

## Open Academy Newsletter – 11 October 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This week I am in joyous celebratory mood after welcoming Bishop Graham, the Bishop of Norwich, formally to the academy on Wednesday, on the occasion of becoming a Church of England school. Although the official paperwork was signed for the 1 September, the welcome by the Bishop really does make it feel that we now belong to the Church of England family.

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Norwich, our CEO Oliver Burwood and deputy CEO Simon Morley from DNEAT, the chair of the trust board Willy Crawshay and trustee Mark Allbrook, the diocesan representative Paul Dunning, our Diocesan link support DSSO Neil Cully, our chair of governors Nick Plater, teacher governor Anthony Edwards and the Bishop's communication officer Rowan Mantell.

I was incredibly pleased that all our visitors fully engaged with students and staff during their visit throughout a programme of exploration of the academy's work. I hope the students enjoyed meeting our guests as much as they enjoyed meeting us, as the feedback from all has been incredibly positive.

Mr Richardson was particularly pleased that the Bishop agreed to deliver his assembly on the theme of service to Year 10. I was also privileged to hear the Bishop as he led a small worship session for student leaders in the Open Ark, where he demonstrated the use of the Bishops crook!

After the close quarters calm of the worship, we processed the new cross, gifted by the Bishop to the academy for the Open Ark, down into the atrium to be welcomed by our full complement of student leaders. I then invited all classes to come out to the balconies to hear the Bishop's formal welcome speech and the blessing of our crosses. He held his arms wide explaining this was how much God loves us and the cross was a reminder that all of us are loved. Good news indeed!

All our visitors saw that Open Academy is about translating God's love into action. They saw us, engaged with us and encouraged us - I could ask for no more. As the Bishop welcomed us and blessed us we immediately returned to our purpose - the business of learning!

I was so proud of the respectful and positive community that our visitors witnessed. They saw our struggles, heard of our challenges and delighted in our successes. Our change to becoming a Church of England academy does nothing to change who we are or what we are trying to achieve. Our aim remains to become a beacon of hope for inclusive education. With the help and support of the Bishop of Norwich, DNEAT and the Church of England, I now feel confident that we can continue with that aim for many years to come.

Well done everyone - we belong!

Jon Ford  
Principal

## 1. Upcoming Assessments

**Year 7, 8, 9 - EA1 assessments All Subjects STARTED 7 OCTOBER UNTIL HALF-TERM**

Please use knowledge organisers to support revision, making your own knowledge organiser and filling in any gaps. Ask your teacher when you find a topic that you don't understand.

**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. Ideally 30 minutes per night. Make sure you cover all subjects each week.

Good luck!

Mr Murray  
Teacher

## 2. Student Leader Update

It has been an incredibly busy fortnight for our Student Leadership team, with all our Year Councils being elected and holding their first meetings, the first meeting of the Student Executive (where the Head Students of each council and the representatives of the SRB, Unite and our LGBTQ+ group meet with Mr Ford) and our first official event, representing the school front and centre during the Bishop of Norwich's visit on Wednesday, 9 October.

It was an incredible experience for all involved and all of our Student Leaders did you and themselves proud, embodying our core values of leadership, humility and service. Well done all!

Please welcome our new Student Leader body, with our Student Executive members highlighted in purple and our Deputy Head Students in red - thank you so much for everyone who has put themselves forward for this service.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 and 13
<b>Respect (red)</b>	<b>Mr Crawford</b> Noah W Irmantas S Nylah C	<b>Mrs M-Hart</b> Finley L Charlie SL <b>Bianca M (DHS)</b> <b>Stefan C (DHS)</b>	<b>Miss Rednall</b> <b>Misha P (HS)</b> Angel N	<b>Mr Wilkinson</b> K S-H <b>Harry Bates (DHS)</b> Deacon B	<b>Mr Stephens</b> Viktoria	<b>Mrs Ormosi</b> <b>Emily S (DHS)</b> Alana M-A (HS)
<b>Challenge (yellow)</b>	<b>Mr Coyne</b> Layla Light <b>Charlie B (HS)</b>	<b>Mrs Thoppil</b> Hattie-Rose A James O <b>Demarco W (HS)</b>	<b>Mr Dunne</b> Elysia C Arda K Tulisha M Kelsie R-B	<b>Mrs McEvoy</b> Lily A <b>Mia P (HS)</b> <b>Kieran S (DHS)</b>	<b>K. Mundy</b> <b>Ayo T (DHS)</b> Ivan B Rosie G	
<b>Inspiration (blue)</b>	<b>Mrs Napthen</b> Sapphira J <b>Ava-Lily H (HS)</b> <b>Leon V (DHS)</b>	<b>Mrs Blackburn</b> Isaac H Ayo T <b>Ashanti G (HS)</b>	<b>Mr Willgress</b> Peter M <b>Chakib L (HS)</b> <b>Ruby P (DHS)</b>	<b>Mr Edwards</b> <b>Kate S (HS)</b> Reece Y	<b>Mr Bradshaw</b> Charlie M Luke J	<b>Mr Philips</b> Teyla Y <b>Kelsey H (DHS)</b> <b>Alfie S (HS)</b> Ryan H Kornel C
<b>Destiny (green)</b>	<b>Mr Kent</b> Paul R <b>Freya D (DHS)</b> Rylee S	<b>Mr Thurston</b> Neveah B Ellie-Amanda M	<b>Miss Trail</b> Leo C <b>David D (DHS)</b> <b>Ella S (DHS)</b>	<b>Miss Luter</b> Annalee W Tiffany S Rusne B Ria W	<b>Miss Roberts</b> <b>Areen M-A (HS)</b> <b>Maizi Y (DHS)</b> <b>Tyler H (HS)</b>	
<b>SRB</b>	<b>Theo L</b> <b>Lili L</b>	<b>LGBTQ+</b>	<b>Andreas R</b> <b>Lily H</b>	<b>Unite</b>	<b>Ann D</b> <b>Natasha T</b>	

**What's happening next week** - On Friday, 18 October we hold our second Open Academy general election - where all students will get the chance to vote for the new Head Students who will lead the Executive and the whole council.

Mr Dilley  
Teacher in Charge of Student Leadership

### 3. Allotment



Some of our Year 8 and Year 9 students were helping our brilliant volunteer Harriet to clear the vegetable patches in our allotment this week. They removed all of the old plants, found some very tiny carrots and “put the garden to bed” ready for the coming winter.

Next half-term some Year 7s will also be helping out, with the Year 9s acting as gardening mentors.

Mrs Rogers  
Librarian

### 4. Year 7

Bravo Year 7 for another brilliant week at the Open Academy. Attendance is high, LEARNT points are being achieved at a wonderful rate and behaviour points are low – overall you are absolutely smashing it as a year group and should be proud of your achievements so far. Settling into a new school, a new way of life, is not easy and you are grasping the challenge and running with it. We are very proud of you for that. We also continue to receive comments from across the school about how hard working and good you are in lessons and during breaks – well done. Keep up the hard work and keep following those LEARNT behaviours!

#### Key Stats

**Attendance** – 94.2% (National Average 92.9%). This is excellent – over the national average AGAIN. Being in school and learning is so important for your present and future success, so it is wonderful to see attendance so high – keep coming in, working hard and building the success for your future.

**Rewards** – These are awarded by members of staff for different reasons; active listening, engaging fully with the learning, giving great feedback by answering questions, being respectful to all, being present and ready for learning, working as a team. For the last 5 days the total amount of learnt points achieved is **an incredible 479**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing - a great show of positive learning.

#### Praise

We asked members of staff to share some positivity they have witnessed from the year group this week, below is what they have said...

Jayden M doing great in English - Mr Edwards.

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

Nabeel H for excellent substitution work in maths - Mrs Marsham

Noah W, Irmantas S, Nylah C, Layla L, Charlie B (HS), Sapphira J, Ava-lily H, Paul R, Freya Dungar, Rylee Sharp, Leon W-V, Ann D and Natasha T for their incredible leadership and teamwork – not only standing up to be Student Leaders, but also how well they represented us at the school ceremony with the Bishop on Wednesday - Mr Dilley

### **Important Notices/Reminder**

**Year 7 Camp** – Hopefully you have all received your first camp letter this week. This is an incredibly exciting residential experience and we encourage all our Year 7s to attend. The opportunity for personal and educational growth/development is unparalleled and it is a wonderful chance to build friendships through shared experiences. Key details below:

