

Open Academy Newsletter – 7 March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

What a week for our Open Academy staff and students!

Mark, our Chaplain, has been talking with our Academy community about celebrating our individual uniqueness; to treasure, enjoy and share it. I cannot think of a more appropriate time for students to reflect on themselves and the success they individually deserve, as we work with different year groups on the pathways ahead of them and encourage all students to embrace the special qualities they bring to the Academy.

Year 11 and Year 13 have made a fantastic start to their final set of mocks/Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) before the final assessments in the summer term. They are coming out of the exam hall with more confidence and keen to make the most of this opportunity. It will be important they get some rest-bite during a weekend of revision, so please encourage them to get some sunshine during this busy time of mind-maps, highlighters, quizzes and practice questions. We will keep you posted on our Easter holidays offer in the Academy to boost the revision programme Year 11 and Year 13 students are following at home.

Year 9 now have the information they need to make informed choices about their KS4 pathways for next year. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers into the Academy on Tuesday, 11 March to find out about the curriculum offer and support this process at a critical time.

Year 7 are excitedly signing up for camp with Mrs Halliday, an amazing adventure with their year group and opportunity for personal and social development. At the same time, we are quickly seeing Year 10 finalising work experience placements as we head towards the summer term. Dr Davies is always on hand to support students with organising this process. Please let us know if you have any questions about what these opportunities mean for your child.

Finally, World Book Day has created a real buzz around the Academy this week. Staff and students alike sharing tales from their favourite books and sharing the joy of reading.

I hope you and your families have a lovely weekend and perhaps get the chance to enjoy your favourite book, magazine or comic in the beautiful Spring weather.

Kate Wenlock
Vice Principal

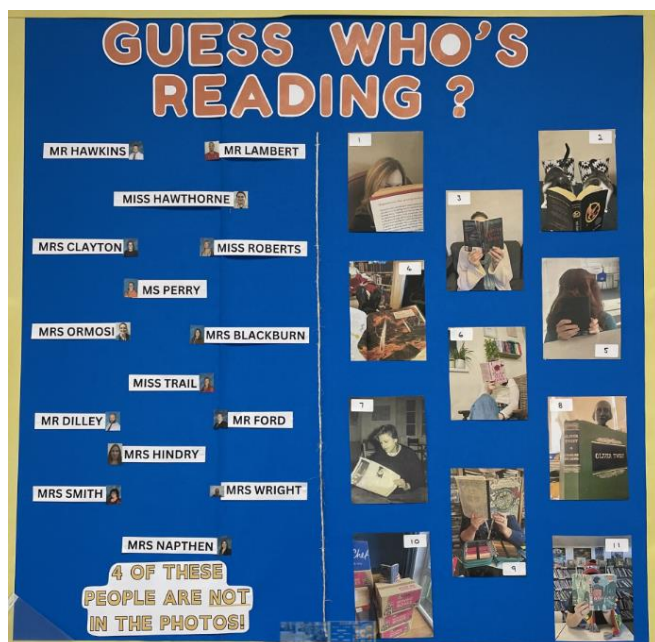
1. Library

World Book Day

We had a brilliant and busy World Book Day yesterday!

Students participated in a school-wide scavenger hunt across the whole day, where they had to track down teachers, ask them about their favourite books and fill up their stamp cards. We also had an interactive display board where students had to guess which teachers had been caught reading in the photos and Word Clouds hidden around the library and student had to decipher which books they represented.

The winners for all of our competitions will be announced on Monday!



Harry Potter Book Club

We are reading the first Harry Potter book at the moment and have just come to the end of chapter 13. During this week's meeting we played a game of table-top Quidditch, as we had just read about Harry playing his first game for Gryffindor! During our games Ravenclaw won for 1st lunch and Slytherin won for 2nd lunch.

During our previous meetings we have had a sorting ceremony, taken part in quizzes, made Hogwarts bookmarks, and we will be having a big celebration when we have finished our first book!



Mrs Rogers (Librarian)

2. Year 7

The weather is starting to change, with warmer days and lighter mornings/evenings. It is beginning to feel a lot like spring. With this Year 7 students are able to spend more time outside during their social times, burning off some of that excess energy so they are ready for the academic learning taking place.

The Big C of Resilience:

Each tutor group has been challenged with planning and delivering an assembly to the rest of the year group. These are on different themes linked to the academy's values. Currently the next assembly will be delivered by 7E, so you will have to wait until next week to hear the results of it.

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

Positive Praise:

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

- Rylee S for excellent practical work in science & Roman S for making a good start in his new science class.
- Troy S for his amazing contribution in his science lesson and his knowledge about animals' adaptations in hot and cold environments.
- Fantastic behaviour and attitude during the recent fire drill. The year group were great and a credit to themselves.

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/lollipops are not allowed in school. If a student is caught with these 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.
- 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)

3. Year 8

Was lovely this week to be able to be outside teaching PE without a coat on, I'm not sure how long this weather will last, but I'm enjoying every warm day. It been another fantastic week in Year 8. There has been an increase the Year 8's attendance, which is fantastic, uniform is also a big positive in the Year 8. Tutor groups have now been reminded about the tutor decorate the door competition for easter. If you have any old decorations that are no longer need, please give to your child to use in school please. Congratulations to Destiny for the best attendance and Inspiration for winning the weekly tutor quiz.

Teacher praise:

- Hattie, Emily B, Ben, Michael J and Stefan. Lincon also done a good job on his number challenge. Estupendo – Mrs Llorett-Blackburn
- Year 8 PE - Evie P, Alessia, Ashanti and Lacey-Mae for excellent participation in the cricket taster day, hope to see you at cricket club on Monday - Mrs Pearsall and Miss Trail
- 8H all did really well in their drawing assessment the other day, especially Leonardo and Hayley – Mr Walters
- Dimarco W - consistent effort in lessons, excellent written notes, answering lots of questions.
- Alessia P - consistent effort in lessons, excellent written notes, answering lots of questions.
- Morgan S for asking questions in maths to help him solve sentence questions.

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 8)

Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 8)

4. Year 9

Nice to see the sun returning this week meaning students can go outside for some fresh air. Lots of positives happening in the year group this week and there is certainly a buzz around the options choices which were circulated in a booklet. On this note, Tuesday, 11 March is our options evening where your child can come in to discuss their options with their individual teachers.

This is a vital date in the academy calendar and I strongly recommend you come along with your child to see us. We start at 5pm.

Attendance has dipped a little this week so please can I ask that students **only** take time off if absolutely necessary. We can support students in school even if they are feeling a little under the weather and we have a green space for them to use. The data is clear that consistent, good attendance equals good progress and good results.

We have also been pushing the mobile phone policy in school these last few weeks and we have issued several bans for those who are regularly using their phone in school. Thank you for supporting this. Phones need to be in bags and out of sight when in school. Our approach is that they are an unnecessary distraction to learning. If a student needs to send an urgent message home, they can speak to myself or Mr Hawkins and we can facilitate this.

Just for clarification, we have been making it clear to students that being in correct uniform with the correct equipment is their responsibility and part of being ready for school. We really appreciate your support with this.

Praise from teachers:

- Shanelli K for excellent participation in the cricket taster day, hope to see you at cricket club on Monday - Mrs Pearsall
- Angel G for excellent work in PE lessons - Miss Trail
- Alfie L - outstanding effort and enthusiasm in English.
- Noah C - consistent hard work and engagement in English - Mrs Clayton
- Thomas V and Hollie G for effort in Science – Mr Stephen
- Year 9 in maths are showing an excellent attitude towards learning. They are using good listening skills which is enabling them to apply the methods they need to use to solve mathematical questions. They are working like this as a group. Well done to them - Mrs Marsham
- All the Student leaders in year 9 for helping to organise a charity event for Comic Relief on 21 March. Misha, Elysia, Kelsie, Angel, David, Chakib and Ruby - Mr Walters
- My PE class were amazing in Rugby this week, with exceptional effort from, Callum G, Dre B, Leo C and David D – Mr Lambert
- Aiden M for helping out students in Open Pathways - Mrs Hewitt- Coleman

Mr Walters (Head of Year 9)

Mr Hawkins (Assistant Head of Year 9)

5. Year 10

Students of the week:

Riley B, Leah S and Eliza S.

Highest achievement points this week:

Riley B, Ross, Rodrigo, Olivier K, Eliza, Hayden and Mariia.

Highest achievement points this term:

Dylain, Rusne, Alfie S, Riley W, Olivier K, AJ, Sasha-Mai and Ayo

Mrs Power (Head of Year 10)

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

6. Year 11

What a week Year 11. A huge well done for engaging with the process and working so hard during this first week of PPE2 exams – the vast majority of you have had a fantastic week. These assessments will highlight your continued progress and provide a superb launchpad for the final prep you need to do in the **65 DAYS** you have left before your first exams in May. Please use this weekend to find that perfect revision/rest balance – recharging your batteries and having some chill time, whilst also finding that bit of time each day to revise/prepare for next week. If there is anything you need help with, need to discuss, or want to celebrate, I urge you to come and speak to me or Mrs Lamb in S58 or the year office.

Key Stats

Tutor Competition

Well done Mr. Stephens form – you win this week’s tutor competition for both attendance and reward points received – smashing it again this week.

Attendance

This week we have seen attendances in the mid 90%’s - which is incredible – bravo.

11NST – 94.1%

11ERO – 92.5%

11KMU – 90.7%

11ABR – 90.4%

Rewards

These are awarded by members of staff for 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 13755**. This is fantastic and represents how well you are doing and is a great show of positive learning.

<u>C11 NST</u>	3780
<u>D11 ERO</u>	3600
<u>I11 KMU</u>	3175
<u>R11 ABR</u>	2935
<u>SRB11 SGA</u>	265

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.

Top Ten Performers

These students have banked the most reward points this week – well done all:

Oskar C, Marnie C, Layla D, Luke E, Madison G, Lily-Mae H, Joshua J, Kayne B, Riley B and Ivan B.

Praise

- Well done to the majority of my Year 11 class who have made significant progress over the last two months in German – seeing a real uplift in your PPE2 results compared to PPE - Mrs Blackburn
- My English class have all shown a lovely, positive attitude to their mocks, returning back to lessons in a timely manner. They have also engaged well with all the class revision. Well done to all of them - Mrs Napthen
- Year 11 music students working very hard to complete all their coursework! I am very proud of them - Mrs Morgan-Hart
- Thomas H and Georgia B for above and beyond revision efforts in science this week - Mr Stephens
- Hallie C is working hard to address misunderstandings in her exam paper. Charlie M and Ivan B went the extra mile to revise after a last-minute change to exam topics. Troy N and Kayne B for attending HUBS - Mr Mundy
- Sardar K excellent effort in maths using key words to support understanding of questions. Well done. Shevaun G for listening skills to learn new methods in maths - Mrs Marsham
- Daisy N is working very hard on improving her German and it shows - Mrs Blackburn

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** – there are too many students missing too many lessons at the most critical time of your learning. With this in mind, the truancy rules are now (over 1 week)...

Truancy 1 Email/Text home	Truancy 2 (IE and call home)	Truancy 3 (Truancy EIE)
------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------

Please remember if you are struggling then you **MUST** come to the Year Office or S58. 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.
- **Hub Card** – Students have made an awesome start with the Hub Card scheme. Once it is signed by all relevant Hub Teachers in the week, students need to get it signed by parents/guardians and then someone from the year office – it can then be entered into the prize draw.

Student Name –
 Tutor Group –
 Report Start Date –
 Hub Focus –

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
History					
Business					
Geography					
Art					
Photography					
English					
Maths					
Applied Intervention					
Science					

HOY/AHOY

Parent Signature

- **PROM** – For more details about the Prom, please see the letter that was sent out to you this week containing details about time/arrivals/dress code etc. PLUS information about the very important PUPIL PASSPORT that details what will be taken into consideration when deciding who will be allowed to Prom – remember it is not a given that students can attend.
- **Letter regarding exams** – Please make sure you have read the letter regarding exam conduct sent out earlier this week. It is vital that we all adhere to the strict exam criteria set out by the exam boards – failure to do so could result in students being disqualified from certain exams, which would be a disaster after 2 years of such hard graft.

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)

7. Chaplain’s Thought for the Week

I just wanted to encourage you this week with the below words. Sometimes we can feel low in ourselves, and the following is a reminder of what we bring to this world. You are priceless.

Think what a remarkable, unduplicatable and miraculous thing it is to be you! Of all the people who have come and gone on the earth, since the beginning of time, not ONE of them is like YOU!

No one who has ever lived or is to come has had your combination of abilities, talents, appearance, friends, acquaintances, burdens, sorrows and opportunities.

No one’s hair grows exactly the way yours does. No one’s fingerprints are like yours. No one has the same combination of secret inside jokes and family expressions that you know.

The few people who laugh at all the same things you do, don’t sneeze the way you do. No one prays about exactly the same concerns as you do. No one is loved by the same combination of people that love you — NO ONE!

No one before, no one to come. YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE!

Enjoy that uniqueness. You do not have to pretend in order to seem more like someone else. You weren’t meant to be like someone else. You do not have to lie to conceal the parts of you that are not like what you see in anyone else.

You were meant to be different. Nowhere ever in all of history will the same things be going on in anyone's mind, soul and spirit as are going on in yours right now.

If you did not exist, there would be a hole in creation, a gap in history, something missing from the plan for humankind.

Treasure your uniqueness. It is a gift given only to you. Enjoy it and share it!

No one can reach out to others in the same way that you can. No one can speak your words. No one can convey your meanings. No one can comfort with your kind of comfort. No one can bring your kind of understanding to another person.

No one can be cheerful and light-hearted and joyous in your way. No one can smile your smile. No one else can bring the whole unique impact of you to another human being.

Author Unknown

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

God bless.

Mark