

Newsletter

Friday, 10 January 2020
Issue 1

Week beginning
13/01/2020 (Week A)

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 21 January – Y11 Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Thursday, 23 January – Y9 Girls HPV Immunisation
Friday, 24 January – Y11 Advice & Slice Event (4.30-6pm)

Trips & Visits

Tuesday, 14 January – Y12 Business Studies Trip
Monday, 20 January – Y11 History Trip
Thursday, 23 January – Y11 Photography Trip
Friday, 24 January – Y11 Photography Trip

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year indeed of the decade!

Knowledge Organisers

As we start again, refreshed after the Christmas break I thought this week I should highlight some of the steps we are taking to support students in all year groups to keep up with their work. Over the next few weeks, students in Key Stage 3 will be issued with 'Knowledge Organisers' for the term ahead - basically booklets that have all the content that they will be expected to know by the end of the term for all their subjects, collected in to one handy booklet. Copies of these will be available to parents on the website and in future newsletters I will highlight when they are published and how you might use them to support your child with their studies.

The Learning Hub

Another major initiative which has been steadily growing is our learning hub. We are encouraging students to remain in the Academy for an hour or so after school to get on top of their homework. In the coming weeks, if your child starts slipping behind with their homework or if they don't meet their targets in assessments, you may receive a text or phone call inviting them to remain at the Academy after the school day to get the work completed, or to do some catch up work.

Please do support your child to attend if invited as we are keen that they should receive as much support as possible. Our homework setting, monitoring system and our new assessment processes are becoming much more robust so we are clearer who is in danger of falling behind, and we are keen to intervene as soon as possible to help get students back on track.

The learning hub has a very pleasant relaxed atmosphere with juice and biscuits available for all who stay, laptops ready for work and a number of staff on hand to talk things through with.

It may well be that your child struggles to focus on homework at home and you or they would prefer to get it done in school anyway, no problem, the learning hub is also open to drop in students who just want to get their work done, perhaps with their friends in a relaxed calm and focussed atmosphere. If that is the case, please do encourage them to stay on at the end of the day. Initially the hub will be running every day until 4.15 (4pm on Friday) but over time we will look to extend these hours to a full 2 hours 'prep' (preparation) time.

Year 11 Period 6

Learning hub can be used by students in all years however as year 11 approach their final practice run before their GCSE's we will be encouraging them to attend their appropriate period 6 session. Most days see revision or coursework sessions for year 11 exam preparation and once again I strongly encourage the students to attend. In many schools this programme is compulsory however we usually get high levels of attendance by year 11 so have not found it necessary - I think the year 11's know what they need and really appreciate the extras that are on offer.

So whatever your child is invited to - please do encourage them to attend - there is a lot going on and they are bound to benefit!

School Payments

An easier way for you to make school payments

As many of you are aware, we are now using an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily on your smartphone, tablet or computer. For those of you who are not already signed up, we would strongly encourage you to do so.

A link has been sent to you to activate your account. If you have not received this, please check your spam inbox and/or confirm we have your correct email address.

If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store.

The benefits include:

- Top up your child's lunch money.
- Monitor what your child spends on their lunch.
- Avoids your child bringing cash in to school, which could be lost or spent elsewhere.
- We inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail i.e trips and events.
- You will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards as well as PayPal and PayPoint.

Please note, your bank statement will display either the school name or ParentMail, dependent on your payment method.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or please contact Yvonne Bell in the finance office.

Mrs Appleby (Business Manager)

Year 7 News

Happy 2020 from the Year 7 team!

Four days in and our Year 7 students have earned almost 900 achievement points – what a fantastic start to the new year! Congratulations to Lucy Waterfield, Star Cook and Michaela Browne for achieving 24 points each!

We've also had a positive start to the learning hubs which take place after school every afternoon. Please note that if your child has missed a homework deadline then we expect students to attend the learning hub the following day as an opportunity to catch up with their work, where we have laptops, resources and equipment they might need, and a cheeky drink and biscuits too!

In Monday morning's assembly, students were made aware of the school's new knowledge organisers – a document which can be used as a revision or classroom tool. It is now available on our website, as are printed copies in classrooms so please check this out with your sons and daughters so they know where to find it!

Finally, our student council met this week to discuss Sports Relief 2020! They've come up with some exciting ways of raising money and you can expect to hear from them in the coming weeks.

Wishing you a happy week ahead!

