

Open Academy Newsletter – 8 November 2024

Dear parents, carers and students.

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As we start the second half of the autumn term, I cannot believe that we are already now beginning to turn our attention to Christmas and all the events and activities coming up that I should give you a little notice for!

First of all, we will be kicking off the season with one of our most important events of the year – our Year 11 and 13 Alumni Celebration event on Thursday, 14 November. We will look forward to welcoming a guest speaker, one of Norwich City's finest past players, to reflect with our leavers from last year on achievement and future success. The evening is billed as 6.00pm for 6.15pm start and it will be a fantastic opportunity not only to celebrate students' achievements, but for people to get back together and have a catch-up. Tickets restricted to 2 per Year 11 or 13 student and only pre-booked via the response forms.

Just a few short weeks after our Alumni Celebration evening and it will be time for our Carol Service on Thursday, 5 December. An ever-popular evening arranged by Mark Pimlott our chaplain, where we can come together and kick off the festive season proper.

I'm sure at that event Mark will remind everybody that this year we will be trying to create as many Christmas hampers as we can for our 'random acts of kindness' work which we undertake every year. Last year our community donated more than 25 high quality food hampers to those in our local community in need and I very much hope that we could do similar or even better this year. Notices will be going out via form tutors over the next week or so as to what Mark would like to see donated so if you are in a position to help, we would really appreciate it. Likewise, if you know people who may be in need, please do let Mark know.

In the same week as the Carol Service, Year 11 will be helping to organise the Year 7 disco on Friday, 6 December, which promises to be a great fun event.

We are still finalising the date for our support for Christmas jumper day, which we may combine with a non-uniform day on the last day of term - watch this space over the next couple of weeks for confirmation. The "Lessons and Carols" service for both Year 7 and 8 will be during the last week before Christmas, once again watch this space for details.

Finally, this week one group of students who I know will be working hard to create a number of hampers, will be helping at the disco, and generally ensuring that academy life is enjoyable, is our new batch of student leaders who were inaugurated by Mr Dilley at their first training event yesterday afternoon.

Student leadership has played a huge part in making Open Academy such an enjoyable successful school experience for all, so I'm delighted to see it go from strength to strength. Over the next few weeks, the students will be receiving training on how to complete their duties for instance as prefects, or how to fulfil their role as mentors and buddies. This year I'm looking forward to working with our academy head students, who for the first time will take over the chair role of the student council "Open Voice".

We have come a long way from the half dozen or so students prepared to step up when I joined the school back in 2018, so it was fantastic to see over 70 student volunteers engaged and ready for their training yesterday with their support and enthusiasm, I can see this academic year being our best yet!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Homework

Please find attached a helpful guide on how to use Microsoft TEAMS. All of our homework will now be assigned on Teams. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's head of year.

Homework Club

Homework Club will start this Wednesday from 3.00pm to 4.00pm for Years 7, 8, 9, and 10. It will take place in our computer rooms. All students are welcome to attend!

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

2. Upcoming Assessments

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

You will be assessed on the following sections of each curriculum:

English Language: Paper 1 content

English Literature: Paper 2 content

Maths: Non-calculator paper (Higher) & Calculator paper (Foundation) on all topics covered

Science: Paper 1 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Geography: Rivers (12 marks), Changing Cities (30 marks), Weather & Climate (30 marks), Ecosystems (30 marks)

History: Crime & Punishment, Making of America, Nazi Germany, Elizabethan England

Languages: All content taught to date

Food: All content

DT: All content from Year 10

PE: All content from Component 3

Computer Science: Paper 1 Theory

Keep revising! Use revision guides and online resources including past paper questions. Ideally 30 minutes per night. Make sure you cover all subjects each week. Use resources on TEAMS and Classnote to support your revision. Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed.

Good luck!

Mr Murray (Assistant Principal)

3. Year 7

What a wonderful group of young learners we have in Year 7. Each and every day we hear positivity both about and from our students. We are now into November and the second half term of the school year. Christmas is fast approaching with just 6 weeks until the end of term.

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 and Control).

Last weeks (before the end of the half term) winners for contribution was the whole of INSPIRATION. As a team they excelled with their ideas to help others in this coming half term. So, a massive congratulations to every member of Mrs Napthen's tutor group.

Also, I want to announce the ultimate winners for the first half term. This group won the Big C Cup of Resilience more times than any other. They were Mr Crawford's RESPECT. Keep it up. As a prize each member of the tutor group has received either 50 learnt points or a pass to jump to the head of the dinner queue.

Attendance

As well as a cup awarded each week for the Big C, there is also a prize & cup given each half term to the Tutor group who has achieved the highest attendance.

For half term 1 this was awarded to Mr Kent's DESTINY group with an attendance of 96.4%. For a reward the group received the attendance cup (to be proudly displayed in their tutor base for the whole of half term 2) and a box of chocolates which were shared amongst them.

Positive Praise

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

Year 7 have been smashing working on expressing likes in Spanish using infinitives!

Jayden and Saphira, huge effort and achievements in English.

Excellent engagement from Stanley, Connor A, Charlie B, Viktor, Aiden G, Archie D, Jenson C, Ethan F, Lilia, Ann, Deliah and Poppy in Maths this week.

Year 7 wearing our new football kit sponsored by Wensum prints, we came away with a 1-1 draw against City Academy.

Reminders

This half term homework will be set on TEAMS. This should be easy for students to access and is a bit like a digital classroom where they can see the work they need to do and upload their completed learning. Any problems please get in contact with tutors in the first instance.

A big part of Open is supporting those in the community. Each year the school asks for students to donate what they can. These things are then put into hampers and distributed to those in need in the community. Your son/daughter's tutor will say more but please, if possible, start thinking about what could be donated.

Please ensure your son/daughter is arriving to school in the correct uniform. If they arrive in non-school uniform (leggings with no skirt/shorts, incorrect shoes, no blazer, etc) they will be separated from their peers until the situation is rectified or we have heard from yourself. Please inform the year team of any uniform issues before it becomes a problem.

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)

4. Year 8

We hope you all had a lovely half term. It is great to see all the students back after a much needed break, dare I say it is only 6 weeks until we break up for Christmas. Monday is Remembrance Day and students were reminded of the importance of this day in the assembly I sent out on Thursday, a minute's silence will be respected on Monday at 11.00am.

The Arbor app is now available to download - this will help you to monitor your student while in the academy.

The curriculum week link is on the website, students need to pick three choices from the options.

With uniform can we remind those that the skirts need to be knee length please, also under armour/skins must not be seen, so under a long sleeve shirt please.

There has been a big improvement in late to lessons this week. Being on time to lessons is so beneficial to all students this allows teachers to start on time and deliver each lesson effectively. It is great to see Year 8 following this.

Mr Wilkinson's PE class are on gymnastics, they must either wear grip sock or go bare foot.

HUB starts on Wednesday after school for homework, this is an extension of their learning and important that students attend.

Congratulations to Destiny for winning the tutor challenge.

Teacher praise:

Alfie H and Michael S for Teamwork with maths hangman – Mrs Marsham

Emly B for persevering on to do her assessments when unwell, much appreciated – Mr Edwards

8P for amazing engagement and focus in Science looking at organ systems – Mr Lambert

Special praise for Phoebe B for consistently giving 100% engagement and effort in English. Well done, Mrs Napthen

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

5. Year 9

A great first week back for Year 9 with a brilliant 93% attendance this week! This is above national average and means that the vast majority of students are taking full advantage of the learning opportunities available to them. We would like to thank you for your support with this.

Just some advance notice about a session that Norfolk police are running with year 9 next week:

Year 9 Understanding Violence on Wednesday, 13 November at 2.00pm during period 5.

Arbor app is now up and running for you to download and monitor your child's attendance, achievement and behaviour points and we strongly recommend you download this as it gives you up to date information on your child.

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. Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothes, it is getting colder and a black jumper, tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings may be needed.

Top achievement points this week:

Callum E, Zinedine O, Skye H, Jacob C and Thomas V.

Well done to these students. We look to reward highest achievers every week.

Some individual praise:

Well done to 9P English on some exceptional stories in the Gothic genre, special praise to Alysia C, Alexis W, Ella S, Jess T, Cameron S, Samuel R and Ashton M - Mrs Napthen

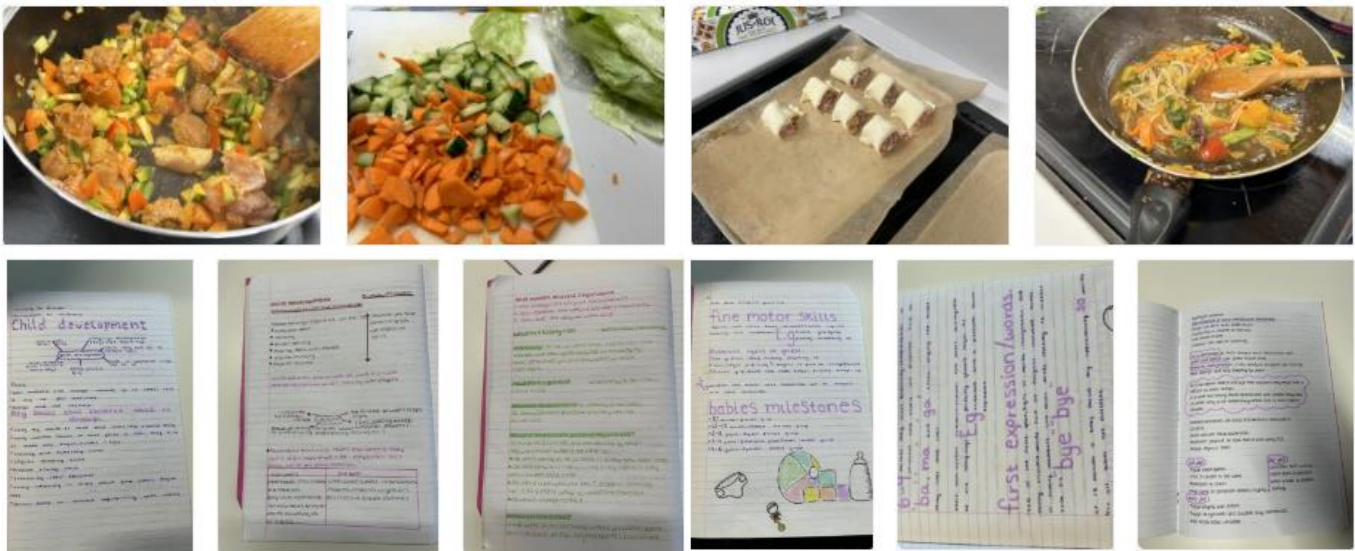
I'm really proud of how well Lizzie K, Ashton, Elysia and Brooke worked in drama this week. They worked creatively to produce a piece of physical theatre, they committed well to the task and worked really well as a team - next step perform; perform to the class - Mrs Ormosi

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

6. Year 10

Mrs Power enjoyed visiting food tech and child care lessons this week, lots of excellent work going on well done to those students.



Highest achievement points this week:

Kieran S, Nikita S and Caitlin P.

Year 10s that represented the school well in a fixture this week in a football smash up:

Samuel HJ, Riley W, Kieran S, Alfie S, Alfie H, Ross B, Ayo T, Hayden T, Reece Y and Kayden SH.

Students of the week:

Jasmin C, Lena W and Tiffany S.

Next week the Community Schools Police are delivering assemblies. Year 10 will have an assembly on Understanding on Thursday period 5.

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

7. Careers

All Year 10 students should have now received their work experience packs. If you do not have yours, please see Dr Davies in S12 for a replacement. It was good to meet parents, carers and students at the Work Experience Information Evening on Wednesday and have the opportunity to answer questions. Also mentioned were the fantastic work experience opportunities being offered by the Norwich Science Park and Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust during 7-11 July. Details of the programmes and how to apply are given below:

Year 10 Science Camp 2025 offers a unique insight to life as a scientist at the John Innes Centre and our partner institutes: The Sainsbury Laboratory, the Quadram Institute and the Earlham Institute.

Science Camp is a non-residential structured programme open to Year 10 students selected by application. It incorporates practical laboratory activities, networking sessions and individual work placements across the institutes. The scheme is run by the John Innes Centre in response to the large number of enquiries we receive regarding Year 10 work experience placements. We aim to inspire the scientists of the future and provide them with the chance to meet and work with world class scientists at the Norwich Research Park. Interested students are invited to via our website www.jic.ac.uk/year10/ Applications will open on 9th November.

The deadline for applications is Friday, 10 January 2025. Students will be informed in March if they have been successful. If you have any questions please contact jic.year10@jic.ac.uk

NCH&C are pleased to announce applications are open for **Years 10-13** five-day work experience programme to be held in July 2025!

This new five-day classroom-based programme will take place from 7-11 July 2025 in Norwich. It offers an overview of NHS clinical professions which may include nursing, physiotherapy, children's services, psychology, pharmacy, speech and language therapy, podiatry, and occupational therapy. You will receive visits from different professions with interactive presentations, including a clinical visit to a service of your choice on Day 4. This is a nursing and therapy led programme with interaction from highly specialist services, rather than a purely medicine-based work experience. For more details please view:

[Work experience | NCH&C](#)

Please be advised if you are not a Year 10-13 student you will not be eligible to apply.

Please look out for further work experience programmes yet to be released from Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Aviva and Norfolk County Council. These will be publicised to students via their school email address and in the Parent Newsletter.

Dr Davies (Careers Guidance & Development)

8. Year 11

PPEs start the week of 11 November. Effective revision is key to success. We have shared our guide to revision at the study skills evening earlier this term. Remember students should be organised, create a revision schedule that breaks subjects into manageable chunks. Incorporating regular breaks is important,

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

it keeps the mind fresh and avoids burnout. Students should ensure they get plenty of rest and maintain a balanced diet to support their focus and memory retention.

Please ensure that your child is arriving to school to be lined up by 8.35am as form time starts promptly at 8.40am. Students arriving late not only miss out on valuable revision led by the maths, English, science and academic Heads of Faculty, but then interrupt the learning of the others in the form. It is also a good working habit to arrive on time.

Students have been working hard in preparation for post 16 education. Visiting 6th Forms, colleges and learning about apprenticeships. Some students have already applied for college courses and have their interviews arranged. Please let the year team know if your child would like support with any aspects of next steps.

Our Prom committee has been busy this half term coming up with ideas to raise money for Prom. Fund raising will start taking place this half term, watch this space for news of exciting events planned.

Shout outs to:

Well done to the Year 11 food tech students for completing their final practical for their first piece of course work. You are all working incredibly hard and your coursework is looking brilliant - Miss Luter

Joshua J in Year 11 English - excellent effort and endeavours - Mr Edwards

Emilis V and Jacob M answering the starter questions on the board in maths. Well done - Miss Marsham

A big well done to Lola B who consistently works hard in English, praise also for Lily G, Luke E, Shevaun G, Lily Anna N, Tyler P and Ajay T who are working well on their PPE revision - Mrs Napthen

Mrs Pearsall and Mrs Halliday (Heads of Year 11)
Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)

9. 6th Form

UCAS

Please continue to complete your UCAS applications. I know many of you are nearing completion – this is excellent! For anyone that needs any extra help or advice, please see myself, Dr Davies, or book in to see Miranda on Tuesdays when she is in.

University Roadshow

Many thanks to Dr Davies for organising this trip. I hope many of you got lots out of it and feel more prepared for your next steps.

Hustle Boxing – Year 13

I have organised a trip to Hustle boxing gym on 18 December. The day will include a guided introduction to basic boxing techniques in a safe, supervised environment, as well as discussions on the connection between physical exercise and mental health. If you are interested in coming on this trip, please email me and let me know by Monday at the latest please! Spaces are limited so get in there quick. You do not need to be into boxing, or super athletic, just be willing to join in! I will be taking Year 12 on the same trip in February, so please don't worry as you will also have this opportunity soon.

PPE Exams and English/Maths Retakes

As you are all aware, PPE exams for Year 13 start on Monday. Please make sure you are fully prepared and know the rooms and timings of each exam. A massive well done to those students that have had English and Maths GCSE retake exams this week.

Year 11 Taster Day into 6th Form

On Tuesday, 10 December, Year 11 will have a taster day into life in 6th Form. Due to the fact that the Year 11s will be using the 6th Form area and space will be tight, you are all permitted to have study leave on that day and work from home. Some of your teachers may ask if you are able to come in and support as teaching assistant in their taster lessons.

Thomas Anguish

Please make sure that you have all read and shared my email regarding the Thomas Anguish fund with your parents and guardians. It's a fantastic opportunity to get some funding to help you while in 6th Form and also throughout university.

Curriculum Enhancement Week

As many of you are aware, curriculum enhancement week is taking place in July next year. You have all been sent a link to the options booklet (this can also be found on the website), and you have a deadline of 18 November to get your options in for this. Unfortunately, this is for Year 12 only as the lovely 13s will have left us by then!

Useful info and events coming up:

Online Personal Statement Workshops - next session Tuesday, 12 November 5-6pm

Our online workshop for Year 13 will help you start, edit, and complete your UCAS personal statement, and finally get it done and in! Sign-ups also welcome from teachers who might want to host a group of students. Sessions running:

Tuesday 12 November 5-6pm

Tuesday 26 November 5-6pm

Monday 9 December 3.30 - 4.30pm

[Sign up here.](#)

Medicine in a Warzone: Working for Doctors Without Borders - online, Wednesday, 27 November 5.30-7pm

A remarkable opportunity to meet and talk to a warzone field medic. Join us for this talk from Doctors Without Borders field medic and board member, targeted at Year 12-13s interested in medicine, healthcare or international development. Find out about:

- What it's like to practice healthcare in a warzone
- The range of jobs available for different specialists
- Working for non-governmental organisations
- How to access volunteering experience in the charitable / medical sector

[Sign up here.](#)

Studying Abroad - online, Tuesday, 3 December 7-8.30pm

Hear from experts how you could spend time in Europe, Canada or the USA as part of your university study. We will cover:

- Scholarships and other study abroad opportunities
- Sports scholarships in USA
- Studying medicine in Europe
- Year abroad / Turing Scheme
- Studying in Canada

[Register here.](#)

Building your creative portfolio - online, Wednesday, 4 December 5-6pm

Join NEACO and Norwich University of the Arts to explore the creative portfolio - an essential part of the application process for creative courses such as art, photography, digital media. We'll cover portfolio building, creative course applications and next steps. A must for anyone interested in creative courses!

[Register here.](#)

Explore Medicine and Health: An insight into the multi-disciplinary approach in patient care Wednesday, 15 January @ UEA

A hands-on event centred around a medical case. Work in teams to diagnose and treat a patient, exploring roles like doctors, paramedics, nurses, and pharmacists. With interactive breakout sessions on patient assessment, diagnostics, and treatment planning, students will gain skills while learning about different healthcare pathways. A great chance to collaborate in a multi-disciplinary team and explore career options in medicine and health. [Find out more and register](#)

Online subject taster lectures from UEA. A fantastic way to build subject knowledge. Upcoming sessions include:

05 November: Politics/American Studies – US election day special

06 November: Biology – The science behind cancer vaccines

07 November: Psychology – Psychopathology

11 November: PE, Sport and Health – Ethics and deviance

11 November: Paramedic Science – Combining essential kit and clinical skills

13 November: Spanish – Pan's Labyrinth

View the full programme and register [here](#).

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

Dr Davies (Assistant Head of 6th Form and Careers Guidance & Development)

10. 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

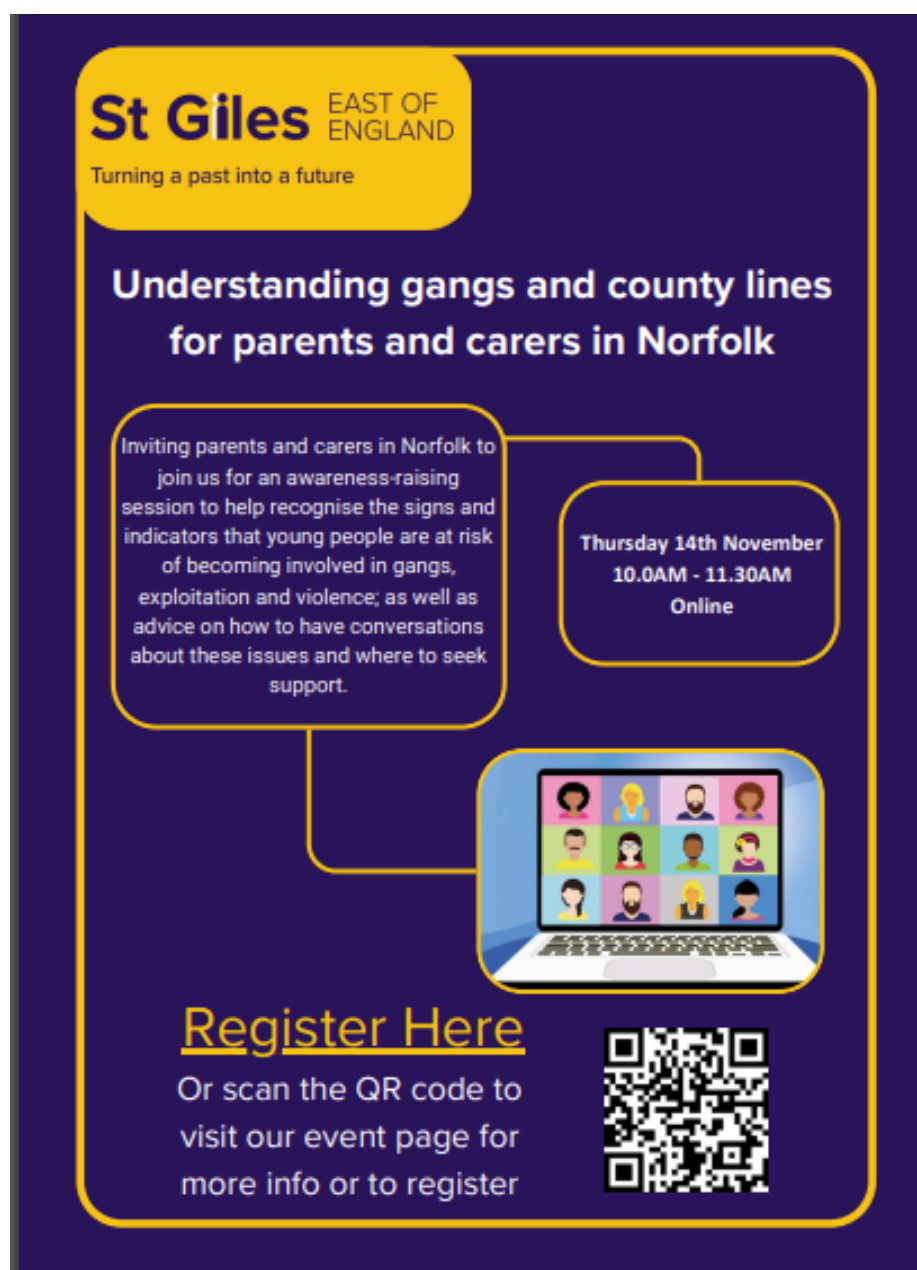


Mark

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

Please see the link below to our Norfolk & Waveney Autism and ADHD Support Service newsletter for November. We are focusing this month on Anxiety with the aim of helping parents and carers to understand where it may spring from and how to support children and young people. The newsletter also contains information about our courses, workshops and drop-ins in November. Please do share with any families you work with who you feel would benefit.

<https://www.riseuk.org.uk/resources/wellbeing-for-children>




St Giles EAST OF ENGLAND
Turning a past into a future

Understanding gangs and county lines for parents and carers in Norfolk

Inviting parents and carers in Norfolk to join us for an awareness-raising session to help recognise the signs and indicators that young people are at risk of becoming involved in gangs, exploitation and violence; as well as advice on how to have conversations about these issues and where to seek support.

Thursday 14th November
10.0AM - 11.30AM
Online



Register Here
Or scan the QR code to visit our event page for more info or to register

