to begin on 15 January. A timetable has been published for your convenience. If you require a copy, please contact the Head of Year. Daily text messages will be sent to parents to inform them of any upcoming exams.

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Updates

Upcoming events:

Year 11 and 13 PPE exams start 15 January.

Year 10 Parents' Evening 16 January.

Key Stage 5 (12+13) Parents' Evening 24 January (online at parental request).

Year 11 Parents' Evening 13 February.

End of half term 16 February.

Knowledge Organisers:

In SKL this term we will be thinking about building good relationships in Year 7. This develops into looking at where relationships between people can go wrong in the form of discrimination during Year 8. In Year 9 we look at how we can have mutually respectful relationships.

The 5th iteration of the Key Stage 3 knowledge organisers for spring term have been prepared. They will be printed for the students in the coming days.

Mr Ward
Vice Principal

3. Christmas Radio

We were very excited to have the Open Choir singing on BBC Radio Norfolk just before Christmas. They sang an original song, The Christmas Giraffe, which is all about inclusion and helping each other. They did us proud, as did the 4 students who gave an interview - Charles in Year 8, Madi in Year 10 and Ella & Bailey in Year 11. Well done everyone! In case you missed it, here is a link to BBC Sounds - it starts at 35:15 on the play bar. Enjoy!

[Kayleigh Poacher - Places to go on Christmas Day - BBC Sounds](#)

Mrs Morgan-Hart
Teacher

4. Library

I am Mrs Rogers, the new librarian for Open Academy. I am so excited to join you all and am looking forward to making the library a really exciting, inclusive, safe, and fun place for all of the students!

I have worked in public libraries with the Norfolk County Council for the past 10 years and as a Forest School Leader for 1.5 years. I am a fierce advocate for libraries and reading and love being able to work in a position that so closely aligns with my passions.

I currently have a student suggestion box on the library desk and would love to hear what the students really want to see happening in their library this year.

I look forward to meeting you all!

Mrs Rogers
Librarian

5. Cleaner Vacancy

Part Time – 10 hours per week

Working hours either 5.45am – 7.45am or 3.00pm - 5.00pm start date as soon as possible,

Required as soon as possible

Salary NJC point 2 - £11.59 per hour

Permanent - term time plus up to 40 hours non-term time.

Duties will include the cleaning of classrooms, offices, toilets and changing rooms and previous experience of cleaning within a school environment would be advantageous but is not essential.

Open Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to relevant checks in line with Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding procedures.

Further information and an application form can be found on our website at www.open-academy.org.uk

Mrs Appleby
Business Manager

6. Year 7

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and new year, your homes are clear and decluttered and we all have new year's resolutions that we are still hopefully following 5 days in. It was great to see all the students back in yesterday and slip straight back into the routine. Uniform was very good but not perfect, can we make sure there are no leggings worn in the academy please and no fluffy or coloured socks on show, all students must have their equipment ready for school, tutors will be doing checks in tutor.

A reminder that PE is always on Tuesday and Wednesday so please make sure they have their PE kit for these days please.

Below are the pictures from the Christmas door decoration competition in tutor, the winners were Respect. Next will be Easter door decoration at the end of term.

Inspiration



Destiny



Respect



Challenge



Shout outs to:

Archie M and Mackenzie M for their excellent start to the New Year and for a great improvement in their handwriting!! Brilliant - Mrs Day

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

7. Year 9

It was great to celebrate with a rewards assembly at the end of the term. The following rewards were given out:

Students of the term were voted for by each member of staff in the Year 9 team were:

Ayo T, Alfie S, Kieran S, Harry B, Kate S, Jason J and Ryan B.

Top achievers for term 1 were:

Kiera P	230
Hannah S	215
Martina V	213
Tiffany S	209
Ria W	209
Rodrigo F	209
Martha W	207
Kate S	206
Jason J	206
Lena W	204
Kayden S	203
Millie C	196
Ayo T	192
Reece Y	186
Esme W	186

100% attendance were:

Tyler A, Harry B, Ryan B, Millie C, Natacha F, Aisosa H, Lois L, Happiness O, Samuel O, Kieran S, Kate S, Eliza S, Luke S, Kayden S, Alfie S, Ayo T and Martha W.

98 and 99% attendance were:

Owen B, Deacon B, Sasha-Mai P, Tiffany S, Brandon S, Olivier K and Mia P.

The following students have impressed Mr Walters they now have their artwork on the wall:
Kaitlin W, Sasha-Mai P and Layla S

Key dates for this term are:

29 January - Assessment point 1 for 3 weeks (assessments will be spaced out and in lesson time)

13 March – Options pathways evening

26 March – Year 9 Parents evening

We wish all families a happy new year.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

8. Year 10

It is lovely to have students back and all looking so smart in their uniform. We hope you all had a restful and happy holiday.

In assembly yesterday we talked about the importance of revision, spaced learning and how the habit of planned revision is easier than trying to find motivation.

Today and next Friday students will, with support from their tutor, be working on making their own individualised revision timetable. The assembly PPT and the blank revision document have been sent to all parents via email.

If your child has not completed the paperwork for their work experience please can you support them in handing this in ASAP. If your child is struggling to find a placement, please ask them to speak to their tutor who will be able to help them.

Congratulations to the following for gaining the most achievement points since their return: Chelsea B, Lily-Anna N, Ayo T, Kian W, Harley R, Keira B, Jacob D and Luke E.

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

9. Work Experience

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 10 student please encourage them in their search for a work experience placement for our WEX week 8-12 July. Full details and guidance went out in a pack to parents last term and was also provided at the Parents' Information Evening in November, however if you are unsure please contact the Year 10 team or me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk.

If your child needs a replacement 'Student Self-Placement' form they can get one from me in S12.

Dr Davies
Assistant Head of 6th Form
Careers Guidance & Development

10. Chaplain's Thought for the New Year

Happy New Year by Daya Nandan

And now begins a brand new year,
A new beginning that is drawing near,
Another chance to for us to use time's gift,
To give our hopes and dreams a powerful lift,

Another year for us to grow and live,
Another year to appreciate life and give,
A year to strengthen our body to our outer skin,
A year to strengthen our infinite soul within,

A year to broaden our knowledge so vast,
A year to heal the old wounds of the past,
A year to work hard towards our dreams and goals,
A year to create bonds with new kind hearted souls,

A time to realize all the mistakes we make,
A time to make them the stepping stones we take,
A time of improvement, a time to learn,
A time to let all fears and doubts fade and burn,

And with this, we will let our progress show,
Bring a brightness within for our souls to glow,
And with a new beginning, we will start with a smile,
With a wish and goal to make this year worthwhile.

So let this new year be an encouragement for you,
To set and achieve your goals with a heart so true,

Acknowledge your dreams and start the year with a smile,
And do your level best to make this new year worthwhile!

In closing, I leave you this verse from the Bible

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope”.

God bless you all and my prayer is that you have all you need for this new year.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Carers Matter Norfolk

SUPPORTING PARENT CARERS

ARE YOU A PARENT CARER?

Parent carers are parents who give extra support to their child/ren

PARENTS GROUP FOR PARENT CARERS IN THE NORWICH AREA

A chance to meet, share and listen to one another...



Date

Every 2nd Monday of the month (term time only)



Time

9.15am-11.15am



Location

**CFM Childrens Centre
Hunter Road, Norwich, NR3 3PY**



More Info

parentcarersmatternorfolk.org



Find out more

