

Open Academy Newsletter – 26 January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

I write today having been privileged to attend a most moving memorial service at St Peter Mancroft Church with 9 of our student leadership team. The service was the annual Holocaust memorial service – held as close as possible to the international Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27 January, which marks the day that Allied forces liberated the camp at Auschwitz concentration camp.

In acknowledging the industrial level murder of over 6 million people mainly Jews, alongside many Roma, Christian and other groups, Holocaust Memorial Day and this service are designed to ensure that we do not forget the atrocity and that we commit to work to make sure it never happens again.

Sadly, since the Holocaust there have been too many examples of genocide, for instance that visited on Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur and these too are memorialised at this service. As I discussed with our students representing a number of different faiths and none, there always must be mutual understanding and acknowledgement that it is essential to work towards this never happening again.

The student leaders were as always fantastic and presented a respectful and firm commitment of our young people to stand against oppression and violence.

Arriving at St Peter Mancroft Church in the city allowed us to reflect before the service on a very successful student council meeting this week. The Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Norwich attended the meeting in their chain of office and generously answered all the students very intriguing and perceptive questions. I have since received feedback from them to say how impressed they were with the student and inviting us for a tour of the guildhall – the historical home of the Sheriff of Norwich and a tour of the Council Chamber – with the possibility that we may be allowed to hold a full student council meeting in the chamber – an amazing opportunity which we are already working to organise.

Suggestion that I am so pleased about this because I get to sit in the big 'throne' as chairperson could not be further from the truth (well may be a little!), but I am hoping all the students will get the experience of a genuine moment of civic life. We are all very excited!

The council also heard excellent presentation from our sports leaders and charity leaders and our visitors commented upon how confidently and eloquently all of them presented. I am hoping there will be a full report in subsequent newsletters as communications leaders are identified.

For now, I will finish with the reflection that I could not be more proud of our student leaders and their quiet dignity today, and their enthusiastic leadership behaviour generally – we are really blessed.

Jon Ford
Principal



Councillor James Wright, Lord Mayor of Norwich
Dr Jan Sheldon, Sheriff of Norwich

Civic Office, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH
CivicOffice@norwich.gov.uk

23-1-24

Dear Members of The Student Council,

Thank you all so much for inviting us
both to your meeting this week

We both really enjoyed meeting you
all & having the opportunity to talk
about our civic roles & work with you

Keep up the great work.
James - Lord Mayor of Norwich.
Jan - Sheriff of Norwich.

1. Homework

It is of utmost importance that students complete their homework, particularly in Year 10 and 11 when they are tackling GCSE content. It is crucial that they practice and recall what they have learned in class so that they can remember it during mock exams and final exams. Finishing homework has a direct impact on their academic performance and it is crucial that they develop the habit of independent learning for achieving the best results possible.

Currently, the completion rate of homework across all year groups at Open Academy is at 77%, which is a positive outcome. Thank you for supporting us in this regard. Together, with reminders and support, we can improve the completion rate and put our students in the best position to succeed.

We also offer homework Hubs on Monday and Tuesday from 3-4 pm for all year groups. This club provides support and devices so that students can access online platforms and complete any assigned work. Our goal is to ensure that homework is done correctly and that students benefit from practicing what they've learnt in class.

If your child is having difficulty completing homework at home, please encourage them to attend the homework club or speak to their class teacher for help in accessing or logging in to the assigned work.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Alice in Wonderland Auditions

There will be open auditions for all year groups for anyone wishing to get involved in the summer performance of Alice in Wonderland. Auditions will be taking place in the drama studio on Monday, 29 January from 3.15-4.15 with spoken auditions taking place on Monday, 5 February. Those who wish to perform in the show will be expected to rehearse every Monday and some Wednesdays after school until the performance in July.

I would also love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved with set or costume making.

For more information please speak to me.

Mrs Ormosi
Teacher

3. SRB

Excellent creative writing work by our SRB pupil Theo:

I had just come out of fierce battle stained with blood, I thought that would be the end of all of the insanity, but I was completely wrong, it had only just started. There it was, the forest. I wish I had just turned back because if I did I wouldn't have met them.