**Dates:** Tuesday, 15 July 2025 – Friday, 18 July 2025

**Location:** Hautbois House, Great Hautbois Rd, Coltishall

**Cost:** £150.00

**Deadline for registration via deposit:** 23 October 2024

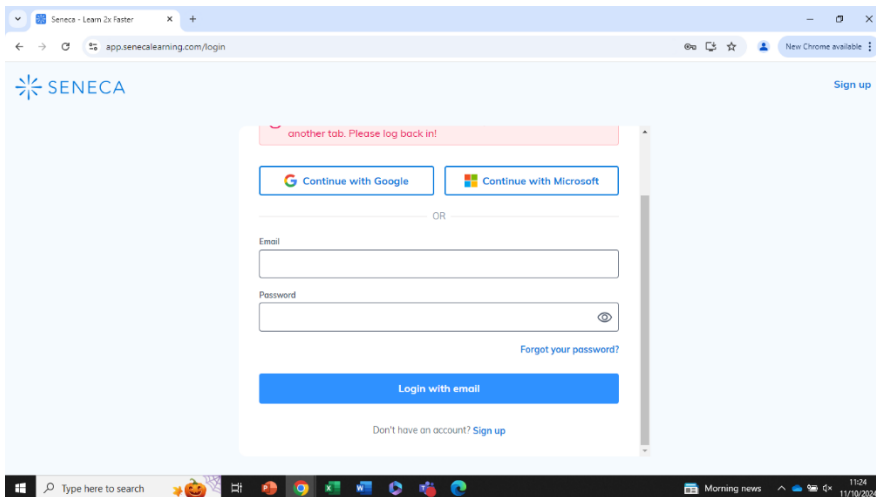
**Payment Plan** - To spread the cost of camp, you can pay in instalments between now and 2 May 2025. The £30.00 deposit payment is due by 22 October. All payments need to be made through Parent Pay, which has been set up for all students in Year 7.

**Homework** - To ensure all homework is recorded and not missed, please could all parents provide their child with a small notebook from Monday please.

**Late Minutes** – Having allowed time to let students settle in, we are now focusing on reducing the number of times students are late to lessons – this is all time away from important learning and we need to ensure all students are where they need to be, at the start of each and every lesson. We would like to remind you that all late minutes will be added up throughout the week and given to tutors to inform the relevant students on a Friday morning. On that Friday, all students with late minutes will need to go to Late Minute Detention at 3pm in the Lecture Theatre.

**Appointments** – If your child has an appointment which means they will be late or must leave early, you must let us have a copy of the appointment (drop off at Reception) or text it to the year office. Please ensure we receive this at the very latest 24hrs before the said appointment.

**Seneca** - Just a little note regarding Seneca. The students have all been auto-registered for Seneca using their school email address. In order to log in and access their homework they need to go onto [www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com) and click login on the right hand side of the page. They will then be prompted to this screen:



The student then needs to click on the continue with Microsoft button and login with their school account. If the student completes homework in hub on a school computer this should log in automatically.

If you wish to know about your child academically, please contact the year team or your child's teachers, and we would be happy to discuss your child's progress! It is only with your help that each student will make the most of their time at Open. Thank you so much for your support, it really makes a difference, and we are so grateful for it.

Mr Pickup and Mr Dilley (Co-Heads of Year 7)  
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 7)

## 5. Year 8

I think it is safe to say that the hot weather is now over. I had to de-ice my car today. On that, please make sure your child is in correct clothes for the change in weather and for PE (black jumper and tracksuit bottoms).

I can't believe half term is already in sight with only two weeks left, this week the Year 8s behaviour were awesome for the visit of the bishop of Norwich on Wednesday.

There was a reduction of lates and truanancies this week, which is a great to see. It is important that all students are punctual to lesson and getting the most out of their lessons at all time.

Remember the Halloween door decoration has started - any donations of old decorations are welcome.

Unfortunately, the Year 8 fixture this week was cancelled by Hellesdon. However, we have a game on Monday, 14 October away at Sewell Park.

Congratulations on Challenge winning the tutor challenge and Inspiration for getting the best attendance for the week.

### Teacher praise:

Shout outs to Mackenzie M for helping me teach the class a new activity in English & Ben S, Elise S & Evie P for their engagement in a difficult new skill – Mrs Clayton



Hayden P again for engagement in lessons and helpful behaviour, Rose N for presentation, Ellie B for attitude to learning and engagement, Ayo T for contributions in lessons - Miss Roberts

Sophia E and Ellie M for an excellent poster on travel to support the learning of exchanging currency – Mrs Marsham

Johnson B did a great piece of writing – Miss Lloret-Blackburn

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

## 6. Year 9

Lots of positive work going on in Year 9 this week.

Angel, Jasmin and Kim really try to take part in my German lessons – Mrs Blackburn

Shout out to Alfie for his engagement in English - I am so proud of the progress he is making. Also, to Chakib for always being keen to participate and answer questions. Finally, Ruby for her consistent hard work and always being in the NOW – Mrs Clayton

Batoul Sadek for excellent descriptive writing and effort with assessment - Miss Roberts

Top achievers this week:

Misha P, Talula E, Ben S, Isabella D and Chakib L.

As the weather gets colder, please be aware that you can purchase black school jumpers to go under blazer. Also, a reminder that joggers are not acceptable. If there are issues with uniform please contact the year team.

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)  
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## 7. Year 10

Students of the week:  
Noam M, Esme W, Jasmin C and Mariia T.

Highest achievement points this week:  
Martina V, Kayden SH, Owen B, Esme W and Ayo T.

Highest achievement points this half term:  
Kieran S, Noam M, Ryan B, Dylain B, Annalee R, Alfie S and Riley W.



Very impressed with some work from Year 10 textiles – Mrs Rednall

Excellent work in Year 10 RS – Mrs Thoppil



Great work in skills for life on emotional well-being and their images on seditions for emotional wellbeing.

A date for your diaries - on Wednesday, 6 November there will be a work experience information evening from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. This will give parents and students all the information they need for organising their work experience placements in July. It is imperative that they get these organised as soon as possible so they get the best from a week in a work placement.

A reminder that there is a Year 10 football fixture at Open on Monday night – Mr Wilkinson

Well done to year 10 Bronze DofE students who completed their presentations last night and have now completed their expedition section – Mrs Pearsall

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

## 8. Year 11

Please speak to your child about arriving on time. Students should be lined up by 8.35am for entry into the building at 8.40am. If students arrive after that time they are missing revision and study skills sessions, in addition, when their college or apprenticeship ask for a reference and attendance information a large number of lates may not be looked on favourably. This could ultimately lead to not being offered a place on courses they have applied for, especially if the course is very popular.

Next week in assembly we have a guest speaker who will be talking about apprenticeships and telling students about the different levels available (including university level) and how to apply. This will be invaluable for all students to be informed of their options for next year and in the future.

As of Monday, any Year 11 student not in correct uniform will be receiving a detention, unless there are extreme circumstances and parents contact the pastoral team. We recommend that students should have more than one skirt or pair of trousers since they are at school 5 days a week for 39 weeks. Please contact the pastoral team with any concerns, we may be able to support with the purchase of uniform items.

Shout outs:

All Year 11 drama students are amazing, but big shout out this week to Riley B and Buba who are working really hard to learn all their lines. Good luck in your performance next week guys - Mrs Ormosi

Year 11 En5 English for being the best class for me teaching and them understanding and being engaged in 'Blood Brothers' - Mr Edwards

Year 11 HSC class working really hard in preparation for their PSA which starts on Monday, 2 October - Mrs Halliday

Kacie W and Thomas H, both fantastic in science this week - Mr Stephen

I am so proud of how many Year 11s have recently come to see me to ask questions about 6<sup>th</sup> Form and ask for application forms. Would be an absolute pleasure to have them next year - Mrs Molloy

Thank you to Riley B for his expertise in taking photographs when The Bishop of Norwich visited on Wednesday - Mr Ford

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

## 9. Chaplain's Update

### Care for the Family Website.

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/>

### Thought for the Week



Mark



## A Norfolk Steps Approach – Understanding Teenage Brain Development



To reflect on behaviours that you are seeing -  
what this could mean and how we can respond to it.

Looking at a range of techniques that could support your teenager.

Empowering teenagers to communicate and understand their feelings.

Exploring how to repair and restore relationships.

**TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> October -6.30-7.30pm**

Opportunities to ask questions and find further support

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 376 482 324 208

Passcode: LQb3Ta

