

Open Academy Update 25 September 2020
For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

I am pleased to report that we continue to remain fully open and that everyone, both staff and students are doing all they can to keep our community safe.

Wet Start

We tested our 'wet start' processes on Thursday morning in preparation for bad weather to come and so we were neither surprised, nor concerned at today's drenching. It is very difficult for us to manage children inside the building before the start of school so we would ask that, if at all possible, they try to time their arrival for after 8.25am. Luckily some staff were able to help this morning and we got them in immediately, but this may not always be possible and there are few places for them to shelter in the morning.

Disabled parking spaces arrangement change from Monday

Given the challenges of moving students around across the front of school and a number of near misses in the car park this morning, we will be closing off the disabled parking spaces at peak times as there is too much potential for mishap. Please drop your children off around the perimeter of the car park or in the bus stop areas if you are able.

The disabled spaces will remain, but only for the drop off or collection of students with a disability by prior arrangement with the academy. Please speak to Mrs O'Kelly or Mrs Chapman if you will need to use the spaces and we will arrange for you to be let through the barriers. Outside peak times, disabled parking will be allowed in the spaces as usual.

Safe Behaviour – lunchtime seating

We are so proud of our students rising to the challenges of COVID-19 yet the risk nationally continues to grow. In order to be able to track and trace if anyone were to get ill, we are asking that at lunchtimes when they are indoors, they sit at the tables as they are laid out in 6 or 8 student blocks or tables. This will minimise the number of affected households if we have to recommend isolation due to the virus so please do encourage them to stick to the expectations when in the building.

Thank you

Finally, huge thanks once again for supporting the students to attend their learning hub sessions – almost all required students are regularly attending now and we hope to see some significant progress for them over the coming months. Key stage 3 students are currently undergoing baseline testing at the moment to give us a clear idea of where they are with their studies at the moment – please do reassure them that this is just establishing a baseline and there is nothing for them to worry about. We will look again at their performance towards the end of the year to check that they are progressing as we would hope

Jon Ford
Principal

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1. Year 7 News

It's been an exciting week this week with leadership roles announced. We were overwhelmed with the strength of the applications and pleased to see so many of the students wanting to represent the Academy. It was a difficult choice, congratulations to:

Head Boy – Luke Jones

Head Girl – Isioma Onchukwu

Deputy Head Boy – Liam Kerr

Deputy Head Girl – Asha Kandola

The other roles have been issued in the forms.

It's been another great week with lots of achievements points:

C7 115

D7 526

I7 65

R7 291

Congratulations to D7 who have the most this week.

- Students who are entitled to free school meals need to make sure they do not spend all this allowance at break and then leave themselves with zero balance for lunch. Several students have made this mistake and when they go to pay for their lunch choice, they are unable to, resulting in food wastage.
- All students should now have access to TEAMS and have been shown how to access this in their lessons. If any students are having difficulties logging on they must let their tutor know on Monday.
- A reminder that students who ride their bikes to school please can they remember to dismount before they enter the school gate and walk the bikes across to the bike sheds. We ask for this to ensure their safety, as the weather turns to become more wintery there is an increase of traffic in the car park.
- Playfighting is not allowed at social time. Several students have had to be reminded a number of times this week. Continued playfighting will result in detentions at social time.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7

Mrs Lamb - Assistant Head of Year 7

2. Year 8 News

Hello from the Year 8 Team!

We would like to start this week with a big congratulations to our new student leaders for Year 8 – Bailey Salter, Elsie Auger, Adam Lowe and Gemma Smith! They will be officially introducing themselves in next week's newsletter and will let you know of all the exciting plans for the term ahead. Prefects and student council members will be announced next week.



A big improvement on uniform this week for which we are very grateful – please continue to check your child's uniform as they leave in the mornings and send them in with a note if there are any issues. Also, as the weather gets colder and wetter, please encourage students to wear coats or bring umbrellas to avoid a soggy start to the day!

A gentle reminder that students shouldn't be using phones whilst at school. We are seeing an increase of students calling and texting during school hours which is against the school policy and can distract them from their learning, so some encouragement on keeping phones in bags when lessons begin will be gratefully appreciated.

As the weather continues to deteriorate, so too does our attendance which currently sits at around 91%. This is a crucial time to be in school and so we would like to see that figure start to rise as we settle back in school life. Please keep us posted of any developments with your child's health.

To end on a positive note however, we would like to congratulate the following students for exceptional work and effort this week:

Ebon Gossland, Chloe Blackwell, Mayling Thomas, Liliana Read, Elisha Jones, Benjamin Coe and Lois Lincoln!

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8

Ms Moss and Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

3. Year 9 News

It's been a great second full week back, Uniform is improving every week so thank you for all your support from home, let's keep working hard to keep it improving. With the forecast being wet for the foreseeable future, Year 9 will meet in the dance studio before tutor time at the beginning of the day. We do not expect the students to be at the Academy before 8.25am but understand this cannot always be avoided due to bus timetables, dropping off due to work commitments etc, but where possible they need to follow this time.

Please keep encouraging learning hubs, many have been well attended after school and we want to thank the students and parents for their commitment to their learning.

Top achieving students this week are:

Georgina Barnes, Atanas Kyurkchiev, Summer Maccormack, Jayden Muzembe, Leo Davison, Nathan Freeman, Paige Berry, James Hoye, Ronan Orr and Josh Wilsea.

Head boy/girl, prefects, community lead and environmental lead will be announced in next week's newsletter

All Year 9 will be doing the Couch to 5km in their PE lesson up to half term. I have set 3 targets for all Year 9 to aim for, one for great effort, another for completing the Couch to 5km fully and lastly, those that go above and beyond and complete a longer distance. I look forward to giving out as many certificates as possible after half term.

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

4. Year 10 News

Another great week for Year 10, with positive behaviour and effort levels remaining really high. We had a chance to practise our wet weather start to the day this week and in the main this worked really well. May I remind parents that students should not be arriving to school prior to 8.25am and that as soon as they arrive to school they need to remove outer coats and have their blazers on.

House points stand at 312 this week and well done to all of those who have excellent weekly totals! The week's top five are:

Katie Lambert-Sharp	9
Leo Hughes	9
Noah Scott	8
Kasey Richards	8
Charlie Thompson	8

We continued our new hub lessons this week, it's been so great to see the students attending and working hard.

Big congratulations to those students who were involved in the Undercover Writers Project last academic year. Those that submitted a story received a copy of their work in a book of all the entries (a copy of which will be kept in the school library). Special congratulations to Mackenzie Culley who was selected by a panel of experts as one of this year's winners! Only a handful of students from across the region were chosen as winners, so this is a real

accomplishment. The students involved were: Jess Druce, Freddie Goodson, Amber Cleverley, Freya Tilney, Maddy Tilney and Tia Lawson.

I have also had the pleasure of announcing our new Year 10 Leadership Team! Please find the new positions below:

Head Student Leaders
Izzy Taylor & Jack Teasdale

Deputy Head Student Leaders
Mackenzie Culley & Jess Ramm

Prefects
Challenge - Leah Walker, Lola Cook, Kamile Reginate, Scarlet Taylor, Kaden Dixon, Gabe Morgan & Alfie Deadman
Inspiration - Faith Berry, Jordan Page & Noah Scott
Destiny - Charlie Thompson, Maisie Squires, Chloe Warner & Emma Tyrrell
Respect - Mia Baxter, Lauren Duff, Lily Keating, Lucy Healey, Leo Hughes, Alex Hughes & Ema Stuikyte

Open Voice
Challenge - Adam Edmondson & Joseph Sizer
Destiny - Ella Ash & Kaloyan Aleksiev
Inspiration - Dom Benga-Bante & Faye Lincoln
Respect - Hayden Warrior

Environment Reps
Chloe Smith, Luke Tyler & Maisie McCormack

Reading Ambassadors
Amelie Treacy, Katie Lambert-Sharpe, Sugar Chapman & Jess Waterfield

Charity Reps
Aimee Walters, Tia Lawson, Exauce Mushengezi, Kasey Richards & Jess Druce

Sports Reps
Ini Datocampul, Annie Tipple, Jacob Coe & Sofia Marinova

Creative Reps
Emily Perrett, Estela Gudzikaite (DT), Zak Pitts (Music), Bonnie Billington-Howes (Art) & Amber Mawby (Drama)

IT Reps
Tom Jordan & Adrian Colcer

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10
Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

5. Year 11 News

First of all I would like to praise the students who have been attending the hub after school. We are absolutely delighted with an attendance of around 97% of those in school that day taking advantage of our recovery curriculum. They are adjusting to their slightly longer day well and I am pleased to say that every student that I have spoken to really seem to appreciate the extra support that staff are providing.

Attendance at school has been lower this week and I feel that this is due to our dampened immune systems now being challenged. As a parent myself I am being more cautious about every sneeze and cough at home as I am sure you are. The main Covid indicators to look for are a persistent cough, loss of taste and a temperature.

This week we have definitely seen a change in weather. Students will not be expected to stand lined up in the rain but can we have students arrive as close to 8.25am as possible on wet days to ensure we can staff indoor spaces.

This week our top 5 students gaining achievement points are
Caitlin Barber
Samuel Leverett
Leo Lisboa
Kelsey Wellard
Victoire Mushengezi

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11
Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

6. Sixth Form News

Welcome to a very wet and windy Friday newsletter!

Private Study

This is just a quick reminder regarding private study. No one should be signing out for private study unless you have:

- **Emailed me with a list of blocks that you have PV on your timetable and**
- **I have approved this with your tutor and also Mr Ward**

Once this has been authorised and approved, I will email you back. Please do not assume that just because you have emailed me that you can sign out. Please also note that you will not be permitted to leave the academy for PV if you are in the hub.

NCS

Year 12 have been coming up with some excellent ideas for their community action projects. I am really excited to see how they will all pan out! If anyone has any newspapers/old sheets that they no longer need and can be used for decorating, please could you bring them to G14 so that I can pass them onto the NCS team.

Leadership roles

We have almost got all nominations for our leadership roles, which include head boy and head girl. We will be interviewing next week. Details will be out shortly!

Shout outs

Shout outs this week to the following students:

Emily – awesome filleting of a fish in biology
Elliot – great work on biology practical write up
Matt – great work in biology practicals
Kawski – great knowledge about virus' in biology
Marni – working like a trooper in psychology
Mia, Elli, Cody – excellent work in art
Harrison – hard work and great attitude in training
Aiden – starting a new part time job coaching football and tennis
Sam – winning the OA6 quiz this week
Solomon – amazing progress in IT
Ellie & Cody – awesome work in completing the coding challenge

Phew – what an amazing end to the week! Proud of you all, as always! Keep up the great work OA6!

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

7. Careers

The online careers platform Unifrog is now available to Year 9 and 10 students. All students will have received an email this week asking them to sign up and set up an account with their Open Academy email addresses. Unifrog is a fantastic resource packed with impartial and up to date information about subject choices, college courses and apprenticeships and there are lots of great videos from young people sharing their experiences. There are also guides to study skills, time management and well being to name just a few topics! Please encourage your child to sign up and make a start by completing the Personality test on the Home page, it will given them lots of ideas for their future career! Any problems with signing up, contact Ms Davies – Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form.

Whilst Covid restrictions continue there are a number of great 'virtual' careers opportunities available to students. Please explore the links below:

Careers & Coffee. This is a livestream **looking at career journeys and different professions**. As this is live on YouTube, the Careers and Enterprise Company encourage people to watch and pose questions to the guests.

Upcoming episodes: Showcased on the Norfolk LEP's YouTube account Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 13:00. - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMQWGt6SdsGQF-KJCq7JTwQ>

Pathways to a career using Chemistry: Sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry this booklet will help students to see what a career in chemistry has to offer. Including tips for employability. - <https://nationalcareersweek.com/your-pathways-to-a-career-using-chemistry/>

NatWest Dream Bigger: NatWest have launched #DreamBigger to broaden students' career horizons and develop their awareness of entrepreneurship as a possible future career. Female students aged 16+ are welcome to join DreamBigger's weekly online workshops. - <https://www.business.natwest.com/business/business-services/women-in-business/dream-bigger.html>

Ms Davies
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

It may seem very early to be considering this, but if you have a child in Year 11, you and they may be considering next steps. There are lots of choices after Year 11 and now is a great time to consider them.

Sixth forms and colleges will have information on their websites about their institution and the courses they offer. www.helpyouchoose.org will give you and students information about different options after Year 11. If your child is interested in sixth form or college, they can search for different courses and find out which institutions offer these.

If your child is studying in sixth form, you will no doubt have heard the words **UCAS** and **personal statement**. If your child is thinking about going to university, they are most likely to apply through UCAS (a centralised system) when they are in year 13. Unless you are applying for Oxford, Cambridge or most courses in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine, the deadline for applications is 6pm on 15th January 2021. Your child can apply for up to 5 choices and will be able to see how their application is progressing through UCAS Track, an online system.

Help is available in school for you and your child when you are considering next steps. I am also offering virtual meetings for sixth form students each Friday, please contact Ms Davies for further information.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay
Neaco Higher Education Champion

8. PE

Thank you to everyone who has been able to bring the correct PE kit to every lesson since we have returned. It has been great to see so many in their white PE tops and black shorts/tracksuit bottoms. We would encourage your child to bring a towel and separate re-useable bag to each lesson to help when the weather is wet.

You may know that many of our students have been taking part in some fitness lessons using the NHS app 'Couch to 5K'. This started with Year 9 and soon will also be started by Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 groups.

It has been great to see so many engaging in these lessons and there has even been some competition between friends with how many laps have been completed. Keep up the good work!

The PE department would like to encourage all of you to download the free 'Couch to 5K' app and make this a family activity which can be completed at any time and even in any place. It is easy to use, simply follow the instructions, select a coach to guide you through the programme and get moving. Not only is it great for our physical health but great for our mental health too.

Mr Richardson
Teacher

9. Library News & Events

A reminder that students can request library books through our online library catalogue. Students can access our online catalogue via this link <https://u007886.microlibrarian.net/> or by using the link available in their year group areas in Teams. Students have been emailed their log-in instructions and a user guide is also attached. It is important that students have a reading book with them every day so if students are currently without a library book, we encourage them to log in as soon as possible to request a book. If there are any issues or they need further support, they can email Miss Ling the school librarian.

There are still a number of books on loan to students from last academic year. Can we please ask for students to have a good look for these at home and return them as soon as possible. If students are unsure what books they have on loan, they can check their current loans on their online library account. Thank you for your support.

Students who would like to use the library after school must sign up in advance. A timetable of afterschool activities is attached. [Please use this form to sign-up.](#)

Miss Ling
Librarian

10. Attendance

Well done to tutor groups 1213LWK, I7RBR and SRB8EOK who have attained the highest attendance for week 14 September 2020 to 18 September 2020.

Congratulations to the 421 students who have achieved 100% attendance for week ending 18 September 2020.

Attendance Lottery – Many congratulations to Jack Slater, tutor group: D8LGA who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for the abovementioned week.

For all absences, please kindly notify reception or your child's year office. Alternatively, you can inform us of your child's absence on our designated student absence email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk

Admissions - This week, we have welcomed Hayden Freeman, Year 10, and Alicia Evans, Year 12 to Open Academy.

Mrs Ganson
Attendance Officer

11. Chaplain's Reflection

I love this quote by Charles Kettering. It says "Keep on going, and the chances are that you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on something sitting down".

I want to encourage us all to keep going through these difficult times. Many times, we will fall and stumble because of what is thrown at us and because of the circumstances we face. Let's keep getting up when this happens, let's keep encouraging each other, looking out for each other. Say words that affirm and lift up, smile when you can because all of this makes a massive difference in helping us all get through this season.

In closing I have included a prayer by Gwen Smith which I know when said, will be a great encouragement to us all. "Holy Lord, Thank You for grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen".

You are all in my thoughts and prayers and if there is anything I can do to support you, please do not hesitate to contact me. God bless you.

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain