

## Open Academy Newsletter – 5 July 2024

Dear parents, carers and students

Welcome to this week's newsletter, where once again there is far too much for me to cover in my introduction. So, I will focus on just a couple of main issues.

Firstly, I am delighted that we will be fully staffed for the year ahead. Due to some changes we are having to look carefully at our language offer, which will be changing over time from German to Spanish given the specialism of our staffing from September. We are very fortunate to have a full complement of language teachers for September so that is a real relief.

Given that students in Year 7 have had a 'taster' year of basic German, we think that moving them to Spanish for a fresh start in Year 8 should present opportunities to restart, what I am reassured is a simpler language in Spanish. If there is a real desire from a few to continue with German we could investigate extracurricular support during Year 8 and 9 then possibly having it as a second language option for KS4. Outside of Year 8 our current plan is that Year 7 will all be starting off with Spanish, but Years 9 through to 11 will be staying with German.

For me language learning is about the discipline of learning - vocabulary, grammar, listening and memory building – which language is less important than making sure a language is in the learning mix (I am personally trying to learn Chinese at the moment with Duolingo!). I would however be keen, as always, to hear your views regarding this switch and our whole approach to languages.

The other thing I really wanted to bring up this week was the fantastic development of our drama provision here at Open – highlighted by our fantastic annual production this week, which saw the largest cast we have had deliver a thoroughly entertaining version of Alice in Wonderland.

Strong confident performances, brilliantly accompanied by our amazing Mrs Morgan-Hart showed the full range of talent we have at Open as the word-perfect students delivered a masterclass in physical theatre. I am so proud of them – it was awesome. So a huge thank you to Mrs Ormosi who is bringing drama to life at the academy and thanks to all the staff who helped make it possible, from set painting to costume and ticket sales – especially Miss Hawthorne who managed the lighting brilliantly!

So another fantastic week, it just leaves me to wish the Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition to Mid Norfolk the best of luck this weekend, more about that next week. For now, read on!

Jon Ford  
Principal

### 1. Break/Lunch Times

As we have said goodbye to our Year 11, we can now implement the new break and lunchtime structure for all students starting from the week commencing Monday, 8 July. These changes will be in effect until the end of the 24/25 academic year. The changes are as follows:

Break:

- 1st - Present Year 7 and 9
- 2nd - New Year 7
- 3rd - Present Year 8 and 10

Lunch:

- 1st - Present Year 7 and 9
- 2nd - New Year 7
- 3rd - Present Year 8 and 10

Mr Fisher  
Assistant Principal

## 2. Alice in Wonderland

Well done to this amazing bunch of people, what a fantastic few days of performances of Alice in Wonderland. This has been a real team effort, thank you to everyone who has helped. You're all mad!!



And if anyone in Year 9 and above wants some more performing experience, then Echo Youth Theatre are holding auditions for Shakespeare in Love this month and then performing in October at The Garage, Norwich. The [audition information is here](#)

At Echo Youth Theatre, we hold open auditions for all our productions and our casting is not related to any. For Shakespeare in Love we are looking for a cast of 25 and whilst many of the roles are for male-identifying actors, there are some great roles for female-identifying actors too. We may even contemplate a full gender swap casting! If you think you would be perfect, please do apply for any role you feel suited for.

We have an information evening on Monday, 8 July at 7pm and the auditions are on Thursday, 18 & Saturday, 20 July.

[www.echoyouththeatre.co.uk](http://www.echoyouththeatre.co.uk)

Mrs Ormosi  
Teacher

### 3. Year 9

Students with highest achievement points this week:

AJ B, Deacon B, Mills C, Rusne B, Kieran VW, Denver W, Ryan B, Martina V, Rianna A, Esme W, Hannah S and Bea S.

Highest Achievement points this half term:

Sasha MP, Deacon B, AJ B, Jenson L, Bea S, Zena A and Kate S,

As we approach the end of term Year 9 need to make sure they are keeping up the standards we expect of them. Some students are not wearing correct uniform or keeping their shirts tucked in.

Some students are preparing for sports day and we look forward to seeing Year 9 engaging in all the activities sports day has to offer.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

### 4. Year 10

It's been a busy few weeks for the Year 10s, PPEs, some involved in trips, the performance of Alice in Wonderland and supporting visitors into the school.

Next week sees a large number of the year group taking part in work experience. This will provide students to gain an understanding in a career they may be considering and be gently introduced to the world of work. It is a great opportunity for students to identify and develop skills. Mrs Lamb and other staff members are looking forward to visiting a number of students at placement.

Those students remaining in school will have an adjusted timetable This will include looking at careers and CV writing, subjects post 16 apprenticeships and university education. All students not on work experience will be expected to attend school. They need to be on time and in full school uniform.

We have noticed a number of students arriving late to school. Can you please remind your child that they should be on the hard courts ready to line up no later than 8.35am. If it is raining, we usually meet in the sports hall. If a student is continually late to school it can disrupt the learning process, meaning they will miss important information or discussions. Moving into Year 11 we will be expecting all students to be on time, unless we have been informed otherwise. By arriving at school on time, students can establish a sense of responsibility, discipline and respect for authority, setting them up for success in both their academic and personal lives.

On Wednesday and Thursday Mrs Lamb had the pleasure of accompanying Luke J, Viktoria K and Amelie DC to take part in Future Forward residential at the UEA with students from other schools. Students worked on key skills of adaptability, autonomy and communication. They took part in several tasks over the two days, including decoding, campus challenge, games, quiz and the final task of Bakery Tycoon. Luke, Viktoria and Amelie were part of a small group that won by 1 point. It was a fantastic event and the students really excelled showing commitment skills, innovative ideas and adaptability. Mrs Lamb was very proud of you all.

Mrs Pearsall & Miss Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## 5. Work Experience

Next week many Year 10 students will be taking part in our Summer Work Experience programme. They have worked incredibly hard to secure placements in a difficult labour market and we wish them all a successful time in the 'world of work'. They will be visited by Open Academy staff during the course of the week and have been given a Journal to record their workplace activities and skills development.

Dr Davies  
Careers Guidance and Development

## 6. Year 12

Last week saw a really positive taster day for some of our new Year 12s that will be joining us in September. Mr Wilkinson also ran some awesome football sessions, which saw the boys being put through their paces on what was one of the hottest days of the year! We were also lucky to be joined by Ollie King who spoke to the boys about USA scholarship opportunities post 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Very excited to have you all join us in September!



## Lisa Exhibition

Our wonderful and talented student Lisa in Year 12 was lucky enough to be shortlisted for the Norfolk Art and Design competition. This was her first exhibition and I was lucky enough to be able to represent the school and go to the private viewing on Wednesday night. The level of talent was absolutely incredible, and I was blown away by the beauty of Lisa's work! It was so lovely to overhear so many people looking at Lisa's piece and talking about how brilliant it was. It will be open for public viewing at Norwich University of Arts, St Georges building, until Saturday, so please pop along if you can.



## Odeon Trip

A huge thank you to Miss Whitwood for organising a really brilliant trip to a private screening of Inside Out 2 for Psychology and Health & Social students. It was a truly brilliant film and really hit a lot of the specification in our subjects including internal processes, memory stores, development of the sense of self and cognitive reappraisal. This film will be used in future lessons, and essays – so I hope no one fell asleep in the movie!



## Bake Off

This Wednesday we had the Great OA6 Bake Off! Each student was given their own free bread kit and their challenge was to make a snack or meal out of the basic bread dough. My mission was to give all students in Year 12 the skill of making a basic dough and having the confidence in the kitchen to be able to prepare a meal for themselves and their family. No living off pot noodles at university for my students! We had an amazing afternoon and had some awesome bakes! Thank you to all students and to Miss Luter.





## WEX and Camp Week

Next week we have some students out at work experience and some students helping at Year 7 camp. As such, students must speak to their subject teachers to check if their lessons are running as normal. If they are behind in work, they will be expected to stay in school until caught up.

## Sports Day

Just a heads up that Sports Day will run Monday, 15 July. Sixth Formers **must attend and help run events**. Football boys will be expected to run the football events. Other 6<sup>th</sup> formers will help staff on other events and on the inflatable obstacle course.

**And for those Year 12s that want to get a head start on their UCAS applications:**

### Webinar: Year 12 (Year 1) – How to get a head start on your university application

Take the stress out of applying to university. In this webinar, you will learn the top tips for filling out your application form and completing your personal statement with ease.

