

Open Academy Newsletter – 31 January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This week is Holocaust memorial week which has given us cause in assemblies to reflect on the truly awful actions of the Nazi regime in wartime Germany. It is essential to remind ourselves of the capacity of people to behave cruelly so that we may be constantly on guard against it.

I am so pleased that Open Academy sent a strong clear message that we understand and promote the message of the Holocaust memorial, by not only sending a significant group of student leaders to the Holocaust memorial service, held at St Peter Mancroft Church on Monday, but that Open Academy students, along with students from Notre Dame and The Norwich School, gave the public pledge to seek to remember and not repeat the horrors of the past.

After a moving service, which Open Academy student leaders played a full part in readings, the student leaders, Mr Dilley and Mr Pimlott took part in a discussion group for young people regarding the echoes of the Holocaust even today. I am not at all surprised, but delighted to receive the feedback that our students were impeccably behaved, fully engaged and added much to the discussion.

This is just another example of the student leadership development at Open, which this year has seen the students take on the running of their own council for the first time. I attend by invitation now as Areen chaired the latest meeting, which celebrated some successes of the democratic process – 6th Form students now have photo lanyards which allow them to access more areas and the internal stairs for instance, and also new ideas and campaigns have been shared discussed and framed. As the student leader peer mentor program gathers momentum, as student reports leaders organise new tournaments and as prefects begin to get used to their duties, I am compelled to say a huge thank you to all the students – over 80 now, who have stepped up to make the academy a better place for them and their peers. When they represent the academy as ambassadors, as at the Holocaust service this week, I can only reflect what an amazing group of young people we have at Open.

The wider student body were praised this week by a very notable visitor, who visited and spoke to students last Friday. Ed Balls – ex chancellor of the exchequer and erstwhile Strictly sensation was in talking to students about his experiences in politics and in the media. He then graciously fielded questions and enjoyed a discussion with our Friday principal, Miss Wenlock. I was sad to have missed him, but from his glowing feedback about our students, their engagement and their pride in the academy, I know the visit went down incredibly well for all concerned. Many thanks to Dr Davies for organising this and more from her below.

There is so much to celebrate here at Open, I do hope regular reading of this newsletter gives you a flavour of the breadth and depth of experience on offer. All of which is only possible with the support of the students and the encouragement of the whole community, so thank you all – this week it feels like a real privilege to be here!

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Safeguarding

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 30th January
17.00-18.30PM
Online**

Register Here
Or scan the QR code to visit our event page for more info or to register
<https://tinyurl.com/mvry9axa>

Children & Young People's Health Services
NHS

Just one Norfolk

Answers for your parenthood journey
What stage are you at?

Trusted help, advice and information during pregnancy, birth and throughout your parenthood journey.

Mr Davis (Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Thurtell (Assistant to Safeguarding)

2. Upcoming Assessments

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

- English:** Romeo & Julliet, 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.







Ask your subject teachers for support where it is needed.

Good luck!




Mr Murray (Teacher)

3. Revision

Science revision for the upcoming week:

3rd Feb – 9th Feb 2025	 Bioenergetics: photosynthesis	 Quantitative chemistry:  moles, conservation of mass	 Forces: speed, velocity, and acceleration	 Plot graphs for photosynthesis rate;  practice force calculations.
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Computer Science revision for the upcoming week:

Part 2	3rd Feb – 9th Feb 2025	Memory and storage:  RAM, ROM, secondary storage, binary	Algorithms: pseudocode,  flowcharts	 Write pseudocode for simple programs; draw diagrams explaining memory hierarchy.
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Lastly, basketball club is going to move to Fridays for the foreseeable future. Just a reminder that basketball club is open to all year groups.

Mr Wilgress (Teacher)

4. Ed Balls Visit on 24 January



Last week, as part of the ‘Speakers for Schools’ programme we were delighted to welcome Ed Balls to the academy to meet with our students. ‘Speakers for Schools’ talks are inspirational events that allow leading public figures to share their unique insights and advice with young people and help motivate them in their future studies and careers. The students were keen to hear about Norwich-born Ed’s experiences in national politics, breakfast television broadcasting and Strictly Come Dancing, but the real focus was on their own dreams and ambitions which they shared with real enthusiasm.

Ed described the audience as:

'Truly impressive group of students – articulate, upbeat, ambitious and keen to say very good things about the academy and their teachers. I can't recall going to a 'Speakers for Schools' event and leaving feeling so impressed.'

We thank Ed for his time with us last Friday, enjoyed by students and staff alike and we hope to welcome more inspirational speakers to the academy in the future.

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

5. Year 7

Another wonderful week wizzes by, another 5 days of excellent effort and achievement across the year group. Each and every morning every Year 7 student I see is in perfect uniform, looking smart and ready for the day ahead. It is humbling to witness this excellent attitude to their learning environment. You are all doing a great job of ensuring this happens and the results are clear.

Last week's Big C winners were Challenge with the Oliver W demonstrating the best contribution to his tutor group and the best example of Control, a fantastic effort, well done.

Positive Praise:

Mason C, Anton K, Ty I and Charlie B, all were amazing in their rugby lesson this week – Mr Lambert

I like the way 70 work unfailingly to support Fahren and his positive response. Uplifting to view our students living up the Open Ethos on a daily basis.

In maths India H is doing great using good clear methods to explore maths well done. Mia-Marie C excellent maths work, asking questions and writing the answers on the board, well done.

So impressed with Year 7 girls choreographing their gym routines. They are working so well we are going to find it really hard to pick our 2 students of the week.

Well done to Layla L and Mia-Marie C for excellent work in gymnastics - Mrs Pearsall and Miss Trail

Great effort in art consistently from Orlagh, Ava, Delilah, Kendall, Aiden, Charlie, Mikolaij, Tallulah, Anton, Jack and Ollie have been excellent scientists this week.

Reminders:

If your son/daughter is not in full correct uniform (blazer, shirt, tie, trousers, skirt, shorts, black shoes) they will be given a 30-minute detention to complete at the end of the day. If there is a genuine reason for any problems with this in the morning please send a note in with your child to hand in to the Year Office.

Chewing gum is not allowed in school. If a student is caught chewing gum they will receive a detention.

Every Wednesday from 3pm we have a homework club in a computer room to help those complete any outstanding homework.

Mobile phones have been cropping up across the year group. If on a phone and not putting it away when asked, students will have to hand in their phones to the Year office for the day. Failure to comply will result in a detention.

Don't forget about Year 7 camp. If you haven't signed up yet 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 experience lots of things with their peer. 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.

Some students are starting to be excessively late to a lesson or not arrive at all. If this is the case the student will receive a Truancy code on Arbor. If a student receives 2 truancies in 1 day they will be in IE the following day.

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)

6. Year 8

I can't believe there are only two more weeks left of the half term the weeks are flying by and the afternoons are lightening up. It has been a great week in the academy. I have received lots of praise from teachers saying how amazing the Year 8s have been in their lessons, uniform has seen a massive improvement and as well as a drop in the amount of lates, so on the whole a very positive week.

Our target as a year team is to see the attendance rise in Year 8 and therefore the whole school, we can all help support students build their resilience and come into the academy when not feeling one hundred percent, medication can be left in reception to help student that do feel poorly, ultimately the better their attendance the better their progress.

Big congratulations to the Year 8 netball team for winning all their games on Tuesday in their netball smash-up.

Congratulations to Challenge for being having the best attendance and Destiny again for winning the tutor challenge

Teacher praise:

Well done to Alessia P for excellent sportsmanship and Ameera J for excellent play out of position in the netball match on Wednesday - Miss Trail and Mrs Pearsall

Jessica S, Ben E, Emily B and Teja M have been fantastic in history this week. Keep up the amazing effort.

Sophia E using good clear methods to explore maths well done.

Brogan M excellent maths work, asking questions and writing the answers on the board, well done. Ellie Mae B, Ben E, Lacey Mae M and Rose N for effort with homework and handing it in early!

Demarco W and Matthew O-R for excellent leadership skills and engagement in English.

Charlie S for excellent effort in his RS lesson – Mrs Thoppil

Joint praise to those students in 8H who have all worked so well on their detective story openings. A big well done to Michael S in particular for continued effort in English - Mrs Napthen

Charlie S and Dymtro B for excellent engagement in English.

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

7. Year 9

Nearly at the end January! Thank you for all your support with your child through this dark winter month, I have seen a lot of resilience and determination with Year 9.

Just a couple of reminders:

Students do need to wear their blazers at the start of the day and in assembly. School trousers need to be worn and not joggers. If there are any problems with uniform it will help us if you contact the year team so we can support. We would much prefer this than to have to issue sanctions.

Also, the mobile phone policy is that phones are switched off and out of sight. Please can you support us with this so that we can maximise learning time.

Some individual praise:

Great effort and attitude for Misha and Isabella - Mrs McEvoy

Well done to Hope T and Hannah T for great focus in gym, excellent effort, and to Lily A for leading her group in cheerleading - Mrs Pearsall and Miss Trail

Year 9 had another good German lesson this week on Monday - Mrs Blackburn

Lily P for using good clear methods to explore maths well done.

Batoul S for showing excellent effort with using resources to answer questions in maths.

Kaydee H for listening to methods to secure understanding in maths. Kaydee has shown a vast improvement with her attitude to learning in maths - Mrs Marsham

Freddie, Chakib, Dre, Callum G and Noah for excellent effort in PE – Mr Lambert

Amy J for continued, lively engagement in English and good nature, helping others - Mr Edwards

Talula for Ask & Answer in English; Maisey C for outstanding Leadership demonstrated in group work in English & Hanna K for consistent Engagement in English. Mrs Clayton

All of 9E have received praise from Mr Ford for their positive attitude towards learning, interest and engagement shown with their new topic in Geography - Mr Mundy

Tyler W for effort and a positive attitude

Arda, Peter M and Ava L for effort with homework and for handing in early – Miss Roberts

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

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

8. Year 10

Students of the week:
Paige W and Mariia T.

Students with highest achievement points this week:
Rose, Ollie, AJ, Dylain, Harry B, Jayce, Ross, Rusne, Oliver K, Oliver N, Annalee, Alfie S, Ayo, Lena, Riley W, Riley B, Sasha-Mai P, Nikita-Louise S, Lily A, Evie, Leah, Tiffany, Kate, Hannah, Trixie, Natacha, Marha, Kieran S, Rodrigo, Eliza, Paige, Rianna, Samuel, Max, Martina, Luke, Ria and Noam.

Students with Highest achievement points this term:
AJ, Dylain, Harry B, Jayce, Ross, Rusne and Olivier.

Year 10 have received their exam results this morning from their assessments.

Parents evening is Tuesday, 11 February. It would be great to see you as teachers will be discussing results and next steps for the rest of Year 10 and Year 11. There are 15 months to go until their GCSE exams not long!

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

9. Year 11

Well done Year 11 for a super week as we reach the halfway stage of this half term! With only **95 days** left until the first exam on 5 May. It is vital that we keep an open dialogue between student, teacher and home and I encourage you all to come and speak to me or Mrs Lamb if you have any questions, need support/have concerns, or want to celebrate any mini victories you have.

We are seeing some improvement in attendance, and since September the year group has amassed over 14,580 LEARNT points – a real tribute to how the year group has taken on the challenge of this vital year of education - you should be proud of your achievements so far. We are very proud of you. Remember what I said in the assembly – with aspiration and expectation, you all have the potential to achieve your dreams and ambitions. Think on this – what do you want to achieve in the next 6 months and how can you get there – remember we are here to help.

Key Stats

Tutor Competition

Well done Mr Stephen's form – you win this week's tutor competition.

11 ABR – 75.4%
11KMU – 80.4%
11 ERO – 85.9%
11 NST – 92.1%

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. Do you know what your current attendance is? If not, ask and if it is low work with us to help improve it.

Rewards

For the last 5 days the total amount of learnt points achieved is a brilliant 570. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning!

Praise

Thomas H and Georgia B deserve a shout out for their work in Science - Mr Stephen

Praise for Year 11 in maths - Ty C for using good clear methods to explore maths, well done. Kian W for showing excellent effort with using resources to answer questions in maths - Mrs Marsham

Well done to Scarlet for her great work in gymnastics - video posted on the Academy Facebook page - Miss Trail and Mrs Pearsall

George T has done some brilliant contextual research on Romeo and Juliet. The depth of thinking and knowledge will help him unpick the text and Shakespeare's craft - Mr Coyne

Rosie G for her hard work in German - Mrs McEvoy

Jessie Thomas: reading Shakespeare so eloquently and confidently for the class - Miss Roberts

I just wanted to share with you the awesome attitude of the following students who stayed an optional extra 30 minutes in Hub tonight for a workshop type session to practice some really challenging grade 7 and above style questions.

Riley B, Oscar B, Dylan M, Alex P, Tyler H and Maizi Y - awesome stuff from them - Mr Bradshaw

Important Notices/Reminder

- **Lates** – all minutes you miss of lessons will be added up and then made up on a Friday. 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 **until 4pm**). Again, missing lessons is NOT an option – 2 truancies in one week will lead to a truancy IE. Please remember if you are struggling then you **MUST** come to the Year Office! We can help!
- **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)

10. 6th Form

Firstly, a massive well done to Year 13 for completing all UCAS applications. I am so excited for your next steps and the thrill of hearing back from your offers.

Year 13 PPE

Year 13 PPE exams will be running for two weeks starting Monday, 3 March. As always, please ensure that you are aware of what exams and content you will be sitting for each subject. You should all also be creating a revision timetable in the run up to the final A level exams. Please see your individual subject teachers for help with this.

Year 12 Suffolk Trip

All of Year 12 will be going to Suffolk for a university event on Wednesday, 5 February. The coach will be leaving the Academy at 7:55am so please ensure that you are here on time.

Mrs Molloy (Head of 6th Form)

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

11. Chaplain's Thought for the Week

We go through some times and seasons in our lives that are tough and hard to handle. Please don't give up, keep pushing through. You are valued, you are loved and you belong.

I just want to share two short stories about pushing through from the Bible. The disciples of Jesus had been out all-night fishing and hadn't caught a single thing. Fishing was their livelihood, so they depended on a good catch. Jesus was there and watching the tired fishermen and said something that must have seemed odd to them. "Cast your net on the other side of the boat". Probably scratching their heads, they did what Jesus said. A miracle happened as they caught so many fish that their boat was overloaded. A result of perseverance.

Another story like this is when some friends brought a paralysed man to see Jesus as they had heard that Jesus would heal him. They could not get close to the house where Jesus was as there was a massive crowd blocking the way. This did not stop the friends as they climbed up on the top of the building, broke a hole in the roof and lowered the man down right in front of Jesus. Jesus was amazed at the faith and perseverance of the friends and instantly healed the paralysed man.

Both stories speak of faith and perseverance, and we can be encouraged through them. Whatever we face, if we keep going and have faith(trust), hard times will become good times, and the sun will shine again.

Prayer

Dear God

Please give me strength when I need it. Please let me know and give me an assurance that everything will be all right and that the storm I am facing will pass. Thank you that you are with me through everything and that your voice brings wisdom, direction and peace to my life.

I ask this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

God bless. Mark

St Giles

Turning a past into a future



NORFOLK COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Understanding gangs and County Lines **FREE WORKSHOP** *for parents and carers*

What the dangers are

How to talk to kids
about these issues

How to spot the signs
of young people at risk

Where to get support

Tuesday 11th February 2025
12.30-2.30pm
at the Phoenix Centre
132a Mile Cross Road, NR3 2LD

**No booking
needed**



Supported by



NORWICH
City Council