

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Remembrance

We have completed our second week of this half-term and continue to move forward, positively. Thankfully, we have not had to deal with storms over the past five days which has been a pleasant change! On Wednesday evening of this week, whilst undertaking a site walk, I was struck by how many pupils were on site after the school day. This is always a good marker of young people enjoying the lived experience of their school. We had year 11 pupils involved in some extra revision sessions in maths, focused groups of pupils working in art and photography, young people honing their skills in music, the cast of *Alice in Wonderland* is taking shape and of course the many sports fixtures taking place all over the region. I also can't write my newsletter this week without mentioning our remembrance event this morning. We had all pupils, now over a thousand, together, remembering those individuals who have put themselves forward to protect the freedoms that we continue to enjoy. The pupils demonstrated an excellent level of respect and understanding throughout the period of reflection. It was a pleasure to be part of it.

Updates this week for you are as follows:

1. [Year 11 mock examinations](#) – A reminder that our mock examination timetable for year 11 begins on Wednesday 15th November. This is a challenging time for our year 11 cohort (and their families) and I request the empathy from all our school community whilst they are experiencing this process. This includes making sure that pupils in other year groups are quiet around examinations spaces which include, the Main Hall and the Old Gym.
2. [Making appointments to see staff](#) – Please can we remind you that if you would like to arrange a face-to-face meeting with a colleague, you need to email that colleague to make an appointment. It is very unlikely for you to see the colleague you would like to speak to without making an appointment due to teaching and planned diary commitments.
3. [Platform 23](#) – A reminder that our Trust, Anglian Learning, will be hosting an exhibition of artwork from all our 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.
4. [Careers Fair](#) – As we announced last week, we are excited to announce that we are once again in partnership with Harlow Regional College, Forest Hall School, Helena Romanes School and Saffron Walden County High School to host the Uttlesford Careers Fair on 21st November 2023 at Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden. There are bookable slots for you to visit from 16:00. To access this booking information, please visit our social media pages where there is a poster and a QR code.
5. [Anglian Learning Parent and Carer Engagement Survey: Have Your Say!](#) We are launching our Anglian Learning parent and carer engagement survey on **Monday 20 November 2023**. It is important to us and the Trust that your views and feedback are received. Please look out for the survey link via email. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential and will take no more than 15 minutes to complete.
6. [Absences All](#) absences should be notified to the Attendance officer at attendance@joycefrankland.org and not directly through Heads of Year, Form Tutors etc. This enables the relevant procedures to be put in place for Leave of Absence. The LOA form is on our website under attendance. [Attendance – Joyce Frankland Academy](#)
7. [Update regarding Mr Gamble](#) – It has been some time since I have provided the community with an update regarding Mr Gamble. I am pleased to inform you that he is continuing to recover well after the health situation he faced at the end of the summer holidays. Mr Gamble is very thankful for the messages of support that he has received and he is very much looking forward to being part of our community again, when he is able to do so.

This completes the key updates for this week. I look forward to representing our Academy on Sunday morning at the remembrance event at St Mary's Church in Newport where a wreath will be laid in memory of those who served our country. This is also always an opportunity to remember, specifically, those teachers and pupils of Newport who died during World War One. Their memory will always be embedded within the foundations of our school. We live in very difficult times but, being a pupil of 17 or 18 or a teacher of maths one moment, and a soldier in the trenches the next, can never fail to put our circumstances in perspective.

Despite this though, we must also subscribe to the prescient message of 19th century American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, who once said, "Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding."

Have a great weekend,
Duncan Roberts

Principal