

- Next week is week beginning 30/09/2019 (Week A)

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, 8 October - Y7 Parent/Carer evening with tutor
- Thursday, 10 October - Y11 Parent/Carer GCSE evening

# Newsletter

## This Week

Wednesday, 2 October - Y6 Open Evening (6.30 - 8.30)

Thursday, 3 October - Y9 Careers Day

## Year 7 News

A very positive third full week back for Year 7!

- Our attendance this week stood at 98.86%, which whilst it is a drop from last week, it is still a great achievement!
- Our students gained over 1300+ achievement points this week – fantastic work!
- In light of a percentage of students not submitting homework on time, we have encouraged pupils to use their tutor time spelling books to record homework manually if they don't feel confident on the SIMS app yet. Training on the use of the homework app will occur during Year 7 parents evening on the Tuesday, 8 October, but please assist and encourage pupils to take ownership of their homework assignments.
- We have our Year 6 Open Evening on the Wednesday, 2 October from 6.30 - 8.30pm. We would like as many Year 7 ambassadors attending as possible. If your child would like to volunteer as a guide or as an ambassador for a particular subject, please ask them to collect a letter from the Year 7 Office.
- Commiserations to our Year 7 Boys football team on their match this week but a huge well done for everyone who participated!
- We held our first Student Voice meeting this week where council members were discussing some great ideas for the school, including literary fancy-dress days, sponsored runs and bake sales for charities. We'll keep you posted.
- Lastly, a big congratulations to all Year 7 students who performed as part of our lunchtime concert series – some fantastic musical talent being showcased!

Miss Lines (Head of Year 7), Mrs Edwards and Mrs Moss (Assistant Heads of Year 7)

## Year 8 News

- Year 8 have had assessments this week and we have been very impressed by their mature, and enthusiastic approach towards them. Well done everyone!
- Our new Learning Hub invites have gone out this week. Please encourage your child to attend before and/or after school on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
- After some fierce competition and interviews this week we have chosen our Head Boy and Head Girl. Congratulations to Joshua Chester and Dalia Rosca. Deputy Head Boy and Girl are Toby Cane and Erin O'Neill. We are sure they will do an excellent job over the next academic year. We will be giving achievement points to all those that applied.
- Our Year 8 boys football team played CNS after school yesterday with a 1-1 result. It was a great game. Thank you to all our supporters too. Next fixture is away to Reepham next Thursday.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8) and Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## Year 9 News

- Attendance – another solid week this week with attendance improving again with less odd days off. There is still room for improvement however, so keep going!
- Achievement points – Year Group Weekly Total: 955 Top: 5 Students: Freya Tilney, Jess Ramm, Tia Lawson, Jess Waterfield and Daniel Bluett. Well done!
- Celebrate success in the year - I was lucky enough this week to give out prizes to two Year 9 students who through their hard work for the school library had won a competition. Congratulations Emma Tyrrell and Katie Lambert-Sharp!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 9) and Mrs Johnston (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## Year 10 News

- Our total number of achievement points this week is 750. Students with the highest number of achievement points this week are; Calli Atkins, Jess Roll, Alfie Sorrento, Lottie Sanderson and Kye Nichols. Congratulations, keep up the fantastic work!
- Attendance is becoming an increasing concern with the Year group attendance at 92%. Attendance has a very high profile at the Academy. We expect all students to achieve a minimum of 98% attendance per academic year and we count on parents to support us. Please can you ensure that students are only being kept off school if absolutely necessary and ensure all absences are reported as soon as possible.

Miss Matthews (Head of Year 10) and Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## Year 11 News

- We have again seen a rise in attendance this week and it is fantastic to see students making the most of their time in front of their teachers. Where possible we would encourage medical and dentist appointments to be made after school so that valuable time with teachers isn't missed.
- Achievement points for outstanding homework have also increased, research shows that students who spend quality time on homework are better prepared for their exams.
- Last Friday a letter was sent home with your child about the Greater Norwich Opportunities Fair on Wednesday, 16 October from 3.30-7.00pm at the Top of the Terrace, Norwich City Football Club. We would encourage you to attend with your child to gather information about their post 16 options. There will be representatives from colleges, businesses and those offering apprenticeships from across Norfolk.
- We are delighted to announce the appointment of Josh Callaghan and Eve Neale as Head Boy and Girl, and Chinedu Elikwu and Barez Suliman as Deputy Head Boy and Girl. The letters of application and interviews from all students were of a very high standard making selection a hugely difficult task. Well done to all applicants.
- Date for your diary on Thursday, 10 October we will be holding a study skills evening which we would like Year 11 parents to attend with their child. It will give you information and support about revision techniques and the up and coming exams.

Mrs Pearsall (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Middleton (Assistant Head of Year 11)

## National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday, 3rd October we are inviting students to write a poem on this year's theme- truth. Students who write a poem will be entered into a competition. The deadline for entries is Friday, 11th October. Please contact the Librarian for more information.

Miss Ling (Librarian)

# Attendance

## Weekly Attendance for Academy (Yr 7-11)

<u>Week Ending</u>	<b>26.9.19</b>
Year 7	98.86%
Year 8	94.25%
Year 9	95.67%
Year 10	91.47%
Year 11	94.44%
Year 12	93.55%
Year 13	84.53%

Well done to Year 7 year group who are currently have the highest attendance.

Letters regarding attendance and attendance rewards have now been sent out to all parents. Please do encourage your son/daughter to have good attendance and punctuality and please remember to contact Reception or email [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk) to inform us if they are absent from school.

Attendance Lottery - Well done to Alfie Deadman, tutor group C9 for week ending 13.9.19 and Mia Baxter, tutor group R9, for week ending 20.9.19, who both win a £5 Amazon voucher each for having 100% attendance. Many congratulations.

Mrs Ganson (Inclusion Secretary)

## Thought for the Week

### Humility

We live in a world which is sometimes hostile to Humility. It sees a humble person portrayed as a doormat or weak, someone who stands by quietly as others step over them. Society would rather have us think more of ourselves than the interests of others.

Living humbly involves a change of attitude toward **every** human being we encounter. Putting aside all judgement and partiality, treating others how we would like to be treated. There is no greater thing in our lives than when we put another human being before our own interests. It adds value and encouragement to the receiver and it is guaranteed to bring joy and satisfaction to the giver.

The Bible talks about and says "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others".

Humility is not a weakness, it's a strength that everyone of us can benefit from in our lives.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

## Free Breakfast

This term we have seen numbers increased to over 150 students enjoying their free breakfast every morning.

Breakfast is available from 8am until 8:40 every day, we have a variety of breakfast cereals, fresh fruit and toasted bagels.

Mrs Appleby (Business Manager)

## Message from the Principal

### Thanks for your feedback!

It was great to receive some parent feedback this week – both from this newsletter – thank you to those who emailed in and to the brave soul who came in for the senior leader drop in session on Monday.

I will be working through comments and observations received with my team, and over time, I know your input will help us in our improvement drive.

For instance I know we still have a few teething problems with the app but almost everyone should have access now. As regards the app, I also know that in some instances you are getting details on where the positive points praise and awards are coming from, however not every time. We know there is an element of technical fix required from the app developer which should be coming late October. Thanks to some feedback we also have to check that all other aspects of the system are fully operational, which we hope to have completed in the next week or so.

I am delighted to report that homework expectations have been significantly raised – Over 3000 homeworks have been set since the start of term and over 2500 have been completed with over 80% hand in rate, so thank you for supporting your child in their work. Invitations to study support for those falling behind will be starting to appear shortly. If your child receives one, please do ensure that they attend.

As the year groups' news is beginning to appear, I said I would aim to keep my articles brief, so I will leave it at that this week, save to say if you have family or friends considering Open Academy for their year 6 child, the Open Evening starts at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 2 October – we would be delighted to welcome them.

Oh and one last note – I have added to the diary section above the Year 11 GCSE evening on Thursday, 10 October. For all year 11 parents this fairly short event will aim to share ways in which parents can help support their child to succeed in their final year. I look forward to seeing as many of you here as possible, with or without your child. After the presentations there will be an opportunity to look at expected works standards and discuss with teachers any individual issues concerns or questions

## Final thought for the Week

Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't – either way you are right.

(Henry Ford)