

Open Academy Newsletter – 16 February 2024

Dear Parents carers and students, welcome to this week's newsletter...

... and welcome back to the rest of the spring term – which will be a case of 'blink and you miss it', with less than 4 weeks to go until the Easter holiday!

I am alternating between being very pleased with myself and very hungry as I have given up chocolate for Lent, but it is fantastic to start seeing the sun in the morning as I drive in to the Academy. I know they say March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb, but it has felt like a long, wet winter, so roll on spring.

With the sense of refreshment and newness that spring brings, I thought it is a good time to give a quick reminder about standards – particularly uniform, phone use attendance and expectations.

I am delighted to report that still the vast majority of students are in full correct uniform every day in the academy and for that we are most grateful as it removes an instant issue between staff and students. There are a small number of mainly girls who have started to let things slip – leggings/no blazer/hoodies etc. Please can I ask you to help us redouble our efforts to ensure all students are wearing full correct uniform with pride. For persistent offenders without excuse, we will reluctantly have to consider going back to lessons in the football block until uniform is sorted, so ideally we will not get to that point.

Speaking of the football block, our truancy response has generally had a very positive effect and its use has meant a significant drop in in school truancy. We are very keen that we get this down to zero and to ensure that a day in truancy has maximum impact as a deterrent. We will be sharing with everyone our restated expectations for behaviour and standards required to successfully complete the truancy consequence. Mr Richardson will be sharing those expectations over the next week or so and in next week's newsletter.

I hope you see that we try incredibly hard to accommodate the needs of all students, whilst at the same time, striving towards high standards to ensure they get the most of their time at the academy. We offer a huge amount of support around students' needs. However, we are keen to ensure that we are not permissive and we expect high standards from everyone.

We are currently raising the profile of the importance of attendance in assemblies too – reflecting that if attendance drops to less than 80% - over the 5 years of secondary education that would equate to a whole year of school missed – I don't think anyone can afford to miss a whole academic year – so we are sending clear messages about how vital it is to stretch those 'resilience intentions' 'and get in to school!

Finally, I would like to remind parents that we have a no mobile phones rule in the academy. We accept that students may need them, but we insist that they are switched off and in their bags for the whole of the school day. It would help greatly if you wish to contact your child during the school day, that you only do so through the academy office and pastoral numbers. In this way you will be supporting our behaviour policy and ensuring that our students get the clear boundary messages that young people not only need, but actually really appreciate – albeit sometimes a little reluctantly.

So, with that spring clean attitude to preparing for the rest of the year, I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Norwich Parent Power

Norwich Parent Power will have their next meeting on Thursday, 7 March, 6.00-8.00pm at the UEA.

At this meeting, the UEA/NEACO will be running a session on how parents can support their children in choosing their GCSE options.

Please see the flyer below for further details.



Norwich
Parent Power

We warmly invite you to our Parent Power meeting!

This meeting will include a session on how to speak to your child about their future career options, including making GCSE option choices. You will also have the opportunity to speak to student ambassadors and discuss barriers to university access in Norwich.

Parent Power groups in other areas have taken part in activities such as tailored visits to universities, guidance sessions on further and higher education, and training on homework support.

Date: Thursday 7th March
Time: 6pm-8pm
Location: Norwich Medical School Building, Room MED 0.30, UEA
Parking: Free car parking available at the west car park
Refreshments: Food will be provided.
Please indicate your dietary requirements in the sign up form

Scan to Sign up!



parentpowernorwich@thebrilliantclub.org
07398182824



Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Student Leadership

Student Executive Success

This week at the executive meeting we had a group of students who were absolutely incredible in giving a series of presentations that they themselves had created and practiced, based on reflective meetings we had held on progress of the Student Leadership Programme so far. I have given the following students 15 reward points each as a well done - they showed excellent leadership and presentation skills and should be very proud of themselves:

Tilly B, Stefan C, Charles M, Areen M, Viktoria K, Bailey S, Jess R, Annalee R, Ayo T, Martha W and Rianna A.

Culture Wall

A key part of the new leadership programme at the Open Academy is a desire to present Student Leaders with opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The first project was suggested by and voted for by the leadership team and has turned out to be a great success! The "Open Academy Culture Wall" which can now be seen in the Atrium, features bricks designed by students who entered the "Design a Culture Brick" competition before half term. Each brick had to celebrate that person's culture and the leadership team were thrilled to have over 100 entries! The winning ten were:

Isabella D, Jessica B, Norah W, Ella-Grace S, Lucy N, Scarlet B, George B, Hanna K, Emmy K and Ashley B.

Well done guys - beautiful entries - 50 reward points and an Easter themed chocolate prize (see me to get your prize). All entries presented on the wall win **50 points** for the student and **50 points** for their house!

Student Leader Mentors

We now have a strong group of Student Leader Mentors from Year 10 and 8 who are offering support and guidance to some of our younger students during tutor time. This is a really exciting programme, giving our Student Leaders the chance to develop their skills, but also an incredible opportunity for our younger students to have the support and wisdom of our older students. If your child is selected as a mentor or mentee in the programme, please encourage them to embrace this exciting opportunity!

Mr Dilley
Teacher

3. World Book Day – Thursday, 7 March

Just a reminder about our '**Turn a Potato into a Book Character**' competition for World Book Day. Creations can be made with paper, fabric, paint, clay, or anything else, as long as the base of them is a REAL potato. Entries need to be given into the library by midday on 7 March for judging.

We also have lots of other fun activities happening that day, including:

- **Match the Literary Couples:** On World Book Day some staff around the school will be wearing badges featuring famous literary pairings (think Romeo & Juliet or Winnie The Pooh & Christopher Robin). Grab a entry sheet from the library and work out who the book characters are, which staff members go together, and what book they're from. Get all the answers correct to get an entry into the World Book Day prize raffle.
- **Word Clouds:** Word Clouds based on famous books will be on display in the library and students need to work out which books they represent from the words that have been used. Winners get an entry into the World Book Day prize raffle.

- **Match the Shelfie to the Selfie:** The student ambassadors are leading on this one. They'll be setting up a display in the library and students will need to match the staff member to the right bookshelf (match the "shelfie" to the "selfie"). Winners will be entered into the World Book Day prize raffle.
- **£1 Book Tokens:** These are available now in the library for all students to come and take.
- **Design a World Book Day Token:** Every year the people at World Book Day ask children to enter their competition to design a new World Book Day token. Entry sheets for this are available in the library now if any students would like to enter.

Mrs Rogers
Librarian

4. Year 7

It is great to see all Year 7s after the half term and cannot believe Easter holidays are only 3 and a half weeks away already. The majority of our Year 7s have fantastic uniform, but can we make a sure that they are leaving for school with correct uniform. They should not be wearing leggings, hoodies and shoes must be black and polishable.

Another big push for camp, it is from 9 to 12 July and really is the best week of the school year. I have been on camp for the last 10 years and thoroughly enjoy it, students get the opportunity to kayak, climb, raft build as well as other fun activities. I cannot tell you enough how much fun it is and hope to see all Year 7s there. Those that are not able to come will be in the academy and sticking to a timetable to continue your studies.

We have a three-way tie for the tutor challenge so there will be a tie-breaker question Monday morning, the best attendance this week are Respect LMH.

Top 10 achievers this week are:

Ayo, Kaylen, Phoebe B, Charlie SI, Ellie-Mae, Harrison A, Rowan, Ella-Mai P, Charlie Sw and Riley I.

