

Open Academy Newsletter – 16 February 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this final newsletter of the half term.

I will keep things brief this week as I am sure that the students are very ready for the break and are quite exhausted after what feels like a long half term, after a short festive break (and indeed a long autumn term before that!)

I would reflect however that everything begins to speed up from now on. Spring always brings with it life and energy and although it will be a while before the nice weather sets in fully, hopefully we will start seeing much more of the sun from now on.

I hope some of you enjoyed pancake day on Tuesday. I did not go for my usual plateful of pancakes as my slimming world journey is already slow enough! Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday marks the start of the Christian season of Lent, when Christians consider the challenges faced by Jesus and his eventual death and rebirth. It is often a time when they will give up something to acknowledge the hardship Jesus endured, no prizes then for guessing what I will be doing for Lent – my daily chocolate fix is out for the next 4 weeks – which will hopefully aid my slimming world journey as much as my spiritual one!

Speaking of which, as our application to become a Church of England Academy is finalised, I am really pleased to be able to report that Mark Pimlott our chaplain has taken the inspiring call from the Church of England Education Conference that we attended last week, and is setting up an encouragement group that we are going to call 'Open House'. The vision being of a group that meets after school – maybe before school as well, to explore the encouraging and loving word of God. A kind of Open Academy church / worship, welcoming to all – including parents students and staff, with the aim of encouraging all – whatever they face or whatever they wish to give.

Mark is working on the details now and will be ready to share with the students after half term. I look forward to being able to invite you to the first sessions as the second part of the spring term gets underway.

So for now, whilst I know the Y11 and 13 students will be mindful that they will need to be doing plenty of revision around their 'R and R' over the holiday, I would like to end this weeks newsletter by saying a huge thanks for all your efforts this term – here, on time, in uniform, working hard and being amazing parts of our community! Have a lovely holiday – before we know it not only will we be back, it will be Easter, then exams then... Let's just enjoy this holiday first!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Year 7

It's been a long half term, and we are all grateful that half term is now here, all of us needs the well-deserved rest. I hope you all had far too many pancakes and celebrated Valentine's Day with someone special. Year 7's have worked really hard and it's great to see the fantastic work they have produced and the massive amount of LEARNT points that have been awarded. This is the time to have a rest and be prepared for a short half term when we return. Can you have conversations with your child to make sure their uniform is all correct and that they all have the correct equipment ready for starting back on 26th February.

A reminder that year 7 Camp needs to be paid for as soon as possible please.

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

Please could you remind your child/ward that they must bring in containers or oven proof dishes even if they are supplied with ingredients – Miss Luter

The top 10 for achievement points are: Charlie SI, Rowan S, Phoebe B, Theo L, Ellie-Mae B, Kaylen A, Tilly B, Megan K, Ayomikun T and Phoebe-May A.

Top 10 of this half term are: Ashanti G, Matthew O, Phoebe B, Chalie SI, Rowan S, Charlie S, Ellie-Mae B, Lacey-Mae M, Brogan M, Tilly B and Finley L.

Praise for year 7's:

Megan F, Mackenzie and Archie for their grasp of the main plot points of Macbeth. Brilliant recall! Well done, from Mrs Day.

Tahlia B for being engaged in maths lessons.

Ella P for outstanding maths work.

Riley H for answering questions during maths group work.

Brogan M for completing his maths work showing the methods he has used.

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

2. Year 8

Well we have made it to the end of another excellent half-term for the Year 8s! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our student leaders who have been working really hard this half term on special projects: Charlee M, Freddie M, Misha P, Ruby P, Kelsie-Rose B, Festus A, Jess T, Leo C, Ella S, Ewan C & Ellie H.

Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are: Austin L - 95, Ruby P - 85, Freddie M - 75, Ben S - 70, Issy D - 65, Betsy K - 65

Our Top LEARNT achievers for the half-term are: Chakib L – 713, Ruby P – 671, Skye H – 627, Zinedine O – 609, Sammy R – 597, Freddie M – 590

Outstanding number here - keep up the good work!

I wish everyone a relaxing and fun week's holiday and look forward to welcoming the students back for our Spring 2 term on Monday 26th February.

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

3. Year 9

Year 9 Pathways - Mr Ward

Yesterday Year 9 had an assembly on Key Stage 4 options and future plans. Each student has been given a booklet with the subjects available at this time. Where a student missed the assembly I have tried to catch them today. The options process is a steady one. The preference form that was published in the

booklet may not stay the same if a number of students wish to move subjects around. Decisions on that will be made after the parent information evening on 13th March.

It should be noted that not all courses can run because of funding limits. However, it is up to the students to decide which courses are the most popular and therefore which ones run. It changes every time.

The most common question I received after the assembly was concerning which subjects you have to take. Currently government policy is that 90% of students should study EBacc. There is flexibility after that. I will be asking students to hand in forms at the end of next half term. There is a year 9 parents' evening on 26th March.

