

Newsletter

Friday, 24 January 2020
Issue 3

Week beginning
27/01/2020 (Week A)

Diary Dates

Friday, 24 January – Y11 Advice & Slice Event (4.30-6pm)

Tuesday, 28 January – Y11 PPE2

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

Trips & Visits

27-29 January – Y10 Norfolk Scholars Residential Trip

Friday, 31 January – Y12 Photography Trip

Tuesday, 4 February – Cambridge University Trip

9-12 February – Battlefields Trip

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the newsletter this week.

I will start by apologising to Key Stage 4 students who had their lunch disrupted by the fire alarm on Wednesday. I had hoped everyone had finished their lunch by the time the disruption started, however a few had not, so as always when we have alarms and drills I will review what we can do better, and if the situation were to happen again, ensure we can identify who has missed out on their lunch and get something sorted for them.

I will take this opportunity to mention that there will be a change to the lunch order when the external exam season begins in May to facilitate the longer examinations during afternoons. I will share more details about that nearer the time.

It was a shame that Wednesday was disrupted as we had a number of visitors from our primary school partners exploring with the academy to see how we can better support our children through the transition to high school. The visitors enjoyed their visit and the groundwork has been done for some joint curriculum planning over the next few months to ensure as smooth a transition as possible to Open.

On a much more positive note students in Key Stage 4 and 5 have this week been fortunate to see a presentation from a senior member of staff at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, to explore the range of opportunities and roles in the NHS. As part of our comprehensive careers program students get a wide range of activities to explore what they may wish to do in the future.

Finally, it was fantastic to see so many parents here for the Year 11 parents evening this week. We have been growing attendance at parents' evenings for some time now and it was great to see over 94% attendance at the evening. Talks were given and general advice on supporting your child through to the exams, along with the focussed subject specific next steps advice and guidance from the subject teachers.

As we said on the evening, there is now a full period 6 program for Year 11s with timetabled subject sessions on every day except Tuesdays. On Tuesdays we still encourage Year 11 to stay on for period 6 however this will be for self-guided study in the library or the Learning Hub in the atrium. The next few months will pass very quickly for the Year 11s so the time is now to ensure those revision plans are in place ready for the final rehearsal exams – PPE2 coming up either side of February half term. If there is anything further we can do to support please do get in touch with the year 11 Team.

Mr Ford (Principal)

Year 7 News

Congratulations to Star Cook, Grace Edwards and Liliana Read for being our top 3 achievement point winners this week!

Attendance this week is still relatively low in comparison to our amazing start last term – let's keep powering through the toughest month!

A reminder about our phone policy – whilst we understand that having a mobile phone getting to and from school can be an essential item, it is not something students should be using throughout the school day. As stated in our behaviour policy, phones will be confiscated from students if seen being used during school hours and can be collected at the end of the day from the Year 7 office. Please remind your child of this agreement as we have seen an increase in the number of phones out and about!

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

Year 8 News

Another busy week, all assessments are over now and Knowledge Organisers have been distributed to all students.

Our attendance this week is 93.17% - we are on the way up! Congratulations to Teyla Young who has won a £5 Amazon for having 100% attendance for week ending 17 January 2020. Well Done Teyla!

Huge congratulations to Samuel Yellop who competed in the Cross Country Championships this week and came a staggering 10th. Samuel has qualified to represent Norfolk. Fantastic achievement.

Our top 10 students this week for achievement points earned are: Teyla Young, Mia Crowe, Kasia Jolly, Ashton Buck, Oliver King, Harry Robinson, Lisa Kracewicz, James Hoye, Finley Davey and Owen Middleton.

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

Year 9 News

Well done to all those students keeping their attendance above 98% - keep up the good work! Total achievement points for the week was a total of 649 points. The Top 5 Students for Achievements Points are:

Faye Lincoln	24
Sugar Chapman	22
Jordan Page	17
Zak Pitts	17
Mackenzie Culley	17

Excellent work!

Quality of homework is really starting to improve. However, there are still too many pieces of homework not being completed for the year group. If students are struggling to complete their homework, then they should be attending the Learning Hub, which runs every day in the atrium between 3.00-4.00pm. We would ask all parents to check the SIMs app, so they know what their child needs to be completing for homework and when it is due.

We are proud to announce we have a new Senior Prefect Team who will be working on exciting projects such as a Year Group Charity and fundraising events, as well as taking a leadership role at school events like parents evenings etc. The new team is: Amelie Treacy, Ethan Walpole, Maisie McCormack, Jack Teasdale, Kieran Baxter, Sophie Smith, Mackenzie Culley, Emma Tyrrell, Faye Lincoln, Freya Tilney, Maddy Tilney, Jack Morgan and Leo Hughes. Well done to all of you.

A letter has been sent out today from Mr Ward regarding the Year 9 options evening.

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: Edward Lincoln, Jess Roll, Layla Parfitt, Amelie Orr and Harrison Foster. Well done and keep up the fantastic effort!

Congratulations to Jeya Kandola on qualifying at the Norfolk Schools Cross Country Championships this week – he will be representing Norfolk at the Anglia Cross Country Championships, a great achievement! Well done!

Congratulations to the following students for completing at least one piece of homework to an 'above and beyond' standard this week: Calli Atkins, Ellie Chapman, Lilia Colledge, Harrison Foster, Ellie Green, Edward Lincoln, Amelie Orr, Quinlan Orr, Kacper Podadowski, Jess Roll, Lottie Sanderson, Lola Thompson and Zoe Wood. As always, the Learning Hub is available for all students every evening from 3.00-4.00pm in the atrium where students will receive support and guidance to complete their homework.

Finally, we have noticed a large increase in the number of students saying they cannot attend after school detentions. We will always assume that students will attend after school as per our behaviour policy. In the event that your child/ward cannot attend an after school detention, please notify the main office so alternative arrangements can be made.

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

Work Experience

If you have a child in Year 10, you may know that school has a work experience week in July. Work experience is a brilliant opportunity to find out what it is like in a chosen job or sector of work. But how does your child go about finding the perfect placement for them? School have provided a great information pack as a first step for your student. Next steps for your child might be:

- Thinking about possible work experience places. What would they like to do in the future? Add in where they can easily get to every day – are they walking there, using public transport or another method?
- Try an internet search and write down possible places. They could research the company ready for their next step.
- Write a CV. This could include a few sentences about them under the first heading – use that company research and knowledge of the business sector so that their sentences are relevant and they have highlighted skills.
- Contact the companies – by phone, email, post or in person. Contact more than one so that they have options.
- Follow up as needed.

Good luck on finding a perfect placement. If you or your child would like further support, this is available within school or I can be contacted through Ms Davies.

I look forward to seeing many of you this evening, Friday, 24 January at our Y11 Advice and Slice event for students and their families from 16.30–6.00pm.

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

Year 11 News

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend parents' evening. Attendance was excellent and I am sure you would have found the individual feedback from teachers helpful in supporting your child. I enjoyed being able to meet and speak to many of you and encourage you to contact the Year 11 team with any concerns you have about your child so that we can help support them through their examinations.

This week we have given students letters regarding Leavers Hoodies. Please note the deadline is Monday, 10 February, but contact us if there are any problems with payment as we can look at paying in instalments.

We have also now booked Sprowston Manor for Prom which is an amazing venue and will be held on Friday, 26th June. We will issue letters about this after half term.

Another reminder that PPE2 will start on Tuesday, 28 January and students should be revising about 2 hours each night. We have had an assembly on being organised this morning and ask you to encourage your child in making a revision timetable. We can provide students with a template and advice on how this can be done. A good timetable should include extra curricular activities and events that students enjoy as a 'treat' for knuckling down and helps motivate them. Attendance at revision sessions after school is an ideal opportunity to have an expert help them with their revision and can be easier than studying alone for many.

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

6th Form News

This week 6th Formers have had two assemblies with outside speakers to enable them to make correct choices post school.

Dr Sue Madden spoke to Year 12 about education and careers in the health sector. Please make sure that your child contacts her via email if you have any further questions.

Emily from UEA Outreach also came in and spoke to Year 13 about 'What Happens Next' once they have received all replies from their UCAS applications. Some of our students have already decided on their firm and insurance university choices. Good luck to those that are still awaiting all replies and to those that have interviews coming up.

Next week on Thursday, 30 January, I will be meeting with all internal Year 11 applicants for OA6. We will be speaking to them about the grades needed to attend our 6th Form, what a day in the life of a 6th Former looks like, as well as looking at how lessons change from GCSE to A-Level. Your child should have received a letter on Monday regarding this. If your child has not applied, and still wishes to do so, please ask them to see Mrs Molloy or Mrs Davies for an application form.

Please remind your child about the importance of being at the academy from 8.40am until 3.00pm. Private study times are essential lessons whereby students can catch up on work, revision, or meet with teachers. At no point should a student be leaving the academy early because of their job. Please ensure that your child comes and speaks to me if there are any issues.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Thought for the Week

Courage

Courage takes on many forms. It can take courage for someone to just get up in the morning, to step out of the front door or it can take courage to turn up at work or school in the face of bullying or struggles. All of us have fear about different things and they can paralyse us and easily stop us from living a "free" life. Fear often causes our minds to rush ahead of time and worry about things that won't even happen.

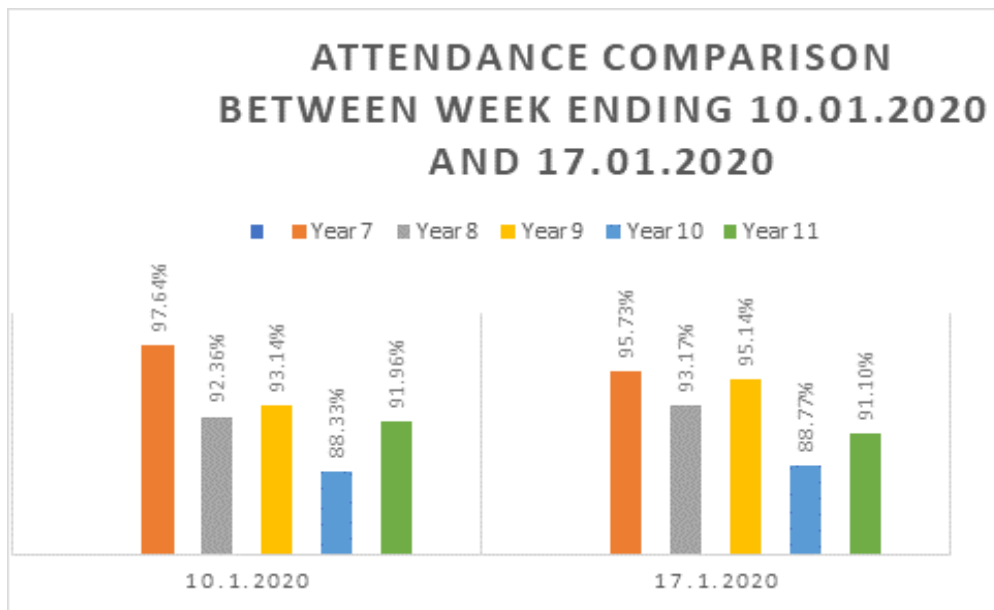
We all need to realise and recognise that courage is not the opposite of fear. Without fear we would not need courage and we would charge headlong into situations without thinking which would be detrimental to our lives. Courage comes along when we acknowledge and recognise our fears, but don't let them conform us into living scared lives. I love how God understands and tells us "do not fear" or "do not be afraid". He wants us to take this on board and get this in our hearts as these two phrases are mentioned 103 times in the Bible. Lots of reminders!!

Let's be encouraged this week to push through fear and not let it get in the way of our hopes and dreams. Fear is real but don't let it rip you off. Courage is greater, courage will always win.

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

Mr Pimlott (Chaplain)

Attendance



Well done to Year 7 for having the highest attendance for week ending 17.01.2020.

Our school attendance for Years 7-11 for week ending 17.1.2020 was 92.78%.

Attendance Lottery – Many congratulations to Teyla Young, Year 8, who has won a £5 Amazon for having 100% attendance for week ending 17 January 2020. Well Done Teyla!

For week 13.1.2020 to 17.1.2020, we had an amazing 445 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 29 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.

Medical appointments - Absences for medical appointments are permitted, however, where possible they should be arranged outside normal school hours. If it is necessary for your son/daughter to attend medical appointments during school hours please inform Reception or emailing student.absence@open-academy.org.uk either in advance or by 9.00am on the day. If pupils are regularly absent due to medical appointments, or when their attendance is poor, evidence of appointments may be requested. Evidence can be in the form of an appointment card, prescription slip, referral letter or any 'off the counter' medications. We will take a copy of the evidence for our records. Details will be stored confidentially.

Mrs Ganson (Attendance Officer)