Teacher praise:

Riley H – His effort and attitude in German
Amalie T - English super star – Mr Edwards
Teja M for efforts in German - Mrs McEvoy

Well done to 12 Year 7 students who travelled to Framingham Earl for their friendly fixture. The girls were separated into 2 random teams and were against Framingham Earl's Year 7 and Year 8s. All students were a credit to the academy showing positivity and friendliness throughout. The girls were complimented by Framingham Earl's PE teacher on how great all students were and said they were a credit to our school. Congratulations girls – your hard work is really paying off in netball club! – Miss Trail

Well done to those who came to rounders/cricket practice on Wednesday, looking forward to getting a team together and hopefully some matches after Easter - Mrs Pearsall

Thank you to 7P for being a supportive and respectful audience for the Year 10 GCSE drama performance - Mrs Ormosi

7H have been working extremely hard cutting their key hooks out. They have been using the fretsaws for the first time and showing excellent resilience and perseverance using the hand coping saws. Shout outs to Harvey B for keeping going despite a cut finger, Hayden P, Matthew, Vlad, Jack, Theo, Bea, James, Farly, Demarco and Phoebe and Tilly for excellent teamwork! – Miss Rednall

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

5. Year 8

A great first week back for our Year 8s and it's great to see them start their new courses of study well. May I take this opportunity to thank Ellie H, Corbyn H and Kaelan B for assisting in student voice during the English & Communications Faculty Review. They communicated their ideas in a mature and really helpful way.

Please see some shout outs from staff below:

A big well done to Connor B and Ruby P for answering challenge questions in maths – Mrs Marsham

Betsy and Elysia showed great teamwork by being my helpers and going round assisting other students that needed help with their project and using the machinery. Thank you for being so helpful!
Well done to Tulisha M, Jamie E, Jamie P, Kimberly N, Charlee M and Ellie H for their constant positive attitude towards their projects – Miss Rednall

A huge thank you for both 8P & 8H who have such a positive and enthusiastic start to our Shakespeare play this term, Hamlet – Mrs Clayton

Our top LEARNT achievers are:

Charlee M	95
Chakib L	90
Jasmin C	80
Freddie M	75
Skye H	75

Keep up the good work!

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

6. Year 9

Top 10 Achievers since September:

Rianna A, Luke S, Oliver N, Rodrigo F, Brandon S, Ayo T, AJ B, Max S, Elise W and Kate S.

Top Achievers week beginning 26 Feb:

Rodrigo F, Owen B, Oliver N, Linda H, Lily A, Luke S, Hannah S, Erica JJ, AJ Bale, Reece Y, Millie C, Riley W, Alfie S, Kiera P, Noam M and Henry O.

Students of the week:

Reece Y, Zak L, Henry O and Natacha F.

English Shout outs:

Kieran S for outstanding effort in English this week

Rodrigo F and Evie D for superb presentation skills in English.

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

Design Technology:

9H started to deconstruct pallets at the end of last half term to source the wood for their recycled garden planters. Every single one of them worked brilliantly displaying exemplary teamwork, resilience, motivation and hard work until they were sweating! Special mentions to Mia P who kept everyone in check both in her group and others, Kiera, Hannah S, Esme and Lena who managed to get through a whole pallet in an hour. High 5s all round and words of encouragement from them to everyone kept spirits and motivation high.

I am so proud of every single one of you and I can't wait to see how your projects progress over the next few weeks. Great work 9H!



A reminder it is options / pathways evening on Tuesday, 13 March.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

7. Year 10

This week your child will have received a letter about the 'Norfolk Festival of Knowledge' which is on Wednesday, 6 March. The event will provide students with the opportunity to look at information and ask any questions of employers from across different career sectors. We have attended this event for a number of years and it is a valuable experience for students. This is an opt out event and so all students will attend unless the opt out slip is completed and returned to Dr Davies.

If you need to give your child a message during the school day, please call the office and we can pass it on or text the pastoral phone. Texting your child during lesson times is very distracting and disruptive to learning.

If you received a notice that your child had a detention for late minutes, please can you talk to them about the consequences of this on their learning and the disruption this causes to their classmates by them arriving late. We had a total of 26 hours of accumulative late minutes this week.

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

Well done to the following students for gaining the most achievement points:
Luke E, Oscar B, Keira B, Jacob M, Max L, Tyler P and Chelsea B.

Mrs Pearsall Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

8. Careers

- It is the time of year when apprenticeship opportunities for our post 16 and post 18 students start to appear. It is worth keeping any eye on the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>, the jobs website Indeed <https://uk.indeed.com/> and the websites of particular companies which interest you. This week local architecture firm Cannon Clarke have released an exciting degree level opportunity for any post 18s interested in a career in design architecture. Interested applicants should contact Charli Smith at csmith@cannonclarkearchitects.co.uk. For wider information on apprenticeships and what they are please go to the Open Academy Careers Newsletter on the front page of our website.
- On the morning of Wednesday, 6 March 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 providers and employers.
- 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, 27 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 me by this date in order to be processed in time.

Dr Davies

Assistant Head of 6th Form

Careers Guidance & Development

9. Year 11

The first week of the shortest half term of the school year has been completed. The year group have once again shown their determination to succeed and overcome any trials they face. This week the Government has asked hundreds of Year 11 students at random across the country to complete either a maths or English exam. This was asked of a large number of our Year 11 students. As we all know, exams produce stress and anxiety, however instead of shying away from this the year group really did themselves proud by not only taking part, but doing so in an exemplary way. A great demonstration of professionalism that we continue to see each and every day.

Learnt points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 222. Well done everyone.

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

Maddison L, Elisa K, Jake T, Chloe B, Ruben B, Scarlet B, Thomas J, Kai M, Ella R and Bailey S.

Positive praise:

- All those who took part in the Government's English & maths exams. You showed great professionalism and maturity in your attitude towards a potentially stressful event. Well done.
- Year 11 Maths outstanding effort towards GCSE grades - Mayling T, Ellie M, Caitlin A, Lilly B, Maddison L and Xhesika D.
- Fantastic effort for Mayling T for her German homework.

- Just a shout out for Bailey S who was great in the executive meeting the other day! Fed back to the whole council and answered questions very professionally.
- For English Jay L has shown a good nature and good work.
- Well done to my lovely Year 11 PE girls who did Just Dance and basketball this week, really enjoy teaching you all!

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. Fundraiser for Year 11 Prom



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 – NR9 9DL
Contact for more details/book pitch – hugo.pickup@open-academy.org.uk

11. Safeguarding

Boosting Children's Resilience and Mental Health, Tips for Parents and Educators

In this webinar, Dr Weston of Tooled Up Education will share a raft of evidence-based tips that parents and teachers can use to good effect at home and at school. How can we boost children's resilience? What can we do to reduce anxiety? How can we keep them motivated? To what extent does sleep, nutrition and access to phones impact on children's ability to thrive? How can we work optimally together in partnership to support all young learners?

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DyqabCfXSkOPBJ3mXnf5JQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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

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March

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Skips Safety Net Keeping children safe online

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

Scan the QR code with your
smartphone to access the Parent
Guide on how to help keep
your children safe online.

Don't believe everything you see online!
Young people can very easily be dragged into things
without parental guidance and support.

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell
if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending
their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner
and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.
Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

www.skipssafetynet.org

Mr Davis
Safeguarding Lead

12. Chaplain's Reflection

What
ARE.....You
Thankful
for?

Sometimes things in our lives get really tough to go through and because of this we can turn the above quote into "what have I got to be thankful for". Walls of pain, confusion and negative circumstances can block out the ability to see the small things in life to be thankful for.

In the midst of every storm there is always something to be thankful for. That ray of sunshine on the darkest of days. Having an attitude of gratitude has to be practiced on a daily basis until it goes from being sporadic to becoming a lifestyle. The beauty of thankfulness is that whether it's given once a day or a hundred times a day, it brings around change in our lives causing us to dwell on the good rather than the bad. Easier said than done so we have to stick with it.

In closing today, the Bible talks about thankfulness and it says that "to a thankful heart, double blessings come".

I want to encourage you to be thankful in everything and watch those blessings and good things come to visit you.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain

