

## Open Academy Newsletter – 10 January 2025

Dear parents, carers and students

I would like to begin the newsletter by wishing all of you a Happy New Year and hope that you have had a lovely Christmas break.

A new year marks a range of new opportunities. For Years 11 and 13, there is no greater opportunity than that of their final exams this year. Teachers are busy preparing Year 11 and Year 13 students for these by finishing course content and using lesson time to embed knowledge and practice assessment expectations. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students to the parents evening on Tuesday 14 January, where you can find out more about your child's progress, next steps and how to support them during this significant time.

I would also like to wish Year 10 good luck for their first set of mock exams (PPEs) taking place next week; an important opportunity to experience formal exam conditions to help them prepare for the 'real thing' and understand the progress they have made so far.

A new year also marks a great opportunity to re-set expectations. Year teams and tutors have welcomed students each morning this week with gentle reminders for some, about uniform, our mobile phone policy and punctuality to school (appreciating the challenge January brings for all of us in getting back into routines!). Thank you for supporting us in making sure students take responsibility for meeting the standards and expectations that we ask and want to see, to ensure all can be successful. A reminder that by downloading the Arbor app, parents and carers can access live information about their child's achievements and behaviour. Please see attached a flyer about how to access this.

2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for all at the academy. Mr Ford will be working with his new meditation and mindfulness tutor group from next week and the English faculty will be welcoming a group of trainee English teachers into the department, having been approached by the UEA as a centre of excellent practice. Looking further ahead, students will have amazing opportunities such as work experience in Year 10, Year 7 camp, curriculum enhancement week in the lower school and a production of 'We Will Rock You' to name a few!

Please make sure your child does not miss out on these opportunities and encourage them to speak to their tutor about what this means for them if they are not sure.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Miss Wenlock  
Vice Principal

## 1. Upcoming Assessments

**Year 10: PPE1 All Subjects Week Beginning 13th 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

**Year 11: Mock Series 2 All Subjects Week Beginning 3rd March 2025**

**English:** Romeo & Juliet, A Christmas Carol + language paper 2 (non-fiction)

**Maths:** All content (2 papers - calculator and non-calculator)

**Science:** Paper 2 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (See Teams Classnote for content breakdown)

**Geography:** Coasts, development, managing resources, urban fieldwork, coastal fieldwork, UK challenges

**History:** All 4 topics

**Languages:** All content

**Food:** All content

**DT:** All content

**Textiles:** Practical skills assessment

**Sport:** All of component 3

**RS: 2 paper - Christianity and Islam**

**Computer Science:** Paper 2 content (programming)

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. Please see video on how to revise which can be shared with your student.

Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed.

Good luck!

Mr Murray (Teacher)

## 2. Drama



Calling all Singers, Dancers, Actors, Set Painters &  
Costume designers

**Open Auditions – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January  
& Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**3.15 – 4.15 in the Drama Studio**

For more information See Mrs Ormosi

A massive well done to all who took part in the drama and dance showcase on the last Wednesday of term. It was lovely to see so many students share the hard work that has been taking place in drama lessons as well as those involved in the extracurricular clubs being able to perform for so many friends and family.

Year 7: Orlagh H, Freya D, Olivia B, Honey-Mae B, Ayana M, Irmantas S, Byulent S, Ethan F, Elliot A, Chloe J and Courteney S

Year 8: Ashanti G

Year 9: Matilde B, Amy J, Aayliah A, David D, Shanelli K, Misha P, Ella S and Charles M

Year 10: Andreas R

Year 11: Katy S

Year 12: Lilianna R

Year 13: Mia C, Josh H

With so many students keen to participate in the arts, I'm really looking forward to starting the school production of "We Will Rock You" based on the songs of Queen. Auditions are taking place next week. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Mrs Ormosi (Teacher)

### 3. Harry Potter Book Club

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Harry Potter Book Club, which will begin on January 28th!

This exciting new club is open to all students and will be taking place every Tuesday lunchtime. Students will read and discuss the books together, enjoy magical crafts and activities, take part in quizzes and get sorted into their Hogwarts House to compete for the 'Hogwarts House Cup'.

Students can sign up starting Monday, and we currently have enough books for 12 participants. As the club is likely to be popular, please note that not all students who express interest will necessarily be able to join. We encourage parents to remind students who are interested to visit the library and sign up as soon as possible.

Mrs Rogers (Librarian)

### 4. Year 7

The first full term complete, 1/3 of the school year done. What a blast it has been. After a nice 2 week break we can look forward to the days becoming longer. Also, the 2 longest half terms have been completed, it will be the Summer before you know it. The year group has consistently been fantastic with only a small number causing any concern. I know the year team is really looking forward to seeing all our lovely students develop and grow as young learners.

#### 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).

The last winners were RESPECT with the whole tutor group demonstrating the best example of Connection, a fantastic effort by all, well done.

#### Positive Praise

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

- Fahren K for increasing independent work and self-confidence in expressing himself verbally and on paper.
- The Year 7s that participated in the drama and dance performances were FABULOUS!!!! They should be so proud of themselves and they were incredible. Freya, Olivia, Ayana, Orlah, Honey, Irmantas, Ethan, Cleo, Byulent, Courtney and Elliot.
- For geography - what a pleasure it has been to teach 7P last term. They have never failed to work hard for me and give their all. It's been genuinely rewarding.
- I would just like to give a huge thank you to everyone in my amazing tutor group, 17/70. They have returned after the Christmas break full of enthusiasm and undergo everything that is asked of them in tutor time with a tremendous spirit of teamwork. They really are a fantastic group of young people. Mrs Napthen

#### Reminders

- If your son/daughter is not in full correct uniform (blazer, shirt, tie, trousers, skirt, shorts and black shoes) they will be given a 30-minute detention to complete at the end of the day. If there is a genuine

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reason for any problems with this in the morning please send a note in with your child to hand in to the year office.

- Every Wednesday from 3pm we have a homework club in a computer room to help those complete any outstanding homework.
- Don't forget about Year 7 camp. If you haven't signed up yet for your child then we highly encourage you to do so. It will be a week that will create memories that your son/daughter will remember and talk about for years to come. It is a chance to experiences lots of things with their peers. This helps develop their social skills and develop/foster positive relationships. You can apply for funding from Anguish Educational Foundation. They have part funded many students in the past to take part in the camp. Any questions about this please get in contact with the year team.

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 (Head of Year 7)

Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 7)

## 5. Year 8

Happy New Year to you all and your families and welcome back. We hope you had a good Christmas break. It was heart-warming to see all the students excited to be back on Tuesday morning and our attendance this week has been around 95% - well done to everyone getting back into the morning routine and arriving at school on time. Uniform has been good too. Just a gentle reminder that the school is heated and students can wear a school jumper under their blazers. Coats are only to be worn outside and hoodies are not allowed in school.

It has been a positive start to the new year with lots of achievement points being handed out. We have a feeling it's going to be a good year. Shout outs to Lincoln and Alfie for their work in Spanish this week from Mrs McEvoy. There has been some great work going on in drama, music and every lesson this week and all the staff have been so impressed with the positivity shown by all Year 8s this week.

Well done to Elise, Sophia, Finley, Lacey, Bianca, Ezio, Riley, Phoebe S, Leela and Roxy for their brilliant 3D drawings in DT this week! They evidenced accuracy, proportions and considered the composition of their pages.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

## 6. Year 9

Happy New Year! It's been a great start to the new year with Year 9 achieving a record 96.3% attendance on the first day back! This is fantastic to see and shows their commitment to school and their resilience. There is direct evidence that good attendance significantly effects progress in school and I have shared this with the students in assembly this week.

The vast majority are looking smart in correct uniform but can I ask, if you are struggling with an item of uniform, please contact the year team and we will be happy to assist. All the uniform expectations can be found on the website.

I have also spoken to Year 9 about having correct equipment for school. This must include, as a minimum, a pen, pencil and a reading book which they use in form time. If they do not have this basic equipment they are not ready to learn so please can I ask that you support us with this. I have made it clear that it is their responsibility. They also must bring a bag to school.

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

This is a vital term for Year 9 as they will be discussing and choosing their options for GCSE. Please start having these conversations with your child so we can continue this during tutor time.

We are really proud of the positive attitude that permeates the year group so thank you for all your support with this. I think 2025 is going to be a great year for them.

The top achievement points this week are:

Noah C, Samuel G, Hollie G, Ava L, Arda K and David D

Some individual praise from teachers:

All Year 9 had a very good German Lessons this week - Mrs Blackburn

Ava L - a great start to the year in English - Mrs Roberts

Massive shout out for Alfie L, George B and Chakib L for effort when speaking in German - Mrs McEvoy

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

## **7. Year 10**

Top achievement points this week:

Rianna A, Lily A, Tyler A, AJ B, Dylain B, Owen B, Harry B, Ryan B, Deacon B, Jayce B, Riley B, Ross B, Rusne B, Alexander C, Jasmin C, Phoebe E, Alfie H, Samuel HJ, Oliver K, Zak L, Noam M, Oliver N, Mia P, Sasha-Mai P, Mya PG, Annalee R, Leah S, Tiffany S, Nikita-Louise S, Kate S, Max S, Luke S, Kayden SH, Brandon S, Hannah S, Alfie S, Avo T, Martina V, Martha W, Lena W, Esme W, Elise W, Riley W and Paige W.

Top achievement points this term:

Ryan B, Kieran S, Riley W, Kate S, AJ B, Kayden SH, Esme W, Dylain B, Martha V and Alfie S.

Top attendance this term:

Tyler A, Nikita-Louise S, Kieran S, Luke S, Lena W, Dylain B, Riley B, Andreas R, Annalee R, Ayo T, Ria W, Olivier K, Sasha-Mai P, AJ B, Harry B, Natacha F, Erica JJ, Kayden SH, Brandon S, Hannah S, Martha W and Paige W.

We hope all of year 10 and families have a good Christmas break.

A reminder that students will be in Year 10 exams as below from Monday. Morning exams students will go to the hall from 8:50am ready for a 9:00am start

PPE1 GCSEs - Year 10 - Jan 2025						
WEEK A	PERIOD	Mon 13th Jan	Tues 14th Jan	Wed 15th Jan	Thurs 16th Jan	Fri 17th Jan
9:05-10:05	1	Geography 1 hr	Year 10 German Writing 1 hr (76)	English A Christmas Carol 1 hr	Food, D&T Com Science H&S Care 1 hr.	Photography & Textiles Periods 1,2, & 3
10:05-10:30	Y10 Break					
10:30-11:30	2	Maths Non Calculator 1 hr 30 mins	Science All subjects Bio, Chem, Phy 1 hr 30 min	Religious Studies 1 hr	Maths Calculator 1 hr 30 mins	
11:30-12:30	3			Art Periods 3,4 & 5		
12:30-13:00	Y10 Lunch					
13:00-14:00	4	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 1 S10	History 1 hr	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 2 S10	Sport Periods 4 & 5 Computer Room Task 3 S10	
14:00-15:00	5					

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)  
Mrs Edwards and Mrs Hindry (Assistant Heads of Year 10)

## 8. Year 11

Well done Year 11 for a great first week back in what is your final full term here at the Open Academy! We are seeing some improvement in attendance, and since September the year group has amassed over 12,000 LEARNT points – a real tribute to how the year group has taken on the challenge of this vital year of education. As a year group you 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 – well done. Keep up the hard work and keep following those LEARNT behaviours. You have just over 100 days left before the official exam season starts – let's make the most of every day and get you the results you deserve!

Finally, a massive thank you to Mrs Lamb who has made me so welcome and feel so supported in my new role as Head of Year 11 – her generosity and support has helped make the first week a truly enjoyable experience and I am very grateful for it. We are lucky to have an AHOY who cares so much about our students.

### Key Stats

#### Attendance

This week – 84.2%

Since start of September – 86.4%

National Average – 91.9%

Being in school and learning is so important for your present and future success – if your attendance drops below 89% you risk doing serious harm to your education and prospects – being in school and in lessons is crucial for your future success. Do you know what your current attendance is – if not ask – and if it is low work with us to help improve it.

#### Tutor Competition

Congratulations to Mr Mundy and his form who won the tutor competition this week. So close to the national average – WELL DONE!

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

11 ABR – 74.3%

11 ERO – 83.7%

11 NST – 87.4%

11KMU – 90%

### 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 **a brilliant 675**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning.

### Praise

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

Layla M - superb effort recently.

Theo P and Charlie M - 100% HUB attendance and consistently good work ethic.

Harley R - fantastic attitude to learning and performance in mocks.

Riley D, Ivan B and Josh J for attitude and application in English. Keep it up lads - Mr Edwards

Joshua J, Zoe W, Viktoria and Tyler H for great attitudes in German - Mrs McEvoy

Shout out to Brandon, Kiera, Larisa, Maizi and Kayla for all their hard work in English - Mrs Clayton

Well done to Year 11 food tech for completing their practical on Tuesday whilst I was absent, the pictures look amazing - Miss Luter

### Important Notices/Reminder

- **Parents evening** – get your bookings in now (Mrs McEvoy free from 4.30). The system wasn't working, but now it is up and running on Arbor. It is VITAL we see as many parents/guardians as possible to give key updates and guidance on the next five months of progress and success.
- **Lates** – all minutes you miss of lessons will be added up and then made up on a Friday – starting from next week. Again, being in class from the start of each and every lesson is so very important for you achieving your full potential in May/June - so expect us to be hard on this!.
- **Truancies** (2 in a week = truancy IE). Again, missing lessons is NOT an option – 2 truancies in one week will lead to a truancy IE.
- **Uniform** – Being smart and presentable is an important part of being ready to learn. Please make sure you come to school in the correct uniform – please check the website if you need guidance of what is required.

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 Dilley (Head of Year 11)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 11)



## 9. Chaplain's Update



### Thought for the Week

A happy new year to you all. To start this short reflection off today, an inspiring quote for you by Henry David Thoreau. It says "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined." Looking forward is a wonderful thing because it brings hope. Hope is something we can't have missing from our lives. Even the smallest glimmer of hope is all we need to get through even the dark days of January. It's cold, there's not a lot of light, but spring will soon be here. I want to encourage you today to look forward and to not look back, seek out that hope.

The Bible talks about taking our eyes off the past, it can't be changed so there is not a focus point anymore. However, God says to look ahead to the opportunities of the future, so let's believe that this year will be a good year for all of us.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope". **Jeremiah 29 verse 11***

God bless you all.

Mark

### Family Support:

Family Action's Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Services wishes you a very happy New Year. See below our January newsletter which this month is focusing on PDA and ODD and offering advice around parenting approaches when faced with oppositional behaviours which in fact the child or young person may not always be in control of.

The newsletter also contains information about our free courses, workshops and drop-in support sessions running in January. Just click to view:

[Family Action's Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service](#)

In case you've not seen it before, this is a good site to signpost parents to if they are struggling to support their child with any aspect of their mental health:

[Advice for supporting your child's mental health | ThisMayHelp](#)

Norwich Brick Show:



**Location:** Open Academy, Norwich

**Date:** Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May 2025

**Ticket Prices:** £5 (Under 3s free)

**Book tickets:** [www.ticketsource.co.uk/norwichbrickshow](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/norwichbrickshow)