The further I went in the darker it got. Now I'm not one who believes in the supernatural, but this was completely real. There they were, three ugly, old, and demonic witches. I turned around wanting to run but, everything was closed off. Fear entered my face and my heart dropped. I couldn't escape, without going past them. "We three witches curse thee." They cackled.

Mrs Gallard
Teacher

4. Year 7

We have come to the halfway point of this half term, it is great to see the Year 7s engaging in their learning. We are getting a lot of constant praise for so many Year 7s – it is lovely to hear. Our late minutes to lessons and school has increased this week. Could you please have that conversation with your child to get to school on time and/or lessons. Thank you for your support.

The winners of the tutor challenge this week are Inspiration and the tutor with the best attendance are Respect

The top 10 for achievement points are: Phoebe A, Phoebe B, Theo L, Sabrina L, Riley L, Lacey M, Matthew O-R, Brogan M, Sabrina R and Rowan S. Well done to you all.

Teacher praise:

Shout out to Kayla B for consistent hard work in drama - Miss Hawthorne

Mackenzie M - for great focus and resilience to keep going when the maths is difficult – Mrs Day

Shout out to 7E who worked really hard on their mood boards this week. Some really well composed outcomes and they showed great engagement in the task - Miss Rednall

Daniel G and Amalie T for great answers to questions - Mr Murray

7P Geography: Stefan C, Sophia-Louise E, Fin L, Sabine L, Bianca M, Ella Mai P, Rowan S, Charlie SL and Charlie SW – Mr Crawford

Evie A, Phoebe B, Ellie-Mae B, Tahlia B, Alessia P, Amalie T and Ayo T for consistent engagement and effort with our work on tropical rainforests – Mr Crawford

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

5. Year 8

Our student leaders have been working really hard this week, as they formulise their ideas for student mentoring, charity events and well-being competitions and activities. It's so great to see so many students really engaged with their school community and focused on making this the best place to come to school!

Some extra special praise for Jensyn Palmer, Amy Juhasz, Isaac Cangy and Samuel Rodden for their engagement and hard work in English.

Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Samuel R, Chakib L, Skye H, Callum J and Ruby P.

Tutor praise:

It has been a lovely week for our Year 8s. They appear to be really settled and enjoying all of their current lessons. Each of us have a few shout outs for our forms:

8JWL:

Well done to our top 5 this week: Skye, Chakib, Sammy, Ruby and Cameron.

A special mention to Munashe for her excellent attitude in our basketball club, which runs on Wednesdays. Another special mention to Leon, he has shown great improvement this week and we are so glad to see it!

8STR

Well done to our top 5 this week: Callum J, Taylor N, Ben H, Callum E and Jensen O.

Well done to Alice C who has made a consistent effort to improve her behaviour and attitude to learning. Also, to Kimberly who has settled in nicely to the academy and showing her fantastic netball skills in after school netball club. Finally, to Noah C for persistent demonstration of the LEARNT behaviour and Open Way.

8JDU

Well done to our top 5 this week: George B, Festus, Katie C, Corbyn H and Taylor A.

Shout out to Liam for showing great determination this week. Thank you to Jennifer for consistent hard work and attendance.

8KRN

Well done to our top 5 this week: Samuel G, Ben S, Thomas V, Hanna, and Talula.

Well done to Kara for getting engaged in yet another exciting book. You demonstrate excellent focus and exemplary silent reading in tutor and a thank you to Ella-Grace who volunteered to read aloud during form time reading. You read confidently and hopefully have inspired others to follow your example!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

6. Year 9

On Monday, 15 January, Mrs Power took a group of Year 9s on a careers visit to UEA to take part in the inside health and medicine workshops. They took part in scenarios, diagnosed patients and looked at different careers within the scenarios.

Shout outs:

Geography 9O have been working really well recently.

Jasmine C - Amazing performance in Geography Automated Assessment

Zena A - Amazing performance in Geography Automated Assessment

Natacha F - Pride and care shown in her notes presentation on India

Linda H - Answering questions and her notes presentation on India

Elise W - her notes presentation on India

Trixie B - Pride and care shown in her notes presentation on India

Erica J - Effort and good questions about India

Lois L - amazing effort/presentation on India notes

Eliza S – Great presentation on India notes

Superb effort and attitude towards maths consistently since Christmas for Oliver N, Somaya, Samuel, Charlie J, Luke, Elise, Eliza, Peyton, Bruna, Dylain, Owen, Annalee, Brandon, Rianna, Noam, Ayo, Rusne, Georgia, Lily, Erica, Max, AJ and Jasmin – Mr Bradshaw

Students of the week:

Riley W, Ryan CJ, Eliza S and Luke S

Top achievers for January:

Oliver N, Luke S, Max S, AJ B, Brandon S, Rianna A, Ayo T, Elise W, Owen B, Henry O, Samuel O, Noam M and Dylain B.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

7. Year 10

Today in tutor time students have been looking again at the website Help You Choose. Please talk to your child about what they think they might do post GCSE as this time next year applications need to be completed. If they are not sure this website can give them the idea of what options are available and there is no limit to the number of courses they can apply for. It is good to know what grades they might need for various course as this can help motivate students even though the exams seem like a really long way off. Their next mock exams are in June and colleges/ future employers will require their target and current grades when they apply.

This week has been really fantastic with many teachers coming and speaking to the pastoral team about how well students are doing, please see the 'shout outs' below. We are very proud of their achievements this week.

Shout outs:

Well done to the following students for gaining the most achievement points, Millie H, Lucy-Rose B, Roseanne G, Ben N, Kian W and Rebecca S.

David C, Dorian G, Daisy N-W and Zoe W for consistently high levels of effort, and Viktoria K for always pushing herself to complete extension and challenge tasks, and her commitment to progressing her learning - Mr Crawford

Oskar C for hard work and improving achievements in English. Joel M for good, helpful nature and insightful interpretations of texts in English Literature - Mr Edwards

Riley P has been answering questions in science really well. As has Ayo T - Mr Murray

For History Amelie DC, Keira B, Tyler H, Luke J, Max L, Josuha J, Maizi Y, Oscar C, Theo P, Lola B, Millie H, Emilis V, Rebecca S, Madison G, Steven E and Kian W are absolutely smashing it with their attitude to learning in the classroom. Bloomin marvellous - Mr Pickup

Leah Marie J – answered the hardest starter question in science today and smashed it! Layla D – always focused and working so hard in science - Mrs Molloy

Well done to Tyler H and Joshua J in German - Mrs McEvoy

For great attitude and engagement recently in English Kayla D. Brandon P & Alex P for being consistently engaged and hard working - Mrs Clayton

Jamie D, Layla M, Kayla, and Ellie M for great effort and participation in PE - Mr Wilkinson

Year 10s were investigating Fair Trade products today and finding out who benefits from these products. They looked at the social, economic and ethical factors and the differences how we shop can make to the workers at the grass roots of production. They worked really hard to produce a timeline of Fair Trade which

is so good I am going to display it in the DT room! Big shout outs for excellent investigative skills to Amalie, Oscar-Jay, Theo, Alex, Dorian, Luke, Riley D, Jacob M, Zac, Oscar C, Ellie and Jessie - Mrs Rednall



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

8. Careers

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 10 student please encourage your young person in their search for a work experience placement for our WEX week 8-12 July. The deadline for forms to be returned has now been set by Norfolk County Council – Wednesday 27 March 2024. Work experience is a very valuable part of students' education with those who succeed in finding their own placement gaining greater confidence and maturity.

Feedback from students and employers last year was overwhelmingly positive reminding students of the connection between academic success and career choices. Completed forms should be returned to me as soon as possible so that Health and Safety checks can take place in good time. If you have any questions please contact the Year 10 team or WEX Co-ordinator at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk. Replacement 'Student Self-Placement' forms are also available at from me in S12.

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

9. Year 11

The final week of PPEs (mocks) has now come to an end. The whole year group were fantastic during this time and really showed some great determination with their learning. The papers will now be marked and data entered. Students will find the results of their hard work at their parents evening on 13 February. If they are unable to attend then they will receive their results shortly after. Receiving their results in this way makes it even more powerful, as they will be able to discuss any successes or issues with the relevant teachers. This should allow for any speedy interventions that may be required to give some that extra push, or shower praise on those whose hard work has paid off.

Hoodies - if you would like your son/daughter to have a memento of their time at Open Academy then there is a way. The opportunity to purchase a hoodie in a colour of your/their choice with all the names of those in the year group on the back. Also, there is the option of including a personalised name/phrase at the top. If you would like to order a hoodie then:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

- Go to schoolleaverscompany.co.uk
- Click order your hoodie
- Username: 2664, Password: cKGdWAZp

Any other questions about this please get in contact with the year team. Prices will rise if not ordered by 11 February.

Learnt points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 87. Well done everyone.

The following students have had a great week:

Athanasios C, Hayden B, Jessica W, Ben C, Megan C, Chloe D, Alice G, Jay L, Ebon G and Kieran P.

Positive praise:

- Leo W for great engagement with every PPE.
- Emily-Jane C, Deon E, and Maddison S-H for their excellent revision work for their Nazi Germany mock paper discussing 18 mark essay questions, giving evidence and explained support for their opinions. Sienna B, Ariya R and Lucy N-W for their consistent effort and focus in revision activities.
- Andrew C for great written work in his mock.
- Shout outs to Dylan, Lewis R, Reece A, Ara, Ariya and Kieran P for their product development and hard work towards their NEAs yesterday. They showed resilience and great teamwork to work with some tricky materials which have resulted in some fantastic outcomes.
- Ebon G and Ben C for engagement and commitment in English.

It is crucial to remember that students are meant to make mistakes in their PPEs (mocks). This allows each student, their parents/carers and teachers to identify any barriers to success and over the next few months work to break those barriers and help students achieve their full potential. It is our ability to learn from our mistakes that truly shows what kind of person we are. There are going to be many opportunities to improve and correct errors before the GCSE exams begin, it will be up to each student to make the most of each of these opportunities. It is only with your help that each student will make the most of their time at Open. Thank you for your continued support of the learning of your son/daughter, it shows itself every day.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 10)

10. Kingswood Revision Days

We are arranging 2 days of revision in the Easter holidays to support students just prior to their exams starting. This will include focused revision sessions for a range of subjects as well as time to relax with friends and one special activity.

Students were given the attached letter last Friday. Permission slips need to be handed to me by next Wednesday.

Mr Murray
Teacher

11. 6th Form

Year 13 UCAS – massive well done to everyone in Year 13. We can almost officially say that all applications have been sent off. We have had loads of offers and many of our students have even chosen their firm and insurance choices. Please feel free to book appointments with Rosie on Tuesdays if you want any advice for anything post 6th Form. Also, a huge thank you to Dr Davies, Mrs Tyler, and Mr Ward for all of their help getting you to this point – we couldn't have done it without them!

Year 13 PPE – another big up for our amazing Year 13s who not only have had the pressure of completing UCAS, but also have had their mock exams this week. Results will be revealed very soon.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

12. Chaplain's Thought

Who's in the Boat?

I don't often title the reflections I share with you, but wanted to do so this week. Starting with a story from the Bible which is titled **Jesus Calms the Storm**.

"As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." They took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm".

January can be a challenging time for all of us. The dark mornings and nights, cold temperatures, storms Isha and Jocelyn and other things that we might be facing right now. At times like this, our community spirit needs to be strong. Are we looking out for other people, and do we have people looking out for us? The disciples in the story faced a big storm, but Jesus was in the boat to calm it. As per the title, who do we have in our boats of life to bring that calm that we need in the midst of a storm? On the flip side, are we a part of another person's storm by being a passenger in their boat to provide calmness, encouragement and hope?

In closing, challenge yourself to be a part of someone's storm and also of equal importance, find someone to be a part of your storm too.

Jesus always stepped up and calmed storms and He still does today. He is only a prayer away and always brings peace.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain