



Open Academy Newsletter - 3 May 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Welcome to our newsletter this week.

As I look out of my office window at the torrential rain, it is great to see a dozen or so hardy students with Mr Mundy. Mrs Appleby and Mr Diver braving the elements to plant trees. The 400+ saplings that are going in were acquired through The Woodland Trust charity and it is fantastic to think that in years to come, these students will be able to return to see the trees that they planted today. Holly, Silver Birch and appropriately for Mousehold, Oaks. There are some photos further on!

I have been reading about the Kett rebellion through CJ Samsom's excellent 'Shardlake' novel 'Tombland' recently and it appears that where Open Academy sits would have been smack bang in the middle of Kett's encampment of rebels before they took over Norwich! The rebels felled many oaks for shelters and although perhaps 500 years late, it is great to think we have restored a few of them today!

Hopefully the rain is clearing away ready for a lovely sunny bank holiday weekend – we can hope!

My main focus this week is to share that we have started the process of moving to a new student management information system (MIS). This is a really big job for a school and is probably the reason why so many schools have until recently stuck with SIMS, our current MIS provider

For a range of reasons including cost, but also time efficiency and a cloud-based approach to give us flexibility, the Trust have chosen to move away from SIMS and we will be replacing it with ARBOR. This MIS has a lot of positive recommendations from many schools who have switched and lots of benefits for parents as well as staff.

The MIS does a lot of things in school. We use it for registers and attendance, mark books, assessment tracking, reports and our behaviour points system. Thankfully, moving to ARBOR will mean moving to a system which includes a payment system, a communication system from school to parents and all manner of reporting and tracking tools. Hopefully, our move to ARBOR will be an efficient boost for parents – just one app for all school business, as much as it will be for school staff and students.

Changing a fundamental system like this, however, takes a huge amount of work and lots of that is now going on in the background to prepare for the next academic year. Indeed, we hope to be able to switch off SIMS after the summer half term and use the ARBOR basics to get us fully prepared for the full switch on in the next academic year. This does mean one slight problem in that, our rollout plans mean that you will be without a parent app for the final half term as, once we start using ARBOR, we have to switch SIMS off. So, no SIMS parent app. However, we cannot set up and start the parent app on ARBOR mid-year. I am afraid therefore, there will be 6 weeks or so where we will not be able to provide you with the parental app services.

From September however, a much richer single app that will service all your school communication and information needs should be available. What could possibly go wrong! Joking aside, we will be fully migrated to ARBOR by September so we will be sending out instructions and holding workshops and online information to help parents get what they need from the system as the new academic year begins. What is the old expression – change is easy – it's the transition that is challenging! Well our transition period has begun. I will keep you updated how we progress over the coming weeks.





A lot to take in there so I will finish and hope you enjoy the photos of tree planting and the rest of the newsletter.











Jon Ford Principal

1. Start of Day and Lunchtime Change

Due to the Year 11 students starting their GCSE exams next week, we have had to change our start-of-day tutor locations and lunch times. This is only temporary until the exams finish and we will communicate when they will change.

Morning

Year 11 atrium Year 8 & 0 MUGA Year 7 & 9 behind science

Breaktime

10:05 – 10:25 Year 8 & 9 10:30 – 10:50 Year 7, 12 & 13 11:10 – 11:30 Year 10 & 11

Lunch

12:30 -1:00 Year 11 atrium Year 9 lecture theatre 1:00 – 1:30 Year 7 atrium 1:30 – 2:00 Year 10 atrium Year 8 lecture theatre





Year 11 Revision Hubs

With exams just a week away, I have reviewed the Hub timetable and devised a plan to support the Year 11 students. The Hub timetable will remain the same unless there's an exam the next morning. However, there are some changes in subject hubs, which are listed below:

Thursday, 9 May: maths will be swapped with science. Tuesday, 14 May: science will be swapped with history.

Wednesday, 15 May: Option Hub will be swapped with maths. Thursday, 16 May: maths will be swapped with science. Wednesday, 22 May: Options will be swapped with English. Tuesday, 5 June: science will be swapped with geography. Wednesday, 6 June: Options will be swapped with English. Thursday, 7 June: maths will be swapped with science. Friday, 8 June: English will be swapped with maths.

FREE interactive, live GCSE revision lessons from Tute

After the great success of last year's free GCSE revision lessons, we're doing it again this year. It's open to all your students, not just the ones studying with Tute.

We're offering free GCSE revision lessons in English language, science, and maths - covering both foundation and higher tiers. The lessons will be delivered LIVE on YouTube, by Tute's qualified and supportive teachers, the night before each exam.

During each lesson, one teacher will deliver the content, while another moderates the chat. This interactive setup ensures that students can ask questions and engage in discussions, helping them feel more confident and prepared for their exam.

Share this link to our timetable with your year 11s

Mr Fisher **Assistant Principal**

2. Student Leadership

City Hall Trip





On 25 March our Student Leaders had the incredible honour of being invited to the heart of democracy in Norwich - City Hall, to hold a very special student executive meeting chaired by the Lord Mayor of Norwich! It was an incredible experience and our students were exceptional in both their participation and behaviour - doing our community proud!

As part of the meeting students were invited to enter a competition where they would create and present a speech sharing their thoughts on Norwich, what they love, would like to improve and the future of the city.





All speeches were a credit to the students who created and showed the school's core values of leadership, hard work and courage and will receive 20 reward points each! A huge congratulations to our winners to:

1st Place - Ayo T 2nd Place - Areen M-A and Tyler H 3rd Place - Rianna A and Martha W

Charity Committee Fundraising

Before the Easter holiday the Charity Committee launched their first official charity event, raising money for Open Academy's Thankfulness Fund, an incredible cause doing a lot of good in the local community. There were three events for students to enjoy...

- 1. A non-uniform day on the last day of term.
- 2. A 5 hour "dance-a-thon" in the drama studio.
- 3. A "guess the sweets in the jar" competition.

Hundreds of our students (and some teachers) got involved and we are very proud to announce that the committee raised £309 for the fund!

Future Events

Our ambassadors, sports leaders and charity committee are now in the process of designing more events for the community to enjoy...watch this space!

Mr Dilley Teacher

3. Library

Literary Festival

Just a reminder about our literary festival events next week:

- **7 May** Trip to Kett's Books in Wymondham for selected Year 8 and 9 students.
- **8 May** Author talk from A.M. Howell for all of Year 7 in the lecture hall.
- **9 May** Author talk from Molly Morris for all of Year 9 in the lecture hall, followed by a workshop in the library for select Year 9s.
- 10 May Presentations and awards for Years 7, 8, and 9 in the lecture hall.

The library will be CLOSED on these days and times due to the literary festival events:

Tutor time on – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Break time on – Tuesday and Thursday Lunch time on – Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Book Orders for the Author Visits

We've teamed up with Kett's Books in Wymondham for our Literary Festival and they've provided us with a handy link to purchase copies of our visiting authors books. These will then be delivered to the school and distributed.

Year 7 – will be having a visit from A.M. Howell and can purchase her book 'A Royal Jewel Plot' Year 9 – will be having a visit from Molly Morris and can purchase her book 'This Is Not The End'





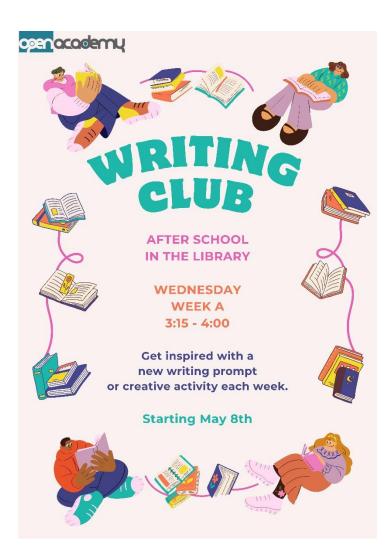
If students in other years would like to order copies of either book, then please feel free!

Purchase link - https://wymondham-community-bookshop.sumupstore.com/products

We'll also have some books available next week in the library for £7 cash. This will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Writing Club

A new writing club will be starting next week as part of the Literary Festival. It will be running after school (3:15 – 4:00), in the library on Wednesdays week A. All years welcome. We'll be looking at creative writing activities, working on fun prompts, and sharing our work together.



Mrs Rogers Librarian



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4. Year 7

I hope you have enjoyed the well overdue good weather (I'm typing this as it is chucking it down outside). Great to be able to teach athletics in the warmer weather and see the great efforts from my Year 7 class in the 100m.

There will be a change from next week in the mornings as Year 7 will be lining up outside behind the science classrooms, this is to allow the Year 11s the atrium in preparation for their GCSEs. If it is wet weather, then they will be taken into the sports hall.

Can we remind our pupils that they must not have chewing gum in school. Also they need to make sure they go straight to lessons during transition time, there has been a slight increase in the students that are late to lesson this week.

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 duties. Below are our email addresses if you are trying to contact us but cannot through by phone. There was an issue in the academy last week with emails but should all be ok from now on.

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

Mr Bradshaw and myself both ran the Norfolk marathon on Sunday for the thankfulness fund. A big thank you to everyone that donated we have raised a massive £234. If you still wanted to donate there is still time to do so through the parent app.

Mr Bradshaw - 2hr 53 Mr Lambert - 3hr 45

I think Mr Bradshaw must have flagged a taxi some of the way!

As part of our literary festival, Year 7 will be having a brilliant talk from author A.M. Howell next Wednesday about her book The Royal Jewel Plot. We've teamed up with Kett's Bookshop who have provided us with a link for the students to purchase the book that the author will be talking about on the day. We'll then be sent the books and can distribute them within school. There will also be some books available on the day for £7 if they'd rather pay cash.

https://wymondham-community-bookshop.sumupstore.com/products

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

The top 10 achievers this week are, Ellie-Amanda M, Alfie H, Harrison A, Brogan M, Harvey B, Riley H, Ella Mai P, Morgan S, Sophia-Louise E and Matthew O.

Teacher praise:

Dante D is making a wonderful effort in maths, no matter what his day brings he tries to leave all his troubles outside the door and do his maths.

James O for good behaviour and attempts in javelin – Mr Wilkinson

Well done to the Year 7 girls for excellent participation in high jump and relay in their athletics lessons this week – Mrs Pearsall





Kaylen A and Harrison A for improved focus and effort plus effect in English. Well done boys!

Evie A worked really hard and was really engaged in science yesterday – Mrs Waterhouse

Great effort from all my Year 7s in their 100m lesson with some great times - Mr Lambert

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

5. Year 8

It has been another great week for Year 8 with an assembly focus of being kind. We got to celebrate Inspiration for having the most amount of LEARNT points over the last few weeks and Challenge for winning the highest attendance cup!

May I take this opportunity to advise parents of a change to Year 8's lunch time. With the Year 11 exams taking place over the next 5 or so weeks a change needs to happen to lunch times. Year 8s will now have their lunch time break at 1:30 rather than 12:30. This will only be for a short period until the exams are over.

Our Top LEARNT Achievers this week are: Chakib L, Sammy R, Amy J, Sav M and Lincoln W.





Our Year 8s don't just have huge successes in school, but a lot are achieving great things outside of school too! We love to hear about their successes and celebrate them with them.

A huge congratulations to Callum who won a very close fought boxing match recently and to Ellie who has had her 'passing out' with the 231 Norwich Squadron Air Cadets.

A massive congratulations to both!

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

6. Year 9

Students of the week:

Erica JJ, Charlie J, Jasmin C, Caitilyn P and Somaya R.

Highest Achievement points this week:

Eliza S, Elise W, Erica JJ, Mills C, Annalee R, Somaya R, Noam M, Charlie J, Harry B and AJ B.

Highest achievement points so far this half term (since Easter): Erica JJ, Harry B, Rianna A, Noam M and Luke S.

Can we please ask that students come to school in correct uniform. school trousers, tailored school shorts, a skirt or a skirt and tights. Students are still required to wear their blazer into and around school, but may remove them in lessons.

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





Tutors are sending emails home when students are not in correct uniform, so parents/carers are aware. Any concerns around uniform please communicate these with your child's form tutor or the year team.









Beautiful observational sketches for their assessments from Kiera P, Lena W, Ross B and Ryan B – Mr Walters

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

7. Year 10

Year 10 students have earned a total of 2035 achievement points this week. We are really pleased with how they are working in lessons and we hope this is reflected at home with their revision in preparation for the mock exams starting on 17 June.

One way of making revision really efficient and effective is to work in short intense intervals of 25 mins followed by a short break. In the revision time students should do activities which challenge remembering, flashcards, mind maps or exam style questions. Reading a revision guide, copying out work or highlighting work is not as effective.

Next week ten year 10 students will be participating in their silver Duke of Edinburgh practice, let's hope the weather is dry and reasonably warm for them.

Well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week: Lola B, Bubacarr T, Oskar C, Maddison G and Emilis V.





Great sketchbook work on theme of hands this week from Joel M and Rebecca S - Mr Walters

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



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8. Year 11

Next week starts the GCSEs. Please make sure you are checking your exam timetable regularly to ensure you arrive on time. Remember morning exams will start promptly at 9am and the afternoon exams will start after your lunch at 1pm.

Remember you must be in full uniform, to include your blazer and shoes, not trainers. If you have any concerns or problems, please speak to Mrs Smith or Mr Pickup who will try and sort things out for you.

Don't forget, from Tuesday you arrive in the atrium for the start of the day and your lunchtime changes to 12.30.

Can't believe Prom is only around the corner on 21 June 2024! Tickets should be going on sale next week on Parent Pay. Once you have paid for it, please go and see Mrs Smith to collect your ticket.

It has been the speaking exams this week in languages. Well done to Lucy N, Emily C, Gemma S and Xylia S put in some good effort in German and Andrew C in his French. Mr Blanchflower.

Well done to Nora, Susie, Keira and Liliana for attending History Hub with Miss Wenlock on Wednesday. All historians are now preparing for their Norwich Castle exam on Wednesday, 15 May and have received free entry tickets to the castle. Please encourage them to visit the castle before the exam; there are lots of marks to be gained in the paper for what they can see and learn from their visit!

Congratulations, Blake has made the most improvement in science out of the whole year group between PPE1 and PPE2.

Consistently brilliant effort in Art in preparing for their exam: Lucy W, Emily C, Lily T, Kai M and Ebon G. Fantastic sketchbook work from Sienna B. She used an old map surface to draw an older portrait and it works really well – Mr Walters



Have a lovely long weekend all of you!

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

9. 6th Form

UCAS & Apprenticeships

If you haven't already done so, please make sure that you have made your firm and insurance choice on UCAS. You still have time, but it will be one less thing to worry about or think about if you get it done before the exam period fully kicks in.





If you are opting to not go to University, please note that over the next couple of weeks staff will be having conversations with you about what your next steps are. Please start seriously thinking about these. Remember you can book in to see our NEACO Champion Rosie if you need some more guidance.

Thomas Anguish

Thomas Anguish is a charity that aims to encourage students to stay in education. As such they have grants available to students in 6th Form and those that go to university. The money is paid straight into your account in one chunk and you are free to use it on whatever you want (however it is of course encouraged that you use it on educational stuff; books, transport, trips, uniform etc).

There are some restrictions:

You must live in Norwich, Catton, Corpusty, Costessey, Hellesdon, Sprowston or Thorpe St Andrew.

You must have a low to moderate household income (single parent families, or parents that don't work or earn low income). Generally speaking, if you qualify, you can get £720 per year while you are in 6th form.

Once you are at university, you can get £720 if you are at university, but remain living at home and £1200 if you move away for university. You apply for this every year and can get the same amount paid into your account each year that you remain at university.

If you think you may qualify for this, contact them on the details below asap:

Email: norwichcharitabletrusts.org.uk

Phone: 01603 621023

Big Ups

We did a class history debate and Year 12/13 engaged brilliantly, working as a group to plan, and then to discuss as individuals in a tunnel debate. The whole class, Ronan, Sam, Alfie, Tia, Josh, Torri, Millie engaged fantastically and we had a really passionate debate. The fact that this was while discussing the thrills of Lloyd-George's social policies, 1918-22, suggests just how well they did – Mr Crawford

Some more amazing art work from Year 12 students Hannah J and Lisa K – Mr Walters





Mrs Molloy Head of 6th Form



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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/

Thought for the Week



God bless you.

Mark





11. Cyber Choices and Online Safety Events



Cyber Choices and Online Safety Events

For parents / carers of children aged 9 and up

You are invited to attend two free online sessions to discuss all things "cyber".

These sessions will be suitable for parents/carers of children in Year 5 (age 9) and above. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding your child's online world and it shouldn't be missed!

Part 1 will introduce you to the Cyber Choices programme which will be delivered by the Eastern Region Cyber Choices Team. They will provide:

- An overview to parents and carers on what cybercrime is.
- · What the risks to young people are.
- How the Cyber Choices programme supports at-risk individuals.
- How you can refer a young person into Cyber Choices.

You will also hear from Kent County Council's Education Safeguarding Team, who will provide an overview of:

- Some of the potential risks that children and young people may experience online.
- Advice to support parents to make informed decisions and keep their children safer online.

Please visit the NCA website to find out more about Cyber Choices

Please register for <u>one</u> part 1 session only (as these will be duplicated), by clicking on the link below.

Wednesday 8th May 2024 @ 1000 - Part 1 Book here

Wednesday 5th June 2024 @ 1300 - Part 1 Book here

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 @ 1600 - Part 1 Book here Part 2 will be delivered by the Eastern Region Cyber Protect Team. They will provide:

- Advice on how to improve your personal cyber security.
- Identifying and protecting yours (and your children's) key accounts.
- Threats and techniques that cyber criminals may use to target you / your family.
- . Benefits of family accounts.
- · Parental controls on your router.
- Signposting to useful resources.

The aim of the session is to provide you with tools and techniques to improve the cyber security of your family.

Advice and guidance from the session will be in line with the Government's <u>Stop! Think Fraud</u> and the National Cyber Security Centres <u>CyberAware</u> campaigns.

Again, please register for <u>one</u> part 2 session only (as these will be duplicated), by clicking on the link

Wednesday 15th May 2024 @ 1000 - Part 2 Book here

Wednesday 12th June 2024 @ 1300 - Part 2 Book here

Wednesday 10th July 2024 @ 1600 - Part 2 Book here

If you have any questions or would like us to cover a certain topic within our sessions, then please complete our online form.

https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/cyber-choices

Mr Davis Safeguarding Lead











Advice on seeking Neurodevelopmental Independent Assessments

It is recognised that the current waiting times for Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments are long. The number of requests for assessment received each month is much higher than our NHS neurodevelopmental teams can manage. For this reason, parents, carers and concerned adults are exploring other ways to ensure their child can be seen quickly, which includes paying for private (independent) assessments or asking their GP for their Right To Choose a provider.

In Norfolk and Waveney, there are many different services who can complete assessments. Some only work for the NHS, paid for by the Integrated Care Board (ICB). Some will be private (independent) providers who are helping NHS services with their waiting times and have an NHS contract. These may also be referred to as Right to Choose/Patient Choice providers. Others will be private providers who do not have an NHS contract but are still qualified.

All professionals in these services, must follow the same quality standards, regardless of whether they work privately or for the NHS. This is to make sure that any assessment and possible diagnosis, has considered all reasons why your child may need extra help and support. Guidance on quality standards is made by the National Institute for <u>Health</u> and Care Excellence (NICE).

If you are thinking about paying for a private assessment it is important that you ask some questions about the service you can expect to receive.

Whether your child is being assessed privately or by the NHS, the professionals involved should have the right qualifications and training and be registered with relevant regulatory bodies*. Be aware that membership of a professional body (for example the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, British Psychological Society and National UK Therapists Register etc.) is not the same as a regulatory body.

To find out whether someone is qualified, and registered with an appropriate regulatory body you can check the websites for the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), or General Medical Council (GMC). The provider may also be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and you can search the website to find out more about their last inspection. You should also check that the organisation is registered on Companies House.

Your child should be seen face-to-face, usually in their school, so check that this will happen. A diagnostic process should be done at a minimum by a multi-disciplinary team. A multi-disciplinary team involves the collective input of a range of qualified professionals rather than views from a single practitioner who may be trained in a variety of areas. You should therefore expect to have more than one professional involved in the assessment so do ask who is in the team. You should also expect the multi-disciplinary team to consult with other professionals involved with your child, such as their teachers/ SENCo. You should also check with the provider that your child is screened for other conditions as part of the process.

If the provider is contracted by the NHS under Right to Choose you should check that they are contracted under the NHS' child/young person pathway, rather than for adults.





After the assessment, you should receive a detailed report that describes your child, suggests what reasonable adjustments might need to be made and how professionals can support them. It might also list local agencies who can help you. The report should be individualised and tailored specifically to your child.

Costs will vary, so you should expect all costs upfront and check you understand what these include. If medication is recommended by the private provider, ask questions about how ongoing prescription charges are going to be paid for.

Most importantly, if you are uncertain about the outcome or quality of the assessment, you should talk with the private provider within six weeks. Requests for a second opinion will mean joining the NHS waiting list in your local area.

Most providers will deliver quality assessments and accurate diagnostic input; however, we do strongly advise parents to follow this guidance as there could be a risk that, where providers are not working in the right way, the assessment might not properly reflect your child and could therefore lead to the wrong support or adjustments being suggested.

There is also a risk that if a private diagnostic assessment is provided as part of an assessment for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) but has not been undertaken to the right quality standard it may not be relied upon for consideration and inclusion in the EHCP assessment or final plan.

Please remember that, while a diagnosis can be important for families, support for special educational needs should not depend on a clinical diagnosis. Support for your child's special educational needs should be needs led rather than a diagnostic approach. To find out about how special educational needs are supported in educational establishments in Norfolk, you can speak to your SENCO and visit the Norfolk Local Offer.

The Integrated Care Board is intending to increase the number of private providers who can hold an NHS contract for Autism and ADHD assessments for children and young People. In the next few months, there will be a provider framework in place and more information will follow about who is on that list. In the meantime, to know more about who has an NHS contract, please contact the ICB team by email: **nwicb.contactus@nhs.net** or phone: **01603 595857**

restricting or barring individuals from practice.

Useful links:

Quality Care Commission (CQC) www.cqc.org.uk

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) www.hcpc-uk.org

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) www.nmc.org.uk

The General Medical Council (GMC) www.gmc-uk.org

Norfolk Local Offer - private diagnostic assessments

www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40860/Privateneurodevelopmental-assessments **Companies House** www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company

Right to Choose (NHS England) https://adhduk.co.uk/right-to-choose

National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/

Norfolk Local Offer - support for SEND in schools / education establishments www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40537/

Education-and-learning

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

^{*}Regulatory bodies are organisations that set clinical and professional standards for the medical and clinical professions/organisations. They have the ability to formally intervene and use powers such as closing practices,



