

## Open Academy Newsletter – 6 June 2025

Dear parents, carers and students.

I hope this message finds you well. We have had a strong and purposeful start to the second half of the summer term and it has been wonderful to welcome students back with renewed energy and focus.

As we begin this short but important half term, we are placing a clear emphasis on **high expectations** — especially around **uniform, mobile phones and behaviour**. These expectations are essential to creating the right environment for learning and progress.

As we are now in **summer uniform, blazers are optional**, but we ask that students continue to wear full school uniform correctly and with pride. **Hoodies are not permitted** and should not be worn instead of or over school uniform. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain these standards and ensuring all students are ready to learn.

This is a particularly **busy and important half term**. Year groups across the academy are working towards key milestones, and it's vital that all students make the most of every learning opportunity between now and the summer break.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming **Year 7 parents and carers to our Parents' Evening**, where we will share feedback and advice on how to support your child's ongoing progress. It's always a valuable opportunity for meaningful conversations between home and school.

This time of year also brings significant **transitions and farewells**. Next Friday, we will say goodbye to our **Year 11 and Year 13 students**, many of whom are completing exams and preparing for exciting next steps. We are so proud of their efforts and resilience. As they move on, younger students are stepping up to new roles and challenges, showing real maturity and responsibility — a promising sign of things to come.

There is also a real **buzz of enrichment activities** happening across the school. We are pleased to be **celebrating Pride Month**, with activities and displays that promote inclusion and respect. Some students are heading off this week on a **Duke of Edinburgh expedition** and preparations are underway for exciting events like **Year 7 Camp** and **Curriculum Enhancement Week**, which promise to be memorable experiences for all involved.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Let's work together to ensure this final stretch of the academic year is a successful and positive one for all our students.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Miss Wenlock  
Vice Principal

### 1. Year 8

As we move into the summer term, students are now permitted to wear the summer uniform, which means blazers are not required. However, with the recent cooler weather, we have noticed a few hoodies creeping in. Please ensure your child wears their blazer if they are feeling cold, as hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Students who refuse to remove hoodies will receive a D1. Overall, we are really pleased with how smart our Year 8s are looking – thank you for your continued support.

Reward trip letters have been sent out to selected students – please ensure these are returned to the Head of Year as soon as possible.

Mr Lambert is now on paternity leave for the next two weeks. Please be mindful that Mrs Hindry will be overseeing the year group in his absence. We would like to wish Mr Lambert huge congratulations on the birth of his daughter!

Finally, please continue to check that your child has all the equipment they need each day to support their learning.

Positive praise:

- Hayden P, Tegan P and Ben E for effort and behaviour in English.
- Hayden P and David-James for really positive contributions to Spanish lesson.
- Isaac H for kindness towards Year 7 students.
- Ashanti for her verbal contributions in English and Amalie for her excellent written work.
- From 8H English, Alfie W, David-James, Evie P, Chloe J and Elias S for their excellent creative writing in a lesson this week.
- Praise to Hayden, Brogan, and Bianca and Teegan for their hard work this week.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Hindry (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## 2. Year 9

It has been great to see the year group back after half term. This is their final 7 weeks before they start GCSEs, so it is crucial that they are in all their lessons preparing for this culmination of all their years at school. We have been very clear about the consequences of truancy with the year group so please support us with this. If they are not in their lessons, they are not learning.

Please can I ask that you download the Arbor app as it will allow you to keep close track of your child's performance in school.

If there are issues with getting items of uniform, please can I ask that you get in touch with the year office as we may be able to assist. We would rather have this conversation earlier to avoid sanctions with students.

We are really keen to continue with Year 9's fantastic record of attendance so please can I encourage you to send your child into school even if a little under the weather as we can support them. We would rather that than they miss a day of learning entirely, especially with GCSEs so close.

Some individual praise;

Tyler for great effort in German – Mrs McEvoy

Chakib, Isabella and Hanna for excellent persuasive writing in English - Mrs Clayton

Jasmin Cutting, Great attitude to learning - Mrs Blackburn

Top achievers this week:

Jake W, Thomas V, Katie C, David D and Ewan C.

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

### 3. Year 10

Students of the week:

Jenson B, Zena A, Tiffany S, Mia P, Phoebe E

Students with the highest achievement points this week:

Alex C, Phoebe E, Zak L, Noam, Nikita, Hannah S, Ayo, Martha, Lena, Riley and Reece Y.

Uniform:

It is summer uniform but students must be wearing skirts or trousers, shirt tucked in and a tie. If students are cold they need to wear their blazers, so with the unpredictable weather I would ask for students to bring their blazers in in case they are needed.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

### 4. Year 11

After nearly 5 years of study, and many great adventures, the high school story of this incredible group of Year 11s, comes to an end. After spending a large part of their early years at the Open in lockdown, experiencing the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic, this year group has risen above the adversity and leave us with their heads held high, ready to embrace exciting futures going forward!

May I say that it has been an incredible privilege both to teach this year group (they were my first Year 7 geography/history classes when I first arrived at Open) and to be their Head of Year since January. They are an exceptional group of young adults with the potential to have such an amazing impact on the world, and we shall miss them.

I was very lucky to inherit a year group that had been so well shaped and supported by the most exceptional group of people and professionals - Mrs Lamb, Mrs Pearsall, Mrs Halliday, Mr Crawford and Mrs Hewitt-Coleman who have all played their part in making this year group potentially the finest group of young adults the Open have ever seen. Their dedication and support will not be forgotten and on behalf of all the students in the year, I thank them for all they have done.

### Important Notices/Reminders

- **Exam Support** - Remember there are revision hubs happening before every morning exam, which start at 08.20am and are excellent opportunities to help you be ready for when you go in. Any questions please ask Mr. Fisher or anyone in the Year office.

#### Year 11 & 13 Summer Series Exam Timetable 2025

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June
9am Biology Paper 2 Combined Sc Biology Paper 2 9am Psychology Adv Paper 3 Physics Adv Paper 2	9am Chemistry Adv Paper 1	9am Mathematics Paper 3	9am Geography Investigations 9am History	9am Chemistry Paper 2 Combines Sc Chemistry Paper 2 9am Biology Adv Paper 2
	1pm History		1pm Further Maths  1pm Mathematics Adv Paper 2	1pm Sociology Adv Paper 3

- **The Final Week** - Please can all parents/carers note the following arrangements for the final week...

With "Leavers Day" (Friday 13th June) just around the corner, we just wanted to remind all students that they are expected to be in normal timetabled lessons before and after every exam, and on days they have no exams, up until and including the Friday, 13 June. Teachers will continue to hold revision sessions for upcoming exams and facilitate private study in lessons where exams have been completed. We will only be allowing students to leave the site after an exam for medical reasons (and only then with express parental/Carer permission).

- **Year 11 Prom on Friday, 4 July 2025 Sprowston Manor**

Plans for this year's school prom are well underway. We are looking forward to a fantastic event with our Year 11 students. Tickets will soon be available to collect from the Year Office.

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

### 5. Family Action's Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service

Please find below a link to our June newsletter for parents and carers of children and young people who are either awaiting a neurodevelopmental assessment or who may now have a diagnosis.

This month the newsletter focuses on supporting your efforts to keep your children safe online. It also contains information for you about June's online workshop for parents on Masking and all our usual drop-in support groups.

#### [Family Action's Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service](#)

[FamilyLine](#) is a free service available to support adult family members on all aspects of family life issues via telephone, text message and email. Whether it's emotional support or practical advice on any aspect of parenting or broader family issues, call: [0808 802 6666](tel:08088026666), text: 07537 404282, email: [familyline@family-action.org.uk](mailto:familyline@family-action.org.uk) or live web via our website [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk).

Monday to Friday: 9am – 9pm. The helpline will be covered by SHOUT our text crisis line outside these hours including weekends and bank holidays.

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



## 6. Pride Month

As we move into June, we celebrate Pride Month and the LGBTQ+ community. Being openly LGBTQ+ myself (I hid it away until I felt comfortable not only within myself, but also with the inclusive nature here at Open), I feel that there are many students within the Academy who are respectful towards me and I feel honoured to work at Open alongside such supportive students and staff.

A couple of years ago, I wrote an article for Motorsport UK (the UK's motorsport national governing body - the equivalent to the FA within football). There are screenshots and link below to the digital version - page 25-27. Please feel free to discuss this with your child should you wish.

[https://motorsportuk.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/26130316/Revolution\\_June\\_2022\\_DP\\_3.pdf](https://motorsportuk.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/26130316/Revolution_June_2022_DP_3.pdf)



### VANTAGE POINT

We started with some of the basic things such as the wording in documents and including pronouns and genders so that people feel included from the outset. There have been slowly implemented over the last 12-18 months and many clubs are adapting their forms to suit, while commentators are using them to add to the inclusivity of the event. We have also talked about whether venues could include more gender neutral spaces and facilities - this could really help trans and non-binary people to feel more comfortable at events.

I think it is also imperative to have LGBTQ+ role models in all areas of the sport, as this allows people of all ages to view them in a positive light, showing that no matter who you love, what your gender is, it makes no difference to being successful in the motorsport community. The Racing Pride Ambassadors are great for this and having allies like Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton wearing pride colours on clothing and helmets within F1 helps too.

It was so refreshing to see Sarah Moore become the first open LGBTQ+ driver to stand on a podium at an F1 event recently in the W Series, while off track, there are growing numbers of LGBTQ+ marshals, commentators, and clerks that I have had the pleasure to meet around the country. The work of the EDI Committee enables us to showcase this diversity and I hope the number of LGBTQ+ participants at all levels will continue to grow.

I understand some people feel 'less confident' about marshalling with LGBTQ+ people, so it is important that we work on that area too. I think the best way for people to gain better understanding would be to go to the Racing Pride Ally Pack, or the Stonewall websites, to gain tips and ideas of how to break down barriers. It will allow them to discover issues that



Ricky and his fiancé Loukas at the London e-Prize




Racing Pride Ambassador Ricky showing his colours alongside the pride flag on the Venturi Formula E car

could arise and how to prevent these from happening. It can be easier said than done, but sometimes just talking can help.

We can continually to improve things in all areas, from grassroots to worldwide FIA sanctioned events. We can all do more to be inclusive by, for example, having a greater awareness of key terminology and inclusive vocabulary. As a starting point, if you are unsure of a person's gender, maybe due to a unique name, refer to them by 'they'; ask a gender-neutral question like 'do you have a partner?'; and maybe when you meet someone for the first time, include your pronouns when you introduce yourself. It may help the person feel more at ease.

These small changes can have a huge effect on people. And ultimately remember, motorsport worries about how fast you can get from A to B. It doesn't mind who you are, what ethnicity you are, what your sexuality is or how you identify. That doesn't have any bearing on how well you can drive a car, how well you can repair or build a car, or how well you can talk or write about racing. It doesn't affect how well you can wave a flag, push a car, or follow technical regulations.

All that matters is you enjoy what you do, and the sooner people don't need to 'come out' the better. We are who we are, and it shouldn't be such a big deal. Motorsport is for all. 

Motorsport UK wishes to reiterate the importance of diversity and inclusion within the sport. Thanks to Ricky for his story and to the EDI committee and subcommittee members for their support to make motorsport a diverse and inclusive sport.

Incidents of behaviour and / or actions that do not meet this commitment through Motorsport UK's Race with Respect initiative can be reported. Incidents could have happened at or outside an event and can be reported anonymously or formally via [EMAIL](mailto:EMAIL).



Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

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

## 7. Chaplain's Update

### 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

A quick story for part of my reflection today which encourages us to think/reflect on the right things.

*Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument and one friend hit the other one in the face. The one who got hit was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: today my best friend hit me in the face.*

*They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a swim. The one who had been hit got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: today my best friend saved my life.*

*The friend who had hit and saved his best friend asked him, "after i hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied "when someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."*

*Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.*

So many times, our minds can dwell on the negative things, and this can blot out the good things. Be determined to dwell on the good/benefits of life.

In closing, the Bible talks about this and says:

*Fix your thoughts on what is true, honourable, right, and pure, lovely, admirable, anything good and worth giving thanks for. Think about these things.*

The above is wonderful rest for the mind.

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

Mark