

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Failing to plan is planning to fail

We have completed another successful week at JFAN in what has been an extremely cold five days... I hope you have managed to keep warm in the conditions. The school also had a short power outage on Wednesday morning to contend with. You don't realise how much you rely on electricity until it's not there! Thankfully, it didn't last long and we were able to continue with the day in a purposeful way. On Thursday, we held one of our 'career carousel' workshops for pupils in years 9, 10 and 12. We had speakers from organisations such as Essex police, the British Army, Stansted Airport College, Stagecoach and Cambridge Regional College. It was also great to see some of our sixth formers running a session for pupils in years 9 and 10. All of this was to help our young people support them in planning for their future. In an uncertain world, the necessity to have some idea of your potential direction of travel is possibly more important than ever.

Additionally, we have seen some interesting things taking place in lessons this week such as the building of electronic circuits. The work produced in the GCSE art mock examination last week was impressive and we are earmarking what we may be able to display around the Academy at some point. Our year 11 football team also won again this week, beating SWCHS 4-2. In summary, lots of success stories to celebrate.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Winter clothing – This week the Academy has been more flexible in allowing warmer clothing to be worn alongside pupils' uniform. However, the forecast for next week looks considerably warmer, therefore, please can we remind you that hoodies must not be worn on site and may be confiscated. Coats are allowed on school site but not in classrooms or other learning spaces. Trainers must not be worn unless there are medical reasons with a note from the pupil's parent or carer.
2. Parent and visitor code of conduct – As an Anglian Learning trust academy, we subscribe to the guidance set out in the new 'Parents and Visitor Code of Conduct' document. This provides a reminder to all parents, carers and visitors to our school about the expected conduct and behaviours that underpin that positive partnership. This will help provide clarity around expectations so that we can work together in an environment based on mutual understanding and support. You can view this document on our website by clicking this [link](#).
3. Early warning about School Lane closure – I am currently in discussion with Essex Highways about the imminent closure of School Lane for bridge reinforcement works. This will put significant strain on Bury Water Lane and surrounding roads, especially during drop-off and pick-up. I will provide you with further information about when this work is due to start and the logistics for how traffic will be managed, as soon as I know more.
4. Tuesday Open Mornings – It is great to see that our first Tuesday Open Morning, on 24th January, is now fully booked. Unfortunately, we are unable to now take further bookings for this but please be rest assured that we will shortly be releasing our February slots for next month's tour. If you are coming to see us on Tuesday morning, we look forward to welcoming you then.
5. Co-curricular timetable – Next week we will be publishing our co-curricular timetable for the spring term. Please do share it with your child/ren. They will also be informed about it during form time next week. There are lots of clubs to join during lunch time or after school from Monday to Wednesday.
6. Role opportunity – Impact Food Group are recruiting for a canteen assistant at JFAN. This would be a term-time contract only, working thirty hours per week. For more information, please access the [job advert here](#).
7. German speaking volunteers – Can you speak fluent German? If so, the Academy needs your help! As part of our support for year 11 pupils taking their GCSE, we are looking for German speaking volunteers who would be happy to dedicate a few hours of their time to support our German learners in their speaking communication skills. If this is something you might be able to help us with, please contact us via email at admin@joycefrankland.org
8. JFAN chess tournament – We have launched our 2024 chess tournament this week. It will take place on 5th February in B6. The winner of the pupil tournament will play against the winner of the teacher tournament in the Grand Final to become JFAN's Grandmaster. All years are welcome as well as all abilities. You can sign up to play in B6. Let the battle commence...

This completes the updates for this week. I have been working on a four-year strategic plan for the Academy which is almost ready for further consultation. In an upcoming newsletter, I will be asking for a small group of parent and carer volunteers to help me refine this plan further. It would be great to get some thoughts from our parent body about the ways in which our vision has been articulated in this plan. If you might be interested in being a part of this group, keep an eye out for how to express an interest in a newsletter later this half-term.

In the words of 19th century American architect and urban designer Daniel H. Burnham, "Make no little plans; they have no magic... make big plans, aim high in hope and work."

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal