

## Open Academy Newsletter – 8 March 2024

Dear Parents, carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week I would like to focus on our tremendous staff team by way of thanking them for all they do over and above their paid role.

You may already be aware that our previous safeguarding officer Charlotte Reed started a fund in order to help our students and their families if they were struggling financially, to help out in small ways to make life easier. We call this our Thankfulness Fund and throughout the year there are a range of small activities including bake sales, sponsorships and general donations that the staff make in order to keep it topped up. Our main fundraiser each year, however is a quiz and chips night whereby teams of staff and their friends and family come together for an evening of quizzing and games, enjoying each other's company and most importantly, buying raffle tickets and bidding on the silent auction lots where donated items from local businesses and staff are auctioned off to the highest bidder. I'm delighted to report that this year with over 100 participants, the quiz and chips night raised £2775, which has topped up the Thankfulness Fund brilliantly. Whether it be items of uniform for students, shoes, or basics needed, we once again have a fund to draw from to help people out.

These are complex events that require a huge amount of preparation so I would like to especially thank Miss Luter for taking on the onerous task of organising the evening and to thank those who brilliantly supported her including Miss Whitwood, Mrs Hindry and Mrs Molloy (who seems to have an incredible knack of persuading local businesses to part with goods and services to support our fund) and of course Mr Pimlott. I would also like to thank everybody who donated an item for the raffle or for the silent auction. Some items were even donated on the evening by attendees who are keen to help. All in all, a fantastic example of people coming together in the spirit of caring and sharing, for the good of our students. The Thankfulness Fund distributes around £3000 per year to our community through purchases to relieve challenging situations – all from staff and their friends and family. This year, I note with some pride that the student council have chosen our Thankfulness Fund as one of the causes that they will support, which will be a welcome boost in these tough times.

The Fund, however, is just one of the many ways the Open's fantastic staff team go above and beyond for their students, so I hope you don't mind me taking this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who works at Open for their fantastic efforts care and support. Whether it is after school clubs and activities, the Easter revision program that we are gearing up for Year 11 now, or the trips, visits and activities which they work so hard to deliver to enrich the curriculum (three trips out this week is not unusual for us!) and yet they all take significant extra effort on the part of staff. So, my reflection is that I am humbled by the awesome efforts of our staff who, every single one, go over and above for their vocation.

I will finish this week by noting that if you are struggling with your finances, please do talk to the pastoral teams. In the first instance they may be able to help you access funds from the local authority and failing that in emergencies the thankfulness fund may also be able to help.

Jon Ford  
Principal

## 1. Truancy

Student expectations in truancy:

- Students will be required to arrive in reception at 10am.
- On entry to the truancy classroom, students will be required to be in full correct uniform.
- Students will also be expected to hand in their phones, which will be kept safe with the member of staff.
- If these expectations are not met, students may be required to repeat their day in truancy.
- In order for students to catch-up, work is provided based on the courses and subjects they are studying.
- If a student is suspended from truancy, it is expected they will repeat and potentially have additional time out of lessons.
- Students will be in truancy between 10am-4pm. This may be amended on the decision of the senior leadership team.

**Mr Richardson**  
**Assistant Principal**

## 2. World Book Day

We had an absolutely fantastic World Book Day celebration yesterday, with students and staff alike getting stuck into all of the activities throughout the day. No one managed to match up all of the at-home-bookshelves to the correct staff members, but we had lots of students who managed to track down all 14 of the staff who were wearing book character badges! Well done guys.

We also had some brilliant and creative entries into our 'Turn a Potato into a Book Character' competition. We had Winnie The Pooh, Mr Bump, Voldemort, a Minion, William Afton and Pikachu complete with a Pokeball!



Our winning entry is...

Voldemort, made by Lily-Mae H. The entries were all too wonderful to choose just one though, so we have runner-up prizes for:

Ellie K, Alfie H, Hanna K, Ruby P and Munashe Z.

We also had a prize raffle for students who took part in the other activities on the day.

Our raffles winners are:

Jack S, Kayden S, Rosie N and Mr Dilley (for the staff prize).

A big thank you to all of the students and staff who helped to make the day so magical and fun!

Mrs Rogers  
Librarian

### 3. Student Leadership

#### World Book Day

What an incredible day and a massive thank you from all the Student Leadership to Mrs Rogers for organising such a fun experience! I am so proud to say the Student Leadership were able to contribute something to this by planning, creating and promoting the "Shelfie-Selfie" competition in the library! These students will all receive 15 reward points for leading this project:

Jack S, Oliver K, Asha P, Elizabeth H, Hattie A and Isaac H.

A big thank you to all the teachers who also made this possible with some wonderful selfies and shelfies!



#### Culture Wall

On Friday our Student Leaders created our first display, using the bricks created in our recent competition to celebrate the great diversity of culture we have in the Academy. Another big thank you to all those who entered.



#### Student Executive Meeting at City Hall

Student leaders on the executive committee have been given an extraordinary opportunity to hold a full council meeting in the centre of democracy in City Hall, Norwich on Monday, 25 March. After the meeting, students and staff will be given a tour of both the City Hall and Sheriff's office!

Mr Dilley  
Teacher

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

#### 4. Year 7

I cannot believe it has been two weeks since we have been back and its only just over two weeks before we all break up for the Easter holidays. Year 7 camp is quickly upon us and as a member of staff that has been for the last 8 years it really is the best week of the school year. So many have already paid for their place, but please if you haven't, do this as soon as you can. If you are struggling with paying, please contact the Norwich Charitable Trust website:

<https://www.norwichcharitabletrusts.org.uk/>

Congratulations to Destiny for getting the best attendance this week and Respect for winning the tutor challenge.

We have been drawn against City Academy Norwich in the semi-final of the community cup, this game will be played on Wednesday, 13, kick off at 3pm, the team sheet will go up Monday. Please come along and cheer on the team.

Congratulations to the girls' netball team, they were 7-4 down and narrowly lost 11-10, but what an effort to make a comeback, we are getting a lot of praise from other schools about their ability and attitude in their games, its lovely to hear.

Top 10 achievers this week are:

Theo L, Bea B, Ayo T, Phoebe B, Ashanti G, Charlie S, Ellie-Mae B, Alessia P, Rowan S, and Kaylen A.

Demarco for playing in the Year 8 game, also for his effort in dance – Mr Wilkinson

Alfie W - improved attitude and application in English and warm, arresting humour – Mr Edwards

Tahlia B - excellent discussion and effort in guided reading – Mr Walters

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

#### 5. Year 8

We've had a real sporting week this week in Year 8 with some great netball and football performances from the Year 8 teams.

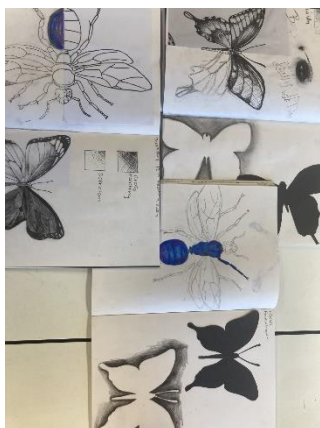
There are a few coughs and colds going around at the moment, so may I remind parents that you are able to sign a form at reception which allows your child to keep medications, such as paracetamol/Calpol in our medicine cabinet, so if students have a headache or feel a little unwell they are able to get some pain relief. With the spring imminent parents can also do this with hay fever medication. All medication delivered by staff is recorded.

Our year assembly this week was around the theme of attendance, so please ask your child what they learned about % time in school. We also gave out our class cups in assembly for the winning tutor groups for attendance and LEARNT points achieved. A massive well done to Destiny who received the attendance cup and Inspiration for the LEARNT points cup.

Some teacher 'shout outs' below for excellent work in class this week:

Angel Gibson, Zinedine Opoku and Amy Juhasz for excellent engagement in English – Mrs Clayton

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



Beautiful insect drawings using pen, pencil negative space from Elysia, Destiny and Charlee – Mr Walters

Our Year 8 football team took on Sprowston in the semi-finals this week and won 2-1. A huge congratulations to: Sam G, Jamie E, Zinedine O, Freddie M, George B, Tom W, Callum E, Callum J, Leo C, Leon B, Jake C, Alfie L and Thomas V.

Miss Trail - A massive well done to our Year 8 netball team. An amazing performance once again in the Norfolk County Cup at Greshams School. The students came 3rd in their group stage which meant they went through to the Plate competition.

The students were faced with a strong team from Aylsham where we ended up with a draw. It went to 3 minute sudden death and we were leading early on, but Aylsham came back so it was a draw again. The students battled hard but on the last 3 seconds of the game Aylsham scored.

A huge congratulations to all students, their resilience throughout this competition was remarkable to watch. All students were a credit to the academy and should be very proud of themselves!

Congratulations Angel G who received the most players player votes from other teams.

Lastly, may I wish you all a wonderful International Women's Day!

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

## 6. Year 9

Top achievement points this week:

Olivier K, Jason J, Tyler A, Alfie S, Somaya R, Ada A, Kaitlin W and Rodrigo F.

Students of the week:

AJ B, Rodrigo F, Somaya R and Harvey E.

Top achievement points since September:

Rianna A, Luke S, Oliver N, AJ B, Brandon S, Samuel O, Eliza S, Elise W, Rodrigo F, Noam M, Max S and Owen B.

Maths shout outs:

Maddie A, Mavrick G and George S excellent effort in Maths for the last 2 weeks - Mrs Power

RS Shout outs:

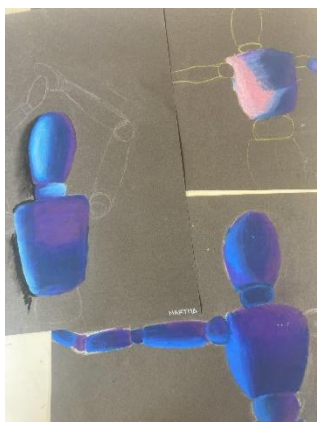
Chloe S – excellent assessment

Kiera P – Excellent in a debate lesson

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



Year 9 for having a mature and thoughtful approach to the work done today for International Women's Day  
- Miss Roberts



Excellent effort from Year 9 with their figure drawings this week, especially Martha, Paige and George – Mr Waters

Reminder – next Wednesday, 13 March is Pathways/Options evening from 5.00-7.00pm. It would be great to see as many Year 9 student and parents as possible on Wednesday evening.

Tuesday, 26 March is Year 9 parents evening where parents and students can meet with class teachers – more information will come out via parent mail the week before.

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

## 7. Year 10

This week has been very exciting, students have been to the careers fair and some of our geography students are visiting the coast today!

I have also been overwhelmed with positive comments from staff this week, please see the feedback below:

Some great work has been achieved in business this week, well done business students! Keep going, only a few more weeks until you hand in your first project for marking - Mrs Tyler

Shout out to my amazing Year 10 food tech class for always working hard, working well in a team and helping each other - Miss Luter

Charley S and Izzy T have been working really hard in health and social care - Miss Whitwood

Rebecca S, Amy T, Maizi Y, Daisy H, Ada A, Georgia B, Oscar B, Olivia C and Ivan B, all outstanding effort on their portraits in Art recently - Mr Walters

Layla D always trying so hard in science, willing to go above and beyond, and helping others in the class - Mrs Molloy



Excellent artwork in progress from Georgia B, Jamie D and Oscar B – Mr Walters

In history Layla D, Theo P, Millie H, Lola B, Rosie G, Abi M, Emilis V, Steven E, Maddison G and Rebecca S for a fantastic attitude to learning. Their dedication, effort and resilience is fantastic. Leah S, Roxanne R, Amelie DC, Keira B, Luke J, Tyler H, Max L, Joshua J and Maizi Y for showing progress, maturity and determination to succeed in history. They are fantastic to have in the class each and every lesson - Mr Pickup

Year 10 have been looking at structures and strength to weight ratio of materials. They have been using card to prototype and test structures ahead of making their spaghetti bridges next week. We have been looking at types of weaves, polymers and smart material structures to inspire success. Special shout outs to Riley B, Joel, Amalie, Tyler, Theo, Charlie and Callum for their focus and resilience when structures didn't work. I look forward to seeing the structures start to come together next week - Mrs Redhall

Leah S - lovely attitude to learning. Lucy B - good effort with her essay writing. Charlie M and Theo P - consistently good effort and progress made in English - Ms Roberts

Riley B - sounds that transported at the Careers Event - Mr Edwards

Student Leadership:

