

Open Academy Newsletter – 20 September 2024

Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week it is just a brief thank you and well done for your efforts to come back on top form. The vast majority of students – well over 98% arrive in full correct uniform every morning and although a few need reminders throughout the day, the vast majority wear their uniform with pride as their 'professional dress code' for the day's work.

I have noticed, however, that around Year 9 some students do seem to struggle to keep their shirts tucked in (if I had £1 for every time I say "tuck your shirt in..." we would not be struggling to balance our budget). I therefore wonder whether for some, especially boys, if they might need a belt to help keep their trousers up!

The vast majority of students have got down to lessons well too and our attendance is much closer to pre-pandemic normal levels, at around 95% attendance. A couple of year groups are still getting up to speed. Year 10 and Year 11 have a small number of students that we are working hard to ensure are attending regularly. This is vital if we are to support students to get the best grades they can for their GCSEs, not to mention the benefits of school attendance for student's mental health and well-being. If you or your child are struggling to ensure good attendance, please do talk to us – whatever the issue we will work with you to manage it.

It is vital that whilst students are off sick for any reason, that they are keeping up with work as best as they can. We are working hard to ensure Classnotes are up to date with current lessons, although I know we have had a few technical difficulties as the term has started. At KS3 knowledge organisers are always available on the website, but students in all years should have plenty of homework to get on with even if Classnotes is unavailable.

Homework is another area to celebrate at the start of term. Although our TEAMS system has been a challenge to update and is still teething at the moment, staff are well in the habit of setting regular homework now, so students are developing the habit of getting it done. We know around 80-85% of students complete their homework first time without being chased and that figure is improving all the time. Please help us keep this up – we know how much better students will achieve as they commit to their subject work at home.

This year, we are going back to an earlier 'mock exam' season for Year 11 with PPE1 to be held in November – that pretty much means starting to revise from now on. This is so that the reality check that inevitably follows mock results can happen early enough in the year for students to be able to improve their grade before the real thing.

Our open evenings are rapidly approaching – next week for Year 6 and two weeks later the 6th Form OA6 evening where we will be launching our new OA6 Pathways approach to study programs which we think might be very appealing to our Year 11s. Given the early mock season, we will also use this for our Year 11 study skills event which is always very well attended and our most popular parent partnership event, often with 90%+ parent attendance as we run a variety of sessions to help parents explore the key aspects of supporting children through their final GCSE year. So Year 11 parents please do mark the date of Wednesday, 2 October for both the study skills evening (from 5.00-6.00pm) and OA6 open evening (from 6.00-7.30).

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Kooth

Next Monday during tutor time, students will be introduced to a service which offers support to students. It provides early intervention mental health support to children and young people.

Kooth works with schools and professionals across over 90% of the UK. Please see the attached letter and information and if needed, talk to your child about this.

Mr Richardson (Assistant Principal)

2. Upcoming Assessments

Year 7, 8, 9

EA1 assessments All Subjects Weeks beginning 7 October

Please use knowledge organisers to support revision, making your own knowledge organiser and filling in any gaps.

Year 11/13

Mock exams 1 All Subjects Weeks beginning 18 November

Start revision now! Use revision guides and online resources including past paper questions.

Good luck.

Mr Murray (Teacher and Acting Assistant Principal)

3. Student Leadership

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 and 13
Respect (red)	Mr Crawford Noah W Irmantas S	Mrs Morgan-Hart Finley L Charlie S	Miss Rednall Misha P Angel N	Mr Wilkinson K S-Howell Harry Bates	Mr Stephens TBC	Mrs Ormosi Emily Summers Alana M-Amanda
Challenge (yellow)	Mr. Coyne TBC	Mrs. Thoppil TBC	Mr. Dunne E C Arda K T M	Mrs. McEvoy Lily A Mia P	K. Mundy TBC	
Inspiration (blue)	Mrs Napthen Sapphira J Ava-lily Harvey Leon Wasim Vlad	Mrs Blackburn Isaac H Ayo T	Mr Willgress Peter M Chakib L Ruby P	Mr Edwards Kate S Reece Y	Mr Bradshaw Charlie M Luke J	Mr Philips TBC
Destiny (green)	Mr Kent Paul R Freya D Rylee S	Mr Thurston TBC	Miss Trail Leo C David D Ella S	Miss Luter TBC	Miss Roberts Areen M Maizi Y Tyler H	

Congratulations and thank you to all students who put themselves forward for student leadership this year - we are so proud of them all. It took real bravery, courage and resilience to put themselves up for this and we are very grateful for it. There were some incredible hustings in form times and it was brilliant to see students write and deliver their own speeches on why they should represent their peers in council.

Today the votes took place in each form and we are so pleased to announce our new team (with some votes still being counted). Next week the serious work begins to make this year the best ever for student leadership at Open Academy, providing real opportunities to develop skills and help shape the direction of the Academy and the wider community. We can't wait to get started!

Mir Dilley (Teacher in Charge of Student Leadership)

4. Dance and Drama Clubs



Monday 3.00 - 4.00

Drama Studio (F62)

Open to everyone who wants to Just Dance with the opportunity to practice old dances and learn some new ones!

Speak to Mrs Ormosi for more information

Wednesday 3.00 - 4.00

Drama Studio (F62)

Open to all students and is an opportunity to meet new people, practice your drama skills and work towards performances.

Speak to Mrs Ormosi for more information

Mrs Ormosi (Teacher)

5. Year 8

Year 8 have now completed the two-week rotation of their timetable and getting familiar with it, they should now know when they need their PE kit, ingredients for food tech etc. I recommend making copies for them to put on the fridge or anywhere else suitable.

This week in assembly we looked at the importance of teamwork, not just in the academy, but also in the community and home. I hope there are many examples of great teamwork seen by yourselves. Talking about team work, it was great to watch the Year 8/9 football team take part in the smash up on Wednesday at UEA, coming away with 4 wins and a loss.

The boys' Year 8 football team started this week on a Monday after school, preparing ourselves for the first game of the season on 8 October at home against Hellesdon.

Congratulations to Inspiration on winning the tutor challenge last week.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

6. Year 10

This week's top achievers:
Annalee R, Ayo T, Olivier K, Rusne B, Kieran S and Kieran VW.

Top Achievement points this half term:
Ryan B, Kieran S, Kieran VW, Erica JJ and Alfie S.

Tutors students of the week:
Hayden T, Ria W, Hannah S and Nitka S.

Shout outs:
Can I have a shout out for Alfie S, Ayo and Riley W for effort in speaking in German.

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

Health and social care group, lovely atmosphere in the class yesterday when Mrs Power visited. They are finding creative ways to write notes and take down the key information, which are some essential study skills.

Food tech group were working hard yesterday, I am looking forward to getting into some of their practical lessons.

Textiles group - Some beautiful design work.

Students should be attending school in their correct uniform, including blazer. Uniform can be purchased online and as the weather gets colder students may need a school jumper, all other non-uniform jumpers need to be removed before they come into school.

Have a good weekend.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

7. Year 11

We are pleased to be sharing this week's newsletter with you all. We are highlighting key events, important dates, achievements and general reminders.

Uniform

We have noticed uniform has slipped slightly, all students should be wearing a blazer, school trousers or a skirt. Tracksuit bottoms, hoodies or leggings are not considered correct uniform. If there is a reason why a student cannot wear correct uniform please let the year team know.

Punctuality/Attendance

Being on time and regular attendance are vital to be successful in school. Students are receiving revision support at tutor time. We are noticing a few students arriving to school after 8:40am. Students should be on the hard courts no later than 8.30am/8.35am to be ready for the day. If a student is late twice or more in a week they will be receiving an after-school detention. Being on time and attending regularly promote a positive learning environment, enhance attainment and prepare students for responsibilities for post 16.

Dates for your diary

Study Skills information evening for students and parents - 2 October (5.00-6.00pm)
6th Form Open Evening - 2 October (6.00-7.30pm)
City College Open Day – Saturday, 5 October
PPE (mock exams) - 18-29 November
Prom – Friday, 4 July 2025 at Sprowston Manor

Shout outs

Kian W and Oskar C - excellent working out in maths with all stages of working out shown - Mrs Marsham

Well done to 11SC4 this week. We did an investigation to calculate average speeds between two of our class. Identifying limitations, controls and testing hypotheses - Mr Willgress

Louie K and Oskar C for fantastic and dramatic efforts in English - Mr Edwards

A big shout out to the Year 11 drama students who are aiming to have 60% of their qualification completed by October half term - keep learning those lines guys! - Mrs Ormosi

Well done to the BTEC Sport group for their hard work since starting year 11. They've made some great progress in remembering the definitions of the components of fitness ready for their exam in January - Miss Trail

Well done Amy T and George T in German - Mrs McEvoy

Amazing work from every single Year 11 food tech student - well done for all their hard work, it is looking fantastic so far - Miss Luter

We hope you all have an amazing weekend.

Mrs Pearsall and Mrs Halliday (Heads of Year 11)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

8. Chaplain's Update

Care for the Family website and special event for parents

Please see below a link to a supportive website dealing with family issues and family life amongst other things

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/parent-support/>

A special event is taking place on the 1st of October at King's Centre in Norwich called the "Big Parenting Questions". Please see below for info and a link to the booking website.

We'll explore principles that will equip you to come alongside your child as they try and establish their identity, assert their independence, and find their place in the world.

You'll come away with ...

- *An understanding of the Big Parenting Questions 'Why is everything changing?', 'How can I keep the connection?', 'What can I do to protect them?' and 'Who are they becoming?'*
- *Practical ways to stay connected with your child whilst letting them go*
- *Strategies to keep your child safe, both in the real world and online*
- *Ways to help your child establish their identity and develop independence*
- *Fresh optimism and confidence as well as practical tools and vision for your parenting, your child, and your relationship going forwards*
- *Bonus content to watch at home to help you with even more specific big parenting questions*

Event info

Raising children isn't for the faint-hearted. Just when you think you've got a handle on parenting, your child moves to the next stage of life and many of the tactics you've acquired become less effective, or even obsolete.

As your child gets older, decision-making becomes trickier and there are no clearcut answers to many of their requests. 'Can I have a phone?' 'Can I stay home on my own?' 'Can I have Snapchat?'

You can find yourself in unknown territory, scrambling to find answers and overwhelmed with questions of your own.

How do you know what's best for your child? How can you give them the freedom to grow without letting them wander into chaos?

Big Parenting Questions is a brand-new event for mums, dads, and carers, designed to offer hope and help through this transitional time in a child's life.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/big-parenting-questions-norwich-tickets-866614024877>

Thought for the Week

You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them -
Maya Angelou

God bless.

Mark



Scan for Q&A's
or find on
NANSAs Website.



Norwich Support Group

Supporting Families affected by diagnosed/undiagnosed
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

at Nansa Family Centre

33 Woodcock Road NR3 3TT

**ALTERNATE
MONDAY'S
WEEKLY
TERM TIME
ONLY
10AM-
12PM**

Drop in at any time to
chat with other
parents/carers and
one of our friendly
Family Support
Advisors

Refreshments provided

Need support but can't attend a group?
Complete an enquiry form on the website
and an advisor will get in touch:
www.nansa.org.uk/sensational-families/

