

## Open Academy Newsletter – 17 May 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Amazingly we are already at the penultimate newsletter of the half term. No wonder I feel like we have been so busy. It is really hard to keep up with everything at the moment. With the literary festival in full swing over the last couple of weeks, which has seen trips out, authors coming in and a range of competitions and activities throughout the week, not to mention the Duke of Edinburgh trip which returned safely last weekend.

Next week promises to be just as busy with student leadership events including sports competitions and charity events. Next week will also culminate in our annual remembrance service for Frank Armes. As a student of our forerunner school, he lost his life in the service and protection of his country during the Falklands War and we have committed to ensure his sacrifice is remembered. I will give full details in my newsletter next week.

This week I was asked to comment on the news that McDonalds had overturned the planning block on putting a new drive-thru around the corner from the academy. I thought carefully and sent a press release to explain our position. The press edit these things down, but I thought you might want to see the whole press release for context...

*Jon Ford Principal of Open Academy, part of Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust said: "We are very keen to ensure that our students grow up to live healthy and fulfilled lives. Thanks to Jess and the team in our canteen, students at Open Academy have access to daily healthy, varied and tasty food. As part of the Big Breakfast initiative at the Academy over 150 students enjoy a free to all breakfast to start their day at the Academy and we are particularly proud of our food tech programme under the direction of Miss Luter which aims to give all our students the ability to prepare the full range of savoury and sweet healthy dishes that they may want in their adult lives.*

*The recipe book that the students develop from Year 7 until they finish their food tech studies ensures that they will always be able to enjoy healthy food from high quality basic ingredients available locally. The students are also taught what healthy eating is all about and would understand very clearly the effects of fast food on their health if not eaten in moderation.*

*From a school perspective, we would not be encouraging the siting of a new fast food restaurants in our local vicinity, however we recognise that the local economy is more than just the Academy and so we would be very keen to ensure that if the McDonald's does go ahead, that they would enter into the same agreement that we have with other local fast food providers such as Kentucky and Costa Coffee which both exist opposite the school gates. The agreement is that they don't serve students in school uniform between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM unless they are accompanied by their parents or carers. We have found this works very well with our local fast-food outlets and thanks to these local agreements we find that our students are learning to live around the availability of fast food without over using it. We would therefore love to meet with the new McDonalds franchisee and engage in a positive conversation about the existing agreement we have with other local fast food outlets.*

*It would be good to think that, if it goes go ahead, McDonalds will honour the same agreements locally. Furthermore, it would be great to think that McDonald's will continue to develop it's healthier options for the younger more health-conscious consumers and I'm confident that our students would understand the benefits of these options well when they do occasionally eat out."*

I hope that helps clarify further what you may have read in the EDP! Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter

Jon Ford  
Principal

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

## 1. Student Leadership Projects

### Charity Leadership

Next week charity leaders will be running a bake sale on Friday, 24 of May to raise money for the charity <https://refuge.org.uk/> who do a lot of great work for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

The plan is to run a competition in order to get as many cakes to sell as possible.

Student Competition - encouraging students to bake a cake for the competition and again the top 3 getting a choice of cake as a prize.

Anything anyone is willing to bake and bring in to help would be massively appreciated!

### Ambassadors Committee

To mark mental health week our ambassador committee are launching an art competition tomorrow amongst all years. The prize is to be part of the team who create a mural on a wall within the school, featuring the students own designs. The structure of the comp will be as follows:

Every student is invited to participate - their task is to create a design/picture etc. that in some way connects to mental health - it can be literal or abstract, something that makes them feel happy etc. the link can be as simple as "this makes me have good mental health, or makes me happy"

Each form hands their entries to their student leaders who will take them to the year team to hold on to for the next Year group meeting to choose their favourite entries.

Those entries will then be brought to the executive committee who will choose all the designs to feature on the mural.

The winners will receive 100 reward points each and be part of the creative team working with Mr Walters and Lisa/Teyla in 6th Form to design and create the mental health mural on a wall.

### Sports Leaders

Under the watchful guidance and great leadership of the PE department, student leaders will be running a rounders competition for KS3 classes on Tuesday next week. It will be house vs. house in a competition designed to encourage the true spirit of competition between the houses.