Big shout out to Areen, Viktoria, Ayo and Tyler H who have been so dedicated to the student leadership programme so far. Also, to Steven, George, Amelie, Millie, Theo, Abi, Lola, Max, Riley, David, Dorian, Ayo and Charlie for really taking on the break-even maths work in business this last week – Mr Dilley

Zoe W for excellent German homework and effort in class - Mrs McEvoy

Praise for the following students' excellent engagement in English: Riley B, Brandon P, Dorian G, Mazi Y and Alex P - Mrs Clayton

Big shout out to Year 10 drama students who have now performed their devised piece of drama to both a Year 7 and a Year 8 audience. They've shown brilliant teamwork whilst creating the drama and excellent resilience and perseverance whilst performing. Well done - Mrs Ormosi

And finally, well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week, Abi M, Brandon P, Layla D, Millie H, Mohammed S and Oskar C.

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

## 8. Careers

This week we made our annual Year 10 trip to the Norfolk Showground to attend the Festival of Knowledge (formerly the Norfolk Skills and Careers Fair). Students enjoyed meeting employers and representatives from colleges and apprenticeship providers and some even made some great shots on goal! As Year 10 move closer to Year 11 and making their post 16 choices, this is a great way of finding out about the opportunities available in our area.

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.

The schools outreach organisation, InvestIn are running a programme of free webinars for parents and families to find out about how to get in to professional careers such as law and banking. Take a look at the following to sign up and take part:

<https://investin.org/pages/parent-events>

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

## 9. Year 11

This week the Y11s received their real GCSE exams timetable in an assembly on Wednesday. For any that missed this there will be follow up meetings for information to be shared. It is now around 35 school days before the exams begin. This means all time in lessons with teachers is crucial to help ensure that all achieve their potential. Every day/hour/minute missed is gone and it will not come back. Yes, we know it is tough, stressful and difficult. Yes, we know that some have missed out on learning in the past. But we also know that it is not too late. Make the most of now, put in all the effort possible and benefits will be seen. Trust the teachers, who have done this for 1000s of students over the years, they are experts in helping all achieve their potential. If you feel that any further support is required, please get in contact with the year office.

We have yet again managed to extend the deadline to purchase your leavers' hoodie. It is now 31 March. Please follow the instructions below and if you have any problems, please contact Mrs T Smith.

1. Go to <https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk>
2. Username: 2664
3. Password: cKGdWAZp (you must copy this exactly. Use capital letters where necessary)
4. Complete your personal details, choose colour and size along with any nickname you want to add – don't forget THIS IS AN ADDITIONAL COST.
5. Proceed to payment.
6. If everything is correct and paid for, your hoody will be sent to school addressed to Mrs Smith. They will then be distributed at the end of your year 11 final assembly.

Learnt Points:

For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 150. Well done everyone.

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

Athanasios C, Sienna B, Ellie R, Miguel D, Norah W, Lily T, Hollie S, Lucy NW, Suzy L and Ebon G.



Positive Praise:

Excellent organisation and effort from Lily T, Scarlet B, Emily JC, Lucy W and Ebon G in Art with their crucial exam sketchbooks – Mr Walters

My health and social care group have been working hard, ensuring they complete their homework – Miss Whitwood

Ariya R for effort and achievement in English.

Star C, Preston B, Reece A, Ebon G, Izaak S, Lily T and Lilly B are showing great dedication and determination to make progress in history. Well done and keep it up.

Well done to Year 11 geography students for completing part of their coursework out in the fine city of Norwich this week. You did yourselves and Open proud.

In German Ara R, Ariya R and Gemma S are being generally fantastic.

Well done to the following students who received certificates for completion of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Rosie C, Gemma S, Reece A, Kai M, Ashley B and Jessica B. This is a fantastic achievement - Mrs Pearsall

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 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)

## 11. 6<sup>th</sup> Form

With exams approaching very soon, I know that a number of students are struggling with the stress of it all. Please don't suffer in silence. We have all been there and completely understand. Your teachers will be giving you practical hints and tips, and helping you to get the support that you will need in order to manage your workload and plan your revision time in order to get the absolute best out of these final weeks.

This website may also be useful. Young Minds are the UK leading charity dealing with the mental health of young people: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

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

## 12. Chaplain's Reflection



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

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain