

Open Academy Newsletter – 15 November 2024

Dear parents, carers and students, welcome to the newsletter this week.

There is always so much going on at the academy – from a visit this week from a dozen or so head teachers from Kazakhstan visiting Britain to explore best practice in academy management, to our annual Alumni celebration and certificate evening last night. where we welcomed back the class of '24 to celebrate their achievements and present them with their well-deserved awards and certificates.

The highlight of my week by far, however was the moment of sombre remembrance shared across the academy as the bugler played the last post at 11.00am on Monday and the whole academy fell silent for two minutes to honour the sacrifice made by all our brave service people over the years to defend our freedoms.

We were humbled to welcome back Mr Gavin Scott, shipmate and friend of one of the fallen – our own Frank Armes who lost his life on HMS Coventry during the Falklands conflict. Our Open Ark room is dedicated to Frank's memory and we are always so pleased to have representation from the services associations. Frank's family and friends and representatives of the 809 Squadron, whose ceremonial lifebuoy from HMS Ark Royal hangs proudly on our wall, and is where we lay our wreaths during the service of remembrance.

Students from the full range of cadet forces provided the first welcome line as our visitors arrived for the service, then over 70 student leaders formed a guard of honour to escort the visitors from the ground floor up to the Open Ark where a remembrance service was held before the whole academy assembled for the silence. Our visitors were incredibly impressed by the solemnity and respect shown by the whole school, as I am delighted to say that throughout the 2-minute silence, you could hear a pin drop in the academy.

We look forward to May when we will hold a further remembrance event specifically to mark the 44th anniversary of Frank's loss and I have no doubt that another special moment in the life of the Academy will be shared.

The Kazakhstani headteachers – together responsible for over 25000 students in their schools were impressed by our building, our approach to education and our students – particularly a Year 11 who acted as unofficial translator for their tour of the academy. It was great to share our culture and to hear about theirs and was another moment to celebrate.

The Alumni event which saw us welcome the Norwich City legend Darren Huckerby would probably be many of our communities highlight though. During a wonderful ceremony that saw certificates trophies and awards given out to so many deserving students, the amazing Mrs Halliday who organised the event, conducted a great interview of this local household name and we were treated to his thoughts and views on an amazing career.

As I said at the start there is always so much going on, but whichever was the highlight for your child, and it may have been our community assemblies from the police or Mr Pimlott's assemblies on remembrance, maybe even a moment of calm for a student in my mindfulness form, there were many things happening in the academy this week to lift our winter spirits. I can't wait for next week!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Parents Evening Dates.

Please find the dates for parents' evenings for this academic year.

Year 10: 14 January 2025
Year 12 and 13: 21 January 2025
Year 11: 11 February 2025
Year 9: 25 March 2025
Year 8: 24 April 2025
Year 7: 15 June 2025

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Upcoming Assessments

Year 11/13: Mock exams 1 All Subjects Second week next week

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

Year 10: PPE1 All Subjects Week Beginning 7 January 2025

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 Classnote to support your revision. Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed.

Good luck!

Mr Murray (Assistant Principal)

3. Year 7

Bravo Year 7 for another brilliant week at the Open Academy! Attendance is high, LEARNT points are being achieved at a wonderful rate, and behaviour points are low – overall you are absolutely smashing it as a year group and should be proud of your achievements so far. Settling into a new school, a new way of life, is not easy and you are grasping the challenge and running with it. We are very proud of you for that. We also continue to receive comments from across the school about how hard working and good you are in lessons and during breaks – well done. Keep up the hard work and keep following those LEARNT behaviour.

Key Stats

Attendance – 93.2% (National Average 92.6%). This is excellent – over the national average AGAIN. Being in school and learning is so important for your present and future success, so it is wonderful to see attendance so high – keep coming in, working hard and building the success for your future!

Rewards – These 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. For the last 5 days the total amount of learnt points achieved is **an incredible 1355**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning!

Praise

We asked members of staff to share some positivity they have witnessed from the Year group this week, below is what they have said:

Well done to all the Year 7 for completing their first practical assessment - pizza toast. All the students did a fantastic job and demonstrated great knife skills, presentation skills and teamwork - Miss Luter

The Year 7 girls did an amazing job in the football smash up on Wednesday. Their commitment to training and supporting each other was evident throughout the afternoon, and they have set a fantastic example for all our students - Mrs Hindry



Khaleesi A for her excellent effort in maths which has reflected in her assessment grades, well done - Mrs Marsham

Nma, Barbara and Kyra for winning the science quiz - Mr Lambert

Well done for all Year 7s taking part in “Chair Yoga” today as part of the Tutor Programme! Students were taking part in chair yoga in forms to help with their ability to cope, relax and be mindful.



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



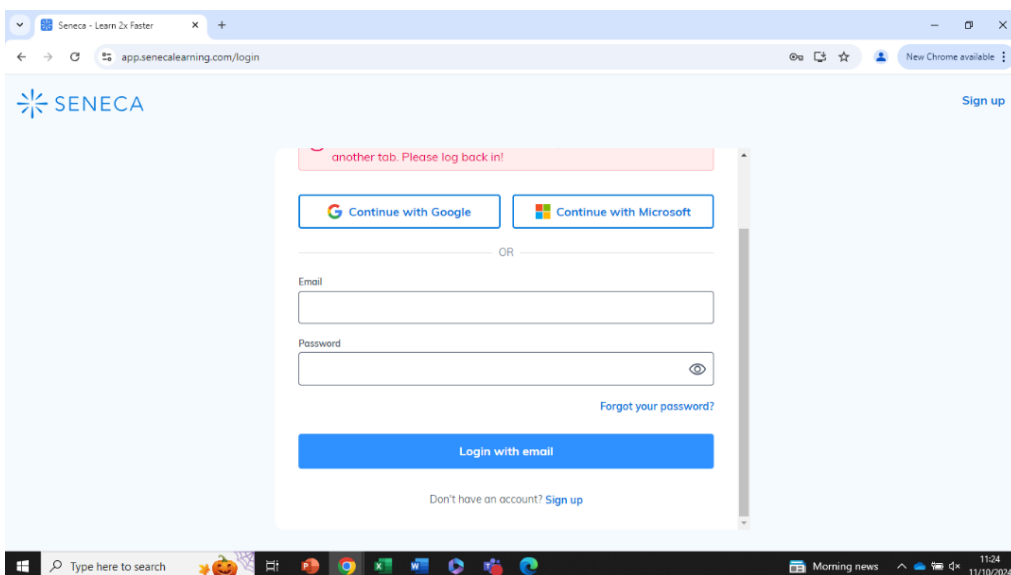
Important Notices/Reminder

Year 7 Camp – This is an incredibly exciting residential experience, and we encourage all our Year 7s to attend. The opportunity for personal and educational growth/development is unparalleled, and it is a wonderful chance to build friendships through shared experiences. Key details below...

Dates: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 – Friday, 18 July 2025
Location: Hautbois House, Great Hautbois Rd, Coltishall
Cost: £150.00

Payment Plan - To spread the cost of camp, you may pay in instalments between now and 2 May 2025. The £30.00 deposit payment was due by 22 October. All payments need to be made through Parent Pay, which has been set up for all students in Year 7.

- **Late Minutes** – We continue to focus on reducing the number of times students are late to lessons – this is all time away from important learning, and we need to ensure all students are where they need to be, at the start of each and every lesson. We would like to remind you that all late minutes will be added up throughout the week and given to tutors to inform the relevant students on a Friday morning. On that Friday, all students with late minutes will need to go to Late Minute Detention at 3pm in the Lecture Theatre.
- **Appointments** – If your child has an appointment which means they will be late or must leave early, you must let us have a copy of the appointment (drop off at Reception) or text it to the year office. Please ensure we receive this at the very latest 24hrs before the said appointment.
- **Seneca** - Just a little note regarding Seneca. The students have all been auto-registered for Seneca using their school email address. In order to log in and access their homework they need to go onto www.senecalearning.com and click login on the right hand side of the page. They will then be prompted to this screen:



The student then needs to click on the continue with Microsoft button and login with their school account. If the student completes homework in hub on a school computer this should log in automatically.

If you wish to know about your child academically, please contact the year team or your child's teachers, and we would be happy to discuss your child's progress! It is only with your help that each student will make the most of their time at Open. Thank you so much for your support, it really makes a difference, and we are so grateful for it.

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

4. Year 8

On Monday we all paid respect for armistice day, all Year 8s were in their PE lesson with mine on Pickleball and was great to see them all on the hardcourts paying their respects. Can we remind all students that they need to have the correct equipment when in the academy, pen pencil, ruler, rubber and a reading book, this is being checked in tutor and sanctions will go on for those that consistently do not have these.

The winning tutor for the best attendance this week was Respect LMH and for the tutor challenge is Destiny TTH.

Teacher praise:

Year 8 for excellent effort in maths. Using good methods to answer questions.

Neveah for her excellent work in Art – Mr Thurston

Hayden P has worked exceptionally well in English this week; both his written work and his contributions to class discussions have been outstanding!

Bianca, Brogan, Stefan, Charlie Sw, Charlie Sl, Ezio and Elias for smashing it in science at the moment and willing to share their knowledge with the class. Some were even brave enough to come up and share their answers on the board this week! – Mrs Molloy

I am delighted with my Year 8 girls PE group who are doing rugby this half term, I am so impressed with their attitude and effort, particularly with Alessia P for her resilience, Evie S for the efficient timing of her passes and Lily H for her positioning. - Mrs Pearsall

Outstanding prints from all the girls in year 8 Art this week. Especially Jess H, Phoebe, Hattie, Amelie, Evie A,



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

5. Year 9

We continue to be really pleased with the current attendance with Year 9 as it stands at 93% which remains above national average.

All the statistics prove that this has a significant effect on final outcomes for students so we would like to thank parents and guardians for your support with this.

Please encourage your child to attend school even if they are a little under the weather as we can support them.

Just some reminders on uniform. All students must bring their blazer to school and should be wearing black polishable footwear.

Please continue to discuss subject options with your child and the following websites may help inform this:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/artic>

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

Year 9 had a very informative assembly on Wednesday from the Police about “violence and the law” so please ask them what they learnt from this.

Top achievement points this week are: Hope T, Skye H, Katie C, Cameron S and Hollie G.

We will be highlighting this in Monday's assembly and handing out trophies for tutor group with the highest attendance and the highest achievement points .

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

6. Year 10



Girls netball team won 3 times in a local tournament this week.



A brilliant day for Year 10 artists and scientists in Cambridge. We visited the botanical gardens and got a hands-on session with carnivorous plants and took pictures of the beautiful autumn colours on display. We then visited the museum of zoology in the afternoon and saw the amazing exhibits, some of which are extinct like the Giant Sloth. We also saw notebooks and specimens collected by Charles Darwin on his famous journey on the Beagle. All the students conducted themselves brilliantly and we had lovely comments from the staff.

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 me in S12 for a replacement. This week it has been great to have conversations with Year 10 students who are keen to sort out their placements for next July and even receive forms from students who have got out there and been successful! Well done! Here is a reminder of the fantastic work experience

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

opportunities currently being offered by the Norwich Science Park and Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust during 7-11 July both of which are now open for applications. These are competitively awarded so don't delay in applying if you are interested!

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 were open on 9 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. And don't forget to ask if you need any other help with your applications please see me (S12).

Dr Davies (Careers Guidance & Development)

8. Year 11

Well done to the Year 11 for their hard work and commitment to the PPEs so far. It is a very intense time, often having two exams in one day. Please support your child, encourage them to take regular breaks in studying and get plenty of sleep.

Again, I can't emphasize enough the importance of arriving on time to school - 8.30-8.35am. This ensures that students are able to be calm and settled entering the exam, or start their school day. Students arriving late are then often in a heightened state and do not perform as well, additionally they disrupt students who are already settled.

Prom committee are now in full swing organising a fundraiser – a disco for Year 7. There will be a number of events organised to enable us to keep the cost of prom to a minimum.

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

9. SEND

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>

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman
SENCO

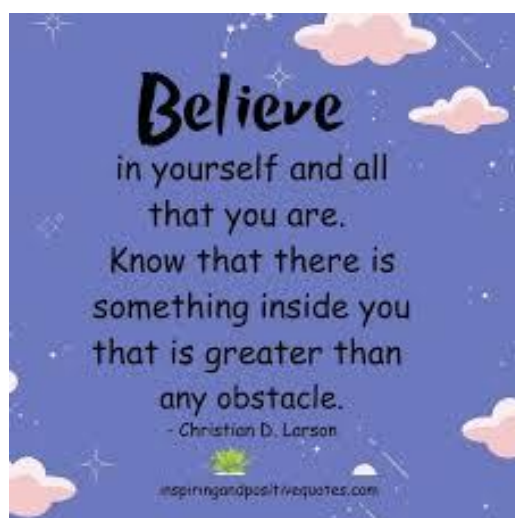
10. Chaplain's Update

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

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

