

## Open Academy Newsletter – 13 June 2025

Dear parents, carers and students

It has been a great week at the Academy and a real pleasure to say goodbye to our Year 11 students today as they finish this important stage of their journey. We wish them and our Year 13 students, all the best.

With just over five weeks to go, thank you for your continued support in maintaining high standards around attendance, uniform and homework as we prepare remaining students for progressing into the next academic year. Good luck to Year 10 and 12 who have mock exams starting next week.

I'm now pleased to hand over to the new Principal for their first newsletter message.

Miss Wenlock (Vice Principal)

### 1. New Principal's Message

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Principal of The Open Academy. I am absolutely delighted to be joining the school and becoming part of your community.

For the past four years, I have been the Headteacher at Pakefield High School in Suffolk. During that time, I have had the privilege of working with a dedicated team of staff and wonderful students, and together we moved the school from a judgment of Requires Improvement to Good. That journey was built on a shared belief in high expectations, strong relationships, and a clear focus on what matters most – excellent teaching and learning for every child.

I am now incredibly excited to bring that same passion and commitment to The Open Academy. I have already started working with the staff here, and we are beginning to put plans in place for some changes that will be introduced from September. These are all designed to strengthen the culture of the school, improve outcomes for students, and ensure that Open becomes a place where every young person feels proud to belong.

Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I know how important a strong partnership between home and school is, and I am committed to working closely with parents and carers as we move forward together.

One important change we will be making in September is to the structure of the school day. In order to meet the Department for Education's expectation that all schools provide a minimum of 32.5 hours each week, we will be slightly extending the start of the day. From September, the school day will begin at 8.30am, with all students taking part in a structured morning line-up before going into the form time programme. The end of the school day will remain at 3.00pm. We believe this change will support a calm and purposeful start to the day, while also ensuring we meet the national requirement. Punctuality is key to this purposeful start, and I thank you in advance for ensuring your child is in school and ready to learn by 8.30am each day. For your reference, all timings of the day are shown below.

I will be in touch again soon with other updates as we prepare for the next school year. I am genuinely excited about what we can achieve together in the years ahead.

School Day – September 2025	
8.30 – 8.40	Form line ups and tutor check in
8.40 – 9.05	Form
9.05 – 10.05	Period 1
10.05 – 11.30	Period 2 Including a 20-minute break

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	10.05-10.25 (7, 8, 9) 11.10 – 11.30 (10, 11)
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Period 3</b>
12.30 – 2.00	<b>Period 4</b> Including a 30-minute lunch 12.30 – 1.00 (7, 8, 9) 1.30-2.00 (10,11)
2.00 – 3.00	<b>Period 5</b>
3.00	<b>End of school day</b>

Mr Bagshaw (Principal)

## 2. Changes to English Lessons

In English lessons there will be some class changes. In order to make the best possible progress next year, we have made the decision to rearrange some classes. Changes will be effective from Monday, 16 June. All students have been notified.

Miss Roberts (Teacher)

## 3. Year 7 Camp

A reminder that students attending camp need to return their medical consent forms to me by Tuesday, 17 June. Students also need to complete their fishcake/sausage and chip order using the link emailed by Friday, 20 June.

Please email me if you have any questions regarding camp at [bethany.halliday@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:bethany.halliday@open-academy.org.uk)

Mrs Halliday (Teacher)

## 4. Year 7

Five more weeks and a few days till the glorious summer holidays. These coming weeks are going to speed by with all the things taking place in the academy. The Year group have lots to look forward to with Camp, activity days, sports day and other events.

### Positive Praise

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

- Honey, Rose, Freya, Orlagh, Mohammed and Troy - fantastic start to the second half of summer term in music, well done.
- Annabelle C for positive attitude and effort in Spanish.
- Drew wrote something amazing in his creative writing task.
- Amber W - excellent listening skills to learn different methods to use in maths
- From Mr Bradshaw who was taking charge of Respect's tutor time - big compliments for the way the tutor group have been this morning! Super polite, respectful, lined up really well and have engaged well with the activity.

### Reminders

- Summer uniform – no blazers required. But students still need to be in shirt, tie, trousers, skirt, shorts and black shoes.
- If your son/daughter has been invited to the rewards trip please sign the return form and get them to return it to us.

- The break/lunch time is changing for Year 7 from Monday, 16 June. Their break will be 10:05-10:25 and lunch will be 12:30-1:00.
- There are a few students in Year 7 who have started to 'truant' at least one lesson in a school day. This means they either did not turn up to the lesson or they were 'excessively' late. If a student receives a truancy, they will also receive a 30 minutes detention at the end of that day. If there is a genuine reason for the student not being in/very late to the lesson, we will remove the detention.
- Every Wednesday from 3.00pm we have a homework club in a computer room to help those 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)

## 5. Year 8

As the weather gets warmer, we are noticing a number of students coming to school without water bottles. Please ensure your child brings a drink in their bag each day to help them stay hydrated and comfortable.

A gentle reminder to those who have received permission slips for various activities this week — please return these as soon as possible.

Finally, please ensure you have access to the Arbor app. We use this as a key form of communication for sharing information about attendance, behaviour, trips, and other important updates regarding your child. If you have not yet set up the app, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

### Positive Praise

- Tegan P, Kyle R, Morgan S, Lili D and Tyler W - excellent behaviour and effort in English lessons
- Teja M and Alfie H for effort and excellence in English.
- Harrison A - Excellent effort with maths work using methods to show his working out.
- Isaac, Megan, Lexi, Lincoln and James for all their hard work in English.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Hindry (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## 6. Year 9

A rather warm week in the academy this week so it's been good to see lots of water bottles. Please ensure your child is bringing a water bottle to keep themselves hydrated.

Again, I am constantly receiving positive reports about the performance of Year 9 in lessons and on that note these are the top achievement points this week:

Noah, Iris, Isabella, Talula and Chakib

### Positive Praise

- Talula, Ruby, Ben & Noah for all their hard work in English - Mrs Clayton
- Amy J, Rowan G and Sav M for excellent understanding, focus and interpretations in English – Mr Edwards
- Connor has extended his learning by asking questions to solve mathematical problems. Well done – Mrs Marsham

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- I wanted to praise Angel and Peter, they had a great lesson yesterday – Mrs Blackburn
- Angel N - effort and attitude in English- Miss Roberts

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## **7. Year 10**

Students of the week:

Olivier K, Esme W and Lily A.

Students with the highest achievement points this week:

Lily A, Paige W, Ross B, Annalee R and Elise W.

Students with the Highest achievement points this term (since Easter):

Lily A, AJ, Brandon, Paige, Hannah S, Lena, Esme W and Riley W.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## **8. Year 11**

Well Year 11s we have made it. Five years of supporting a fantastic group of young people. Before I get into goodbyes there are a few small notices.

### **Final Week of Exams from Monday, 16 June 2025**

Students are reminded to arrive in full, correct uniform for all exams. Once their exam is completed, they will be permitted to leave the school premises.

### **Donation of any Uniform**

We would appreciate any donations of uniform in good condition e.g. ties/blazers/PE tops. Your contributions will help ensure every child has the clothing they need to feel confident and prepared for success in the classroom. All sizes are welcome and every donation makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for your support!

### **Prom – Friday, 4 July 2025**

Payment for Prom is now live on Arbor. We have asked for full and final payment no later than Friday, 27 June 2025. Please contact myself or Mr Dilley if you are experiencing any problems with payment.

### **Lockers**

All lockers should be emptied and keys handed in. Please see me as there is a form that needs to be completed for the key deposit to be returned.

### **Goodbye Message**

Parents/carers, thank you for being such an essential part of our community your support has truly made a lasting impact. I cannot put into words how much I have valued your kind words, encouragement and trust over the last 5 years.

Year 11s we are finally here!!!! I can't quite believe we are here. FIVE YEARS, from meeting you at your primary schools outside due to covid or on a TEAMS meeting. Five whole years of watching you grow, learn, stumble and shine to become the amazing young people sitting here now. When I first met you, some of you were quiet, unsure, a bit startled by high school. Others already had lots of energy and confidence. But over these five years, each of you has found your voice, your direction and your strength.

From helping with your studies, to navigating friendships, to those moments when life threw you challenges, you have never given up. You've showed resilience, kindness and a determination that has inspired me. You are the reason I come into work every day. And, yes, there has been laughs. Some of the best days were the ones when you made me laugh until I cried.

Remember that success is not always about big things. Sometimes it's about showing up when it is hard. Being kind when it is easier not to be. Believing in yourself even when you're not sure you can.

No matter where life takes you, I'll always be that little voice telling you, you can do it, just believe in yourself and try your best!

And never forget - you are amazing. Thank you for letting me be part of your journey Year 11s. It has been an honour.

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

## 9. 6<sup>th</sup> Form



I have recently updated the outstanding artwork board in reception. I have added A-level work by Hannah Jordan and Teyla Young. Amazing skill and dedication from both students I'm sure you can agree.

Mr Walters (Teacher)

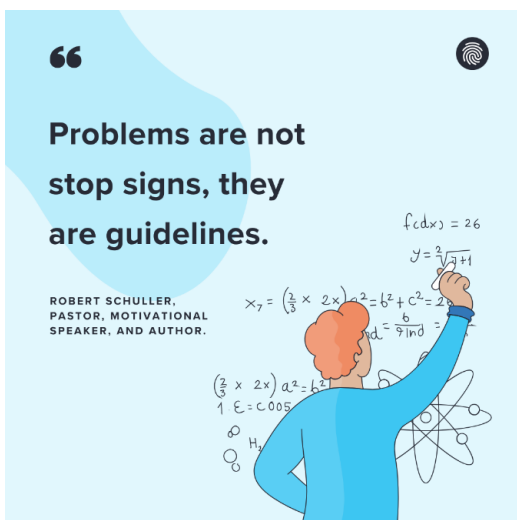
## 10. Drama

Tickets to see this year's school show "We Will Rock You" are now available from the school shop on Arbor. Please see the poster below for more details.



Mrs Ormosi (Teacher)

## 11. Chaplain's Thought for the Week



God bless you all.

Mark

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