

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Conditions for success

I hope you have had a good week as we move towards the final week before half-term. Once again there have been lots of highlights to celebrate this week. We had another really successful parents' evening on Thursday evening for our sixth form students. It was somewhat of an emotional evening for some, having completed their final ever parents' evening for their child after 13 years of school education; definitely an end of a chapter. Also, this week, we hosted our annual chess tournament with so many pupils involved! Matches were fiercely competitive but always in the right spirit and the talent was there to see! I have also led some more meetings with pupils about our uniform change proposals for September 2024 and beyond and will be announcing these changes along with our new policy towards the end of next half-term. Finally, yet more success in sport this week with our year 9 netball team beating Saffron Walden. In summary, once again, there have been lots of successes to celebrate.

Further updates this week are as follows:

1. Current Uniform ordering – The Academy are aware of a delay with our new providers Price Buckland and we are working with them to rectify this as soon as possible. Our NPA do hold regular pop up pre-loved shops and they have a large stock of reasonably priced good quality uniform for sale. Please can the Academy remind you though that there will be changes to our uniform policy from September 2024 which will be applicable for all pupils currently in years 7, 8 and 9.
2. Closure of School Lane confirmation – The Academy can now confirm that School Lane will be closed for a period of 9 weeks from Monday 18th March 2024. This will impact significantly upon pick-up and drop off during this period. Our priority will need to be ensuring the buses can turn safely and that staff can access the site. We will be meeting all relevant parties next week to discuss the plans for this how and how we can minimise disruption to the community as much as possible. The Academy will write to parents and carers after half term to explain the details of how this will work.
3. Planned absence form – Please can we remind parents and carers that if you would like to request a planned absence for your child for consideration, this form should be completed with the particular details of the request. The Academy will then get back to you as soon as possible to state whether or not this request has been authorised.
4. GCSE Options Process 2024 – For those parents and carers of pupils currently in year 9, we will be sharing information next week about our GCSE Options Process this year. This will include particular details about how the process will work, key dates and our Options Evening which will take place on Thursday 29th February, 2024. This is an exciting time for pupils in this year group as they start to filter their curriculum to meet their future ambitions.
5. Sixth Form Offer Letters (current year 11 applicants) – Shortly, we will be sending out our offer letters to prospective Sixth Form students for September 2024. Our recruitment process this year has generated a significant increase in applications vs. last year which is very exciting for the Academy and the development of our Sixth Form but we also must ensure we maintain our bespoke offer and smaller class sizes. Offer letters will state communication channels should students wish to ask any further questions.
6. February Open Morning – A reminder that we will be running our second open morning of the year next Tuesday 13th February. There will be a tour of the school and then a Q and A session with a colleague from the leadership team. There is still limited space for this tour and you can book by [clicking here](#).
7. Canteen – If your child/children are staying past 3.15 pm for an after-school club or waiting for a late bus they will now be able to purchase food from the canteen. After half term the canteen will be open from 3.15 to 3.30.

8. Get into Teaching Coffee & Chat event - If you are thinking of a career in teaching there is a free online event available on the 26th of February where you can find out what teacher training is really like. Please see the attached flyer to book a place.
9. Student successes: - Please do keep sharing your child's successes outside of the school gates with us. We are always so proud and delighted to hear of their achievements. We have so many talented young people at JFAN in a wide variety of activities and it always great to celebrate these in this newsletter.

This completes the updates this week. The Academy was informed yesterday by the Department for Education (DfE) that we have been included in the latest list of schools to benefit from the School Rebuilding Programme to remove RAAC.

As you will be aware Anglian Learning undertook substantial repair works during the summer holiday to safeguard staff and students and ensure the affected teaching block could remain open at the start of this academic year. However, these works are only temporary in nature and the long term, permanent solution is the complete removal and replacement of E Block.

Although specific details such as the timescales and the extent of the project are still to be worked through, we are very pleased to be included in this programme and look forward to working with the DfE and other agencies on this exciting project in the future. We will keep you updated on the project as we have more information to share.

If you have any questions about this in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

In the words of Oscar Wilde, "Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result."

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal