

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Enthusiasm

November has finally finished! It took a while but we got there in the end. I hope you have had a positive week. Over the past five days at JFAN it's been great to see our young people approaching school with a sense of enthusiasm, even though we are moving towards the twilight end of the longest term in the academic year. This week I popped into some of our lunch time clubs that we offer, including our library. It was great to see so many young people engaged in a range of activities; especially impressive was a Portuguese speaking club led by one of our fluent Portuguese pupils!

Additionally, two Principal 'shout-outs' this week must go to the year 10 geographers and staff who completed field work this week for their GCSE course in freezing conditions and our year 11 cohort who completed their mock examinations. Both groups, in different ways, have demonstrated an enthusiasm and a hunger to want to achieve, which is great to see. We also had another victory in football, in the Essex Cup. Our under-16s beat SWCHS 3-2 to go into the round of 16. I have been informed that it was an excellent match played in exactly the right way which makes us very proud.

Furthermore, rehearsals are now in full swing for our school show *Alice in Wonderland* and we are half-way through act 1! This year we are offering more responsibilities and ownership to the pupils in the show and they are working hard on choreographing dance numbers, working out new ideas for costumes and a group of year 10s and 11s have met to discuss ideas for the stage design for the show. As the days get darker, they are enjoying each other's company in their communal enjoyment of the magic of Wonderland. In Ms Aniff's words, it is always such a pleasure to work with such lovely and talented students.

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to our Newport PTA who today hosted our traditional winter barbecue (I realise the concept is interesting), raising much needed funds for our Academy. They commented specifically on how polite and respectful the pupils were which is always great to hear.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Contacting home during the school day – The Academy would like to reiterate that pupils must not contact their parents or carers during the school day if they feel unwell, before going to Pupil Reception. We will assess whether collection is required depending on the severity of symptoms and make contact with you, if we feel your child needs collecting.
2. Pupil expectations outside of school when in uniform – Please can the Academy ask you to remind your child/ren that we expect excellent standards of behaviour when before and after school around the community. Although reports of children not meeting these expectations are rare, and even when we are informed it is often a very small group, when in school uniform children represent JFAN and must therefore demonstrate the mature, kind and calm behaviour that so many of pupils consistently show.
3. Clothing in the cold weather – The Academy does allow (and recommend) hats, coats, scarves and gloves in cold weather. We also understand that some children need to walk part of the way on their journey to and from school and therefore wear sensible footwear in the ice. However, school shoes must be worn on school site unless a child has a medical condition with a note from you or a medical practitioner. Children must also remove their coats in lessons. However, we do understand that a few of our classrooms are colder than we would like. We are working hard to address this issue and ensure that all spaces are at a temperature suitable for effective learning.
4. Year 11 mock release – We will be hosting a formal mock exam release on **Friday 15th December** for year 11 pupils. Instead of going to period 5 that day, they will go into the Main Hall to receive their results. This will be in-line with the publication of their report. A reminder that our parents' evening for year 11 is **Thursday 11th January** and we will provide information on how to book appointment slots shortly.
5. End of term arrangements – A reminder that term will finish on **Wednesday 20th December** at 13:20. If you may have difficulties collecting your child/ren at this time, please let your child's/ren's form tutor know and we will make the necessary supervision requirements.
6. Anglian Learning Parent and Carer Engagement Survey – Have Your Say! Don't forget to complete our Anglian Learning parent and carer engagement survey by **Friday 8 December**. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential and will take no more than 15 minutes to complete via this [link](#).

7. Christmas Card competition – Thank you to all the pupils who have entered this year’s Christmas Card Competition. The winners will be decided next week which will also be shared in Friday’s newsletter. Their work will also be published on our social media platforms.
8. Pupil fundraiser – A group of year 11 pupils have decided to come together for an excellent cause. Reuben C, Rose D, Mary B, Libby M and Ryan C will be running a 5k route dressed as Santa on **Sunday 17th December**. They are doing this in order to raise money for Hope House Essex, a non-profit charity whose aim is to break the cycle of homelessness by providing accommodation for single homeless people and giving them support to get their lives back on track. This group of dedicated and compassionate young people have already raised over £500 but are looking for more. If you wish to contribute to this excellent cause please access the GoFundMe page which can be accessed [here](#). They will also be running a bake sale on **Thursday 14th December**, all for the same cause. This is a great example of young leadership in action.
9. Pupil achievement – This week, we mark the success of Will C in year 8 who competed in the regional schools judo championship for year 8 and 9 for JFAN and managed to win! Will has also qualified for the national championships this coming weekend. Good luck, Will – we are rooting for you!

This concludes the updates for this week. The theme of this week has been all about enthusiasm. It’s sometimes hard this time of year to find this within you. We have just completed week 12 of a 15-week term. However, it really isn’t hard to find it at JFAN amongst our pupils and staff, even on a freezing November morning. Yesterday, it was –2C at the crossing but still I was greeted with positive people, asking how I am, generally looking forward to their day ahead. Even in fairly extreme weather, it’s always a pleasure to welcome our community to school at the start of a day.

In the words of 19th century American essayist and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might.”

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal