

**Open Academy Update 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!**

Hello and welcome to this week's Open Academy update. This week we are delighted to be distributing 38 laptops and 25 4G routers to students through the government year 10 laptop scheme. The routers come loaded with 8GB download per month for the next 6 months and should allow students to fully access the curriculum we offer. No excuses at all now year 10!

I am also delighted to say that it has been a pleasure welcoming in the year 12 students this week for their academic tutorials. We have chosen to go back gently to build confidence of both staff and students and I am delighted to report that the feedback we have been getting has been incredibly positive with students and staff quickly feeling at ease back on site.

The program continues next week with the one to one tutorials for the year 10 students **who should each have received their personalised invitations** for their 1:1 meeting next week, and their allocated session from the week after. **If they have not received that or there are any issues, please do contact us to discuss any problems.** For instance we recognise that if someone in your household is shielding it may still be too early for your child to come in over the next few weeks. We are keen that you continue to follow the advice you have been given. We can however guarantee that for the one to one meetings next week, we will be able to maintain strict social distancing for all attendees.

Speaking of communication we have started sending out summary emails to parents on a weekly basis to show what work was set for your child, what they have completed and handed in and what work is coming up for the week ahead. We are not sure that these emails are arriving so we are also going to send a copy to your child's school inbox - which we can monitor to ensure they are sent. Please do check your spam/junk mail boxes too in case they end up in there by mistake! These emails should arrive during Sunday morning so I am hoping that by Monday even if you have not received the email, your child will have and that can be a good start for the weeks' worth of home-schooling to come. If no one in your house receives the email, once again please do contact us via [office@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:office@open-academy.org.uk) and we will try to solve the issue.

The weekly emails contribute to a full list of all the work your child has been set during the lockdown period. These reports coming out of the academy in the coming weeks will give accurate and timely data regarding your son/daughter's performance. If there is additional data required it would be great to hear from you so we can try to adapt the emails. They will also provide a valuable source of information for assessing how well your child has accessed learning during the lockdown period and what catch up work will be required as we move into the summer.

Finally, we are considering moving the timetable on in July rather than September, a suggestion which I would greatly appreciate parental feedback. It would enable everyone to get used to their new classes in Teams as it is possible there may still be much home schooling to come, despite our continued partial return in September.

## Contents

1. **Safety Reminders**
2. **Year 7 News**
3. **Year 8 News**
4. **Year 9 News**
5. **Year 10 News**
6. **Year 11 News**

7. **Sixth Form News**
8. **Free School Meals**
9. **Library News and Activities**
10. **Careers Update**
11. **Mark's Chaplain's Reflection**

## 1. Safety reminders

As we begin our partial return, you will have seen in previous newsletters that we are applying all aspects of safe practice to avoid infection and control any risks.

***The main ways we will be doing this is by insisting that no one attends the Academy if they have any of the Covid symptoms or if they have been around anyone who has had the symptoms in the last 7 days. In this case please keep your child at home***

- We will be insisting on social distancing,
- We will do verbal and temperature checks on arrival in the school
- We will be insisting on a rigorous hygiene regime in the academy - handwashing on arrival for all
- We will be teaching students in a fixed 'professional bubbles' from the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

On top of these procedures and as part of our re-opening risk assessment we felt it was important to give some reminders to parents as follows:

- that parents should only be transporting members of the same household in their car
- if using public transport to travel to school students should wear a face covering
- students and parents should remember to maintain social distancing when walking to and from school

## 2. Year 7 News

Hello from the Year 7 Team!

Some really exciting shout-outs for students this week!

First congratulations goes to Harry Grey who has won a £25 Waterstones voucher as part of the 'Game Changers' Initiative which was running before lock-down came into effect – well done Harry!

My next congratulations goes to Suzy Langley for a mightily impressive Science project (photos below!) – superb work and what a wonderful project!

Further shout-outs go:

- Reece Barber for excellent engagement in live support lessons and excellent work on food webs in Science
- Keisha Smith, Harisan Martin, Ashton Taylor and Ebon Gossland for producing excellent D&T work - using specialist vocab and thoroughly researching the task.
- Norah White for her independent research using reliable sources to learn about how to classify a platypus in science



- Harvey Walters, Keira Wyatt, Norah White, Harry Griffiths and Kai Mann for fully completed German work
- Xylia Sparkes, Gemma Smith and Hollie Smith for great engagement in Music

Reminder to students that they could win a £5 Amazon voucher by watching this week's assembly which has been circulated by tutors – the competition is still wide open and the deadline closes on Monday!

As we continue to make contact with you regarding your child's online academic engagement, here is another resource for you to tap into - [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=d422803b43-TUK\\_ONLINE\\_SAFETY\\_AT\\_HOME\\_16\\_06\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-d422803b43-55039225](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=d422803b43-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_16_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-d422803b43-55039225) It provides 15 minute activities to do with your child and supports key skills.

As ever, stay safe and look after each other, from Miss Lines, Miss Moss and Mrs Edwards

### 3. Year 8 News

Good afternoon, another reminders to year 8's they will be having a tutor live meeting once a week where the tutors will use the time to talk about anything within the virtual academy, Also there's opportunity to do some quiz's, tutor challenge and socialise with their peers.

Shout outs to the following students:

- Samuel Yellop for his work in PE
- Jess Fraser, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Freya Graysmark, Samih Ozkan for their Math's work.
- Alfie Skeritt for excellent perseverance on the topic of hydraulics in Science.
- Bradley Copping for completing the Nando's fitness challenge
- Alfie Skeritt for excellent perseverance on the topic of hydraulics in Science.
- English – Miss Roberts -James Hoyer for descriptive writing in English
- English – Mr Dille William Orr, Tommy Taylor, Dalia R and Samuel Yellop for excellent English work - commitment, effort and progress.
- Also shout out to Jayden Muzembe and Luca Bush for excellent pieces of English work recently!
- Angelos Chatzopoulos for great work in Music
- Erin O'Neil and Gera Dergacovs for work in English
- Jayden Muzembe and Angelos Chatzopoulos in RS.

Positive Pathways recap session was held on Wednesday and will continue next Wednesday, the recording is on Channel 8 for all students and parents to watch.

There was a mental health webinar held on Wednesday too, ran by Positive Pathways and Mind. We would like to thank all those parents that attended and hope you found it useful. Again the recording is on Microsoft Teams Channel 8 for anyone that would like to view it. Norfolk and Waveney Mind enquiries telephone number is 0300 3305488.

There are lots of organisations offering help during these tricky times. As you've probably seen in our newsletter we would recommend YoungMinds, Kooth (these two offer a text service) and ChildLine.

Below is a link to some support worksheets:

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=d422803b43-TUK\\_ONLINE\\_SAFETY\\_AT\\_HOME\\_16\\_06\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-d422803b43-55039225](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=d422803b43-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_16_06_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-d422803b43-55039225)

Please get in contact with myself or Mrs Roe if there is anything we can do to help support your child. We are here to help.

There is a fair amount of work being done on Teams over the past week – well done to all those that are continuing to work hard and showing that commitment to their learning.

Just a few reminders:

- If your child uses Mathswatch or Samlearning could they please go back into the assignment on Teams and use the 'hand in' button. This will provide more accurate information as to how hard your child is working.
- Could you please encourage your child to communicate more with their teachers with any problems or general comments about how they are getting on. All the teachers are working hard to deliver high quality lessons and the students' feedback is invaluable to them when planning their lessons.

***Please encourage your child to check their calendars and attend the live support lessons. If they are unable to do so they can still watch the recording of the lesson after on the class channel.***

#### **4. Year 9 News**

Hello Year 9,

I hope this week has been going well for everyone; it's nice to see so many Year 9 students participating in Live Support Sessions and engaging in their work online. It will really stand them in good stead for when we return to school. I would really like to encourage as many students as possible to be attending the Live Support Sessions, as they are a great way for students to feel supported and have any questions answered. If you would like to see what Live Sessions your child has been invited to, please ask them to show you their calendar on Teams this will show what Live Support Sessions are scheduled for the forth coming week – all the student needs to do is click on this in their calendar at the time the session is on and click join.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that it is so important that students are clicking 'hand in' after they have completed their work for that lesson – even if they haven't quite finished all the work set. By doing this their teachers are able to see the work they are doing and give them valuable feedback about how to improve. They should be doing that even if the work has been completed on another platform such as Seneca or SAM Learning.

As ever, I have lots of wonderful 'shout outs' for Year 9 students this week:

- Tia Lawson for an amazing story about the journey of a red blood cell
- Jess Waterfield, Faith Berry, Gage Morgan and Tom Walker for a great discussion in their live support session with Mr Brown, well done to them!
- Ella Ash for her 'Fuels used in a home' work in Science

- Emily Perrett, Mya Hewett and Amber Mawby deserve shout outs for their English work this week.
- Shout out to Joseph Sizer for extensive Spanish work
- Emily Perrett, Katie Lambert-Sharp and Amelie Treacy for their discussion on capital punishment in a live support session with Mr Brown.
- Adam Edmondson for his engagement and answers for a lesson on Gamelan music
- Shout out please for Morgan Gabe for work on Drama scripts, Lola Cook and Emily Perrett for extensive and excellent work on analysing language devices in text!
- Gabe Morgan is producing some great models at home for D&T
- Mackenzie Culley for her language analysis and letter writing task in English
- Freya and Maddy Tilney for excellent engagement with the home fitness challenges in PE.
- Kaloyan Aleksiev, Tia Lawson and Cormac O'Brien for hard work all week in maths.
- Chloe Smith very excellent science work!
- Keep it up everyone – you are doing yourselves proud!

Myself and Ms Hewitt-Coleman are booking Teams meetings with parents and students in the forthcoming weeks to have a proper discussion about how the Virtual Academy is going for them.

**An invitation will be sent to the student via Teams which they will need to accept in the usual way. A text and call will also be carried out Ms Hewitt-Coleman to let parents know of the meeting.**

As this is similar to a parents' evening appointment, where we will be discussing how your child's work is going at the moment, it's really important you attend if possible, so if the time sent through is not convenient please let us know and we will do our utmost to book it for a convenient time.

I hope you and your families are all well,  
Mrs Clayton

## **5. Year 10 News**

Hello!

Kicking off another week with our Year 10 superstars for this week, who are as follows:

- Archie Davison for working so consistently hard in English.
- Archie Waters for attending a live support lesson in History last week.
- Oliver Attoe and Dylan Skitmore for excellent work on creative writing in English.
- Connor Empson for exploring materials and making great models at home in DT.
- Lottie Sanderson and Amelie Orr for their descriptive writing in English.
- Lilia Colledge and Edward Lincoln for their effort on SENECA in English.
- Jeya Kandola, Kacper Podsadowski, Rosario Furia, Ellie Chapman, Daniel Swatman, Layla Parfitt and Edward Lincoln for their impressive efforts with SENECA assignments in Science.
- Jeya Kandola and Lola Thompson for excellent effort shown in Maths.
- Calvin Smith for excellent efforts shown in BTEC Sport.
- Ryan Morely for some excellent home learning on volcanoes.



Well done and congratulations to you all! Keep up the incredible efforts and engagement. **Hopefully, you all received the emails this week from both Miss Matthews and from Mr Ford containing the appointment times for your child/wards face-to-face academic tutorial taking place next week.** During this meeting your child/ward will spend time discussing their work, their challenges and their successes with a member of teaching staff. If your child/ward is unable to attend their meeting face-to-face, please can you email Miss Matthews ASAP at [emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk) . Please note that all students are expected to have this meeting whether this is face-to-face or online through Teams. These emails also include the day your child/ward is to attend the Academy, and the bubble group and classroom your child/ward will be in once in the building. During their day in the Academy they will receive academic support for English, Maths, Science and their option subjects.

Finally, before we go, some parents/carers will have been contacted via email by Miss Matthews regarding the opportunity for some Maths and English online tutoring for our students. This is a fantastic opportunity to receive some tailored online support. Please check your emails for this.

Thank you again for your support during this time and we look forward to welcoming our students back next week for their academic tutorials.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, you are more than welcome to contact either of us at [emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:emma.matthews@open-academy.org.uk) or [debbie.lamb@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:debbie.lamb@open-academy.org.uk).

Many thanks,

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

## 6. Year 11 News

Friday 26th June is our year 11's last official day on role and would have been our Prom. We, as a staff, are committed to having a celebration and have discussed what is and is not possible at great length. We are still not able to arrange a date at Sprowston Manor but we hope to have something at a later date, even if it is not at Sprowston. We will keep up to date with the guide lines and let you know.

We will be having a Leavers Assembly at 2pm on Friday 26th June. This will be online in Teams, students and staff will be sent an invitation. I am hoping to have as many as possible to attend. Students are asked to have cameras off and it will be recorded.

Although 26th June is the last official day Mrs Middleton and myself are still here to help as well as other staff so please keep in touch and if you have any concerns please let us know.

Take care

## 7. Sixth Form News

### **Year 12 - Some good news. We're back! But not as you knew it!**

This week has seen almost all of the Year 12 students coming in for their one-to-one meeting with a teacher. We hope that the students have found this useful and are now feeling more reassured and confident about returning to the academy.

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June onwards: Lessons in smaller groups**

The timetable for your one-day-per-week return (starting the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June) will be out shortly.

We have created a special timetable for Year 12 which does NOT match your previous schedule, so you need to make a note of your new times when they are shared with you. Lessons will be in classes of no larger than 8. Tables are spaced out with one student per table. You will have set seats. Many subjects can be scheduled but there are odd ones which will continue online only for the summer term. That information will be provided shortly. Online learning continues. You need to bring your own pen and paper/exercise books. You aren't encouraged to bring bags and other equipment as we want to minimise what you bring to and take from school.

More information will follow about how lessons and being in School, generally, will work.

- Please turn up on time – not too early and not late.
- Please dress in normal appropriate sixth form clothing (smart business). No crop tops, gym clothes, inappropriate slogans etc.

**Year 12** - Please continue with your university research and creating your extended short list on **UniFrog**. So Far only 12 students have logged on. It is super simple to get started so I would like everyone to do so before you return in the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Year 13**

#### **Apprenticeship starts fall in both March and April**

Obviously, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, apprenticeship starts have seen a dramatic decrease according to DfE figures. March 2020 saw only 19,600 starts compared to 25,600 in 2019; a fall of 24%.

However, at the daily Coronavirus update, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "I think it's going to be vital that we guarantee apprenticeships for young people." This comes after apprenticeship starts are down, and the prospect of a recession after the pandemic looks likely. Johnson continued, "We have to look after people across the board, but young people in particular, I believe' should be guaranteed an apprenticeship."

Therefore, companies are encouraged to continue to offer their apprenticeship programmes.

**DON'T GIVE UP - CONTINUE TO RESEARCH AND APPLY**



To help with your apprenticeship research try visiting Amazing Apprenticeships Vacancy Snapshot.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

A huge variety of employers are listed and each outlines their apprenticeship programme and their vacancies coming up soon.

Leila Molloy - Head of Year 12 & Y13

### 8. Free School Meals

So, I am tempted to consider Marcus Rashford an honorary Norwich City player after his awesome campaign support has led to assurances that food vouchers will continue for Free School Meal students over the summer. This is great news and we will ensure that we keep everything ticking over as it does during term time

Slightly less in the headlines but just as welcome is that the free breakfast program that we have been running for a year now and which was due to end at the end of this term has been extended for another term, and even better, will continue to deliver breakfast supplies during the summer too. Meaning that we will also be able to continue to provide breakfast hampers for those who need it continuously right through until at least Christmas.

At this point I would also like to thank Mrs Appleby and particularly Mrs Joyce who sort this program out for us and along with Mr Pimlott on deliveries do so much to make sure no one is going without during these incredibly difficult times. Remember if you are struggling please do get in touch as we believe no one should be going hungry at this time

### 9. Library News and Activities

The Secret Garden read-a-long: the final chapters

Our read-a-long of The Secret Garden has come to an end. You can listen along to the final chapters here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-895185797/sets/the-secret-garden-open-academy>

For the next few weeks, we will be releasing a short story each week. Check back next week to see what we're reading.

Year 11 and 13 Book Return

Thank you to all of the students who have returned library books and textbooks this week. If you still have any books at home, please can these be dropped off at the school reception. (This only applies to our current year 11 and 13 students at this time. Further information for students in other year groups will follow in the next couple of weeks.)



### Library Clubs

A reminder that the following clubs are up and running in teams and open to new members. All students are welcome to join and should contact Miss Ling for more information and to sign up.

Manga Club: Mondays 3:15-4pm

Book Club: Tuesdays 12:30-1pm

Library Live: Wednesdays 3:15-4pm

## 10. Careers Update

Our Sector of the Month for June continues to be Energy. I thought that this would be a particularly relevant choice, as during lockdown we have probably taken for granted the reliability of our energy and waste management services which have continued as normal. Broadly speaking, the sector covers the sourcing and provision of our energy supplies and the management of renewables and waste. As an industry companies in the East of England lead the way in the production of wind, gas and nuclear power as well as innovations in recycling. It is therefore a really important area of future employment for our students to consider. I have put together a number of resources which are listed in the attachment and can be used in the classroom or for independent research into particular career or study opportunities.

Following the cancellation of Work Experience week (6-10 July) a new 'virtual' programme has been put together by construction company Morgan Sindall. **Feedback** for this programme **has been very good**, so should be a great opportunity for both girls and boys interested in a **career in the construction industry**, a sector of the future. Please find attached a poster with further details of the programme and how to apply. Please contact Ms Davies if you are considering applying and she will register Open Academy with Morgan Sindall. The **closing date** has been extended to **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**.

National organisation 'Success at School Careers Advice' have created a downloadable guide to help parents and carers steer their children through the confusing world of career choices. Details can be found at [https://mc.successatschool.org/parents-ebook?utm\\_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm\\_campaign=76df37be4a-newsletter\\_signups\\_parents\\_guide\\_110620&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_65c6d67e71-76df37be4a-212049179&goal=0\\_65c6d67e71-76df37be4a-212049179&mc\\_cid=76df37be4a&mc\\_eid=565d50a531](https://mc.successatschool.org/parents-ebook?utm_source=Success+at+School+-+Newsletter+Signups&utm_campaign=76df37be4a-newsletter_signups_parents_guide_110620&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_65c6d67e71-76df37be4a-212049179&goal=0_65c6d67e71-76df37be4a-212049179&mc_cid=76df37be4a&mc_eid=565d50a531)

Another reminder for students in Years 10 and 12 to sign up to the careers platform Unifrog. Go to [unifrog.org.uk](http://unifrog.org.uk), enter your Open Academy password and click 'forgotten password'. This will generate an email which will allow you access to the system. Begin by completing the Personality and Interests quizzes and see the range of careers and subjects which you may never have thought would suit you!

## 11. Mark's Chaplain's Reflection

Please note that as well as the usual link to this weeks' reflection,

<https://youtu.be/HsbABP15uxs>

I am also including the link to Mark's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0bFD8fTH51nCxSHdJIYIjg>

where you can see all his reflections since lockdown - Highly recommended if you could do with a friendly face / pick me up - you know what he's like - it is just that - on video!

### **The Choice of Which Voice.**

In this day and age, there are many voices we can listen to. A big voice that we can sometimes pay too much attention to, is bad news.

There seems to be so much doom and gloom about at the moment. We hear a lot of it through the media who seem to send it out in waves. I can honestly say that I've had to press the red button on the remote control and turn the tv off a number of times as it was affecting me in a number of negative ways.

It made my heart and spirit heavy, made me confused and even added a little sprinkle of fear too. I made the choice that I didn't want bad news to influence the way that I felt or the direction of my life.

Voices that we listen to in our lives can have the same effect and they can come from all over the place. They can damage our confidence, lower our self-esteem and cause us to stumble fall and fail. I just want to say this, we are where we are because of a voice whether that's positive or negative.

This reminds me about a story in the Bible. It's about a guy called Gideon who was an Israelite. His people were at war with a tribe called the Midianites. The Midianites were running amok and Gideon was hiding away from them.

The story goes on to say that an angel sent by God visited him and said these words. "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valour! Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the Midianites".

Gideon totally freaked out by this said, "I can't do that, I'm insignificant and am the least in my family". Gideon was where he was because of what had been said to him, voices that had torn down and not built up. He was where he was because of a voice.

Thankfully the story doesn't end there. The angel's voice had relayed the voice of God to Gideon which encouraged his life to go in a different direction. He led the Israelites on to defeat the Midianites. Wow, what a difference a voice makes.

Today we have the choice of the voices that we listen to. Let's listen to the voice of good news and push down those voices of negativity. Don't allow people or circumstances to label you, make you feel down or lead your life in a negative direction. You are wonderful, you are amazing, you are powerful and you are victorious. That's who you are and that's what God says about you.

I pray that God would strengthen you and be with you.

God bless

Mark