## 2. Academy Allotment



The academy allotment is back up and running thanks to Harriet from the Papillon project and a small group of dedicated Year 7 and Year 8 students. Parents or grandparents who would like to volunteer to help would be welcome - please let us know if you are interested.

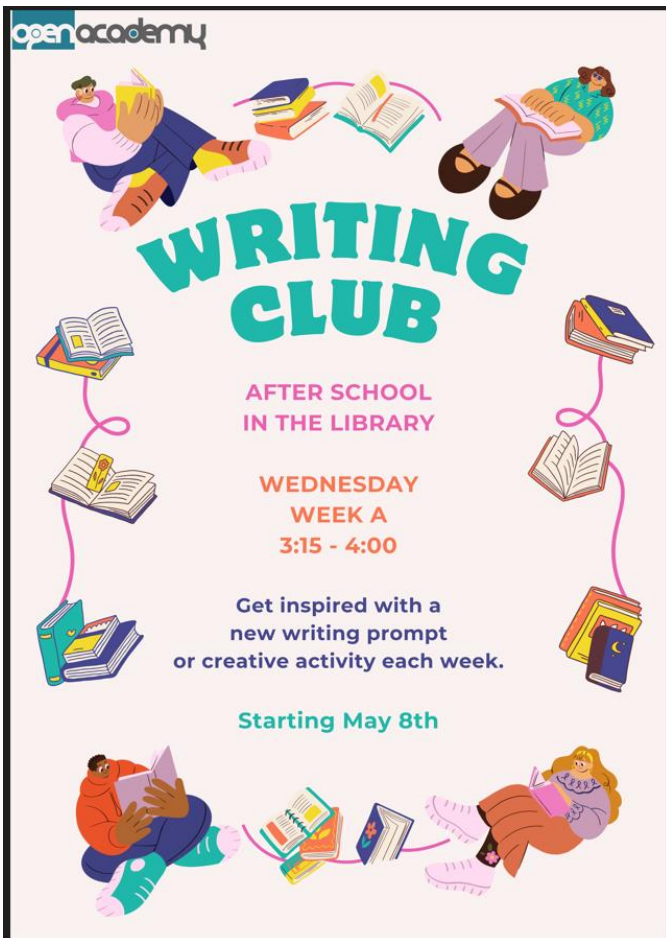
Mr Mundy  
Teacher

### 3. Library

#### Writing Club

Our new writing club has started in the Library after school on Wednesdays week A. It's a stress-free, pressure-free, expectation-free environment for all year groups and abilities to have a go at creative writing.

Students can use it as a space to carry on writing what they're already working on, to work on essays for classes, to write poetry, create short stories, or just use it as time to journal. We'll be offering creative writing activities and prompts each week for inspiration, but there will be no pressure to take part.



#### Book Club

A new book club will be starting in the library when we come back from the half term break. It'll be running every Tuesday lunchtime for all year groups. NEACO are very kindly helping us with the funding to purchase the books and we'll be using the National Teen Book Club initiative from Speakers For Schools.

Our first book will be 'Wild East' by Ashley Hickson-Lovence. This debut novel is about a black teenager living in Norwich who feels like a complete outsider. He tries his best to stay out of trouble and keep his goal of becoming a rapper alive, but when a local poet comes into class he opens Ronny's world to something new. Rap is like spoken word, lyrics equal poetry - and maybe the combination of both could be the key to Ronny's dreams?



**BOOK CLUB**

Find Your Next Great Read

**JOIN NOW!**

**STARTING JUNE 4TH**

**LUNCHTIME IN THE LIBRARY**  
EVERY TUESDAY

Join your fellow bookworms in the library to read, chat about books, and watch virtual author talks in a friendly and welcoming space

Packed lunches allowed in the library for book club members

Sign up at the Library desk!

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FLAVORS OF

### Lost Library Books

We're very quickly coming up on the end of the school year and it's almost time for me to do a very (not) exciting stocktake of the whole library. I currently have over 500 books marked as overdue or lost on our library system, so I would be very grateful indeed if you could all take a quick look at home for any wayward books that may have been missed. If you do find any, just bring them into the library and pop them in the box on the desk. Whether your book is 2 days overdue or 200, there will be no judgement here. I'm aware that these things happen and I'll just be thrilled to get a bunch of them back where they belong! Thank you.

Mrs Rogers  
Librarian

### 4. Year 7

Well, it looks like this year's summer is all over, I hope we all enjoyed the one week of good weather, before we know it, it will be the run up to Christmas. Students are now meeting outside behind the science classrooms at the beginning of the day, can we all make sure they are there by 8:30am. With wet weather starts we will be meeting inside by the science classrooms.

This week has been mental health awareness week and staff wore green on Thursday. I hope all Year 7 students know where they can go to speak to an adult if they are feeling low - their tutor, subject teacher, year team etc.

There seems to be incidents with students still bringing in fizzy drinks, energy drinks and chewing gum, these are prohibited items and will be confiscated and a detention could be given for repeat offenders. Let us also make sure uniform is correct please, summer uniform will be in place after half term which means they will not need to wear a blazer, everything else stays the same.

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

## 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/>

Year 7 camp are having a parent meeting on Wednesday, 22 May at 6pm for Miss Whitwood to go through the full plan for that week.

Congratulations to Inspiration for winning the tutor challenge and Challenge for the best attendance this week.

The top 10 achievers this week are, Demarco W, Ashanti G, Phoebe B, Ayo T, Lily-May B, Charlie S, Brogan M, Evie A, Alfie W and Emily B.

Teacher praise:

Logan B for red folder work – Mrs McEvoy

For consistent effort and engagement in Geography 7E - Evie A, Phoebe B, Ellie-Mae B, Lily- May B, Alessia P, Amalie T and Ayo T.

7O - Alex D, Ameera J, Chloe J, Teja M and Jack S-H. 7P - Johnson B, Stefan C, Mason H-R, Sabine L, Riley L, Bianca M, Lacey-Mae M, Joel M, Rowan S, Phoebe S and Elias S - Mr Crawford

M Shipman for a tremendous start in English and whole year contributions and performance – Mr Edwards

Alfie H for persevering in presentation although he felt unwell in English.

Espen - great work in maths.

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

## 5. Year 8

The Year 8s have had a brilliant day today participating in our annual literary festival competition! All students in Year 8 have been working on their descriptive writing skills in English recently and have created some wonderful descriptive pieces. We have been running class competitions this week to find the very best descriptions in the year group and then these were brought together today in a whole year competition in the lecture theatre. A huge congratulations to all students who were involved today either reading a description or having their one read. They demonstrated our school values in bucketfuls!

A massive, massive, congratulations to all the students who participated today.

Echoing the praise from Mr Mundy regarding the allotment project. A huge well done to Hannah T, David D, Freya S & Liam M for all their continued hard work.

Shout out from Ms Rednall - well done to 8E yesterday for completing their sweet machines. They worked super hard to get some amazing and functional products finished. Thank you to Conner P for helping others and showing great teamwork, Tallulah M, Jasmin C, Tulisha M, Kaiden G, Liam M, Elizabeth, Leo C,

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

Hannah T and Jake for their brilliant work ethic. The whole class demonstrated exemplary work ethic to create such a positive and inclusive working environment!

Our Top LEARNT achievers this week are:

Chakib L	90
Callum J	75
Callum B	70
Ellie H	70
Munashe Z	70
Destiny O	70
Sammy R	70
Cameron S	70
Tom W	70

Mrs Clayton (Head of Year 8)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## 6. Year 9

Year 9 have been involved in mental health awareness week through assemblies and tutor time. All students have been signposted to Kooth and Flourish if they feel they need support outside of school - the links of which are below for you to take a look at:

Kooth: <https://vimeo.com/880223109>

Flourish: [https://youtu.be/NjHNM7w\\_Mxc](https://youtu.be/NjHNM7w_Mxc)

Students of the week:

Martha W, Samuel O, Somaya R and Max S.

Awards for Jasmin C, Eva T and Amelia S for producing good mental health awareness posters.

Students with the highest achievement points this week:

Somaya R, Rianna A, Bea S, Annalee R, Eliza S, Max S and Tyler A.

Students with the highest achievement points this half term:

Luke S, Ayo T, Riley W, Samuel O, Erica J and Harry B.

Reminder regarding uniform: Students must have their blazers with them in school until May half term, Summer uniform allowed is tailored shorts or skirts. Uniform not acceptable is sports shorts or just leggings. Emails will be sent from tutors if students are in the incorrect uniform, so parents are aware.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## 7. Year 10

Please ensure your child has a suitable bag to bring to school for equipment needed for the day, which should include a reading book, water bottle, pens and PE kit etc. Teachers may also be giving them revision materials and other resources. Phones will need to be handed in if students do not have a bag to put them in.

Congratulations on our silver students on completing their practice expedition, their assessment expedition is at the beginning of June!



Well done to the following for gaining the most achievement points this week, Ayo T, Tyler H, Katy S, Zoe W, Maizi Y and Millie H.

### Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Award

Congratulations to the Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh students who completed their practice expedition last weekend. The weather was quite warm, but all the students rose to the tough challenge of navigating the rural Suffolk countryside and being self-sufficient in their camping and cooking. Very proud of their team work and resilience - Mrs Pearsall, Miss Whitwood and Mr Coyne



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

## 8. Year 11

From just the last week we can see how fantastic the Year 11s are as a year group. Their dedication to their learning is shown in their amazing attitude to revision each morning in the atrium. This really helps to ensure they are in the right mind set for their exams. If any support is required as the exam season continues please let the year team know.

Prom tickets are still on sale, so far nearly ¼ of the year group have purchased one. It costs £30 and will give your son/daughter an unforgettable evening to celebrate their time at Open and the end of an era in their lives. Tickets are purchased via parent pay. Once bought students can collect their physical ticket from the Year office.

Learnt Points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 11. Well done everyone and a great show of positive learning.

The following students have had a great week filled with achievement:

Lily E, Tye F, Emily S, Thomas J, Emily-Jayne C, Harisan M, Ara R, Ariya R, Ethan W and Rakan A.

Positive Praise:

Well done Sienna H for her fantastic attitude to learning and exams.

Ara R, Ariya R, Emily-Jayne C and Ethan W for their focus and effort in History HUB in preparation for their first paper this week on Norwich Castle.

Outstanding effort with revision in English - Lily E

Leo W - Showing great empathy to a fellow student.

Very impressed that Year 11 are still working very hard in music to make the final preparations for their listening exam. Keep it up, it will be worth it in the end!!

Miguel D and Jess W excellent effort in maths the last 2 weeks.

We held the GCSE art exam this week. Below is some of the brilliant work produced by our Year 11s. They all worked extremely hard so please congratulate them.



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 son/daughter, it shows itself every day.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 11)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 11)



## 9. 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



Mark

## NORFOLK SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVE TEAM TRIALS

24-25 SEASON

### U14 & U16 GIRLS TRIALS (JUNE 2024)

Norfolk Schools FA offer a fully open Trials process for representative teams each year. Any girl who wishes to be considered is welcome to trial on the dates below.

All current squad players in the 23-24 season must also re-trial at these trials to be considered for a place in 24-25 season squads. U14 trials are open to current Y7/8 pupils (year 8/9 from September) with U16s open to current Y9/10 pupils (year 10/11 from September).

The trials for the U14 & U16 Girls Norfolk sides will take place on the following dates;

#### U14s

First trial: Sat 8 June 2024 – 0930-1430 @ Thorpe St Andrew High School, NR7 0XS

Second trial (if successful on 8/6) Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 0930-1300

To book a place on the trials training day follow link below or scan QR code.

#### U14 GIRLS TRIALS

<https://buytickets.at/norfolkschoolsfa/1197062>



#### U16s

First trial: Sun 9 June 2024 – 0930-1430 @ Thorpe St Andrew High School, NR7 0XS

Second trial (if successful on 9/6) Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 0930-1300

To book a place on the trials training day follow link below or scan QR code.

#### U16s GIRLS TRIALS

<https://buytickets.at/norfolkschoolsfa/1197073>