

Open Academy Newsletter – 26 April 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

As I'm recovering from a nasty kidney infection, I'll be fairly brief this week and start by reflecting on the irony of missing the first week back as I did through illness, just prior to the joint Norfolk Headteachers' letter being sent out regarding helping students to improve attendance.

I must admit to having a significant hand in the Norwich letter which went out to all parents across ten Norwich schools on Monday, as we are really concerned that some students are missing out on regular school attendance. I know that many who read this are regular attenders so please accept my grateful thanks for your efforts – it really is crucial and worthwhile being in school.

When students are too ill to attend, of course we understand. We keep most of our lesson notes up to date in TEAMS through class note, so as students feel a bit more with it they can try to keep up and the information is there to catch up. Last week my temperature never dipped below 40.5C and there is no way I could get out of bed let alone come in to school – the thought of keeping up was impossible too – so I missed out. This week as I started to improve though and my temperature dropped I have used work to get momentum back generally. Monday and Tuesday were a real struggle, but things have got progressively easier and I am much improved now. I share that to say - we are human too and we know people get ill.

The difficulty comes when some students lose momentum and getting back in the habit of school becomes a really tough mountain to climb. The good news is that we really can help. From the gentlest of re-introductions, to working to resolve friendship issues and worries that can take on huge proportions at a distance from school. We do not judge and we certainly understand how difficult it can be. However, if your child is struggling at the moment, it is crucial that you work with us to help.

I must at this point thank my deputy Mr Ward for covering for me last week, right down to his take on the newsletter, which I fear was far more informative than my usual offering. It is good to know that things carry on as usual though in my absence. I am blessed with a fantastic leadership team who have everything in hand. This term we are delighted to welcome two extra members on to our senior leadership team, Mrs Clayton and Mr Murray who are both joining SLT for a two-term secondment to develop their leadership talent. I welcome their enthusiasm and ideas not to mention their hard work as we start development planning for our next steps to become an outstanding Academy over the next few years.

Finally this week, I'm always keen to hear parent views and wonder if it is time we started another season of parent partnership events. Please do let me know if there are any sessions you would like to see us put on for parents. I know the usual managing behaviour and supporting SEND students are usually popular, but would you like to see us provide some basics on, for instance, artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact in school? Exam prep is another obvious one, but we could also explore our 'Trauma Informed Schools' approach at Open – any ideas or topic suggestions please do let me know and I will aim to start a program again in the second half of the summer term.

For now, I wish you a great weekend and I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the Bronze DofE students Sasha-Mai P, Dylain B, Alfie E and Max M for planning and running a charity football match for Year 7 and 8 on Monday in aid of Macmillan. They did this as part of their award to complete their volunteering section and raised £41.50.

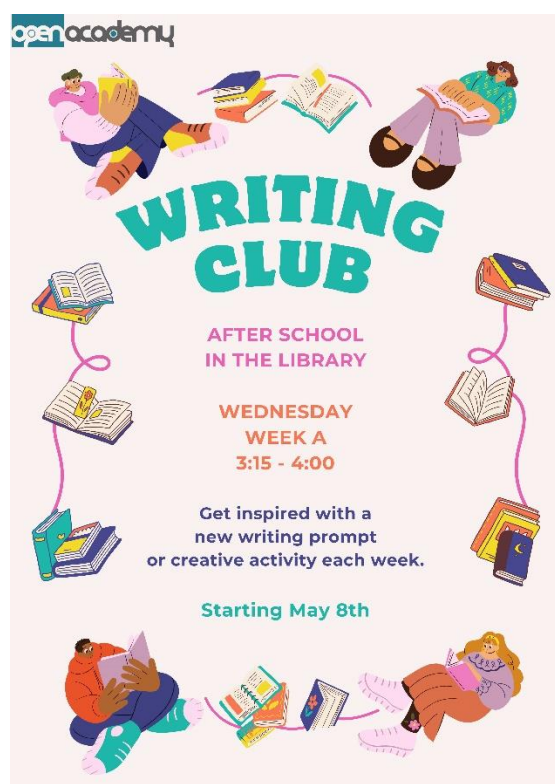


2. Library

Writing Club:

A brand new Writing Club is starting on up Wednesday, 8 May in the Library, running after school (3.15-4.00) on Wednesdays Week A. We'll be taking a look at writing activities, getting inspired by a range of creative prompts, and sharing our work with each other. This will hopefully be a really lovely space for all aspiring authors and budding wordsmiths, with all years welcome.

Students are invited to sign up at the library desk or ask Mrs Rogers for more information.



Literary Festival:

The Open Academy Literary Festival will be happening from Tuesday, 7 May to Friday, 10 May. We have an action-packed week planned with author visits, talks, workshops, a bookshop trip, live readings and awards ceremonies!

Tuesday, 7 May – Trip to Kett's Bookshop in Wymondham for 15 Year 8 and 9 students (letters will be going out).

Wednesday, 8 May – Author A.M. Howell will be giving a talk to all Year 7 students.

Thursday, 9 May – Author Molly Morris will be giving a talk to all Year 9 students and running a writing workshop for 25 Year 9 students.

Friday, 10 May – Presentations and awards ceremonies.

Mrs Rogers
Librarian

3. Year 7

We hope you've all had a lovely week despite the cold weather. I am sure the warmer weather is on its way, I could do with it as a PE teacher after the cold winter term. There has been a great engagement by all in their lessons this week and great to see them all competing in athletics in their PE lessons, postcards are on their way to celebrate their success in those lessons.

There seems to be a number of students with energy drinks in the academy as well as bottles of fizzy drinks. Students are only allowed water in the academy - other drinks will be confiscated if seen.

We understand that it can be difficult to get hold of us at times with me teaching and Mrs Roe supporting students and being in time out, below are mine and Mrs Roe's email addresses if you are trying to contact us, but cannot get through by phone.

sean.lambert@open-academy.org.uk
rachel.roe@open-academy.org.uk

It was lovely to see some Year 7s attend the charity football game on Monday and raising money for Macmillan.

This Sunday Mr Bradshaw and I are running the Norfolk marathon, if you would like to donate for the thankfulness fund you can via the parent pay app.

Camp

Camp is not too far away, and we still have a considerable number that have not paid. If students do not attend camp they will be in the academy in normal lessons in full uniform. The week of camp is by far the best week of the year and I would like to see all Year 7s there. If you are having any issues with paying for camp, please use the link below.

<https://www.norwichcharitabletrusts.org.uk/>

Congratulations to Destiny for winning the tutor challenge and Respect for the best attendance this week.

The top 10 students with the most achievement points are:

Kaylen A, Sarah O, Vlad M, Ellie-Amanda M, Ashanti G, Gracie C, Ellie-Mae B, Rowan S, Ayomikun T and Alfie W.

Teacher praise:

For excellent behaviour, teamwork and teaching from the board in maths - Harvey B and Dante D. For an outstanding result for a maths assessment on multiplication and division - Riley H. For engagement in every maths lesson - Harrison A - Mrs Marsham

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

L Hollings good attitude and interest in English.

Edward M-W for great effort in German – Mrs McEvoy

Kaylen A, Joel M, Matthew O-R, Dante D, Harrison A, Charlie S as well as many more for their efforts this week in the 800m – Mr Lambert and Mr Wilkinson

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

4. Year 8

May I start by thanking all the parents that attended parents' evening this week. It was such a positive celebration of the hard work the Years 8s are doing. Both Mr Hawkins and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the parents and students throughout the evening.

This week's Top LEARNT Point achievers are:

Chakib L	125
Sammy R	110
Sav M	100
Amy J	95
Angel N	90

A big shout out to Connor B, Lizzy K and Misha P who performed an outstanding celebrity interview in drama. They created original and engaging characters; used excellent vocal expressions and accent and performed with control to the rest of the class. They had clearly made really good use of their rehearsal time and should be very proud of what they achieved well done - Mrs Ormosi

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

5. Year 9

Year 9 students of the week:

Kieran S, Phoebe E, Riley W, Hannah S, Martha W, Harry B, Phoebe E, Kieran S, Oliver N and Smauel O.

Top achievement points this week:

Rianna A, Luke S, Noam M, Riley W, Somaya R, Oliver N, Brandon S and Harry B.



Brilliant art assessments this week from:

Lily A, Jason J and Paige W.

Royal Navy Ready Steady Cook Event!

On Tuesday we welcomed the Royal Navy to run a 90 minute ready steady cook event.

All ingredients were supplied for the students. The students were competing to win by creating a tasty dish, keeping on top of their work space and presenting their dish well.



The Menu

Chicken Kiev with fondant potatoes

Pea risotto

Sticky toffee pudding with toffee sauce



Well done to every student for their fantastic dishes and participation.

A special shout out to our winning team:

Mason F
Reece Y
Kayden S
Oliver N
Deacon B

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

6. Year 10

This time next year Year 10 will be getting ready to sit their final GCSE and BTEC exams. We have been talking in tutor about how habit is easier than motivation and that starting revision and recap work now will really help. We talked about how practicing for 17 mins a day over the course of a year would equate to 100 hours of practice. Just a little bit of study each day could really add up.

With this in mind the second PPEs are starting on Monday, 17 June. These are particularly important because when students fill in college/apprenticeship applications next September and October, they will be asked for target grades and current grades which will be the PPE grades.

We have looked at revision techniques and students will have one tutor time a week in which to practice revision techniques, please encourage your child to start their revision at home. Making a timetable can be really helpful, blocking off time for fun activities can help motivate students.

Well done to the following students for gaining the most achievement points this week:
Ben N, Bubacarr T, Layla D, Millie M, Lola B, Mohammed S and Brandon P.



Some fantastic high contrast eye drawings and Lino printing from the following year 10s this week:
Lily G, Kacie W, Daisy H, Maizi Y and Ellie B.

Mrs Pearsall and Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

7. Year 11

We are into the final few weeks of school for Year 11 students. Every day, lesson and minute in learning could make a big difference. That means that your child's attendance to school at this time is more crucial than at any other time. This also goes for the Hub sessions from 3-4pm each day. Through all this the vast majority of the year group are showing their dedication and resilience in this stressful time. Something that they will reap the benefits of in just a week or so's time. With that all said it is important to remember that they will still need time to relax and process all the learning taking place. Also, sleep is crucial to allow all the things learnt to move into their memory. If there is anything you feel your child needs to help them in their revision/learning, please let the year team know so we can help.

Learnt points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 121. Well done everyone and a great show of positive learning.

The following students have had a great week filled with achievement:
Max L, Jake T, Andrew C, Reece P, Maddison L, Ellie R, Lily T, Suzy L, Michaela B and Arturas K.

Positive praise:

A big 'well done' to Emmy, Billy and Ara for their consistent revision of their English course.

Year 11 HSC class have been working hard on their exam preparation.

Jessica B is doing amazingly well in German.

Well done to the history students who are putting all their effort into their learning and revision. Also, don't forget to make use of your free tickets to Norwich castle to aid in your learning.

Jess W and Aukse J for their fantastic effort in Maths.

It is only with your help that each student will make the most of their time at Open. Thank you for your continued support of the learning of your child, it shows itself every day.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 11)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)

8. 6th Form

Courses and Careers in the Creative Industries –online now Wednesday, 3 July 6-7.30pm

Did you know that the creative industries (2D design, games, TV, film, theatre, music, art) employ over two million people in the UK, contribute 100s of billion to the economy annually, and are the country's fastest-growing sector? If you'd like to know how to use your artistic talents to earn a living, come along to this online event and hear first-hand from 2D and AR designers, scriptwriters, film makers and artists who have all turned their creative passions into a career. Sign up [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Year 13 pathways event: If not Uni, what next?! – online event, Monday, 29 April

An event for anyone who is still weighing up their options for next year - either unsure about university, knows they don't want to go, or just didn't get it together to get their UCAS in.

We are bringing together experts on the different pathways to give you some inspiration about what you could do next and answer any questions you might have on apprenticeships, gap years, entering the workplace, deferring, or going through clearing, amongst other things! Register your interest [here](#)

Courses and Careers in Policing, Forensics and Criminology – online Tuesday, 7 May 6-7.30pm

This is always a very popular and well attended event. Once again Amy Stanton from Norfolk Constabulary will be gathering together a fantastic range of people currently working in the profession. There will also be representatives from local colleges who run courses specifically aimed at fast tracking you into the police force. We also aim to explore different routes into all these fields in terms of degrees, apprenticeships and traineeships. Click [here](#) to register your interest.

Courses and Careers in the Environment, Conservation and Ecology – online Wednesday, 8 May 6-7.30pm

This is a first for this session - put together because our data shows a great deal of interest in this area. We are gathering together a really interesting group of people working across a broad range of fields in the sector -scientists, engineers, communications experts and representatives of some key Norfolk environmental groups. Of course, we will also be joined by our local HE partners to tell us about the really exciting courses open to you here in Norfolk and further afield. Click [here](#) to register your interest.

Online subject taster lectures from UEA

Taster lectures can be a great way to discover new subjects or demonstrate your interest on your personal statement. Take a look at the [writing about taster lectures' worksheet](#) to find out more.

View the City College Norwich Higher Education monthly newsletter [here](#)

We have some taster sessions coming up for CCN.

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

9. Dance Club



10. Chaplain's Update

Care for the Family

Please see below a link to a really supportive website dealing with family issues and family life amongst other things:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/parent-support/>

Reflection

This week I would like to encourage our community to be an encouraging community. It is so valuable and important that we do this. We don't always know what people are going through even those closest to us. I heard someone say these words many years ago and it has always stayed with me:

“So many lives depend on what I do”.

In light of this, encouragement is vital, it is life giving, it is urgent and lives depend on it. A quote by Ruth Lilley says this:

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

“People are transformed by hearing words that build up and inspire. Hearts are given hope, minds become more purposeful”.

The wonderful thing about encouragement is that it is needed and always received everywhere that we go. Don't be afraid to do it, even when you fear embarrassment, or you may think that the person you are giving it to doesn't need it. Don't hold back on encouragement even when you don't feel like giving it due to going through rough times in your life yourself. Encouraging words always break through into **any** situation, including yours.

In closing, to encourage or inspire people Jesus gave them names. He gave Peter in the Bible the name “rock”, even when Peter didn't feel steady or felt weak, insignificant and insecure. Peter went on to be one of the greatest Biblical heroes.

Give some people encouraging names this week and watch a change come about, right in front of your eyes.

God bless you.

Mark