

Open Academy Newsletter – 18 July 2025

Dear parents, carers, students and staff

Welcome to this the last newsletter of the year - and indeed my last newsletter ever!

I have finally made it to retirement and as I look towards my last day next Tuesday, I am left with an overwhelming feeling of gratitude.

After 31 years in education, including 2 years training science teachers in Maldives and 14 years as a head teacher, it really is time for me to let go and get out of the way of the future of education!

I won't over share (although I know I normally do!) but I would like to leave you with my deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

It has been such a privilege to accompany so many of your children on their journey through their secondary education and although the job has never been easy, it has always been rewarding.

I have watched develop the very future of our wonderful community. Over the seven years as principal at Open, I have learnt so much myself, shared so much joy and felt so much of the emotion of growth with so many of you.

Thank you so much for trusting Open with your children and thank you for everything you have done to support the Academy, myself and my team. Sometimes you have had to hold me to account and tell me straight where we need to improve, sometimes your thanks has been generous, but whatever your input, I am so proud that together with the amazing staff team at Open we have built a great school, which is in good shape ready for it's future challenges.

So, I wish you all the very best of luck. You all have my love, thoughts and prayers.

As for me, I am back to school myself, as I embark on training to become a Licensed Lay Minister in the Church of England. Through which I hope to share the benefits of meditation in the Christian tradition with people beyond the Academy.

I will also be doing much gardening, fishing and finally my share of the housework!

Finally, I wish to thank all the staff at Open for their brilliance in delivering an education vision that is full of hope, heart and love, to parents and cares for your constancy and open engagement and to students for your energy drive and enthusiasm.

Through my work at Open, I have been truly blessed.

Thank you all!

Jon Ford
Principal

Last Day and New Term Arrangements

The Open Academy will be closing for the summer break at 1.00pm on Tuesday, 22 July 2025. Lunch will be served from 12.30pm before students leave.

The school will be open for collection of pre-ordered new school uniform on:

Wednesday, 13 August (10.00-2.00)

Thursday, 14 August (11.00-3.00)

The start of next term will be staggered for students in September. If your child is in **Year 7, 11 or 13** their first day of term will be **Wednesday, 3 September**. If your child is in **Year 8, 9 or 10** their first day will be **Thursday, 4 September**.

All students need to be ready to line up in their tutor groups by 8.30am, in line with the revised timings of the school day.

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

Contacting the academy:

Email office@open-academy.org.uk
Website www.open-academy.org.uk
Facebook @OAopenacademy

Have your say on where you play!



We're creating a 10-year plan to upgrade and reimagine Norwich's play and activity spaces – and **we need your ideas!**

Many of these places need a refresh – and your voice can help make them **fun, safe and inclusive for all.**

Come join us at one of our pop up events and chat with our team in person.

Wednesday 23rd July	Eaton Green and Enfield Road
Monday 28th July	Harford Park and Chapelbreak
Tuesday 29th July	Heigham Park and West End Street
Wednesday 30th July	Chapelfield Park and Sewell Park
Thursday 31st July	Jenny Lind and Peterson Road
Monday 4th August	Pilling Park and Greenfields
Wednesday 6th August	Heartsease rec and Marion Road
Friday 8th August	Eaton Park and Waterloo Park



[GetTalking.Norwich.gov.uk/play](https://www.gettalking.norwich.gov.uk/play)

Get involved today!

