

- Next week is week beginning 14/10/2019 (Week A)

- 21-25 October - Half Term
- 29 October - Y12/13 Parents Evening
- 4 November - Y8 Parents Evening with Tutor

# Newsletter

## Next Week

All Week - Y11 PPEs

Tuesday, 15 October - 6th Form Open Evening (6.30-8.00pm)

Friday, 18 October - Non Uniform Day

## Year 8 News

- Year 8 boys had a football match on Tuesday and lost unfortunately to Reepham. Great effort by our team. They play again on Monday at home against Sewell Park. Please come along and support our boys, it makes a big difference to be supported.
- We now have our Student Voice representatives for each form and they will be meeting on Tuesday mornings with an opportunity to discuss ideas and issues in the year group alongside the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies.
- Attendance this week is 94.39%. One more week to go before half term - let's try our best to raise this figure.
- The students with the highest achievement points gained this week were: Hayden Cobbett, George Colledge, Dalia Rosca, Toby Thompson and Luca Bush. Congratulations to everyone.

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: 838 Top: 5 Students: Well done!

Izzy Taylor	23
Leah Walker	21
Freya Tilney	20
Faith Berry	18
Mackenzie Culley	18

- Celebrate success in the year - we had a wonderful yellow turnout for Mental Health Day on Thursday. The students were supportive and very bright and sunny looking!

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 692. Students with the highest number of achievement points this week are; Jess Roll, Ellie Green, Kacper Podsadowski, Jeya Kandola and Kianna Drake. Congratulations, keep up the fantastic work!
- I would like to extend my thanks to the Year 10 students who have volunteered to help at recent events held at the Academy, Year 6 Open Evening and Year 11 Study Skills Evening. You demonstrated a mature and well-mannered approach to these events and showed yourselves to be a real credit to the Academy – thank you!

Year 6 Open Evening	Year 11 Study Skill Evening
Ben Ashby	Kianna Drake
Chantelle Blythe	Ellie Green
Tilly Butcher	Phoebe Prichard
Ellie Chapman	Jess Roll
Lilia Colledge	Alfie Sorrento
Rosario Furia	
Ellie Green	
Daisy Holman	
Samuel Leverett	
Harry Mann	
Ruby-Mae Mann	
Lucy Moscrop	
Amelie Orr	
Lottie Sanderson	
Chelsea Sharpe	
Alfie Sorrento	
Lola Thompson	
Cara Tipple	
Toby Wenn	

- Unfortunately, we are beginning to see an increase in the amount of un-submitted homework. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind yourselves and students of the Learning Hub, which takes place every evening from 3-4pm in the atrium. This is a supportive environment where students will receive encouragement and guidance from the Assistant Heads of Year.

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

## Year 11 News

- Attendance is slightly down this week, please can medical and dental appointments be made out of school hours where possible.
- This week we have had a record breaking number of achievement points recorded, many of them for outstanding homework and attending after school revision sessions, this will certainly support students in preparation for their PPE's starting next week.
- Thank you all to those who attended the Study Skills Evening, feedback from parents and students has been very positive. Those unable to attend have been given their revision packs today.
- We would encourage students to be punctual every day as the tutor sessions include many exam preparation strategies. Breakfast is available for free every day, including cereal, bagels and fruit. A good breakfast will really help students perform well in their exams.

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

# Attendance

**Week Ending     10.10.19**

Year 7    97.84%  
Year 8    91.85%  
Year 9    95.40%  
Year 10   87.03%  
Year 11   91.78%  
Year 12   90.53%  
Year 13   85.47%

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 Daniel Bluett, tutor group C8, for week ending 4.10.19, who wins a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance. Many Congratulations.

Mrs Ganson (Inclusion Secretary)

## Thought for the Week

When we think of hard work, we may have different pictures in our minds. Some of us might think of manual labour, sweat on the brow and tired muscles. Another might think of working at a PC for long hours. Still others might picture being on their feet all day long, serving others in whatever way their jobs dictate. All of these can certainly be examples of hard work. Hard work isn't just how many calories we burn or even how many hours we invest, but how we put forth effort to go the extra mile to accomplish what we have to do.

In the Bible there is a story about some fishermen who had worked very hard all night to catch fish and had caught nothing. Jesus then turns up and says to them, "cast your nets on the other side of the boat". Hearing this, I can imagine the moans and groans of tired irritable fishermen. Begrudgingly they did it and the end result were nets bursting with fish.

Sometimes it is hard to keep working for something, but I want to encourage you to keep going. Often the joy of hard work is found in not just getting the job done, but in the satisfaction of going the extra mile.

You are all in my thoughts and prayer.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

## Message from the Principal

Welcome to this week's newsletter and I wanted to start by saying I am sorry I missed the Year 11 GCSE evening last night. I know there was much on offer to help parents/carers of Year 11 to support their children in preparing them to do their best this summer, so many thanks to all who attended and to Mrs Pearsall and Mrs Wenlock and all the staff who planned and delivered the event. Don't forget a further date for the Year 11 diary is next week on Tuesday, 15 October 2019 when we hold our OA6 Open Evening for prospective 6<sup>th</sup> Form students. Please do come along and discuss your requirements from our 6<sup>th</sup> Form and to find out about our offer.

On a completely different note I have been working with my team to explore options around how busy the Academy has become now we are full in all years. At break and lunch the number of people in the atrium is very high and on days when the weather prevents the students from going outside we are packed in. One option we are exploring is to split lunch so that around half of the Academy has lunch at any one time. The most likely and deliverable option that we are exploring is for the day to remain the same for Key Stage 3, but when the bell goes for lunch, Key Stage 4 students go to lesson 4 whilst Key Stage 3 have their lunch. When Key Stage 3 lunch ends there would be a changeover time when all are in lessons for 20 minutes before a bell at 1.20 would start lunch for Key Stage 4. This would take significant pressure off the Atrium space during both 'sittings' and although presenting some organisational challenges, should lead to a calmer lunchtime atmosphere. We would need to swap which Key Stage has lunch first during the GCSE and A level exam period to fit in the afternoon exams, for one month from mid May, otherwise we think Key Stage 3 having the earlier lunch makes the best sense. Particularly given that for Year 11, effectively there is a 6-period day with all the extra revision classes, the later lunch may well suit better anyway.

These decisions are not taken lightly and we have been discussing and considering this since last year, however recent Academy growth in numbers means we will have to take some action. I would be pleased, as always, to hear your thoughts on this. We have considered a range of options including shortening lunch however they don't address the sheer number of students we have now, and I am keen that we continue to feel like a small scale Academy and this may help. It is not a foregone conclusion as we do have a number of issues to resolve and technical challenges to overcome, however, I am hoping we might get to a trial of a new system sooner rather than later – before the worst of the winter weather starts to kick in.

On a different note, as our Year 12 students finish their National Citizenship Award, there are a few charity events being run as part of their work. The last day of term, Friday, 18 October, will see a non uniform day in aid of the Community Sport Foundation who have supported the students in the program. On the same day the students are hoping to raise further funds by having a cake sale at break and lunchtime on the same day. There will be another bake sale in aid of Mens' Mental Health Charities after half term along side an information campaign – more about that next week.

Finally, I would like to add my congratulations to Calvin Smith in Year 9 who has been nominated for Norfolk Young Sports Personality of the Year by Active Norfolk for his performance in athletics in sprinting. I have seen him in action in a PE lesson sharing his methods with his colleagues. I know his times have been improving rapidly this year so I am delighted to see he has been recognised with this nomination, and I am sure it is just the beginning of his success story in sprinting. I know we have other excellent athletes within the Academy too, so there will be other names to look out for particularly in middle distance running in the coming years so watch this space for more success stories!