Top achievers this half term: Rianna A, Luke S, Oliver N, AJ B, Brandon S, Ayo T, Samuel O, Max S, Noam M, Elise W

100% attendance this half term: Maddie A, Tyler A, Ada A, AJ B, Harry B, Ryan B, Jayce B, Riley B, Rusne B, Millie C, Katie D, Evie D, Kayden S, Brandon S, Hannah S, Alfie S, Natacha F, Rodrigo F, Erica J, Happiness O, Ssamuel O, Sasha-Mai P, Somaya R, Harry S, Leah S, Kieran S, Kate S, Eliza S, Luke S, Ayo T, Martha W, Elise W, Riley W

Wonderful war poems from 9P this week! Well done. Miss Roberts

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

4. Year 10

This week in assembly we have been talking about work experience. Please talk to your child about this. We covered information such as where students can go for their placement, how they should prepare (in terms of researching the company) and how to contact employers. We will follow up in tutor sessions to allow students time to research places to go and tutors have a letter/ email template.

I would really like to emphasise that any placement is a valuable experience, whether it is in a career that they are interested in or, it is just experience in a work place. Please support your child by talking about where they might want to go, encourage them to speak to friends and family about opportunities that might be available. Most importantly encourage your child to chase up emails sent as employers sometimes don't reply straight away and forget to respond. Phoning and asking to speak to a manager is even better.

Shout out from Health and Social Care

Health and social care group have been working hard on completing their coursework over the last couple of weeks. Both Miss Trail and Miss Whitwood are really pleased with how students have been working, well done!

Well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week: Rebecca S, Bubacarr T, Steven E, Oskar C and Emilis V.

PE

Please can you check your daughter's drawer / wardrobe for a red football kit, (red top and shorts, black socks) that they have worn home after a match, you may have washed it and then it got put away instead of being returned to school. It has 'This Girl Can' on the front and a number on the back. We are missing 4 tops and shorts and more socks.

Also, can you check that the PE kit your child has is theirs. We have a number of students who have kit missing and we think it may have accidentally been picked up by someone in the rush at the end of a lesson. Please return mis-placed kit to reception or PE Department. It would be really helpful if you can write your child's name in all their school clothes. When we find lost items with names in it is easier to return them.

Mrs Pearsall Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

5. Careers

- On the morning of Wednesday March 6th Year 10 students will be out at the Norfolk Festival of Knowledge (formerly the Norfolk Skills and Careers Fair). This is a great opportunity for students to explore the options available to them after Year 11 and beyond, and meet representatives from local education providers, apprenticeship provider and employers. Further information will go out to parents/carers immediately after half term.
- Please continue to encourage your Year 10 students in their search for Work Experience placements. This year Norfolk County Council have imposed a much earlier deadline (Wednesday 27th March) which means there is more pressure on our students to find something by the end of this term. All completed Student Self-placement forms must be with Dr Caroline Davies by this date in order to be processed in time.
- This week Year 12 visited the University of Suffolk in Ipswich, a fantastic state of the art university right on the beautiful Marina. Students had a campus tour, got to sample the different courses available there and enjoyed the catering facilities too!
- If you have not already explored our 'live' careers newsletter on the school website, please do so as it is full of lots of useful information for parents and students. Go to <https://padlet.com/carolinedavies3/open-academy-careers-newsletter-1ztsr3hkr8syd7ew> or access the website homepage NEWS – Careers.

Dr Davies

Assistant Head of 6th Form

Careers Guidance & Development

6. Year 11

A fantastic week has gone by highlighted by the PPE Results evening/parents evening on Tuesday. The vast majority attended to see the results of their efforts and then to have meaningful conversations with their teachers. This was a very powerful night with some receiving the praise rightly deserved for showing all that putting in the hard work has paid off. For others it highlights areas that need to be worked on in the coming weeks and months before their GCSE's begin. This is the purpose of Mocks (PPE's), now we just need to see that determination to succeed coming through. All can and should achieve their potential, they will all receive the support they need but ultimately it is in their hands.

Learnt Points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 172. Well done everyone!

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

- Jake T
- Gemma S
- Niamh H
- Lilly B
- Rosie C
- Jessica P
- Mayling T
- Joel W
- Ruby T
- Lacey F

Positive Praise

- Sienna H has been working super hard on making her book organised for her revision. She has taken great pride in her work. Well Done!
- Chloe B, Sienna B, Rosie C, Emily-Jayne C, Ariya R, Maddison S-H, Ruby T for excellent focused work in History Hub, building exam skills.

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

- Bailey S, Jess B & Kai M for smashing it in German.
- Well done to Year 11 today for completing the first 2 hours of their Controlled Assessment Coursework. We are so close to the deadline now and will be starting the final projects after half term. Please remember, if there is anything you need ordering before the assessment, please add it to the order board in RED pen. Special shoutouts to Emmy, Ellie, Ariya, Ara, Ben C, Reece P, Izaak S and Bailey S who have showed motivation and effort over the last couple of lessons in particular to make sure they are hitting all of the marking criteria. Well done and keep up the hard work!
- The entire class 11 English A or effort and achievements in mock exams and making improvements through thorough DNAs. Well Done!



- Well done to the year 11 Food Tech students yesterday for making a range of wonderful dishes as part of their coursework.

