

Open Academy Newsletter – 29 November 2024

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

I am delighted to be writing to you again as Mr Ford's Co-Principal.

We have had lots to be proud of across the Academy this week. Firstly, our first ever student-led student council meeting took place, chaired by our recently elected student leaders, Areen, Teyla and Kelsea – no easy feat! We look forward to welcoming student representatives to Senior Leadership team meetings soon to discuss their feedback on how students would like to see Academy life develop in future.

I have been delighted to welcome each year group into the Senior Leader assembly this week, focussed on the core value of thankfulness and how easy it can be to take things for granted, particularly during these busy times; love and support from friends and family at home can easily be forgotten, as can manners and routines in school. With this in mind, please keep prompting your child to be on time for school, dressed according to the uniform policy, with their phone somewhere it will not be heard or spotted (ideally at home or handed in at the academy).

We are well into the homework calendar now, so please also give those reminders about completing homework to the best of their ability. I am ever thankful for these prompts, which allow us to focus on the positives at the academy and our priority of giving each child the best education we can. On this, I am pleased to report the great findings from our recent set of faculty reviews; where provision for all of our learners is going from strength to strength across all subject areas. Linked to this, I would also like to congratulate and thank the English faculty whose excellent practice has also been noted by the UEA, who have approached the team to deliver specialist training in the academy to its latest cohort of trainee teachers.

In the spirit of thankfulness, a reminder that Christmas is coming! Thank you to all the students who have kindly donated items so far towards our Christmas Hampers, that will be distributed as random acts of kindness towards the holiday. We also look forward to welcoming our community to the Carol Concert on Thursday, 5 December from 6.30pm. The evening promises to bring plenty of festive cheer and we look forward to seeing you there! Information regarding end of term arrangements for Friday, 20 December was emailed yesterday, and repeated below.

I wish you a lovely weekend once it gets here and a final good luck to our Year 9 girls netball team as they compete in the national finals at UEA this weekend; congratulations and give it your best!

Early School Closure Friday, 20 December 2024

Open Academy will be closing for the Christmas break at 1.00pm on Friday, 20 December 2024. Food will be available to purchase at break time and students who are entitled to a free school meal will be able to receive their meal then. This will be a non-uniform day - further details to follow.

The new term will start on Tuesday, 7 January 2025.

Miss Wenlock
Vice Principal

1. Arbor App Sign up

We would like to inform you that our academy is now using a new software package called Arbor for all future parent evening bookings and events.

Please download the Arbor app and follow the sign-up instructions so that you can book your parent evening slots once they become available.

If you have any questions, feel free to email your Head of Year for assistance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mr Fisher (Assistant Principal)

2. Library

Midwinter Tales Event



We are delighted to invite you to Midwinter Tales, a magical storytelling event taking place on Monday, 16 December, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Join us around a glowing fire for an evening of traditional winter, festive, and ghost stories, read by our talented staff storytellers.

Inspired by the age-old tradition of gathering around the fire during the winter months, this event celebrates the joy of storytelling and community. There will also be a break to toast marshmallows over the fire and sip on some delicious hot chocolate.

Tickets are just £2 per person, available via ParentPay. The event is open to students, staff, and their families and friends. All funds raised will go towards the library and our new Harry Potter Book Club. Spaces are limited, so secure your tickets soon to join us for this cosy evening of tales and togetherness. We can't wait to see you there!

Harry Potter Book Club

We'll be starting a new and exciting Harry Potter Book Club for all year groups in January. We're currently trying to collect as many copies of all of the books as we can before then, so that as many students as possible can take part and enjoy the magic! If you have any unwanted copies of any of the books in the series, then we'd be absolutely thrilled if you would be willing to donate them to us.

Please bring all book donations into the library, or hand them in at the reception desk. Thank you!

Mrs Rogers (Librarian)

3. Year 7

Well done Year 7 for another brilliant week at the Open Academy. Attendance is high, LEARNT points are being achieved at an excellent 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. We are very proud of you. 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 behaviours.

Key Stats

Attendance – 92.5% (National Average 92.4%). 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 1075**. 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:

Great effort for Charlie B, Mustaf M and Rylee S completing 4 laps in their fitness lesson which is 2.5km - Mr Lambert

All of 7P and 7E have been fantastic with their still life this week especially, Kendal, Delilah and Stanley - Mr Walters

Excellent maths methods to answer sentence questions during starter work and Mia-Marie C for helping with resources in the classroom - Mrs Marsham

Year 7 have all been embracing being Spanish weather reporters this week – Mrs Llorett Blackburn

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.

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 for 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.

Library Sign Up Sheets – for Year 7 Only

Starting from Monday, 2 December, Mrs Smith will have the library sign up sheet with her in the atrium when you arrive to school. You will need to go and see her and put your name down on the list for entry to library. Please note, this will be for BREAK and LUNCHTIME. You will not be able to go to the library at break unless your name is on the list or there is a spare space and Mrs Rogers can check. It will be the same for lunchtime; no available spaces, then no entry. The library is to be a calm environment where you can read and have quality time with your friends. Nothing too boisterous. This is a trial to see how it works and how effective it is. Please keep an eye on any future changes in the newsletter - **Mrs Smith**

Lunch - We have some incredibly generous and kind students in Year 7, and this is a wonderful quality, but please remember students are **not** to use their lunch money to buy food for other students - this is very important - **Mrs Smith**



Year 7 Disco - The Year 7 disco is next week – please get your tickets from Mrs. Lamb in GO5. Please make sure you have also brought your money in if you have brought in your form already!

Hamper collections – Please remember to bring in something for your tutor group hampers. The student leaders are leading this and there is a prize for the tutor group who make the most hampers – so if you can bring in something to donate – it would be very much appreciated.

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

Another busy and cold week in the academy. I hope everyone will have their decorations up on the 1 December (and no earlier) and are all excited to start their advent calendar. I cannot believe it is only three weeks left of term until we break up for Christmas. So many Year 8s have been working so hard and showing all Open Academy values in all lessons.

Christmas door decoration is starting in tutors, so if you have any old decorations, please give to your child to use for their tutors.

A big well done to our Year 8 netball teams in the tournament this week. Lots of lovely netball played - Miss Trail



A big good luck to Bianca and Alessia who are taking part in the U14 National Netball schools' competition on Saturday. The girls are playing a year up and playing with the Year 9s. A massive achievement for the girls and the team. It is the first time in Open Academy's history we have been invited to this competition.

We entered two teams in the Year 8 smash up at open on Tuesday, it's a great way for students to play football in a non-competitive setting and playing for enjoyment only.



Congratulations to Destiny for the best attendance this week and Respect for winning the tutor challenge quiz.

Teacher praise:

Alfie, Finley L and Elias S made good progress in Spanish this week – Mrs Llorett Blackburn
Harrison B and Morgan S for work in maths – Mrs Marsham
Jomiloju for excellent attitude to learning in Spanish – Mrs McEvoy
Excellent work from Jack, Teja, Elias, Ezio, Alex, Ben, Jessica and Phoebe in maths - Mrs Power
Alfie H for kindness and consideration for others, outstanding and consistent thoughtfulness - Mr Edwards

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

5. Year 9

Lots of positive things happening with Year 9 this week. I have been into several lessons and witnessed the dedication and positive working atmosphere that is on show in all four Year 9 classes. This is great to see and will set the students up brilliantly for GCSE starting next year. Can I encourage you to ask your child about their options for GCSE and which the subjects they may choose. The process will start after Christmas so good to get ahead of this.

We will be looking to do our rewards assembly again at Christmas so look out for your child bringing home a certificate for consistent effort in lessons.

Top achievers this week are:

Jasmin C, Callum B, Hope T, Corbyn H and Callum E.

Please congratulate them as they are showing consistent effort week in, week out. They are also showing tremendous resilience which is an essential quality as they enter the later years of school.

Some individual praise from teachers:

Well done to 9E and 9H in computer science this week. They have done very well in using their binary number systems to decode messages and generating images. Particular shout outs to Caitlyn, Lily, David, Jake C, Noah and Elizabeth C - Mr Willgress

Once again, Batoul and Caitlyn N for excellent maths methods to answer sentence questions during starter work - Mrs Marsham

In both Mr Wilkinson's and my PE lessons Year 9s showed great engagement during their gymnastics while working on pyramids, We nearly got one group to hold a four level pyramid – Mr Lambert

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

6. Year 10 Upcoming Assessments

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.

English: A Christmas Carol

Maths: All topics covered to date (2 papers - calculator and non-calculator)

Science: Topics C1, C2, B1 and P1 (See Teams Classnote for content breakdown)

Geography: Changing landscapes, coastal landscapes, river landscapes, part of weather & climate

History: Crime & punishment, 1250 to today

Languages: All content taught to date

Food: Macronutrients, micronutrients, nutrition requirements for different groups, health and safety

DT: Carbon footprint, methods of production, material properties, papers & boards, maths based questions, automated machinery

Textiles: Practical skills assessment

Sport: Coursework exam - component 1, Task 1-3

RS: Christian beliefs, marriage & the family

Computer Science: Computational thinking, binary, programming

Art: Practical skills assessment

Photography: Editing of photographs

Use resources on Teams Classnote to support your revision. Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed. Good luck!

Mr Murray (Teacher)

7. Year 10

Students of the week:

Alex C, Harry B, Riley W and Martina V.

Highest achievement points this week:

Olivier K, Ross B, Tyler A, Rodrigo F and Ryan B.

Highest achievement points this half term:

Martina V, Kayden SH, Rodrigo F, Ross B, Ryan B, Martha W, Kate S and Tyler A.

Shout outs:

For great effort in German for Riley W, Alfie S and Martina V – Mrs McEvoy

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 10)

8. Year 11 Science Mock PPEs

Year 11s - Well done on getting through your mock PPEs. To help support your revision and knowing where to go. We will be updating the newsletter each week with our revision calendar. Each of these phases will look to build foundation, deepen understanding and develop exams.

Phase 1: Building Foundations (29 November 2024 – 31 January 2025)

Goal: Cover all core topics at least once. Start with familiar topics and build confidence.

Week: 29 November – 6 December:

Biology: Cell structure, microscopy, transport in cells (osmosis, diffusion, active transport).

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

Chemistry: atomic structure, the periodic table.

Physics: Energy stores, conservation of energy, energy transfers.

Suitable revision tasks:

Summarise key points in a notebook.

Complete 5 practice questions per topic,

Mr Willgress (Teacher)

9. Year 11

Students will be given their PPE results shortly in a summer results format aimed at experiencing something similar to collecting their real results in summer. When receiving their results some will be elated and some will be disappointed but we do this now so that all results can be improved, it is not too late to attend all lessons and to start revising.

Please ensure your child has their correct uniform as this helps establish a more business-like atmosphere which promotes greater work ethic and focus.

Important Notice

Next week is the Year 11 Health and Social Care groups final lessons to complete outstanding work that will count towards **30%** of their final grade. Therefore, attendance to these lessons and maximum effort is needed. The lessons are Wednesday P1 and Thursday P3. Please talk to your child about these assessments. If they need any further support they can see me after school on Tuesday for a drop in and catch up session - Mrs Halliday

Shout Outs

Well done to the Year 11 students who played in a mixed team with the 6th Form in a match against Hellesdon 6th Form.

Lola B and Jacob M for using and remembering methods in maths- Mrs Marsham

All GCSE Music students working really hard to complete their coursework. Special shout out to Daisy who recorded her solo this week - Mrs Morgan-Hart

Josh J and Oskar C for continued hard work in English - Mr Edwards

Well done for all of those who worked hard on their mocks in 11 GM2. Keep going you have got this - Ms Blackburn

Well done to the students who cooked their first meal for their second piece of coursework. Great outcomes by students - Miss Luter

This week, Year 11 relocated to the food tech room to start prepping their fruit and vegetables to turn into materials. As part of their coursework, we have been investigating how to make renewable, more sustainable options instead of using wood, leather, polyester etc.

We dehydrated potato skins, orange peel and apple peel in the ovens, frying pans and air fryer to remove the moisture. We will then blitz them down and mix them with adhesives such as PVA glue and glycerol. Watch this space for the new and innovative materials!



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

10. Chaplain's Update

A Celebration of Christmas

One week to go. This will be a great night of festive cheer for the whole of our community. There will of course be carols, student performances, snacks, and a wonderful Christmassy atmosphere. We would love everyone in our Open Academy community to come and to invite friends and family too.

The date is Thursday, 5 December at 6.30pm and it's a free event. We look forward to seeing you there.



Reflection



God bless.

Mark