*Tuesday 16 July, 16.30-17.15: Details and register*

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

## 7. 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/>

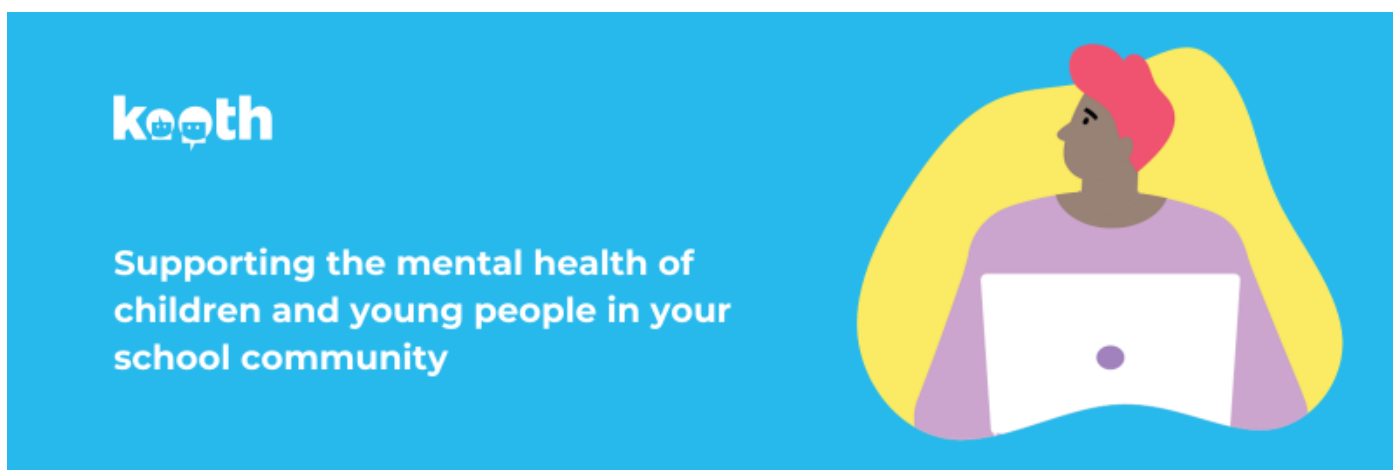
## This Week's Reflection



God bless.

Mark

## Sign Up to Kooth's Newsletter



Kooth is available for your students all through the summer - our professional mental health practitioners support young people with whatever's on their mind, from loneliness, family or friendship issues, to body image, self harm or suicidal thoughts.

## Family Action July 2024 Newsletter

This month we are talking about major life changes and events. Focusing on some of these different types of situations and trying to give you a few ideas about how you can proactively prepare your child or young person.

Do you have the experience and skill set necessary to join our successful team of dedicated professionals supporting families across Norfolk & Waveney? See the newsletter for full details of our current vacancy.



### Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service July 2024 Newsletter

Many of you will be working hard at maintaining a routine and structure for your children and young people because you know that this is what helps them to feel safe and in control. But so...

[Go to this Sway](#)

#### Family Action

Norfolk and Waveney ASD/ADHD Support Service

Office: 01493 650220

Office Address: Gorleston Library, 1 Lowestoft Road, Gorleston, NR31 6SG

[FamilyLine](#) is a free service available to support adult family members on all aspects of family life issues via telephone, text message and email. Whether it's emotional support or practical advice on any aspect of parenting or broader family issues, call: [0808 802 6666](tel:08088026666), text: 07537 404282, email: [familyline@family-action.org.uk](mailto:familyline@family-action.org.uk) or live web via our website [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk).

Monday to Friday: 9am – 9pm. The helpline will be covered by SHOUT our text crisis line outside these hours including weekends and bank holidays.





# St-Eds 2024 Summer Programme



12th to 23th August 2024  
Monday to Friday 9.15 - 3.15pm  
Make new friends  
Meet the staff  
For young people ages 12-18



New and old students welcome  
Siblings, Friends and Family  
welcome  
Engaging fun, practical  
activities including Catering,  
Carpentry, Arts and Craft, Brick  
Laying and more...

Limited spaces  
Book your place now  
Contact 01603 622035 or  
Email: admin@st-  
eds.org.uk



Free Tablet\*, Voucher\*, PPE, Stationary Pack, Hygiene Pack,  
Breakfast, Lunch and Drinks

\*Tablet awarded for attending at least 3 days, £100 Voucher for 7 or more days attendance

Summer Programme funded by Community-Based Hardship Support Fund through Norfolk Community Foundation.