

Open Academy Newsletter – 16 May 2025

Principal's Introduction

Dear parents, carers and students.

It's been another excellent week at the Academy, full of energy, hard work and impressive achievements across all year groups.

Our Year 11 students are now well into their exam season and I'd like to commend them for the determination and focus they've shown so far. This week has included some of the major examinations—English, maths, biology, history and geography to name a few—and it is clear that students have approached each one with a real sense of purpose. We're proud of the maturity and resilience they continue to demonstrate during this important time. In addition to their academic commitment, the artwork produced by both our Year 11 and Year 13 students has been absolutely outstanding and their creativity and skill are truly inspiring.

Year 10 are also in a critical period, with assessments underway, starting in English this week, that will help shape their outcomes as they head into their final year. It's great to see them stepping up and working hard to show what they've learned.

The lower school students have also been focused on their examination assessments. It is encouraging to see the progress many of them have made since the start of the year and we continue to support them in achieving their potential.

A reminder to all students (and parents) that revision tips, past papers and subject resources are available on Microsoft TEAMS—please do make good use of them during this assessment period.

Beyond the classroom, there have been lots of exciting opportunities this week. We are in the midst of preparations for Year 7 camp, which promises to be a memorable experience; it was great to welcome so many parents into the academy on Tuesday to find out more, please make sure you catch up with Mrs Halliday if you missed out. A number of our students are also currently out completing activities for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. These experiences are a valuable part of their personal development, and we're proud to see so many taking part.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you and your family enjoy a restful weekend and take the chance to enjoy the sunny weather ahead.

Miss Wenlock
Vice Principal

1. Year 7

Working through the half term and consistently making good progress. With the latest data showing the average reading age of the year group is making great progress with most now reading near to or above their actual age. This will help each student to make further academic progress.

The Big C of Resilience

Every week in tutor time students will be taking part in an activity promoting resilience. Each week is on one of the 7 Big Cs of resilience (Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Contribution, Coping and Control).

Last week's winners were Inspiration with Troy S demonstrating the best example of Connection, a fantastic effort, well done.

Positive praise

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

- Harvey E for being amazing in Spanish.
- 7E brilliant work on their perspective drawing. Especially Kendal, Ebony, Khaleesi, Stanley and Aiden.
- 7O did very well in their assessment. They were super focused, and the revision and hard work paid off. Special mention to: Ava L, Drew, Harley, Orlagh, Troy, Rylee and Leon W.
- Ethan F, India H, for understanding and completing the methods and skills used to find a fraction of an amount.
- Shout out to Mustafa for his excellent engagement and verbal contributions in English.
- Jake and Nagam were both awesome in English. Well done Mr Coyne.
- Layal S and Rose BC for great effort in Germany.
- Poppy S-H put a lot of really great effort into her work in geography.
- Cattleleya A has been working hard and producing fantastic work for Geography.
- Maxwell J, Jools D and Noah W continue to contribute lots of amazing ideas during class discussions.
- Roman, Stanley, David K, Julian, Charlie and Oliver. Great contributions to the lesson 7H.
- A brilliant green man oil pastel faces from Delilah and Summer.



Reminders

- Do not forget about Year 7 camp. Around 80 students out of 110 have currently signed up for this exciting opportunity. If you are still undecided and want to know more please get in contact with either the Year Team or Mrs Halliday who is organising it.
- Students should not have their phones out around the academy during the school day. If seen on their phones, they will be asked to put them away. If this takes a long time/does not happen the member of staff will record the incident. If a student gets 3 incidents of this during a half term they will have to deposit their phone in the Year office for a week or leave them at home.
- Students should not have fizzy drinks at school. If a student is caught with one it will be put in the year office and collected at the end of the day.
- Every Wednesday from 3pm we have a homework club in a computer room to help students complete any outstanding homework.

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)

Only one more week to go and I cannot tell you how proud I am of how the Year 9s are doing in every respect. Attendance, conduct around the building and performance in their lessons are all as they should

be and we will be recognising and celebrating this with our 5th awards assembly on Monday morning. Please look out for a certificate with your young person as we have lots of nominations from teachers.

We have run several trips this year in Year 9 designed to raise both literacy levels and awareness of higher education. On Wednesday, Mr Hawkins and Miss Moy took a group of Year 9s to Cambridge university as part of the UEA's "Raise your words" programme. All students behaved brilliantly and gained a valuable insight into higher education at one of the most elite universities in the world. They all took part in the activities based around oracy and represented the school superbly.

Although the vast majority are taking advantage of all the learning available in lessons there are a small number who continue to truant lessons sometimes which means they are struggling to access work next time they are there. As a result, we have made a change to our policy regarding truancy. The letter below has been sent out by email:

Dear parent/guardian

We want to make you aware of an important change in policy regarding truancy in the year group. As we approach the start of GCSEs for our students it is crucial that they are in all lessons during the day. All the evidence shows that students that are regularly missing lessons are making significantly less progress than their peers and we want every year 9 to have the best chance of succeeding in their GCSEs.

Another factor is that most problems during the day arise when a student is not in their lesson as they may not be in a supervised space.

As a result we have decided, from Monday, 19 May, any student who receives a truancy mark will automatically receive an after-school detention on that same day. If there are legitimate reasons why that student has not attended a particular lesson then the year team will remove the truancy. Students with green cards will still be able to use these to access their support.

It is important to note that doing the detention on the same day (in order to catch up on work missed) will mean that the truancy detentions on a Friday will not take place for Year 9.

If the student fails to attend their truancy detention this will mean the time will be extended to 60 mins the following day.

As a year group in general they are doing fantastically well and following our expectations, but we hope you can understand and support our reasons for taking this action before the start of year 10.

Please contact us if you have any queries,

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

2. Year 11

We are well and truly into exam season and I wanted to take the opportunity to say well done for how well you have embraced it all so far! So many have been taking the opportunity of the extra hubs and gone into the exams with nerves, yes, but also with real positivity and determination - and that is brilliant to see. Just remind yourselves, if any doubts ever kick in, that you have worked hard to get this far, you are well prepared and you should feel good about having the opportunity to show off all you know!

Remember ...

The way we **THINK**
Affects the way we **FEEL**
And this influences how we **BEHAVE**

Coming up next week... chemistry, computer science, English literature, business, physics, English language.

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 fine balance of revision with looking after your health and well being with breaks, rest and good food!

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 13320. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning!

Praise

Massive well done to Georgia B - she has worked so hard on completing her Health and Social coursework - Mrs Halliday

Well done Luke and Ayo for coming for last minute tips - Mrs Blackburn

Important Notices/Reminder

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 the 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 is a requirement of the exams! Detentions will be issued to those not following uniform rules! Please make sure you come to school in the correct uniform – please check the website if you need guidance of what is required.

Exam Support - From Monday there will be a short revision hub before your exam - another excellent opportunity to help you be ready for when you go in. Any questions please ask Mr. Fisher or anyone in the Year office.

Summer Series Exam Timetable 2025 Year 11 & 13 (T) am and Hubs

All Day Yr13 Photography 9am Chemistry Paper 1 Combined Sc Chemistry Paper 1 Tutor: NST, JDU, JWI (Foundation & Higher)	9am English Literature Paper 2 Tutor: SCO, SNA	9am Psychology Adv Paper 2	9am Physics Paper 1 Combined Sc Physics Paper 1 Tutor: NST, JDU, JWI (Foundation & Higher)	9am English Language Paper 1 Tutor: SNA, SCO 9am Physics Adv Paper 1 History: Rebellion, Disorder under Tudors
Computer Science HUB	1pm Computer Science 1pm Psychology AS Level Paper 2 Business and RS HUB	1pm Enterprise & Marketing 1pm Religious Studies Islam		

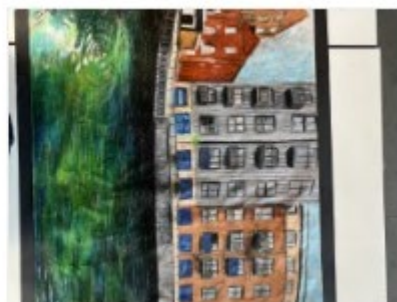
Please note that after exams ALL STUDENTS must return to the lesson they would normally have at that time.

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)

3. 6th Form

These are 3 of our students' final pieces for A-level Art this year. Lisa K, Teyla Y and Hannah J.



I'm sure you can agree the standard is exceptional.

Mr Walters (Teacher)

4. Chaplain's Updated

Soul Church

Soul Church is open every Wednesday between 3.30pm and 6pm for midweek hangout time. There will be games and other activities taking place.



Thought for the Week

**STOP BEING
AFRAID OF
WHAT COULD
GO WRONG,
AND START
BEING EXCITED OF
WHAT COULD GO RIGHT.**

— TONY ROBBINS

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

God bless.

Mark



Free Family Fun Day

**Why you'll love it?
Everything is free!**

Hot dogs Crafts Art
Music Tombola Sports
Inclusive activities Emergency vehicles

And loads and loads more!

Support, advice and info will also be available

Wednesday 28th May 10am - 2pm
Open Academy
Salhouse Road, Norwich NR7 9DL

**JUST TURN UP ON THE DAY
AND HAVE FUN!**

Funded by NCC FHPG 



Open Academy

Salhouse Road, Norwich,
NR7 9DL

Makers Fayre

2nd March 7th Sept
6th April 5th Oct
18th May 2nd Nov
30th Nov

11am - 2pm

Email allseasonsmakers@gmail.com Want to be a stallholder? Email or call 07757665387