

- Next week is week beginning 24/06/2019 (Week A)

- Y11 Prom - Friday, 28 June

# Newsletter

## Next Week

Year 7 - All week - Exam Week

Year 11 leavers (new year 12) - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> is our 6<sup>th</sup> form Induction day .

All Years - National School Sports Week - bring your PE kit.

All Years - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> - our next whole school DEAR day (Drop Everything And Read) – two 20 minute slots in the day when everyone in the Academy downs tools, picks up a book and reads. This reinforces our weekly key stage 3 reading lessons and aims to promote a lifelong love of reading.

Y11 have left and will be celebrating with their Prom on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at Sprowston Manor (7-11pm).

## Trips & Visits

26/6/19 Y10 Film Studies trip to the Odeon

26/6/19 Y8+ trip to The Royal Norfolk Show

27/6/19 Y9 (13 Students) Undercover writers celebration

28/6/19 Y 7 (30 students) UEA Fly Festival trip

## News

Despite the rain it is definitely warm enough for summer uniform now, so as of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June students will be allowed to not wear their blazer in school.

Further I have had a request for students to be able to wear tailored /knee length shorts which seems reasonable, however as with any uniform change, this will need to be discussed and agreed with governors as it will undoubtedly involve further clarification i.e. around socks etc. Please do email me if you have views on this matter. In the meantime Mr Wilkinson has agreed to prepare a brief paper for the next governors meeting in a few weeks' time

### **We (still) have vacancies for Academy Governors!**

Anyone who may be interested in becoming a school governor, please drop Michelle Shorten the clerk to the governors an email on [michelle.shorten@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:michelle.shorten@open-academy.org.uk). Although we would be particularly interested in those who have skills in data analysis, law and Human Resources experience, anyone is welcome to apply. Michelle can arrange an informal chat with the chair and send the relevant forms if required.

Did you know – we have a Facebook page as well as a twitter feed? You can find us on

## Work of the Week

Our highest praise - and 10 extra LEARN points go to...

**Yr 7 Ollie K, Great work in Spanish**

**Yr 8 Maisie M, Great work in Spanish**

**Yr 10 Cornett B, Charlize B, Fantastic work on Ecology & Barez S Great work in French**

You can see their work on our Facebook page, please have a look if you haven't already linked to us.

## Reminder - Road Safety

A quick reminder to all parents who drop children off on site – we recognise everyone is in a hurry in the morning but would request that you **stick to the 5mph limit on site please** – the combination of cars, bicycles and pedestrians raises all kinds of risks so your co-operation is appreciated on this matter.

## Clubs

Every Friday after school (from 3.10pm). I will be running a textiles club for KS3 students to improve their sewing skills and to make useful products. All KS3 students welcome. Feel free to bring your own fabric if you wish. For more information talk to Mrs Reynolds.

## Message from the Principal

Parents at the recent parent forum said they would like to hear about new developments in the Academy and there is indeed much going on:

- We are in the process of **re-structuring our pastoral support** – back to a more traditional year team approach, so next week I will share the detail of our new system.
- We have introduced a new training programme for teachers called **Great Open Teaching** which I will detail the week after.
- Our new **Faculty Review** system will also be worth sharing in the future.

But for now, after my Ofsted update last week, I thought I would focus on behaviour and what we are doing to keep it improving.

### ‘LEARNT Behaviour’

I am sure many of you have read about various tough behaviour regimes in schools recently with some infamous examples in the press. Whilst the extremes of challenge are not what we are about, we are still looking to promote the best learning behaviours in class.

We asked ourselves what are the features of the toughest behaviour regimes – what are they trying to get the students to do, and then we asked how we can support, train and encourage the students to improve their own behaviours to become great learners.

A fairly well known behaviour system is from Doug Lemov’s book Teach Like a Champion which uses **SLANT** as an acronym to remind students to **Sit up. Lean in to listen. Answer questions. Nod along with the teacher. Track the speaker.** These are all good learning behaviours which we want to encourage but we wanted to put our own take on this, and after talking it through with staff and students last term we came up with our **LEARNT behaviours** idea. LEARNT is deliberately very similar to the SLANT system but crucially here, we aim it to be a positive training package for students. We ‘soft launched’ it at the end of last term and have launched it fully with the students this term – taking a letter per week and exploring its meaning and how you they can show the behaviour. Our behaviour policy is being re-written and streamlined to include the LEARNT behaviour programme too and we will be launching this fully at the start of the next academic year so for now we are sticking to the positive training programme of LEARNT behaviour which stands for...

- Listen – actively and carefully
- Engage – be involved in the learning
- Ask & Answer – your and other’s questions
- Respect – yourself, your environment and those around you
- Now – be present – focus on the learning

- Teamwork – work well with each other – students and staff

To train students what we are looking for, each week we are focussing on one LEARNT behaviour and we are awarding extra LEARNT achievement points for it, with prizes and trips up for grabs each week and an overall competition to reward those with the highest points tally.

In this way we are aiming to ensure that all our students are constantly encouraged to exhibit the best learning behaviours whilst we keep training them in to better and better classroom habits.

The new behaviour policy will include all the expected sanctions and we will be working on the consistency of our approach across all staff on our training day in September. I will share the new policy as it is published at the start of the year via this newsletter.

So as a Christian organisation using the example of Jesus, we have looked at the best examples of training students to become great learners, and designed an approach to encourage support and train the students to become the best they can be – I do hope you will get behind it and discuss this new approach with you children and as ever I am always keen to receive your feedback on how it is going in the classroom

## A Final Thought This Week

I have added some extra sections this week and I am still trying to track down further information. However I am still really keen that you let me know what information would be of most use and whether this newsletter is helpful.