

Open Academy Newsletter – 13 December 2024

Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome to this week's newsletter which is the last full newsletter of the term as I usually just send a merry Christmas wish on the last day of term.

I will start with a few reminders regarding the last day of term. This year we will be observing all our usual Christmas traditions.

The last day will be a non-uniform day, this year in aid of two beneficiaries. Half of the proceeds will go towards the Y11 prom. During the year we aim to raise as much as we can to reduce the price of the tickets for everyone. We do this as a whole Academy every year, and each Y11 in turn then benefits, so from that alone I encourage you if you can to donate at least £1 for the non-uniform day.

The other half of the funds raised will go towards a certificated program for student leaders to train and support them to become peer mentors. Not all student leaders would want to do the program, but at around £12 per student and with over 60 student leaders this year, we will need to raise funds so that we can give the option.

So, Last day – non-uniform – check!

Next a reminder that we will all finish at 1pm. An early opportunity for Christmas shopping perhaps for some and some necessary staff team building time for us. Lunch will be collectible during normal breaktime – Free School Meal lunches will be available to collect at break too, and we will be sending the students off at 1pm. Please note that KFC do not serve school children during the day without their parents!

Now then, Last day, non uniform – check, close at 1pm – check – finally for Y7 Lessons and carols at St Francis! I am delighted to say that we will be re-starting our tradition of taking the whole of Y7 to St Francis Church, just around the corner from the Academy after registration on Friday morning – last day of term. Unfortunately, there won't be space for families to join in, but they will be treated to 5 lessons of the Christmas story and they will get to sing 6 different Christmas carols. As a Church of England School now it seems even more fitting that the students get to see the inside of the church. There is no communion though and we expect all students to attend, although students who do not wish to play an active part can just watch and listen. Please do let us know if you have any concerns regarding this trip out. The last time we took Y7 they absolutely loved it and many said that it really got them in a Christmas mood! After the wonderful Christmas service last week, which really kicked Christmas off for many of us, it will be great to share that festive cheer with the whole of Y7 on Friday.

As always there are lots of things going on as we approach the end of term – geography making use of weather windows to complete fieldwork, rewards trips and trips for sport and creative activities, visitors and celebrations, so we will be flat out right up until the end of term.

I hope your plans and activities are also going well and I hope like us you are looking forward to a season of festive cheer too.

And with that – I'll let you enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Student Leadership

Charity events next week...

Next week our Charity Committee will be holding a bake sale and sweeties in the jar competition (**THURSDAY 19th - break and lunch**) and non-uniform day (**FRIDAY 20th**) to raise money for the Student Leadership national qualification, the Year 11 Prom and the Thankfulness Fund. **If any students/parents would like contribute any bakes - homemade or shop bought for the sale then we would be very grateful!** Students contributing should bring in things either on Wednesday or Thursday morning next week - bringing them to Mr Dilley in S58.

Sports Leader House Competitions...

Our Sports Leaders will launch their first House Competition in PE lessons next week! Their mission is to raise the status and awareness of our house system and bring the spirit of healthy competition and teamwork front and centre in the Academy.

Mentor and Prefect Duties...

This week saw the launch of Prefect and Mentoring duties. These are excellent opportunities to develop students leadership skills and to carry out service designed to help all members of the community. We are so proud of the start our Leaders have made and are excited to see their progress in the coming months.

Student Leader Hamper Competition...

Just a reminder to all Student Leaders that there is a Student Leader hamper competition on at the moment - with the Year Council/form producing the most hampers receiving a special hamper for their council to enjoy as a thank you.

2. Year 7

Well done Year 7 for another brilliant week at the Open Academy! Attendance is high, LEARNT points are being achieved at an excellent rate, and behaviour points are low – overall you are doing a wonderful job as a year group and should be proud of your achievements so far! We are very proud of you! 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 – 92.3% (National Average 92.2%). 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 5 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 **a brilliant 750**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is 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...

“Freya D and Imogen W have done very well this week” Mrs McEvoy

“Fahren K - For excellent Teamwork in maths, leading the starter questions from the front of the class”. Mrs Marsham

“The Dyslexia Gold group in the mornings have been incredible this week all working really hard and making huge progress! 😊” Miss Haynes

“A massive well done to Year 7 Netball Team who won 5/5 of their matches this week. Lots of development within the team on their passes and interceptions. Overall fantastic team work and lovely netball played. Thank you to the parents who came and supported!” Miss Trail



“Jayden M - for his attitude, willingness to learn and general, inspiring good nature”. Mr Edwards

Important Notices/Reminder

- **Year 7 Camp** – A reminder that there are still spaces available for year 7 Camp. We would love every year 7 to be a part of camp this year. Thomas Anguish are aware of the trip and happy to support, so please get in touch with them if you need financial assistance with paying for the trip. Please remember to continue to pay for the trip via parent pay.

If you have any questions please do let me know by emailing bethany.whitwood@open-academy.org.uk
There will be a “packing list” and more details coming out in the new year.

- **Late Minutes** – We continue to focus on reducing the number of times students are late for 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

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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.
- **Hamper collections** – Please remember to bring in something for your tutor group hampers! The Student Leaders are leading this and there is a prize for the Tutor group who make the most hampers – so if you can bring in something to donate – it would be very much appreciated.

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.

Best wishes and have a wonderful weekend.

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

3. Year 8

Only 5 more get ups until we break for Christmas holidays, it was great seeing so many students in their Christmas jumpers yesterday, although my Home Alone one was probably the best.

Those that went to the panto yesterday had a great time watching Aladdin with Mrs Ormosi and Mrs Roe.

Next week will be a year 8 rewards assembly for those that have applied themselves and shown great effort this term.

Can you have a check and chat with your child to make sure they have correct uniform please, if there are ever issues with the uniform please get in touch with the year team in the morning.

I have personally confiscated many energy drinks from year 8's this week, they are not permitted and will be taken away, I feel a lot are possibly buying them in the mornings without parents.

Congratulations again to destiny for winning the tutor challenge and best attendance this week.

Teacher praise

Brogan M for excellent Teamwork in maths, leading the starter questions from the board.

Teja and Jomilojou for Spanish

Had a great lesson with year 8 this morning due to extra lesson on life beyond school and after looking at careers setting up unifrog profile and doing their skills quizzes on there – Mrs Power

Massive praise to these guys for starting their Student Mentoring so well! Very proud of them today and yesterday - they worked with their mentees so well and showed such a level of responsibility!! Nevaeh-Jane, Ayomikun T, Bianca M, Ellie-Amanda M, Finley L

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

4. Year 9

Nearly there! Can I just start with saying how proud myself and Mr Hawkins are of the year group this term. They have shown real dedication in lessons and getting into school every day, even if they are a bit under the weather. This all bodes well for their future and sets them up really well for GCSEs next year. So thank you for your support with this.

We have our second rewards assembly on Monday and I have received lots of nominations from teachers for all subjects. There is a real buzz about this so please ask your child about it. If they miss out on a certificate this time there are still plenty of opportunities to get one in the spring so they shouldn't be discouraged.

Just a reminder on uniform, we have lent out a number of ties over the last half term and some of these have not been returned. If you have one at home can I ask that it is brought back to the year office so we can have spares to use when needed.

All details for the uniform is on the school website but can I once again remind you that it is compulsory for all students to wear it correctly. This ensures that students are in professional dress and ready for learning. Skirts must be worn if a student is wearing leggings and blazers must also be worn. Long sleeve undershirts are only acceptable in white.

Some praise this week-

Chakib L, Noah C, Samuel G, Iris B, Hanna K, Ella S, Charlee M, Isabella DP, Misha P, Ehtan T, Ben S, Thomas W, Jensen O, David D, Taylor A, Jake C, Lucas B, Jensyn P, Jacob C, Conner P, Kara M, Shanelli K, Jennifer B, Lincoln W. These students have been absolutely fantastic in their learning so far in History. They are a joy to have in the classroom and long may this remain. Mr Pickup.

Just wanted to say from myself and Mr Wilkinson, Year 9 boys were amazing during their gymnastics unit this half term, they really applied themselves and were able to progress through all the apparatus. Mr Lambert

Maths set 4 have been working really hard this week, Mega impressed with their attitude- Mrs Marsham

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

5. Year 9 into 10 GCSE Option Process

The decisions your child makes about their course options can significantly impact the direction of their life over the next few years. Therefore, they need to consider their choices carefully.

At Open, we are dedicated to providing a wide range of courses, allowing for maximum flexibility in their selections. Attached is a document outlining the timeline for this process. Please take note of the key dates and more information will follow soon in the new year.

Merry Christmas
Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

6. Upcoming Assessments

Year 10: PPE1

All Subjects

Week Beginning 13th January 2025

Keep revising! Use revision guides and online resources including past paper questions. Ideally 30 minutes per night. Make sure you cover all subjects each week.

English: A Christmas Carol

Maths: All topics covered to date (2 papers - calculator and non-calculator)

Science: Topics C1, C2, B1 and P1 (See Teams Classnote for content breakdown)

Geography: Changing Landscapes, Coastal Landscapes, River Landscapes, Part of Weather & Climate

History: Crime & Punishment, 1250 to today

Languages: All content taught to date

Food: Macronutrients, micronutrients, Nutrition requirements for different groups, Health and Safety

DT: Carbon Footprint, Methods of Production, Material Properties, Papers & Boards, Maths based questions, Automated machinery

Textiles: Practical skills assessment

Sport: Coursework Exam - Component 1, Task 1-3

RS: Christian Beliefs, Marriage & the family

Computer Science: Computational Thinking, Binary, Programming

Art: Practical skills assessment

Photography: Editing of photographs

Use resources on Teams Classnote to support your revision. Please see video on how to revise which can be shared with your student.

Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed.

Good luck!

Mr Murray (Teacher)

7. Year 10

As we approach Christmas its really important students are in school on time - this week in an important week in tutor time, and a higher number of students are late to school, the consequence of this is that they have missed going through the Year 10 exams timetable, planning revision and looking at revision techniques with their tutors.

A copy of the timetable is below for the week beginning 12 January where all of year 10 students will be in exams for all of their subjects.

PPE1 GCSEs - Year 10 - Jan 2025						
WEEK A	PERIOD	Mon 13th Jan	Tues 14th Jan	Wed 15th Jan	Thurs 16th Jan	Fri 17th Jan
9:05-10:05	1	Geography 1 hr	Year 10 German Writing 1 hr (76)	English A Christmas Carol 1 hr	Food, D&T Com Science H&S Care 1 hr.	Photography & Textiles Periods 1,2, & 3
10:05-10:30	Y10 Break					
10:30-11:30	2	Maths Non Calculator 1 hr 30 mins	Science All subjects Bio, Chem, Phy 1 hr 30 min	Religious Studies 1 hr	Maths Calculator 1 hr 30 mins	
11:30-12:30	3			Art Periods 3,4 & 5		
12:30-13:00	Y10 Lunch					
13:00-14:00	4	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 1 S10	History 1 hr	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 2 S10	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 3 S10	
14:00-15:00	5					

Exams week - Students need to be in tutor time to register and taken to the exam rooms before 9am ready to start the morning exam so they get a full breaktime at 10:05. being late to school will disrupt the exams for all the other students already sat in the hall.

Students of the week:

Owen B, Lily A, Tiffany S, Olivier K

Highest achievement points this week:

Zena A, Tyler A, Zak L, Sasha MP, Kate S, Eliza S, Kayden SH, Mariia T

Highest achievement points this term:

Ryan B, Kate S, Riley W, Kieran S, Martina V, Dylain B, AJ B, Alfie S, Kayden SH, Esme W, Olivier K

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

Y10 Careers

Calling Parents and Carers of Year 10 students please continue in your encouragement of their search for a work experience placement. The involvement of family and friends is often really crucial to students finding a placement which works well for them We have got off to a good start with lots of keenness and many forms handed in for diverse workplaces such as primary schools, estate agents, butchers shops, software and games developers, electronics manufacturers and early years care. Well done! A reminder that once students have their Green Forms completed they should return them to Dr Davies in S12.

8. Year 11

This week students received their PPE results. Some will be pleased and some will be disappointed. It is important for all students to realise that the grades they have received can change between now and the summer exams. With good attendance in lessons and hard work grades will improve. Teachers are delivering the subject content and also helping students with revision techniques. However, it is also

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important for students to understand that grades can also go down if they are not attending lessons or are not revising. If they worked hard for the PPE's and then relax and stop putting in the work, grades will certainly drop.

It is not too late to start revising and I cannot recommend highly enough the hub sessions delivered voluntarily by teachers after school. It is hard to revise but hub sessions are a great starting point where students can ask for support and ask teachers to cover specific topics that they are struggling with.

Week A					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	History/Geography	Applied intervention Art and Photography	English	Maths	Science and Applied Intervention
Week B					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	History/Geography	Science	English	Maths	German and Applied Intervention

Science Revision:

Week 3: 14th Dec – 20th Dec

- **Biology:** Organisation: heart, lungs, and blood vessels.
- **Chemistry:** Chemical changes: reactivity series, acids and bases.
- **Physics:** Electricity: circuits, current, and resistance.
- **Tasks:**
 - Watch revision videos (BBC Bitesize/Seneca).
 - Complete one set of topic-based past questions.

Computer Science Revision:

To help aid revision for our computer science we have put together a revision timetable to help aid them in their studies ready for their summer exams. Mr Willgress

Week 1: 13th – 20th Dec 2024

Topics:

- **J277/01 (Computer Systems):**
 - Systems architecture: CPU components, fetch-execute cycle.
 - CPU performance: Clock speed, cache size, cores.

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- Embedded systems: Examples and characteristics.
- **Tasks:**
 - Create flashcards for CPU components and their roles.
 - Draw and label the fetch-execute cycle.

Well done to the year 11 students who planned and ran the Y7 school disco, it was a huge success and raised £346 which all goes to reducing the cost of Prom!! More events to follow. A big shout out and thanks to Mrs Lamb for the planning and facilitating of this event.

Also on the subject of saving money for Prom, we have a large selection of dresses and suits available to borrow, please ask your child to speak to the year team if they would like to look through these and try some on.

Shout outs

Ivan B, Charlie M, Tyler P - continued hard work and mock exam performance. Mr Mundy

Particular shout out to Zoe & Daisy, who recorded their piano duets today, well done!! Mrs Morgan-Hart

Well done to Areen, Ajay, Nodari, Jacob and Bubacarr for playing against Thorpe C, in the 6th form team on Tuesday please. Mr Wilkinson

Lola -Well done with all your extra effort in maths and all the extra revision you are doing.

Jacob M - Well done with your outstanding effort in maths which has gained you confidence to answer more questions. Mrs Marsham

Year 11 have been experimenting with making more sustainable alternatives to materials for their NEA. We used the orange peel, apple and potato skins that we dehydrated last week and trialled heat pressing it with oils, reused plastics, tea leaves and adhesives. Well done to Joel, Oscar B, Riley B, Amelie, Jessie, and Asha for their resilience and thinking hard about how to change their experiments based on outcome. They were confident changing the variables of head, quantity and size of material. Mrs Rednall



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

9. Safeguarding Support over the holidays

A number of flyers and leaflets are attached should you require any support over the holidays.

10. Chaplain's Update

Christmas Hampers 'Random Acts of Kindness'



This year we are giving out Christmas hampers as random acts of kindness to our community again. Students are aware of this in school, but we would appreciate your support in this too. Below is an item list of goods that can be donated for the hampers so please feel free to send items into the academy with your child.

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Please note, it is very important that we stick to the hamper list. Perishable good vouchers can be given as well as donations. The last day for items/donations will be Tuesday, 17 December. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

Christmas Hampers,

what to bring 2024

- Perishable Food Vouchers
- Stuffing
- Shloer/Red or White
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin Of Chocolates
- Biscuit/Shortbread Tin/
Packets
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce
- Gravy Granules
- Crisps
- Tinned fruit/Peas/Potatoes



Thought for the Week

As we approach Christmas and all the busyness of it, some of us may be looking forward to it, for some it may be a difficult time. When Jesus came to this earth as a baby boy, one of the names given to Him was **Immanuel**, which means "God with us". So, during this busy season of festive fun, joy and happiness, maybe for some a season tainted with difficulty or sadness, God has promised to be with us, He walks with us and provides peace and is only a prayer away.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless.

Mark