

- Next week is week beginning 07/10/2019 (Week B)

# Newsletter

## Events

**Tuesday, 8 October (4.00-7.00pm) Year 7 Parents' Evening with Tutor**

**Thursday, 10 October - World Mental Health Day**

**Thursday, 10 October (6.00-7.00pm) Year 11 Parent/carer event 'Supporting Your Child Through Their GCSEs'**

**Tuesday, 15 October (6.30-8.00pm) OA6 – The Open Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Event**

## Year 7 News

Even with colds and sneezes circulating this week with a vengeance, Year 7 have shown resilience and enthusiasm in their fourth week at school!

- Attendance is at 98.48% this week!
- We have once again beaten our weekly achievement points record – collectively, we earnt over 1,700 of them! A big congratulations go to Joel Walker (27 points), Ariya Rashid (26), Thomas Jolly (25) and Lilly Barker (25) for getting the most points this week.
- A massive thank you to all of the Year 7 helpers at Open Evening on Wednesday – they demonstrated a maturity and politeness beyond their years and were a credit to the school. A big thanks also goes to Jessica Lawson and Kai Mann, our Head Boy and Girl, for speaking so confidently to Year 6 and their parents.
- We have already seen a decrease in the amount of un-submitted homework which is excellent news! However, please continue to remind students to take responsibility and pride in their homework assignments.
- The Year 7 tutor evening is happening on Tuesday, 8 October. Please note that this is not a subject specific evening (as that occurs later in the year) but an opportunity to discuss your child's happiness, attendance, achievements so far and attitude to learning. Students should already be making appointments with their tutors so we look forward to seeing you all there!

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

## Year 8 News

- Year 8 have settled into the new term and all assessments are now over. The learning hubs are now up and running, please encourage your child to attend if they have been invited, or talk to either myself or Mrs Roe if they have any concerns.
- We had a record amount of helpers at the Year 6 evening on Wednesday. The feedback from adults was that they were polite, friendly and respectful and a great representation of our Academy. Thank you very much to all those that gave up their time to welcome potential new students to our Academy. We will award achievement points to everyone that attended.
- Attendance is: 94.91%
- Top achievement points have been awarded to Jessica Fraser, Mia Crowe, James Self, Freya Graysmark and Lauren Aldous - well done.

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: 1535. Top 5 Students: Well done to Bonnie Billington-Howes, Tia Lawson, Estela Gudzikaite, Maddy Tilney and Freya Tilney.
- Celebrate success in the year - After some impressive letters of application I'm happy to announce our Year 9 Head Girls & Boys. Congratulations Amelie Treacy & Ethan Walpole Head Girl and Head Boy and Maisie McCormack & Jack Teasdale Deputy Head Girl and Head Boy.

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 1292. Students with the highest number of achievement points this week are; Lottie Sanderson, Lucy Moscrop, Lola Thompson, Ben Ashby and Ellie Chapman. Congratulations, keep up the fantastic work!
- Yesterday saw the first Open Voice session for Year 10 students. It was well attended but with limited ideas. Open Voice is an opportunity for students to make a difference to the Academy. Open Voice is made up of two representatives from each form group and the Head Boy and Head Girl along with their deputies. If your son/daughter wishes to change anything in the Academy, encourage them to speak to their Open Voice representatives:

Challenge; Alfie and Jess

Destiny; Courtney and Ellie

Inspiration; Grace and Luana

Respect; Cara and Gus

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

## Year 11 News

- There will be a study skills evening on Thursday, 10 October, which we would encourage you to attend with your son/daughter. There will be workshops on supporting your child in planning a revision timetable, coping with stress, how to revise, what the GCSE terminology means, as well as being able to collect revision resources.
- Students should be well underway in studying for their PPEs (pre public exam/ mocks) which start on Monday, 14 October. There are revision sessions for all subjects after school every night, apart from Tuesday. Please encourage your child to attend.
- It is very satisfying to see so many students gaining outstanding marks for effort on their homework. This week was another record breaking week for achievement points
- If you have changed your phone number or email address please let us know in case we need to contact you in an emergency and to enable us to keep you up to date with all events to do with Year 11.

