

Open Academy Newsletter – 28 March 2025

Principal's Introduction

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope this latest newsletter finds you all safe and well.

On Thursday, the Open Academy choir was invited to open the annual Diocesan Headteachers' Conference at Norwich Cathedral. They sang before an audience of dozens of headteachers, representatives from the Diocese of Norwich and guest speakers from across the country.

Thank you to the wonderful Mrs Morgan-Hart for leading the choir with such expertise and passion. And needless to say, our students' performance was sensational! One member of the audience was so impressed that they shared the following:

Dear members of the Open Academy Choir,

I wanted to write and thank you. You did something very special today for a large group of people at the Cathedral. Through your beautiful singing, you reminded us all of how important it is to be courageous and to reflect. The words you sang so beautifully came from the heart. It was such a special occasion and you gave us all such great positivity and hope. What a talented group of young people you are.

Thank you and I wish you all the very best going forward.

With best wishes for the week ahead - the weather forecast suggests that we are moving towards a week of warm and sunny weather before the Easter break. Fingers crossed!

1. Changes to Morning Arrangements and Lunch Times

After the Easter Holidays, the following changes will take place:

Year 11 will enter the atrium in the morning, swapping places with Year 7, who will meet their tutors on the netball courts in the morning. This adjustment will support Year 11 when breakfast revision clubs and exam preparations begin.

Additionally, Year 11 will transition to an earlier lunch session to ensure they have lunch before their afternoon exams in the summer. This means Year 11 lunch will now be from 12:30pm to 1.00pm, while Year 10 will shift to the 1:30pm to 2.00pm lunch slot.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

2. Communication and Online Payments

You will be aware that we have moved to the Arbor app for communications and keeping you updated about your child.

During the Easter holidays we will be switching on Arbor payments in order that payments can be made for trips and school meals all in one place. The current method of making payments through +Pay (Iris parent mail) will cease with effect from 4pm on Friday, 4 April. All balances held for school meals will be transferred over to the new payment system and should be visible in the Arbor app before we return to school on Wednesday, 23 April.

Thank you to all parents/carers who have signed up and are already using Arbor app. Those who haven't yet connected will be sent a reminder email early next week.

Should you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact the finance office.

Mrs Appleby (Business Manager)

3. Year 7

Two school terms nearly done and one to go. It will go fast, with next half term being four and a half weeks and then lots happening in the final half term. The weather is warming and although there may be struggles around the Academy from a minority, the Year 7 students are as always performing fantastically and showing how it can be done. Each and every morning we line up ready for the day, each morning everyone is ready for their learning, it is humbling to behold. If we can keep to our routines we will minimise any disruption, anxiety or potential issues moving through the year groups.

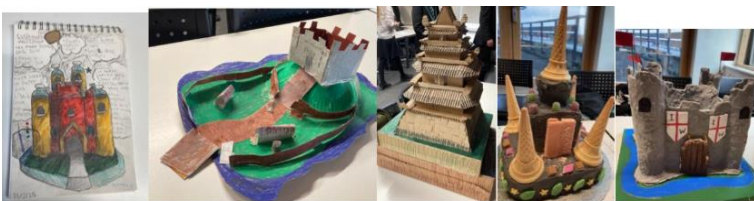
The Big C of Resilience

Each tutor group has been challenged with planning and delivering an assembly to the rest of the Year group. These are on different themes linked to the school's values. The final assembly has been delivered by 7H. It was a fantastic display of courage by all. Many different members of the group spoke in front of their peers with a high level of professionalism. We now just need to do some judging and then we will reward and let you know.

Positive Praise

I ask members of staff to share some positivity they have witnessed from the Year group, below is what they have said.

- Harley, Drew, Troy, Nemo, Leon and Natasha for great speaking and singing in Spanish.
- Natasha has reading and sharing thoughtful ideas with the class this week in English.
- Excellent effort in PE for the distance run from Stanley, Ollie W, Mustafa, Mohammed, Jayden, Julian, Ryley and Irimantas.
- In History Year 7 have been tasked with creating model Castles. Here are some fantastic examples.
- Well done 7H, your effort was fantastic and your joint attitude to History and learning is great.



- Year 7 girls visiting Murray-Edwards College for girls in Cambridge.



Reminders

- If your son/daughter is not in full correct uniform (blazer, shirt, tie, trousers, skirt, shorts, black shoes) they will be given a 30-minute detention to complete at the end of the day. If there is a genuine reason for any problems with this in the morning, please send a note in with your child to hand in to the year office.
- Chewing gum/lollypops/water pistols are not allowed in school. If a student is caught chewing gum/eating a lollypop or in possession of a water pistol they will receive a detention.
- Every Wednesday from 3pm we have a homework club in a computer room to help those complete any outstanding homework.
- Some students are starting to be excessively late to a lesson or not arrive at all. If this is the case the student will receive a truancy code on Arbor. If a student receives 2 truantries in 1 day they will be in IE the following day.

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 7)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 7)

4. Year 8

With only one more week left until the Easter holidays, it has been another busy week in Year 8. The girls netball team have been very busy competing in two tournaments on Saturday and Monday which is amazing. Also the Year 8 boys have a massive game on Monday in the community cup final, we are hoping to kick off around 3:30pm so please come along to support the team.

Uniform in Year 8 is looking very good especially in the mornings, some still are needing to be reminded that their blazer needs to be on when entering, leaving and to and from lessons, they may then take it off in lesson.

Another reminder about the tutor decorates the door competition for Easter, if you have any old decorations that are no longer needed, please donate to your child's tutor.

Congratulations to Respect for the best attendance.

Teacher Praise

- Teja - great answers to questions in science.
- Mackenzie - good attitude to learning.
- Ameera and Ava for excellent focus and work.

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- Charlie SM for effort in RS – Mrs Thoppil
- Gracie and Maxine for their effort in art – Mr Walters
- Phoebe and Lacey for running an excellent football session for the Year 7 girls. Their confidence in football has grown and they did a fantastic job!
- Sophia and Leela have been sweet in tutor time. Also, Michael and Alfie H have made an effort to make eggs and be engaged. Elise, Johnson and Phoebe good too – Mrs Kelly
- Maxine, Evie, Jess Swatman from 8E working well in English yesterday. David in 8E showing a great improvement in class. Ezio, Elias and Tyler have been lovely - Mrs Kelly
- Charlie S for his improvement and effort in lesson – Mrs Kelly
- Great effort from Harvey B, Harrison P, Joel M, Alfie H, Mason, Ezio S, Elias S, Chalrie SL, Shamim, Matthew and James O in their PE lesson working on long distance running and their aerobic endurance – Mr Lambert and Mr Wilkinson

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

5. Year 9

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to all the parents who came to parents evening on Tuesday. It was great to see so many of our students getting great feedback about their performance in class. Myself and Mr Hawkins are incredibly proud of the year group in all aspects and their consistently positive attitude towards their school work bodes very well for the future.

On that note we will be holding our 4th rewards assembly next week, so please look out for your child bringing home a certificate that shows how well they have been doing in a certain lesson.

I have lots of names already being put forward so should be a great many to give out.

Attendance remains consistently good and on Wednesday got up to 94%! This is so good to see and will be reflected in their subsequent progress. Thank you for your support with this as it's vital that all parents work alongside the year team to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students.

We held a Comic Relief event on Friday after school in which students paid 50p for the honour of throwing wet sponges at myself and Mr Hawkins and any other foolish members of staff. It was a great atmosphere and the students were brilliant. We raised over £25 for comic relief. Special thanks should go to the Year 9 students leaders including Misha, Chakib, Leo, Ella and David and others for helping to organise and make it such a fun event.

Please ensure that your child leaves home with correct uniform including their blazer and tie as they will have this checked when they enter the Academy. Thank you for your support with this as we find that it helps set the students up for the day. Can I also remind parents that mobile phones should not be out and visible during the day. If there is an urgent need to contact a parent, we can facilitate this if they come to us at break time or lunch.

Top achievement points this week are:

Jasmin C, Zinedine, Aaliyah, Hollie G and Katie C.

Some individual praise:

- Excellent effort in PE from Callum E, Callum J, Logan, Sammy, Jensen P Corbyn, Rhyley R, David Thomas B and Thomas W - Mr Lambert
- Excellent effort in maths. Well done to Alexis W and Callum B - Mrs Marsham
- In English Ben has been working hard in his writing and oracy skills. Callum has demonstrated kindness towards me and others and has a real willingness to learn - Mrs Chester
- 9E have been researching events during the Cold War. A fantastic effort from all – Mr Pickup



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

6. Year 10

Students of the week:
Nikita S, Ayo T, Kaitlin W

Highest achievement points this week:
AJ, Ryan, Ross, Alex C, Samuel HJ, Olivier K, Kate, Hayden, Mariia, Martha, Lena, Esme, Riley W and Paige.

Highest achievement points this term:
AJ, Riley W, Alfie S, Olivier K, Ryan B, Kate S, Ayo T, Dylain, Martha and Sasha-Mai.

After Easter, due to exams Year 11 will transition to an earlier lunch session to ensure they have lunch before their afternoon exams in the summer.

This means Year 11 lunch will now be from 12.30pm to 1.00pm, while Year 10 will shift to the 1.30pm to 2.00pm lunch slot.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Edwards and Mrs Hindry (Assistant Heads of Year 10)

7. Year 11

You have 39 DAYS left before your first exams in May. Please use this weekend to find that perfect revision/rest balance – recharging your batteries and having some chill time. If there is anything you need help with, need to discuss, or want to celebrate, I urge you to come and speak to me or Mrs. Lamb in S58 or the Office.

Tutor Competition - Well done Mr Stephens form – you win this week's tutor competition for both attendance and reward points received – smashing it again this week!

Being in school and learning is so important for your present and future success – if your attendance drops below 89% you risk doing serious harm to your education and prospects – being in school and in lessons is crucial for your future success! Do you know what your current attendance is? If not, ask and if it is low work with us to help improve it.

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

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ready for learning, working as a team. For the last 5 days the total amount of learnt points achieved is **a brilliant 13740**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning!

Praise

Well done to all students celebrated in this morning's celebration assembly!

Important Notices/Reminder

- **Lates** – all minutes you miss of lessons will be added up and then made up on a Friday. Again, being in class from the start of each and every lesson is so very important for you achieving your full potential in May/June - so expect us to be hard on this!
- **Truancies** – there are too many students missing too many lessons at the most critical time of your learning. With this in mind, the truancy rules are now (over 1 week)...

Truancy 1 Email/Text home	Truancy 2 (IE and call home)	Truancy 3 (Truancy EIE)
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Please remember if you are struggling then you **MUST** come to the Year Office or S58! We can help!

- **Uniform** – Being smart and presentable is an important part of being ready to learn and this will be a main focus in the Academy over the next few weeks! Please make sure you come to school in the correct uniform – please check the website if you need guidance of what is required.
- **Hub Card** – Students have made an awesome start with the Hub Card scheme. Once it is signed by all relevant Hub Teachers in the week, students need to get it signed by parents/guardians and then someone from the year office – it can then be entered into the prize draw.



HUB Attendance Report Card – Week A

Student Name –
Tutor Group –
Report Start Date –
Hub Focus –

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
History					
Business					
Geography					
Art					
Photography					
English					
Maths					
Applied Intervention					
Science					

HOY/AHOY

Parent Signature

- **PROM** – For more details about the Prom, please see the letter that was sent out to you containing details about time/arrivals/dress code etc. PLUS information about the very important PUPIL PASSPORT that details what will be taken into consideration when deciding who will be allowed to Prom – remember it is not a given that students can attend.
- **Letter regarding exams** – Please make sure you have read the letter regarding exam conduct sent out! It is vital that we all adhere to the strict exam criteria set out by the exam boards – failure to do so could result in students being disqualified from certain exams – which would be a disaster after 2 years of such hard graft.

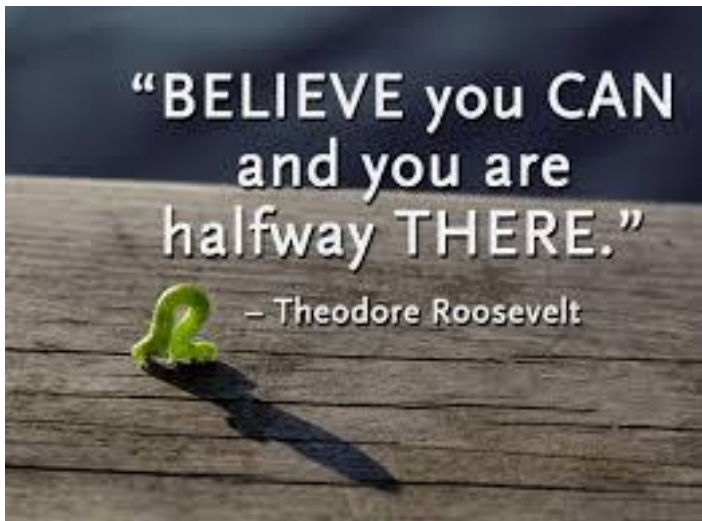
- **Mobile Phone Bans** – Please note that if you receive 2 mobile phone incidents on the system, we will be putting you on a phone ban - which means your phone will need to be handed in each morning and collected and 3.00pm each day – or not brought into school.
- **Easter Eggs** – As part of our fundraising for Prom we are holding an Easter Egg raffle in the last week of term! If you could donate an egg to the cause we would be most grateful! All eggs donated to be left at the Year 11 office please!

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 Dilley (Head of Year 11)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

8. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



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

Mark

Anguish's Educational Foundation
Help with the cost of School Uniforms



Do you live in the City of Norwich, Catton, Corpusty, Costessey, Hellesdon, Sprowston or Thorpe St Andrew?

Do you need help with the cost of school uniforms for the new school year, starting this September?

Apply now

Due to high demand, applications received after 31st July may not get processed before the new school year starts.

Contact us to find out if we can help you.
Email us: info@norwichct.org.uk
or telephone and leave your name: 01603 621023
One of our friendly team will get back to you.

PHARMACY FIRST

GET THE RIGHT TREATMENT, FASTER!

What can pharmacists help with?

- Sore throats (From 5 years and over)
- Ear Infection/Earache (Children ages 1 to 17 years old)
- Impetigo (Adults and children over 1 year old)
- Urinary tract infections [UTIs] (Women aged 16 to 64 years)
- Infected insect bites (Adults and children 1 year and over)
- Sinusitis (Adults and Children aged 12 years and over)
- Shingles (Adults ages 18 and over)



For more information, Scan the QR code



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