

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Character

The penultimate week of this half-term is now completed and the last five days have once again gone incredibly quickly. It has definitely felt like autumn has set in over the past few days, however, despite the darker nights, the optimism at JFAN continues to build. We have continued our tours this week for prospective pupils and parents. Many have commented on the warmth of the school and welcoming atmosphere. We have also hosted a very successful road safety interactive assembly with external speakers for year 9 on Wednesday morning and of course it was our Sixth Form Open evening last night. It was fantastic to see so many of our year 11 pupils as well as a considerable amount of year 10. We also welcomed pupils from other schools who always add greater vibrancy to our post-16 offer at JFAN. There was a real buzz in our Sixth Form Centre last night with excellent conversations between prospective students and our dedicated staff. A reminder of how to apply for our current year 11 pupils is explained below.

Updates this week for you are as follows:

1. Applying to our Sixth Form – If you are in year 11 and would like to apply to our Sixth Form please complete [this form](#). We will then invite you for interview in the spring term. The deadline for completed applications is **15th December, 2023**.
2. Behaviour on train platforms – For those families whose children travel to and from the academy by train, we would greatly appreciate if you could remind your child/ren about the importance of sensible behaviour on platforms whilst waiting for their train. Train lines are dangerous and it is important the pupils understand the consequences of their actions if they do not demonstrate maturity. Additionally, can we also take this opportunity to remind you that if a pupil is in school uniform and does not meet out standards outside of the school gates this will bring the Academy into disrepute and therefore we will follow our behaviour for learning policy when issuing consequences. It must also be said that the large majority of pupils demonstrate excellent behaviour on a consistent basis when outside of the school grounds.
3. Red Lanyards – Next week we will be reminding pupils about our coloured lanyards which relate to the adults on site. We would appreciate it if you could remind your child/ren that if they see an adult on academy site wearing a red lanyard, without a member of staff with them, to inform the nearest appropriate adult as soon as possible.
4. Year 7 parent notice – Next week, the Academy will be writing to year 7 parents and carers about some timetable and class changes that will take place after half-term. Please keep a look-out for this parentmail next week.
5. Platform 23 - We are excited to announce that Anglian Learning are once again hosting an exhibition of artwork from Anglian Learning secondary schools and sixth forms, including JFAN, at Michaelhouse Cafe, Trinity Street, Cambridge. The exhibition runs from 13th - 25th November. Last year this exhibition was a wonderful showcase of work from our schools and I'm sure that this year's will be just as strong, if not stronger.
6. Principal's Diversity Competition – A reminder that I have now launched this year's Principal's Competition for the month of October to highlight the importance of diversity and equity in society. All pupils in years 7-11 are invited to write a poem, rap or set of song lyrics about this topic. It could be about an important figure or their thoughts about why it is important to be acceptant of others. There will be prizes for those judged to be the most impactful for both key stage 3 and key stage 4. Please can all entries be emailed to principalcompetition@joycefrankland.org by **Friday 6th November**. Good luck!
7. New menu – After half-term, there will be a new menu from our caterers Innovate. You can see what has been selected in this new menu on our website, [here](#).
8. Student of the week – This week I would like to mention the excellent achievement of Miley W in year 8. Miley decided she would like to raise money for Bliss charity, supporting premature and poorly babies. Miley signed up to the 'Jog 60 miles in September' challenge and completed it raising £411 for charity. Miley could choose to walk, jog or run the 60 miles but jogged most of it, just using her walking steps on the days she volunteers at her riding yard when she works 9-4 and clocks up about 20,000 steps. Well done,

Miley. This is an impressive achievement and once again is a great illustrator of another pupil demonstrating our values.

This concludes the updates for this week. I end this week with an anecdote from a prospective pupil on one of our tours. They said (after the tour) that they couldn't wait to start at JFAN. Their brother is already at the school and he loves it. Walking around and seeing all the different subjects and opportunities made this young person very excited. As I said in my first paragraph, there are lots of things happening in our community to celebrate and be excited about. It seems like the world outside of the school gates is once again experiencing extremely challenging times. I think we have to hold onto optimism and always celebrate the positives.

In the words of Dr King, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal