

Open Academy Newsletter – 25 April 2025

Principal's Introduction

Dear parents, carers and students welcome to this week's newsletter.

I hope you had a wonderful Easter and like me you are delighted to be back for the summer term. The first half of the summer term is always a time of change as the weather begins to improve and it becomes so much easier to get out and about.

Whilst it is great to see the sun, we are always mindful that this time of year the weather is still very changeable, so our tradition is that students are requested to remain in full uniform, complete with blazers, until after May half term. As always, we appreciate your help and support in keeping the students looking smart and professional. Thank you all for ensuring that the vast majority of students started this new term in full correct uniform - well done all. Any issues, please contact your year team for support to get uniform right.

Whilst uniform remains the same, we have had a change to the shape of the day for others. Year 11 now come straight in in the morning to ensure they get a fast start for tutor time revision and we have swapped the lunch break for Year 10 and Year 11 so that the Year 11 exams fit properly into their day. So far all has worked well with no hitches and with that seamless transition, the exam season is upon us for Years 11 and 13. I am sure Year 7 will enjoy starting their day in the sun too (when it appears)!

My main thought today is to commend the students who attended a significant number of revision sessions in the Academy during the Easter break. So many students showing a great level of commitment to their achievement is very gratifying.

It is vital to realise that at this point in the year, grades are improved and secured with every bit of revision completed. The trick at this point is to try to work to a revision plan, using the assessment feedback from your teachers to focus and prioritise and be encouraged that every little helps!

Speaking of our teachers, the fantastic support provided over the Easter break was just another example of how our staff go over and above for our students, so I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of them. Many teachers started delivering period 6 hub sessions above and beyond their contracted teaching hours way back in October and have carried on throughout the year. Whether it is hub sessions, holiday revision sessions, trips and visits that are so helpful in bringing the curriculum to life, but require huge amounts of planning and organisation and paperwork, I am proud to say that Open Academy staff are amazing and I hope I speak for our community when I share this heart felt thank you!

So, with renewed energy and drive and hope for this exam season, enjoy the rest of the newsletter and your weekends. Years 11 and 13 – keep revising!

Finally, if your child cycles to school, please remind them to lock their bike securely in the bike shed.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Exam Hall Guidelines for Year 11 and Year 13 Students

We kindly ask all parents to remind their Year 11 and Year 13 children of the following rules for entering and being in the exam hall:

- Students must wear the full uniform upon entry to the exam hall. Year 13 students are not permitted to wear coats in the exam hall.
- Any badges on jumpers or blazers must be removed.
- Phones, headphones, or watches should not be on or in pockets.
- Water bottles must be standard mineral water bottles (for example, those available from the canteen) with no labels on them.
- Unless they have a toilet pass, students are not allowed to leave the exam hall for a toilet break.
- Students should arrive on time; the latest arrival time for morning exams is 8.50am and for afternoon exams, it is 12.55pm.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

2. Year 8 Parents Evening

We invite Year 8 parents to the Academy this Tuesday, April 29th, for the Year 8 Parents Evening. Please make appointments using the Parent Arbor App. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Year Team.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

3. A Note from Our New Music Teacher

Hello! My name is Mr Corfield and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new music teacher here at Open Academy. I am really looking forward to getting to know the students, sharing my passion for music and making some great music together.

We currently have a choir that meets every Thursday and we would love to welcome new members! Whether you are an experienced singer or just enjoy singing for fun, everyone is welcome. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, build confidence, and be part of something special.

Hope to see you there!

Mr Corfield (Teacher)

4. Year 8

It is great to see Year 8 back after Easter holiday, I hope you all had a good time over the holidays and all ate too much chocolate, I know I did. This half term is a very short one with only four weeks left until we break up again. This week the uniform in Year 8 has been great, all are coming in wearing their blazer, they just need reminding at times to keep it on in the corridors, they can then remove it in lessons.

Congratulations to Destiny for winning tutor challenge.

Teacher praise

Excellent effort and performance by Alex D and Demarco W in long jump in PE – Mr Lambert

Tegan P for effort in class and with homework – Miss Roberts

Ben E, Elise S, Kyle R, Ellie B, Rose N, Leo L, Alex D, Hattie A, Lili D and Evie A for presentation in their exercise books in English

Hayden P was fantastic in English this morning! He worked really hard, answered questions and got a gold star for presentation – Miss Roberts

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

5. Year 9

It is great to see everyone back after the Easter break. Attendance has been fantastic for the first few days at 94%! This is brilliant to see and shows real commitment. Please continue to support us as being in school is vital for progress to be made.

Just a few reminders:

Students must attend school in full uniform including a blazer so please can we ask for your support with this. Any student not in correct uniform without a note can receive a detention so if you are struggling with any aspect of uniform please contact us so we can help.

Please can I remind you to download the Arbor app where you can find lots of information on there about your child's progress in school and make payments.

We gave out lots more certificates for positive effort before Easter which was great to see. We will hold our next rewards assembly just before the May half term so please ask your child about this.

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

6. Year 9 Theatre Trip

It was an absolute pleasure to be able to take 29 Year 9 students to see *Pigheart Boy* at Norwich Theatre Royal on Wednesday afternoon. The students' behaviour was fantastic, they all engaged well with the performance and were polite and respectful to the staff and other theatre goers.

The students were treated to a performance which 'dynamically captures the turbulent world of school' especially through the use of movement and ensemble performance, areas which they have been working on in class. The imaginative use of set, sound and lighting will kickstart this terms unit on technical theatre and the performance as a whole has hopefully shown the power of drama to convey important messages.

Mrs Ormosi (Teacher)

7. Year 10

Students of the week:
Annalee, Martha, Riley B and Luke S.

Highest achievement points this week:
Deacon, Riley B, Natacha, Sasha-Mai, Annalee, Leah, Kaitlin and Reece.

English shout outs;
Riley B, Rodrigo F, Samuel HJ Kate S, Martina V and Kaitlin W for effort and achievement with homework.

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

This will be a busy term for Year 10 with exams in June, work experience in July. It is really important that students are arriving to school and lessons on time so they are not missing key information. We will support students in the coming weeks with revision timetables and revision techniques they can use ready for June exams.

Any green forms for work experience need to be returned to school. If students do not get a work experience placement they will have to be in school that week.

Thank you for your support with uniform Year 10 are looking smart whilst in school.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

8. Year 11

Welcome back Year 11. It has been a short, but intense week. Well done to all of those who have now sat their first GCSE exam - it has begun. You have all been given an easy access exam timetable, so use some of the weekend to identify when your exams are and re-structure your revision plan so you spend more time this weekend on the exams that come up first. Please see me or Mrs Lamb in GO5 if you have any issues - we are here to support you. Enjoy your weekends and keep up with that revision.

Attendance

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

For the last few days the total amount of learnt points achieved is **a brilliant 8405**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning.

Praise

Praise goes to all those that were able to attend the Easter Revision class with a special shout out to Daisy who rushed away to catch a train to her flight on holiday straight afterwards - Mr Mundy

Extra study gains extra marks, so well done to Shevaun, Bubacarr and Zac for attending HUB - Mrs Marsham

Lola for great effort in speaking exam - Mrs McEvoy

Well done Year 11 for working hard on last minute preparations for your German speaking today – Mrs Lloret-Blackburn

Big shout out to the Year 11 drama students who did some awesome pitches to the very scary dragons as part of their unit 3 coursework. They were all amazing. 3 more hours to go and then it is all over – Mrs Ormosi

Every single Year 11 food tech class for absolutely smashing their coursework. They have all done an incredible job and should be extremely proud of themselves. Well done Year 11! - Miss Luter

Theo, Charlie, Oscar, Charlie and Madison for being the top 5 SENECA users in the class - Miss Roberts

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)

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.

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.

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 at 3pm each day – or not brought into school.

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.

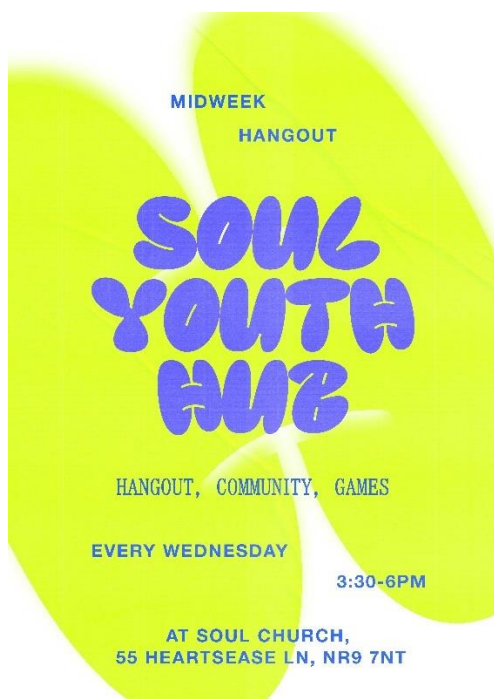
Mr Dille (Head of Year 11)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

9. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



Soul Church Hub

Please let your child know that Soul Church is open every Wednesday between 3.30pm and 6pm for midweek hangout time. There will be games and other activities taking place. A poster for info is below.



God bless.

Mark