

## Open Academy Newsletter – 9 February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

I mentioned last week a couple of very helpful websites which offer support for young people who are struggling. I thought that given how important and prevalent mental health issues are at this time, that it might be worth reminding you of these sites. I also thought I would share a little about how we go about supporting those in struggle in the academy.

First the reminder. The FYI website is a partnership between the Local authority and NHS. They have worked with children and young people to produce an excellent self-help one stop shop. The landing page <https://www.fylnorfolk.nhs.uk/> has an excellent launch pad, if you scroll down that front page a tiny bit, you will see some simple face expressions to click on to match your concern and you can take it from there.

Students who are 11+ years old can access the Kooth service from home or school between 7.00am and 10.00pm – please have a look at <https://www.kooth.com/>. This service has been commissioned by the local healthcare trust to provide online chat, and support including video counselling for young people. You do have to create an account, but it is anonymous and offers contact and support from real clinicians – not just chatbots.

In the academy we invest heavily in pastoral support. We have year teams consisting of a teaching head of year, who also takes an overview of children's academic performance and how pastoral issues might affect that. We have assistant heads of year who are non-teaching, so they have more time to spend supporting students and following up on needs, brokering support and communicating with families.

Much of the time pastoral staff being available at non-teaching time is enough – students get help and support at break, lunch and before and after the school day. Some students however, who require a little more, may be offered further support.

Further support might look like regular weekly mentoring with a member of staff, a check in with the assistant head of year in the morning, during the day or we may issue a 'green card' which specifies support the student can access when they are struggling in lessons – it may just be for five minutes of regulation time – or access to the Open Ark and Mr Pimlott. Whatever will help get them through the day – every green card is different, but the purpose is the same – to help students access the support they need in school.

If students needs are beyond our experience or capacity we will signpost them to other services – we are fortunate to have great links to the Mental Health Support Team that is based in school. If there are concerns around aspects of crime and the law we have a safer school's officer in twice per week and we also use the services of counsellors, youth workers, social services and voluntary agencies as and when required.

In short, we are keen to do all we can to support our students and we encourage them and their parents/carers to discuss with us what they may be struggling with in whatever form that may need to be.

I will finish with a huge thank you to all the amazing staff who deliver these roles in the academy, from Mr Pimlott, our fab chaplain, Mr Davies and Mrs Thurtell, our awesome safeguarding team, the superb year teams, mentors and support workers and TAs, and not forgetting all the day to day support from the teachers either as form teacher or subject teacher. I hope you agree we are blessed to have such an amazing group of dedicated professionals!

Jon Ford  
Principal

### **1. Dance Club**

We are EPQ students who want to get a dance club running.

Our dance club will be on Wednesdays between 3.15-4.15pm for Year 7 and 8 and will be in the drama studio. We are hoping to create a dance piece, which will be put into the summer show. If you are a student who likes the idea of dance but are not confident about it you can still attend our club. All Year 7 and 8 are welcome to see if they are interested and to see if they will do it.

Mia Crowe and Katie Scrivener  
Year 12 Students

### **2. Football**

Well done to the Year 7 girls football team, for a great few games of football against Jane Austen College and Hewett Academy on Monday.

The girls were enthusiastic and had great sportsmanship throughout. They welcomed the other schools and played some great football, winning the majority of their games.

**Year 7 have a fixture away at Taverham on Tuesday the 13 January from 3.00-5.00pm.**

Year 9 girls football team had another night of football against Acle and Ormiston Victory Academy. The girls welcomed both schools and played some great football. Drawing their first game and winning the second. Well done girls!

Thank you for the continued dedication to football from the girls and the parent support. Training continues on Mondays from 3.00-4.00pm.

Mrs Hindry  
Teaching Assistant

### **3. Year 7**

We are already 5 weeks into the spring term and there's only one more left until half term, it's been a busy week and is nice to have Mrs Roe back in the office with me. The last few mornings the year group have looked a little light with bodies, can we make sure they are in the atrium in the academy by 8.30am ready for the whistle to blow and for them to line up, we are getting a lot coming in after the whistle which is then slowing us down to get to tutor time.

Can I ask you to have conversations with your child about the way we speak to each other around the academy, at all times we should be speaking respectfully to each other and always showing the 'Open Way'.

There are a few boys from the Year 7 football team asking when their next fixture is, I am awaiting the result from CNS v CAN to see who we will play in the semi-final. Apologies for this, but with me having other year group teams with league/cup games to play, friendlies have had to take a back seat.

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

Teacher praise:

Elias S, Edward MW, Amalie T, Jack SH, Rose N and Jessica S this week – Mrs Power

Mason, refereeing football matches this week, Great work – Mr Wilkinson

Ella Mai P and Morgan S for listening and answering skills in maths.

Harvey B and Dante D for Teamwork working from the board with the whole class in maths.

Isabella W and Elise S for helping out with resources in maths.

Riley H for excellent answers with good explanations of methods in maths.

A\* Readers - Nevaeh, Alfie W, Ellie K, Leonardo, Sabrina and Ellie M. Well done for all your fantastic reading - Mrs Tyler

Great work from Chloe J – Mrs McEvoy

A big good luck to our U12 Netball team who will be competing in a tournament at Greshams School on Monday.



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

#### 4. Year 8

The Year 8s have been working very hard this week completing the last of their Year 8 assessments and we've been so impressed with their mature approach to them.

Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Amy J	125
Chakib L	125
Sammy R	115
Cameron S	95
Sav M	95

A massive well done to those in 8JWL this week. We have had a very positive week. Also, a special mention to Chakib, he is the first from our form to reach a thousand (1000) LEARNT points – Mr Willgress

I have been really impressed with 8O in science this half term, since we updated our Ask & Answer focus from our LEARNT system. So far this half term we have had 434 different events (2170 points given) for Answering and Asking questions alone – Mr Willgress

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

## **5. Year 9**

Students of the week:  
Zena A, Max.S, Deacon.B and Elise.W.

Highest achievement points this week:  
Luke S, Jason J, Annalee R, Riley B, Ayo T, Rodrigo F, Oliver N, Rhianna A, Brandon S and Martha W.

Highest achievement points this half term:  
Rianna A, Luke S, AJ B, Oliver N, Brandon S, Max S, Ay T, Samuel O, Elise W, Dylain B and Eliza S.

Subject shout outs:  
ART - 9O and 9P for excellent assessment lessons on human figure drawing. All students in both classes did brilliantly and got lots of LEARNT points.

Fantastic work from 9O - textual transformations - Miss Roberts

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)  
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## **6. Year 10**

As we near the end of another successful half term, we'd like to take a moment to remind you of the homework policy here at the Open Academy. Homework plays a crucial role in reinforcing classroom learning and fostering independent study skills in our students. As such, we kindly ask for your support in ensuring that homework assignments are completed promptly and to the best of your child's ability. Please encourage them to establish a consistent homework routine, allocating dedicated time each day for studying and completing assignments. Additionally, we ask that you try and provide a quiet and conducive environment at home for your child to focus on their schoolwork. Should your child encounter any difficulties with their homework, please don't hesitate to reach out to their teachers for support.

A special plea from Mrs Tyler:

Business homework supports the learning we do in class and will enable the students to progress in their GCSE coursework. The work that we are doing in class now is formally submitted in May and is worth 30% of their final GCSE grade.

Please could I ask that you encourage your child to complete their homework, this is set every fortnight. Homework for this week is on TEAMS now. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Work experience:

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of your child securing their work experience placements. Work experience offers invaluable opportunities for learning, growth, and professional development and we encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity.

If your child hasn't already done so, now is the time to start actively seeking out placements that match with your interests, skills and career goals.

Remember, securing a work experience placement takes time and effort, so students should NOT wait until the last minute! Your child needs to start researching and applying for opportunities as soon as possible to maximize their chances of finding a placement that suits them.

If your child needs assistance or guidance in finding a placement, please remind them to not hesitate in reaching out to their teachers, or the school's career services department. They are here to support your child in their search and help them navigate the process.

If you have any places at your workplace and would be happy to take students on, please do let the year team know.

Mrs Pearsall Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## 7. Careers

Access Creative College Norwich will be holding an Open Day on Tuesday, 27 February at 6.00pm. If you are the parent/carer of a Year 11 student please let them know, especially, if they have not been in to have a look around the college, or are still unsure about their post-16 options. This is a great opportunity to get to know a bit more about Access Creative College and creative careers.

The College will have student work on display and our tutors and student ambassadors are happy to answer any questions they have about the college.

**They offer Level 2 and Level 3 courses in:**

- Music Performance
- Music Production
- Vocal Artist
- Film & Photography
- Graphics Design
- Animation
- Games Art
- Games Development
- and a T-Level in Software Development.
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The event is 6.00pm-7.30pm and students can book on to attend through our website [here](#).

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 me at [caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk](mailto: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

## 8. Year 11

One week to go until the week break of half term. Next week we have parents' evening on Tuesday, 13 February from 4.00-7.00pm. This is the evening where students will receive their grades from their recent PPEs. This was the final time that our year group has had a practice run through of their GCSE exams. The purpose is to build positive routines and show areas which can and will be developed before the 'real' thing in just a few months' time. Remember we all fail/struggle at times, it is how we deal with this and then move forwards that shows who we really are. The evening will be a fantastic opportunity to have very meaningful conversations with the educators of your son/daughter as to what next steps need to be taken to ensure all achieve their potential. See you there.

Final call for leavers' hoodies. We are running out of time to keep the current price. The deadline is 11 February.

- Go to [schoolleaverscompany.co.uk](http://schoolleaverscompany.co.uk)
- Click order your hoodie
- Username: 2664
- Password: cKGdWAZp

On uniform can we please remind you that all need to be in full correct uniform. This requires blazer or school jumper (not hoodie/plain black jumper), trousers or skirt (not just leggings).

A message for business students:

Business homework supports the learning we do in class and will enable the students to progress in their GCSE coursework. The work that we are doing in class now is formally submitted in May and is worth 30% of their final GCSE grade.

Please could I ask that you encourage your child to complete their homework, this is set every fortnight, homework for this week is on Teams now. Many thanks for your ongoing support, Mrs Tyler.

Learnt Points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 125. Well done everyone.

The following students have had a great week filled with achievements:

Star C, Lucy NW, Preston B, Emily-Jayne C, Sienna B, Lilly T, Megan C, Elisa K, Maddison L and Reece P

Positive Praise:

I have been so impressed with Lily E and Gemma S in Health and Social Care this week. Gemma was smashing out the answers during the exam questions and Lily has had such a great work ethic. Well done girls!

- Shout out for Felix CS, Mayling T, Ara R and Emmy R for consistently completing their English homework. Well done - Mrs Napthen and Miss Hawthorne.

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

- Great attitude to learning from Star C, Hollie S and Xylia S in history, constantly focused on making great progress.
- Great effort on new art exam topic from Scarlet B, Lily T, Lucy W, Emily JC and Megan C.
- Well done to Mrs Pearsall's Year 11 girls, who worked really well with the supply teacher in her absence this week!

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)

## 9. 6<sup>th</sup> Form

6th Form area:

I am so happy to see that this week the general behaviour in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form area has improved incredibly. It has been lovely to walk around and see so many of you working in groups or individually. The atmosphere has been really calm and productive – lovely!!

Year 13 residential:

I am currently in the process of planning the residential trip. Usually I would aim to run it around March/April time, but this year I am hoping to run it as an end of exam reward trip. That way it will not impact exam season and also it will give you more time to pay for the trip. A few people have said that the cost is putting them off, so if you have any other suggestions for fun end of term budget friendly events, please let me know.

Year 12 Campus Trip to UCL – Wednesday, 20 March:

HAS is partnering with UCL on this campus trip to London with coach travel included. An opportunity to visit UCL's central London campus and hear from students at this leading Russell Group University. As well as talks from current staff and students, there will be time to look around, see different departments, and Q&A. Depart by coach from Norwich Train Station 7.00am, return approximately 5.45pm. Places are limited and we expect this trip to fill up fast!

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

## 10. Chaplain's Reflection

I want to begin this reflection in asking a couple of questions. What do you think of yourself? And are those thoughts positive or negative? The world as a whole and the circumstances that we face can have a negative effect on who we think we are. There is a verse in the Bible that says this. "As a man (person) thinks, so he is." Our thoughts about ourselves have a big effect on the way we are. If we think good of ourselves we live in more of a positive place than we would do if we thought negatively about ourselves. This can have a massive impact on opportunities and life itself.

I've been reflecting on the following quote from A.A Milne this week. "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think".

I would encourage you to repeat this quote to yourself replacing the "you" with an "I" and the "are" with "am". Think good things about yourself, it makes a big difference.

In closing, another passage from the Bible talks about how frequently God thinks good thoughts about us and how precious and priceless we are.

***“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.***

***You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!***

***I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you to you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.***

***How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!”***

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain

**openacademy**

# Car & Bike Show 2024



**Vehicles & traders arrival 9am - 4pm**  
**Public entry 10am – 3pm**

**£5 entry for adults**  
**£2 entry for children**  
**Under 5 is free**

**Autojumble/Car boot £5 a pitch**  
**Booking required**

# Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April

**Open Academy – Salhouse Road – Norwich – NR79DL**  
Contact for more details/book pitch – [hugo.pickup@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:hugo.pickup@open-academy.org.uk)