

Newsletter

Friday, 17 January 2020
Issue 2

Week beginning
20/01/2020 (Week B)

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)
Thursday, 6 February - Harry Potter Library Event (4.30-6.30pm)

Trips & Visits

Monday, 20 January – Y11 History Trip
Thursday, 23 January – Y11 Photography Trip
Friday, 24 January – Y11 Photography Trip
27-29 January – Y10 Norfolk Scholars Residential Trip
Friday, 31 January – Y12 Photography Trip

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

I will be brief this week as I have been out training for a couple of days and am not fully back in the swing of things. What has been heartening however, has been looking at practice in three other secondary schools, one outstanding and two good, and realising that what we do at Open stands in strong comparison with the others.

Support through our Learning Hub

I am particularly pleased to note how we are starting to support students with the Learning Hub, which was considered an excellent step forward by my fellow principals/headteachers, not to mention the strengths of our new assessment approach and the new knowledge organisers.

I am confident that in all year groups we are now getting regular and clear information on how well the students are progressing compared to their starting points and where assessment information says they might be falling behind, they are invited to put some time in at the learning hub at the end of the day. Here they can revise and catch up on ideas and information they have missed or not understood first time around, or work with teachers to get prepared for lessons they are finding tricky.

Where students appear to be struggling with getting their homework completed, the Learning Hub is there for them to catch up on missed work or use the Hub as a quiet space to get on top before deadlines. Invites should be going out thick and fast now where students are missing deadlines and I genuinely appreciate the support we are getting from you to ensure the students are turning up.

Support through our Knowledge Organisers

As we have now published the knowledge organisers for this term for the whole of Key Stage 3, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 can use these booklets to work independently at home or with support at the learning hub, to catch up on work they may have missed, or prepare for work they have to complete.

Please do have a look through the knowledge organisers – under the parent tab on the website – specifically at this address: [Knowledge Organisers](#) as staff have put significant effort in planning ahead for the spring term and getting them ready to share with you and the students.

As usual I will be delighted to hear what you think about these various developments.

Mr Ford (Principal)

Library News



This week students were extremely lucky to take part in a visit from the Browns Book Bus. The Book Bus is a double decker bus and students visited throughout the day to select new books for the school library. By the end of the day over 1500 books had been scanned and created into a wish list! Miss Ling is busily sorting through this list and the new books will be available in the library soon.

Save the Date: Harry Potter Book Night- a celebration of all things Harry Potter- will be taking place on Thursday, 6 February (4.30-6pm). More information will follow soon, but students who are interested can sign up with Miss Ling now.

Competition: To coincide with BBC's 500 Words competition, we are running an internal competition to write a 500 word short story. Our competition is open to all students in the academy. The deadline for entries is Thursday, 27 February. A book token will be awarded to the writers of the best stories on World Book Day on Thursday, 5 March. Students under the age of 13 can also enter the BBC competition but must have parental permission.

More information can be found here: [BBC 500 Words](#)

Miss Ling (Librarian)

Assessment and Progress Reporting

All year groups have now been through at least one cycle of our new assessment and reporting system this academic year.

We are really pleased to see this having an impact on learning in the Academy, with students being clearer on their strengths and areas for development in each of their subjects. Further to feedback from parents, we are now going to be exporting the percentage achieved in each examination assessment in Years 7, 8 and 9 as we appreciate that many parents would like to know exactly what students got in each subject.

The second progress reports coming out for Year 9 in the next few days will contain this information. Although overall results are important, our priority in the academy is that students focus more on the areas of learning that need improvement and work with teachers in lessons to close gaps in their understanding and skills. Please support us in ensuring students are also completing homework and making use of the after-school learning hubs to help with this work.

Our new assessment and progress reporting policy is available on the Open Academy website for further information.

Miss Wenlock (Assistant Principal)

Year 7 News

Our attendance this week has averaged at around 95% which is significantly lower than our usual stellar Year 7 performance – please ensure your child is pushing through the January blues and notify us in the first instance of a severe illness.

A whopping 1350 achievement points gained this week! Congratulations to Gracie Britcher, Star Cook and Michaela Browne with over 30 points each, but a huge round of applause to Gemma Smith with 55 points, lots of which were earned by attending the learning hubs after school – very well done!

Congratulations to Harisan Martin who has been nominated for work of the week!

Finally, we have noticed an increase in the number of students saying that they cannot attend after school detentions for poor behaviour in lesson time. We will always assume that students will attend after-school detentions as laid out in the behaviour policy, but in the event that there is a genuine reason why this expectation cannot be met, parents/guardians must contact the main office to notify staff to make a different arrangement. Any questions regarding this clarification, please feel free to speak to myself, Miss Moss or Mrs Edwards. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

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

Year 8 News

This week has been assessment week for our Year 8s. We will be distributing knowledge organisers to all Year 8 students which will have key subject revision facts in them. Please encourage your child to use these on a regular basis.

Our attendance this week is 92.36%.

Each week our tutor groups participate in a tutor challenge quiz. Since September our weekly winners in the lead are C8 – well done to Mr Thurston's tutor group - Mr Edwards' tutor group are closely chasing their lead.

Our top 10 achieving students this week are: Lola Pauling, Kasia Jolly, Faith George, Joshua Chester, Mia Crowe, Hannah Jordan, Lucy Birkett, Tommy Bluett, Kimora Alexander and Sean Passmore. Well done to you all.

Student Voice meet every week and offer ideas and discuss issues. Please encourage your child to talk to their tutor reps about any ideas they may have.

The Year 8 football team champions league semi-finals against Ormiston Victory Academy is on Wednesday, 5 February at home, kick off at 3.30pm.

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

Year 9 News

No update this week.

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

Year 10 News

Our top five students for achievement points this week are as follows: Dylan Skitmore, Spencer Kingston, Millie Davies, Abbie Spencer and Lottie Sanderson. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!

Congratulations to Samuel Leverett and Jeya Kandola who passed their Grade 5 drumming exams with merits – a great achievement!

Congratulations to the following students for completing at least one piece of homework to an 'above and beyond' standard this week: Mackenzie Banham, Billy Bishop, Spencer Kingston, Edward Lincoln, Grace O'Neill, Lottie Sanderson, Alfie Sorrento and Daniel Swatman. As always, the Learning Hub is available for all students every evening from 3-4pm in the atrium where students will receive support and guidance to complete their homework.

Following the start of a new calendar year, please can we remind you of the urgency for students to be making their work experience placements. So far, we only have 19 students out of 109 with a confirmed placement. Despite the 6 July seeming in the distant future, we would strongly urge students to begin looking for their work experience placements now to avoid disappointment as they fill very quickly. If your child/ward is struggling to find a work experience placement, please encourage them to seek the support of their tutor in the first instance.

Attendance is still a massive concern for us. 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

Just a reminder that parents' evening is on Tuesday, 21 January (4-7pm). Staff look forward to seeing you to give you some personalised feedback about how your child is currently performing, some tips to improve for their up coming PPE2 and what they need to be doing for their final exams. This is possibly the most important parents evening of their time here with us. There will also be staff to give advice about revision and revision timetables and careers.

Another reminder that 'Advice and a Slice' will be on Friday, 24 January (4.30-6pm) to provide information and support on all things exam related. Please email myself, ruth.pearsall@open-academy.org.uk or Mrs Middleton, michele.middleton@open-academy.org.uk to let us know if you are able to attend so we can make sure we order enough pizza. You are welcome to bring younger siblings.

Congratulations to the Year 11 boys football team who played against Sewell Park on Thursday evening and produced a very convincing 5-2 win.

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

Careers Information

Motivation

At this point in the school year, your child may be considering their next steps after sixth form, studying and revising for exams, planning work experience or beginning to consider which GCSE subjects to take. It's a busy time of year, combined with winter weather of shorter, colder days. Your child may find motivation slipping as they consider what they need to do. Everyone is different, but one or more of these ideas might help:

What are you working towards? Write or draw this, and stick it somewhere you can see it, to remind yourself of what you want.

- Visualise success. Imagine yourself revising or completing that essay. It's a technique used widely by athletes to help achieve success.
- Break your tasks down. Make a revision timetable or plan out your week, including when to write that CV for work experience or complete your homework. Breaking down your tasks should make them seem much less difficult and time consuming.
- Plan in time for your favourite activities. Even if you are revising for exams, you need to make sure you have regular breaks and free time – balanced with study.

If you have a child in Year 11 and you are wondering how to support them with how to revise, helping them to study effectively, make a revision timetable or any other questions, it would be great to see you at our 'Advice and Slice' evening on Friday, 24 January (4.30-6pm). I am also attending Parents' Evening for Year 11 on Tuesday, 21 January (4-7pm), and would be delighted to chat to you then about revision, study or next steps after GCSEs.

There is also support within school, or I can be contacted through Mrs Davies if I can support you/your child.

Ms Reynolds-McKay (Higher Education Champion Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach)

6th Form News

Hooray! The UCAS deadline has finished and all applications went in successfully! Thank you to all students for your perseverance and hard work.

The university offers have started to come in, which is very exciting. Please ask your child to come and speak to myself, or their tutors if you are unsure what the next step is. I have a very informative 'What Happens Next' booklet for each student which gives them step by step guides. We will also be arranging an assembly shortly to give them more information regarding this.

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be sending out to students lots of amazing FREE opportunities for both Year 12 and 13 based on higher education opportunities, activity days, university taster days etc.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Thought for the Week

Humility

Humility is the opposite of pride, a big ego and arrogance. Humility is one of the most beautiful attributes anyone can have and living humbly involves our attitudes toward every human being we meet in our day to day life and in our own communities. A big challenge to us is that others see our attitudes to humility in the ways we manifest it through our actions and words.

The simplest and most profound definition of humility is we are “not better than anyone else.”

Humility is mentioned lots of times in the Bible, and is perfectly demonstrated in the life of Jesus. He even said He came to serve and not to be served and to treat others as you would like to be treated.

As we go through this week, let’s try to put others first, it makes a difference in us, but makes an even bigger difference to and in the recipient.

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

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance



Y7-Y11

Week Ending 10.1.2020

Year 7	97.64%
Year 8	92.36%
Year 9	93.14%
Year 10	88.33%
Year 11	91.96%
Year 12	88.86%
Year 13	85.14%

Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 10.01.20. Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 10.1.2020 was 92.70%.

Attendance Lottery – Many Congratulations to Shadif Ullah, Year 11, who has won a £10 Amazon voucher following a rollover for having 100% attendance for week ending 10 January 2020.

For week 6.1.2020 to 10.1.2020, we had an amazing 445 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 36 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. Well done to all those students!

Just a reminder that If your child is absent due to illness, please contact Reception or email student.absence@open-academy.org.uk to inform us of the reason for their absence before 8.30am, if possible.

Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)