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

7. 6th Form

Half term – YAY!!!!!! Well done all of you for getting here. Now go and have a well deserved rest before the real work starts after half term!

Year 13 results – apologies for those students that didn't have all of their correct results in the envelopes yesterday. We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure we sort this out. Until then, please feel free to go and see your individual subject teachers to get your PPE results from them.

Upcoming AS/A level exams

The time is almost here! Please speak to your subject teachers about when your first exam is so that you can start to get prepared with your revision timetables. Remember we are always here to help you with revision skills. Use your half term time appropriately. Have fun, but factor in some revision every day so that you are not coming back overwhelmed.

Salto Cards

6th formers are required to wear their Salto cards and lanyards AT ALL TIMES when in the Academy. A number of students have not used their Salto cards for a while, and these students will be spoken to by Dr Davies. If you have lost your card, please let Dr Davies know ASAP.

Football Experience

Zac was kind enough to join Mrs Hindry in helping with training for a football match this week – this was an awesome experience, and one which we could open out to more boys if they are interested. Well done Zac, I've got great feedback about how well you did!

Zac attended a training session on Wednesday evening to help train U11 girls.

Zac arrived early so we could have a chat about how the session would go and how I would like him to get involved. Zac started by helping the girls learn ways in which they could warm up and they all followed his instructions well. Zac ran a 'Numbers Game' session. He fed the balls to the girls whose number he had called out. They go 1 on 1 to try and score a goal. Over time Zac became more confident with this.

We moved onto our skills session. Zac and another young coach ran a passing and shooting development game. Zac went in goal for the girls to shoot at him, he encouraged their confidence by not saving every single goal! 😊 Zac then took the role of referee during the match.

At the end of the session we asked Zac for his feedback on who he thought was 'Player of the week' and would win the trophy, and we went with his judgement and awarded his choice.



Egg Babies - Y12 psychology were given the task to bond with their egg as part of their Attachment project. Some very strong emotional bonds were made. Have a look at what these babies have been up to. Pretty egg-citing stuff, I think you'll all agree 😊





Have a super half term everyone 😊

8. Library News

World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up on Thursday March 7th and we'll be celebrating in the library with lots of fun activities and competitions!

Turn a Potato Into A Book Character: This is our big school-wide competition where we're challenging students to turn a humble potato into a recognisable book character, with a prize for the winning creation. They can use paper, pens, paint, fabric, whatever they want. The more creative the better! Entries need to be given into the library by midday on March 7th for judging and display.

Prize Raffle: Students can earn entries into our World Book Day raffle by taking part in our special activities. They just need to come along to the library during break and lunch on March 7th where we'll have all the information they'll need. Activities include – Find the literary couples, guess the book from the Word Cloud, match the 'shelfie' to the 'selfie', and designing their own World Book Day token.

£1 Book Tokens: These are available now in the library for all students to come and collect for free. They can be exchanged for a free World Book Day book at participating booksellers.

Friday Quizzes

We've started doing bookish quizzes in the library every other Friday. The students with the highest scores will earn achievement points.

Next quiz dates:

- February 16th
- March 8th
- March 22nd
- April 26th



MRS ROGERS READING CORNER

FEBRUARY
2024

LIBRARY NEWS FROM OPEN ACADEMY

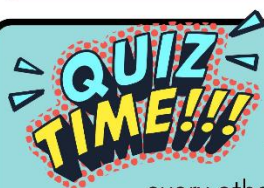
We've had a lovely start to the year in the library!

We've played many games of chess and Jumanji, decorated Valentine's cards, participated in book quizzes, gone on blind dates with mystery books, and celebrated World Read Aloud Day on January 7th with some fantastic staff readings!

WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day we're running a very special school-wide event! We're asking students to turn a potato into a recognisable book character, which we'll then display in the library. Entries need to be given in by midday on March 7th, with a prize for the winning entry!

We'll also be running lots of fun activities throughout the day where students will get the chance to be entered into a prize raffle!



Friday Quizzes

Take part in our Library quizzes every other Friday during lunch. Students who score top marks will be awarded 15 achievement points. See if you can be the winner!

Next quiz dates:

- February 16th
- March 8th
- March 22nd
- April 26th

Word Of The Month

Bumfuzzled

Confused, flustered, or perplexed

Our house point competition is still running! Collect points for checking out and returning library books.



At the moment
DESTINY is in the lead!

Upcoming Dates:

- **Thursday 7th March** - WORLD BOOK DAY! We'll have lots of activities in the library during break and lunch, plus our school-wide competitions!
- **Thursday 14th March** - It's Mrs Rogers Birthday!
- **March 18th - 22nd** - National Shakespeare Week. Look out for displays and activities in the library!
- **Thursday 21st March** - National Poetry Day! We'll be celebrating with a special lunchtime event in the library
- **Monday 25th March** - National Tolkien Day! Celebrating the author of Lord of The Rings and The Hobbit.

**DON'T
FORGET**



9. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



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 7th April

Open Academy – Salhouse Road – Norwich – NR79DL
Contact for more details/book pitch – hugo.pickup@open-academy.org.uk