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

Year 8 News

Happy New Year. It's good to see everyone back after the Christmas break. We've had a good, busy first week back. 866 achievement points have been awarded this week! It's good to have students back with a positive mindset to succeed. Our top achievers this week are Samih Ozkan, Lucy Birkett, Summer MacCormack, Jamil Ali, Dalia Rosca, Harry Robinson, Zac Skells, Freya Graysmark, Georgina Barnes and Corey Sorrento. Well done to you all.

Learning hubs are happening every evening after school in the Atrium 3pm until 4pm. If your child has not completed scheduled homework then they will be invited to the learning hub the following evening. All students are welcome to attend any evening after school to catch up on any work or for extra revision, reading etc.

Attendance for Year 8 is 93.09% which is not a satisfactory start to the year. Please encourage students to come to school if their symptoms are mild, as good attendance is needed for good progress in all their lessons. We also encourage students to get to their lessons in time too as this does take up precious learning time.

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

Year 9 News

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a new year and a happy and healthy Spring Term.

Targets for all students this term are to ensure all homework is completed (parents can check their child's homework on the SIMs app) and everyone's attendance stays above 96% - these two things will really make a difference to a student's progress.

Our Weekly Achievement Points Top 5 will return next week - so keep getting those points!

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

Year 10 News

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. This week has been a great return to Academy life for our Year 10 students. Our top five students for achievement points this half week are Lilia Colledge, Jess Roll, Ruby-Mae Mann, Edward Lincoln and Zoe Wood. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!

Year 10 PPE 1 (Pre Public Exams) Progress Report and letter are now available to view on the SIMS Parent App. It is important that you share this information with your child so they can see at what level they are working at. If you have any questions about the Progress Report, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. Information regarding the Parent App can be found on our website www.open-academy.org.uk under the Parent tab – Parent Portal, or if you have a problem with the Parent App please email simsparent@open-academy.org.uk.

The biggest issue last term as a Year 10 team was attendance. Our average attendance as a year group for this half term was at 89.60% which is well below the expectations of the Academy, of which we expect all students to achieve a minimum of 98% attendance. Please can we ask that your child is only kept off school if absolutely necessary and where possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours.

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

Year 11 News

The break has obviously refreshed and re-energised Year 11 as we have had a very positive first week back. Attendance has improved from before the holidays and the quantity and quality of homework handed in has been high. We will very much be focusing on homework as research shows that completing homework improves knowledge and understanding and has a highly significant effect on exam performance. If your child fails to submit a piece of homework you will receive an email and your child will be invited to attend the 'Learning Hub'. This is an opportunity to complete work after school with any resources that they require being provided.

Parents' evening will be on Tuesday, 21 January from 4-7pm. It is really crucial that you attend with your child. Teachers will provide you with detailed information about what your child needs to do for their next session of PPEs and for their exams. There will also be an opportunity to attend a short presentation about revision and study skills, as well as staff to talk about next steps e.g. careers/sixth form and information on planning revision timetables.



On Friday, 24 January 4.30-6pm we are holding an advice and a slice evening. This will be a time for you to pop into the Academy and get information about study skills, revision strategies and all things exam related with the bonus of a slice of pizza. You are able to bring younger siblings and we will provide some games to keep them occupied. Please email me if you would like to attend so I can order enough pizza.

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

6th Form News

Welcome back! I hope that you all feel refreshed and ready for the new term. The days are getting longer and brighter at last!

Year 12 and Year 13 have had their PPE 1 assessment week. Anyone that has missed their assessment will need to speak to their teacher and catch up next week. Sport BTEC also carried out their first official exam (Health & Wellbeing) on Wednesday. Y13 Business students sat their final official exam and Y12 sat their first exam on Friday.

Well done everyone and good luck to those taking their exams next week.

The Year 12 Norfolk Scholars are running some clubs as part of their INVOLVE project.

Cerys and Emily will be running an Art club on Monday lunchtimes in Mr Walters' room. Please see the posters in tutor rooms to check details.

Reuben Harvey has started assisting teachers by helping students in Y8 and Y9 History lessons. He will shortly be starting a history revision club.

Please make use of these resources as our Sixth Formers have lots of knowledge to share with you!

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Thought for the Week

As we continue to go through our twelve core values in school, personally I am constantly blown away by the lessons I learn from them. Many of these lessons are life changing in different ways.

Next week we will be looking at teamwork and how this effects our lives. I am reminded that we are all in this life together. We all walk through its problems, difficulties and of course the happy times too. None of this is good if we choose to walk this life alone. As human beings, we are not built to be on our own, the urge for relationship and friendship is built into our DNA. People are the most valuable asset we can have in our lives so I want to encourage us to communicate with the people around us. Talk to them, share your problems, after all a problem shared is a problem halved. Don't forget to share the happy times too. Lay aside the mobile phone, tablet, social media etc for a while and spend time with someone. Seek out the people in your community who maybe are lonely and need friendship, or someone to talk to.

The Bible says that "Two are better than one. If one falls down, the other is there to pick them up". Friendship is priceless, we all need it.

In closing, let's take teamwork to our hearts. Who can we help, talk to and encourage now and into the future. Don't go through life on your own, take time to talk, it makes a massive difference.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance

Week Ending	18.12.19
Year 7	96.18%
Year 8	89.29%
Year 9	92.76%
Year 10	87.29%
Year 11	87.59%
Year 12	84.91%
Year 13	66.28%

Well done to Year 7 who are the winners for having the highest attendance for the week ending 18.12.2019.

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 from 2.9.2019 to 18.12.2019 was 93.27%.

For all students to gain the greatest benefit from their education, it is vital that they attend regularly and your child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

An amazing 155 students gained improved attendance between the months of November 2019 and December 2019. They have all been given achievement points.

In addition, 329 pupils had 100% for the month of December 2019 which is a great increase from the previous month. These students have also been given achievement points. Well done to you all!

For the half term period from 28 October 2019 to 18 December 2019, tutor group D7 had the highest attendance of 98.40%. This is an amazing level of attendance and as such, all students in this tutor group will be invited to an award breakfast. Further details to follow.

Is my child 'too ill' for school?

There are clear government guidelines for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. The guidance below is taken from the NHS website and includes information on common childhood illnesses where school is missed when it needn't be. It is vital to follow this, as we will not authorise your child's absence if they feel they are well enough to be in school (this could lead to consequences for parents/carers, which we would like to avoid!):

Coughs and colds - It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Sore throat - You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.

Menstrual Cramps - School should not be missed due to 'the time of the month'. A supply of paracetamol etc. can always be kept in school in order to take this when required. Please complete a form available at Reception. We also have an emergency supply of pads and tampons obtainable within school.

Conjunctivitis - You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits - There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You should treat your child and send them into school.

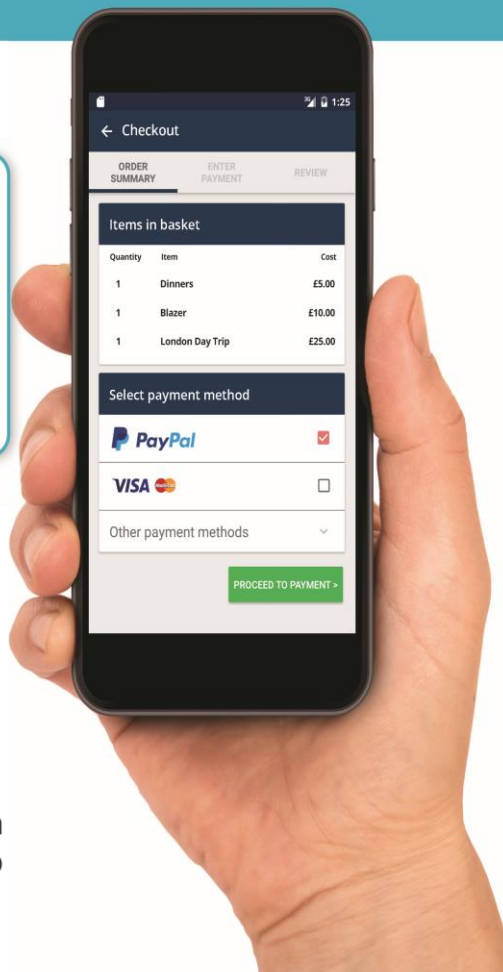
Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)



Attention all parents!

Make school payments online!

"One of the greatest things is the shop function and the ability to manage dinner money online. I can top up via PayPal when I need to fits brilliantly into my working schedule!"



Get started...

1. Register with ParentMail
2. Download the App & login
3. Make payments on the go



Please note: You will need to register online on the ParentMail website to use the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message.