

## Open Academy Newsletter – 7 June 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Y7 students can leave school in PE kit.

I am beginning to think that I have developed an allergy to holidays having been ill throughout the last half term week only to recover the Sunday before term time started again (that's the third holiday in a row I have been ill for)! Still, we are definitely back to what will hopefully be a proper summer.

We have indeed now switched to summer uniform – which for many will just mean not wearing their blazer. However, I know some will take the opportunity to wear shorts. It is really important though that we still aim to hit a smart standard of dress, so I would appreciate it if you would do all you can to ensure your child wears their summer uniform with pride, especially when it comes to tucking their shirts in. I think lots of students by Year 9 probably need a belt to keep their shirts tucked in, but whether through practical means i.e. getting them a belt, or just gentle repeated encouragement, please do help us keep the students looking smart!

As a trial, we will be allowing Year 7 students to leave the academy in their PE kits if their last lesson of the day is PE.

The summer also means longer nights and with it, opportunities for students to be out and about more which can put them more frequently in harm's way in the community. Please do make it your business to know where they are and who they are with during these longer evenings. We are also aware that there are a few people about looking to exploit youngsters at a loose end!

Finally, this week, I just wanted to thank Mr Pimlott our Chaplain for getting our regular weekly worship, Open House, off and running. Wednesday afternoons at 3.30, everyone is welcome to come together in the Open Ark, to share some encouragement, reflect about themselves and others.

You may not be aware that Mr Pimlott and I study a simple story from the bible a little at a time over the course of each term. Before school every Monday we explore the bible story, its meaning and what it shows me about the academy. Mark then continues his encouragement for the whole of my Senior Leadership Team (SLT) at our SLT briefing at 8am every Monday, where Mark challenges us and encourages us through the example of Jesus and the power of The Holy Spirit.

I am not very religious and SLT are definitely secular, however, all of us have come to really value and appreciate this small spiritual boost every week. So when I encourage all students to check out Open House, it is knowing how much better I feel thanks to a bit of spiritual encouragement. I am sure the students will appreciate the same. I know the newly formed regulars didn't want to leave Open House this week as they were enjoying listening to worship songs so much.

With a (hopefully) long hot summer ahead, it is good to reflect that despite so much hardship and challenge in the world, in many ways we are blessed by being part of such a warm encouraging community as Open Academy. Have a lovely weekend!

Jon Ford  
Principal

## 1. Year 11 Next Week

As we approach the end of the exams scheduled for the week commencing the 10 June, I'd like to share an adjusted timetable for Year 11 students. Please take note of the following changes:

- Monday, 10 June: There will be a maths exam in the morning. In the afternoon, students must remain in school for science and history exam preparation (scheduled for Tuesday).
- Tuesday, 11 June: The day will begin with a chemistry exam in the morning, followed by a history exam in the afternoon. Students not taking history can leave after the morning session.
- Wednesday, 12 June: DT/Food and music students must be in school for periods 2-3. Students who do not take these courses can stay home to revise.
- Thursday, 13 June: All students should attend school for periods 2-3 for physics revision, Triple science students are in all day. Geography students have a session in the 4th period.
- Friday, 14 June: All students must follow their regular timetabled lessons. The geography exam is scheduled for the morning, and the physics exam is in the afternoon. After this exam, a leavers assembly will be taking place.

I want to thank all of the Year 11s - they have been fantastic over this exam period and they have done themselves proud. I will confirm the details of the results day in the next newsletter.

Mr Fisher  
Assistant Principal

## 2. Norfolk Show Rewards Trip

Letters have now been given out to all students who have met the success criteria for this trip. For students to confirm their place on this trip they must bring their permission slip back to me by Wednesday, 12 June. No late returns will be excepted. Parent pay has been set up for all students who have met the success criteria.

Miss Whitwood  
Teacher and Head of Whole School Rewards

## 3. Art Competition

Student Leaders are running an art competition for all students to take part in to commemorate mental health awareness! We have extended the deadline to next Friday, 14 June for entries. Once completed, if students could give their entries to me, Mr Walters or a student leader to bring to us that would be awesome! Mr Walters has kindly said students can use their art lesson to complete this so please let them know. Thank you.

Mr Dilley  
Teacher

## 4. Year 7

Welcome back after half term and we go straight into another busy week, Thursday was city sports at UEA and every student there was impeccably behaved. It was a real pleasure to see so many compete at their best ability and really step up to all the challenge. An extra big congratulations go to our Year 7 boys who won overall.

A reminder that leggings and tracksuit bottoms must not be worn.

A few dates below to remember:

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

Parents evening 18 June  
Norfolk show trip 26 June  
Rewards trip 27 June  
Camp w/b 8 July  
Sports day 15 July

For Year 7 camp the deposit deadline is Monday so please could this be paid by then, any issues with that please get in touch.

The winner of the tutor challenge this week are Destiny.

Apologies that there is no top 10 achievers or best tutor attendance this week, we have moved from SIMS to Arbor, hopefully next week I can add this in the newsletter.

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

## 5. Year 8

The Year 8s have had a good first week back from their holiday into what will be the last half-term of Year 8!

We had an absolutely incredible assembly this week with Mr Wilgress' tutor group taking charge and delivering a wonderful assembly on the theme of courage. All showed courage themselves by their excellent public speaking and mature take of the theme of courage. Mr Hawkins and I would like to say just how proud we were of them to stand and speak in front of their year group in such a mature way - really, really well done.

The usual Top LEARN'T achievers will start again from next week, but the over whelming majority of students have had a really positive first week back.

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

## 6. Year 9

Year 9 have made a positive start to our last half term. For the next few weeks Year 9 students are completing their end of year assessments in all subjects. This will form their final progress levels for their end of year reports and give us a good indication of what levels they are working at as they start their GCSEs.

Students of the week:  
Martha W, Eva T, Amelia S, Alfie S, Jenson L and Phoebe E.

Highest Achievement Points this week:  
Jenson L, Alfie S, Olivier K, Somaya R and Kayden SH.

Reminder that leggings are not school uniform, students should be in skirts or trousers. Detentions will be issued next week for repeated incidents of incorrect uniform.

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

## 7. Year 10

We are in the final half term of Year 10 with a number of events happening in the next few weeks, PPE 2, work experience and several trips.

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible progress the students have made so far. Their hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed and we are thrilled to see them thriving in their academic and extra curriculum pursuits. Students have faced new challenges, developed new skills and built strong relationships with peers and teachers.

The focus for the next few weeks will be PPE2. The exam timetable should be out today with exams starting on 17 June. If a student has missed exams they will have to be done in a catch-up session. All students will sit all their exams. Students will need to arrive to school on time as morning exams will start promptly at 9am. An assembly for the year group will take place next week providing information for the expectations for the exams. If a student does not attend the assembly and we have not been informed by parents why, they will face a detention and will be given the information in the detention. We want to establish a good routine and build resilience for Year 10s in preparation for their GCSEs next year. If your child has any worries or concerns about the exams please ask them to talk to the year team.

A number of Year 10 students have taken part in their Silver Duke of Edinburgh award this week, supported by our very own Mrs Pearsall, Miss Whitwood and Mr Stephens. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and we hope they have all had a great time.

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

## 8. Year 11

What a fantastic group of students we have in Year 11. They far exceed expectations each and every morning. From 8am they are arriving into Open and instead of walking around, chatting or looking at their phones, they are getting together in supportive groups and doing some last-minute revision for their upcoming exams. It is humbling to see this each and every day. It truly shows you how seriously everyone is taking their GCSEs. On that note we are over half way through the exam season with lots of positive feedback coming from the students. Next week students' time in Open will start to change with not all students having to attend school 100% of the time. However, all students need to attend for the full day on Monday, 10 June.

Prom tickets are selling well with over half the year group now choosing to attend a night of celebration with their friends. There are still tickets to purchase, so if your son/daughter wishes to attend you can buy a ticket on Parent Pay.

We are all looking forward to Friday, 14 June. On this day, after the science exam in the afternoon, we will be holding a celebration assembly. In this we will be sharing lots of positivity about each and every student and the Year 7 photo of each student. If you have any nice pictures of your son/daughter from their time at Open and would like these to be displayed in the assembly, please send them to the Year Team.

If your daughter/son has a locker at school, please get them to return their key to the Year Office. We can then provide a form for them/you to be able to get your deposit back for the locker.

Positive praise:

Jessica B, Ella R and Ebon G worked hard and did their utmost in English to the very end. Best of well-deserved luck.

Well done to Leo W, Megan C, Star C and Jamie S for attending their final English hub on Wednesday!

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

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. 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

### **Year 13**

We are well and truly smack bang in the middle of exam period. Keep going, I am always here if you need a chat or a bit of time out from the revision.

Books: many thanks to everyone that has returned their subject textbooks so far. Please make sure that all of these are returned by the end of your last exam, as we will be doing an audit to see who is outstanding after this. As you may know, these textbooks can cost up to £50 each, so we really need them to be returned to us so that we can hand them out to the next cohort of students. Any students that fail to return books will unfortunately have a bill sent home for these, so please make sure you return yours!

Leavers meal: I have recently emailed you all with regards to arranging your leavers meal/drinks. It would be a massive shame if you all left without us celebrating you. It's also a lovely opportunity for you to say goodbye to some of your teachers. Please nominate yourself if you are organised, so that you can get the ball rolling! I would REALLY love it if you all came to this so we could say goodbye to you!

Leavers Day: despite the fact that a few of you will still have exams after this date, Friday, 14 June will be your official last day at school. We will be holding a small assembly at 2pm in my classroom, followed hopefully by some food in the canteen and a chance to say bye to everyone!

### **Assembly**

I have noticed that less and less students are attending Monday assembly. This is not voluntary and is compulsory that you attend this each week. A lot of important information is shared each week, as well as external speakers being booked to come in. Unfortunately, we will be starting to mark students not present as 'truanting' and this could result in after school detentions. There are only a few weeks left. Please make sure that you attend these each week. Next week's assembly is on TUESDAY as Rosie from NEACO will be attending. I expect to see every Year 12 student present in this please.

### **Year 12 PPE**

The Year 12 PPE exams will commence week beginning 17 June. Please make sure that you have a copy of the exam timetable and are aware of content that you need to revise for these exams. Timetables will be available by the end of this week.

### **Rewards Trip**

There is a rewards trip taking place on Wednesday, 12 June. If you have been given a letter – congrats! Please make sure that you return the slip to Miss Whitwood as soon as you can.

Mrs Molloy  
Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form

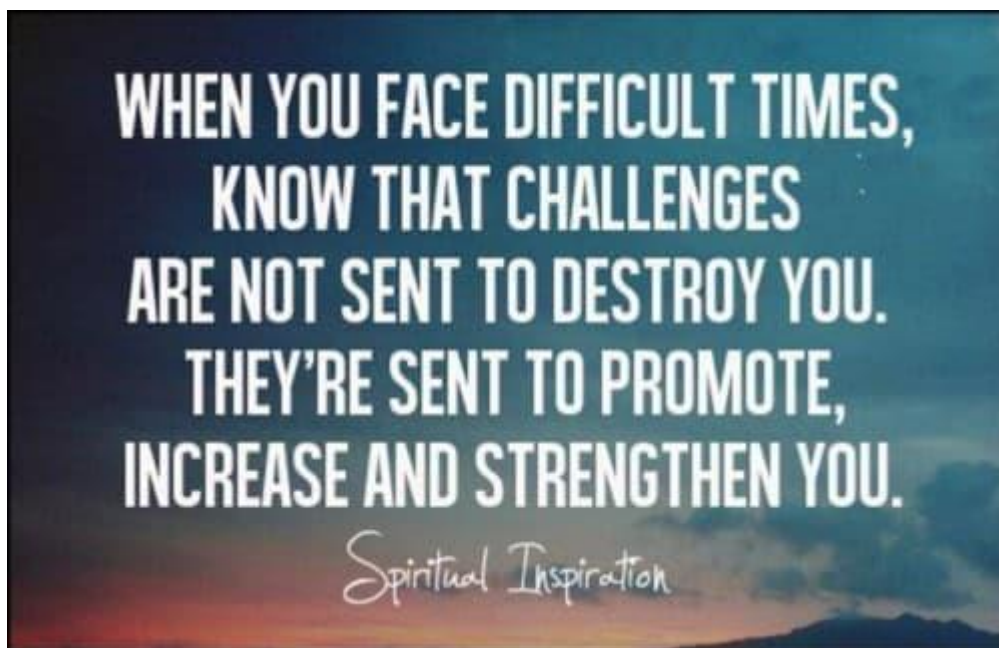
## 10. Chaplain's Update

### 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



Mark



Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service June  
2024 Newsletter

[Go to this Sway](#)



**Frettenham CC**  
**Youth Hardball Cricket**  
**Under 11 - Under 13**

Saturday mornings  
9:30-11:00  
Frettenham Village Hall

Suitable for all levels - beginners welcome!

All sessions run by ECB qualified coach.

For more details contact David  
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