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

## Attendance

### **Week Ending 4.10.19**

Year 7 98.18%  
Year 8 93.25%  
Year 9 96.28%  
Year 10 90.07%  
Year 11 92.48%  
Year 12 93.36%  
Year 13 77.32%

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

Please do continue to 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. Should they be absent for a period in excess of three days, please provide us with medical evidence ie. prescription, appointment card, off the counter medication etc. Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance further, please contact your son/daughter's Assistant Head of Year.

Attendance Lottery – well done to Tia Lawson for week ending 27.9.19, who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance. Many Congratulations.

Mrs Ganson (Inclusion Secretary)

## Thought for the Week

In this day and age, we seem to live in a world where fear is very evident. In fact, we are constantly bombarded by it. We see it in our closest relationships, hopes and dreams, family and communities. Fear in any form can often be paralysing and roots us to the spot stopping us from doing what we want to do.

It is also difficult to listen to the news these days. The country seems to be splitting apart. There are constant struggles at work and home, and anxiety is common. Social media can be discouraging, and many are disheartened. All of this can have a negative effect on our lives.

Strength and courage speak loudly in our imaginations, but when fear speaks it seems to be louder. At times like these when fear floods in, we have to remember: Courage is not a feeling. Courage is a noun, the strength to go forward even in the face of fear. Fear should be described as **False Evidence Appearing Real**. When we look at it this way, we can be encouraged and be free to live our lives.

In closing, the Bible talks about how God is always with us when we go through fear. He says these wonderful words to us

“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.”

Have a wonderful week, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

## Message from the Principal

### Open Evenings

I would like to start by thanking everyone who made the Open Evening event this week so enjoyable. Particular thanks to all the students who gave up their time to come in and show people around and talk so positively about their experiences, along with all those who put their heart and soul into demonstrations, performances and presentations. Thank you for giving them permission to be here and for supporting them to help our community, that teamwork was evident throughout the evening.

I must give particular thanks to Jessica and Kai the Head Girl and Head Boy of Year 7 who did such fantastic presentations to well over 600 people across the 4 talks we shared. Along with the Head Girl from Year 8 Dahlia who both sang and presented so well, I could not have been more impressed with their confidence and clarity.

A little advanced notice now for our next Open Evening relates to the other end of the Academy – for Year 11 students considering their next steps. **The OA6 Open Evening is coming up on Tuesday, 15 October (6.30-20.00pm)** which will allow students to find out about what we have to offer if they choose to continue their studies with us here at the Academy. There will be presentations and stalls of subject and careers information and will provide a great prompt to start homing in on those aspirations and ideas for next steps in education for our Year 11s.

At this point it is probably worth reminding Year 11 parents that we have an event next week too – the **‘Supporting Your Child Through Their GCSEs’** event will take place next Thursday, 10 October where there will be a presentation, workshops and demonstrations to help you support your child through this crucial year ahead.

Finally, I am appalled to note that a student had their bike stolen whilst here volunteering during Open Evening. I am unsure if this is separate from, or related to, a couple of incidents relating to bicycle vandalism that we have experienced recently too. I would therefore remind everyone using a bicycle to come to the Academy, to ensure their bike is locked securely, and that they check it when they return to it. This is a busy site open to the community once the school day ends so I would ask that everyone remains vigilant. Any information regarding bicycle related issues will be welcomed and treated in the strictest confidence by our new Safer Schools Partnership Officer, PC Gray, who will be starting with us next week. We are reviewing our CCTV arrangements and will continue to do all we can to keep bikes and cyclists safe on site.

Oh - and one other thing - students and staff have both requested that we mark World Mental Health day on Thursday, 10 October by supporting the Young Minds charity campaign #HelloYellow. As we already have a non uniform day on the last day of half term planned to support the Community Sport Foundation, we think that doing something a little different is in order. So, on Thursday, 10 October we are allowing students to swap one item of our normal uniform for something yellow or to add one yellow item to our uniform for the day and donate to the charity for the privilege. Normal donations for non uniform are £1 that is collected via form tutors, so we will aim to do the same again although any donation will be welcome.

## Final thought for the Week

Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching (CS Lewis)