

## Open Academy Newsletter – 18 October 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter. After the excitement of our formal welcome to the Church of England last week, this week has been back to business as usual.

Our focus is very much shifted to helping our Year 11s prepare for their first set of mock examinations or pre-public exams (PPE) as we call them. Leaders across the academy have been focusing their quality assurance work through our faculty review system on how Year 11s are being prepared for their first dry run at the exams.

Subject teachers are busily clarifying the topic areas that students will be tested on and ensuring that they have practised on the types of exam questions that they will face, not to mention encouraging the students to get themselves organised with a revision programme. Although these are mock exams, it is vitally important that the students take them seriously and do as much preparation as they can. This is because when the teachers come to mark the exams, they will be able to identify the areas where the students are struggling and use this information to help plan appropriate support. Revising for exams is very much the same as rehearsing for a performance. We wouldn't go on the stage without having learnt our lines and so it is for Year 11s.

Moving on, I would like to focus on our uniform policy. Since the academy opened our smart formal uniform has been a distinctive feature of attendance at Open. We encourage the students to wear their uniform with pride, as a sense of belonging and preparedness for the work that they will do when they're at the academy.

I am pleased that, for the vast majority of students, they turn up every day in full correct uniform, wearing it with pride and they just get on with their day, which is great. I have noticed, however, a few students have recently started trying to test the boundaries of what is acceptable or not for our uniform.

I would therefore like to clarify that our uniform is deliberately a formal one. We expect all students to fully comply with all elements of the uniform including having a blazer in school at all times. We understand if people are struggling financially to provide all elements of the uniform and if that is the case, please speak to your year team for help.

Day to day, if students choose to wear our school jumper that is fine. However, it is not a replacement for the blazer and the next layer over the jumper must be the blazer and not a coat or jacket. As the weather turns colder, we are happy for students to wear coats and jackets over their blazers for an extra layer, but NOT as a replacement. Thank you in advance for helping us maintain our high expectations.

Where skirts are worn rather than trousers, they should be of the specified length and all students are expected to wear their shirts tucked in. If you are unsure of expectations or require help and support, please contact the year teams. For the vast majority, I would just like to say thank you for your efforts to get uniform right. It is greatly appreciated that we have to waste very little time on uniform regulations as so many get it right - and long may that continue!

Jon Ford  
Principal

**End of half term – Thursday, 24 October 2024**

## 1. Hubs and Homework

### Year 11 Hubs

To support our Year 11 students, we are implementing a subject revision programme after half term. We highly recommend all students attend their subject revision sessions they will start at 3.05 pm and will run for 30 minutes to 1 hour. Registers will be taken and achievement points will be awarded to support their end-of-year celebration.

Week A					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	History/Geography	Applied intervention Art and Photography NEACO Drop in sessions	English	Maths	Applied Intervention Further Maths

The applied intervention sessions will be by invitation only and will provide support to students with coursework elements of their courses. The NEACO drop-in sessions will be separate and by appointment only, and are intended for students who require assistance with college applications and career guidance.

### Homework Club

Homework is important for many reasons, including:

**Learning:** Homework helps students practice what they've learned in class and can assist them in mastering skills and knowledge.

**Development:** Homework helps students develop skills such as time management, organisation and problem-solving. It also teaches students to work independently and take responsibility for their work.

**Confidence:** Homework can boost students' confidence and help them tackle more challenging work.

**Communication:** Homework enables parents to understand what their child is learning in school and facilitates communication about their child's schoolwork.

**Assessment:** Homework allows teachers to assess how well students are understanding the material and identify areas where students may need extra support.

**Engagement:** Homework can engage parents in their child's school life, which positively impacts learning.

To support your child with their homework, we will be launching our Homework Club after the half-term on Wednesdays for students in Years 7 to 10. These sessions will be held in the computer rooms, providing students with access to Microsoft 365.



Every Wednesday in S56 and S58

Thank you for your support.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

## 2. Free School Meals Vouchers will continue until March 2025

For those families eligible for free school meals, we are pleased to announce that Norfolk County Council is extending the free school meal voucher scheme through to March 2025. This is reflective of the recent government announcement.

As previously, NCC is not linking the food vouchers to the school holidays, but is issuing them monthly to help families with the cost of living. Parents/carers may choose to save vouchers rather than spend at the time of issue, but please be aware of the three-month expiry date of the vouchers. **Note: If vouchers expire, they cannot be reissued.**

Mrs Appleby  
Business Manager

## 3. Increase in the price of school meals from 4 November 2024

Please see attached a communication from our trust regarding an increase to school meal costs and change of supplier.

The letter states that meals will increase to £2.70, this is the case in the primary schools who have a set charge per meal. At secondary level the £2.70 will apply for free school meals and will be the new daily allowance, however there is no set meal price here at Open Academy as we operate a cafeteria system.

Therefore, prices vary for different items and an updated price list will be shared as soon as it is available from the new supplier.

To assist with the increasing cost of school meals and to avoid spending money on drinks, we suggest you ensure your child brings a water bottle to school as water is freely available from our water dispensers.

Mrs Appleby  
Business Manager

#### 4. Upcoming Assessments

Year 7, 8, 9: EA1 assessments All Subjects **FINAL WEEK NEXT WEEK**

Please use knowledge organisers to support revision, making your own knowledge organiser and filling in any gaps. Ask your teacher when you find a topic that you don't understand.

Year 11/13: Mock exams 1 All Subjects Weeks beginning 18 November

Start revision now. Use revision guides and online resources including past paper questions. Ideally 30 minutes per night. Make sure you cover all subjects each week.

Mr Murray  
Assistant Principal

#### 5. Year 7

Penultimate week done, just another 4 days to go till we end the first half term of Year 7. So far it has been truly amazing how fantastic the year group has been. Each and every day students are continuing to show off their determination to get things right, their enthusiasm for learning new things and a growing sense of resilience to some social struggles.

##### The Big C of Resilience

Every week in tutor time students will be taking part in an activity promoting resilience. Each week is on one of the 7 Big Cs of resilience (Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Contribution, Coping, Control). Last week winners for connection were; Delilah R, Amber W, Noah W and Cleo F. Fantastic effort, well done.

**Learnt Points:** In the last week the Year group has received 412 LEARNT points. This is a fantastic achievement. LEARNT points are awarded by members of staff for 5 different reasons; active listening, engaging fully with the learning, giving great feedback by answering questions, being respectful to all, being present and ready for learning, working as a team. Well done everyone and a great show of positive learning.

**Positive Praise** *I ask members of staff to share some positivity they have witnessed from the Year group, below is what they have said:*

- Amber W for effort in maths with excellent listening skills.
- Year 7 students are a joy to teach, they are so good at remembering what they know already... this week Mia-Marie showed very good LEARNT behaviour and Amelia C wrote really good notes in her book.
- Courtney C and Mia C are continuing to impress and have turned a corner in English.
- An amazing performance from the Year 7 boys football team, after a difficult result away at Acle a few weeks ago we only lost narrowly to Sprowston on Tuesday 2-1 who drew 0-0 to Acle. We went behind after 30 seconds, but their heads didn't go down and they defended resolutely, which then followed by Mohammed hitting top bins to make it 1-1. Unfortunately, we conceded midway into the second half, but nearly snatched a draw last minute with Nabeel crashing the ball against the cross bar. I could not have been prouder of the boy's performance – Mr Lambert
- Students that come to dance club on Mondays are absolutely smashing it! They are working so hard and creating a fab dance as a result.
- Fantastic attitude in music Amy B. Well done.
- Year 7s have been creating pictures of their names in music rhythms for homework - lots of effort from most students! Special mention must go to Barbara K and Olivia B.



## Reminders

- Don't forget about getting deposits in for Year 7 camp. The deadline is the 22 October. This is an opportunity not to be missed and will create memories which will last a lifetime.
- After half term if your son/daughter is not in the correct uniform in the morning they will be isolated until the uniform issue is solved or we have heard from a parent/carer. The school uniform is; blazer, shirt, tie, trousers/skirt/shorts. Black (polishable) shoes. Leggings without a skirt/shorts is not school uniform.
- In the next half term there will be a homework club on Wednesdays 3.00-4.00pm. This will be open to all and is a time/space for students to complete any homework. They will have access to computers and there will be a member of staff to help if required.

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 and Mr Dilley (Co-Heads of Year 7)  
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 7)

## 6. Year 8

A reminder that the students are not in next Friday. It has been a long half term, but the Year 8s have settled into their second year at the academy superbly.

Attendance is all our responsibility, Year 8 are one of the best year groups for this, but we can make sure we are always improving and being the best in the academy. Please bring in any medication to keep in the academy if your child is poorly.

Arbor app is now up and running for you to download and monitor your child's attendance, achievement and behaviour points.

Year 8s played Sewell Park away on Monday and after a difficult start and being 3-0 down we were able to get back into the game with it being 3-3 mid way into the second half. Unfortunately, we were unable to get a point with the final result being 6-4 to Sewell Park, with two goals from Demarco and Isaac. Their next game is Monday, 21 October away at Hewett.

Can we all make sure that your child has the correct PE kit for school please, there has been a rise in borrowing kit. Borrowing kit will result in a detention. Can we make sure that your child has appropriate clothes, it is getting colder and a black jumper, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings may be needed.

Mr Wilkinson's boys' class will be moving onto gymnastics so will need to either wear grip socks or go bare feet for this lesson.



Winner of the tutor challenge is Destiny and the tutor with the best attendance is Inspiration congratulations to both.

**Teacher Praise:**

Sophia E, Ellie M, Archie M and Brogan for their excellent teamwork skills answering the starter questions on the board in maths – Mrs Marsham

Fantastic performance for Year 8 and 9 in their Netball fixture on Tuesday – Miss Trail

Praise for Isaac H, Charlie S and Joel M for excellent contributions and predictions on Lord of the Flies and using subject terminology, such as foreshadowing and dramatic irony - Mrs Napthen.

Esme T wrote a great piece for her red folder – Miss Loretta-Blackburn

Brilliant effort from Gracie C, Tilly B, Ellie K and Gracie Lee C in their art assessment this week – Mr Walters

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)  
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

**7. Year 9**

A fantastic week for Year 9. Attendance has been great this week, nearly 93% which is above national average so Mr Hawkins and I are delighted. There is a direct link between good attendance and success in school so this is great to see.

Top achievers this week are:

Gliby E, Misha P. Alice C, Tulisha M and Samuel R.

Next week I am asking for the top performers in all subjects for Year 9, so please be on the look out for this in the newsletter. I am hoping to do a celebration assembly with the year group to recognise these students.

Some reminders about uniform - all students must bring their blazer to school every day. Please be aware that long sleeve black shirts under school shirts are not allowed. T shirts can be worn underneath uniform but they must not be visible. If there are issues with uniform please contact the year team as repeated problems with uniform may incur sanctions.

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)  
Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

**8. Year 10**

Top achievement points this week are:

Riley W, Kate S, Noam M, Alfie S, Kieran S, Oliver N, Esme W, Mills C, Ross B, Rodrigo F, Annalee R, Somaya R and Hayden T.

Top achievement points this half term:

Kieran S, Ayo T, Noam M, Erica JJ, Somaya R, Riley W, Ryan B, Annalee R and Esme W.

Students of the week:

Riley W, Oliver N, Esme W, Martha W and Sasha P.

Positives:

Year 10 textiles have been working on stencil making, leading up to the screen printing of their final fabrics. We have been creating geometric backgrounds and looking at layering of shapes. They will then print the intricate motifs on top to make a detailed and contrasting composition. I look forward to seeing them printed next week and sharing the outcomes!

Year 10 DT have been working on CAD and 2D design to draw their container building designs as a design board to present to their client. Our objective is to design and make buildings from containers to house families in less fortunate countries. Some have opted to design sports complexes and food halls. We are now starting to add colour to these outcomes and looking at how architectural plans are formed and presented.

Key date for your diaries:

Wednesday, 6 November at Open Academy we welcome you to a Year 10 study skills evening (5.00-6.00pm) and work experience information evening (6.00-7.00pm).

Thank you for your support with uniform Year 10 students are well presented.

Mobile phones are the focus for the next few weeks they need to be off and away during the academy day.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

## 9. Year 11

The year group had an assembly today on apprenticeships from Norfolk County Council. Apprenticeships are one of the many fantastic options available to students when they leave school. They are becoming increasingly popular with students who are looking at their next steps after school and are eager to jump straight into the world of work and get earning whilst learning.

Useful websites for apprenticeships:

<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

If your child would like support with apprenticeships please ask them to speak to the year team.

Thank you for the efforts to improve attendance. We have seen an increase this week and most students getting in on time and ready to be lined up for 8.35am. A few are still continually arriving after registration has closed, this will count as an absence on their attendance. We are highlighting the importance of attendance and being on time, research shows the higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments this is key to success as students make applications made for colleges/6<sup>th</sup> form/apprenticeships.

### Positives praise from teachers this week

Oskar and Louie in English - Outstanding! - Mr Edwards

Leah S for making great progress with her German - Mrs Blackburn

Massive well done to Viktoria, Rosie, Katy, Hallie and Leah who have now performed to half of Year 9. Also Buba and Riley who have made massive progress in learning and improving their monologues. Nearly there guys and then 60% of the course is done - whoop whoop! - Mrs Ormosi

Oskar C for outstanding effort and progress with maths exam practice questions.

Year 11 are in full swing with their coursework, and are now beginning to prototype their final products on a small scale from recycled materials. We have been focussing on measurements, joints, tools and finishes to ensure their final products will be to a high standard and achieve those all important extra marks to

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development. Shout outs to Joel for working hard on measuring and testing with angles, Riley B for precise measurements and trial and error, Dorian for mixed media development and Asha, Joe and Amelie for their paper mannequin development. We are half way through the NEA, keep up the hard work – Ms Rednall

### **Key Dates**

21 October 2024 - Year 11 Health and Social care assessments begin.

Week commencing 11 November 2024 for two weeks - PPE 1

4 July 2025 - Year 11 Prom

Mrs Pearsall and Mrs Halliday (Heads of Year 11)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

### **10. 6<sup>th</sup> Form**

#### **UCAS day**

Massive well done to those Year 13s that took part in the UCAS/Futures day this week. Please continue to complete your applications. Please note that the deadline for completed UCAS applications is Monday, 16 December 2024. Please speak to myself or Dr Davies if you need any further help or advice.

#### **Lanyards**

Lanyards are compulsory and must be worn by students every day please. There is a safeguarding concern if students are not wearing them. If you forget your lanyard twice in a week, unfortunately you may be given a D1. If you have lost your lanyard please speak to your tutor in the first instance.

#### **Missed Tutor**

As mentioned before, tutor time is compulsory for both year groups. If you are having issues getting to school on time, please speak to your tutors asap. Please also note that 2 missed tutor times within a week may mean that you will be issued with a D1.

#### **Year 13 PPE exams**

You should all now have a copy of your PPE timetables. Please make sure that you've spoken to your teachers so you are aware of what content will be included.

#### **Marsh Careers Fair**

Come along for a chat and discover the exciting career options at Marsh. We will be providing information on our Apprenticeship and Graduates Schemes (both 18 years+) and there will be opportunities to speak with our recent Apprentices and Graduates. We will also be running tours of our newly refurbished smart-office, including our Marsh Café, plenty of social and collaboration areas and our on-site gym!

When: Friday 15th November 2024.

Where: Willow House, Peachman Way, Broadland Business Park, Norwich NR7 0WF.

Please make sure to register by 1 November.

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

Dr Davies (Assistant Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Careers Guidance & Development)



## 11. Chaplain's Update

### Care for the Family Website.

Please see below a link to a 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



### BAKE SALE

-HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR THRIVE RESOURCES-

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER



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