

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Better ideas

I hope you have had a good week and an enjoyable half-term the week before. It has been a really positive start after half-term at JFAN and is always a pleasure to welcome pupils back after a break. As always, thank you for your support of our training day on Monday as I know that these can cause some family difficulties with logistics and arrangements. Over the course of the day we covered some important topics, linked to our priorities. This included sessions on responding to conscious and subconscious behaviours, diversity in our curriculum, developing our reading strategy, diversity in our curriculum, the future of reports at JFAN and much, much more.

It was also great to welcome pupils, parents and carers to our year 9 Options Evening yesterday which was very well attended and had a very positive atmosphere. I was impressed with how clear and decisive many pupils were about their academic plans, moving forward. Today, offer letters went out for our future year 6 cohort and once again we will have a full cohort of pupils joining us from September.

Finally, we also had an impressive sporting triumph this week. Our year 9 under-14 boys won the Bishop's Stortford District 5-aside tournament on Tuesday. They played a total of 10 matches winning or drawing all of them, winning the final against Hockerill on penalties. It is an impressive achievement and there is a shiny new shield in our Sports Centre to mark it. Well done to all of those pupils involved.

Updates this week are as follows:

1. Four-year strategic improvement plan – You may remember that last half-term I explained that I am working with different groups to revise and redefine our four-year strategic improvement plan for the Academy. I am now at a stage where I am looking to bring together a parent working group to discuss this further and shape its direction. It is likely to consist of one, 1.5 hour meeting and one, 30-minute virtual meeting later on in the academic year. The group would consist of 5-6 parents with pupils at the Academy who have at least two years left of their academic study with us. If this is something you are interested in, please email Mrs Williams at kwilliams@joycefrankland.org
2. Uniform changes – Thank you to those of you who have responded to our survey about a specific aspect of our uniform policy from September 2024, specifically in relation to a blazer/jacket. We are still looking to seek even more views therefore the survey remains open. We would greatly appreciate you completing this form to share your views on this to help us to formulate a decision. You can access the survey [here](#).
3. Parent Open Morning – Our next parent open morning will take place on Tuesday 19th March. This is where parents and carers of existing pupils at the Academy can have a tour of the school on a typical day and then be involved in a Q and A session with me or a member of the leadership team. The first two of these events were very successful. If you would like to book onto the March tour, please click [here](#).
4. Careers Week - It's National Careers Week next week. Parents and carers can be unsure of their teen's options after GCSE or sixth form so The Parents' Guide to, in partnership with National Careers Week, has created a free guide giving an overview of what's available at 16 and 18 years' old and summarizing different routes teens can take into the workplace. You can download your copy [here](#).
5. Year 10 Parents' Evening – A reminder for parents and carers of pupils in year 10, we have their annual face-to-face parents evening taking place on Thursday 14th March. Further details regarding this will be shared with parents and carers of pupils in this cohort will be shared shortly.
6. Newport Parents Association (NPA) Art Competition – The NPA invite JFAN pupils to create their new logo to rebrand as a Parent, Teacher Association (PTA). The logo needs to be adaptable to be used as large or small imagery and navy blue and yellow (with an option to include House colours). Not only will the winning prize have the prestige of knowing that they have created the logo moving forward, they will also gain some art equipment and chocolate. Entries must be submitted by Friday 22nd March to Student Reception. If you have any questions please speak with our Faculty Leader for Art, Miss Sharpe.

7. Pupil achievements – This week we celebrate the achievements of Seb M in year 11 who was the Grand Master of our chess tournament just before half-term. Seb will now take on Mr Uttley on Monday in the grand final. Lastly, a group of year 11 pupils, led by Matilda C, arranged a bake sale last half-term which raised an impressive £267.62 which has been donated to 'Together in West Essex', a local breast cancer charity that helps to provide relief to breast cancer sufferers in West Essex by contributing towards the provision equipment at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Epping. This is yet again another example of the compassion and drive to help others that our pupils have at JFAN. Well done to all involved and thank you for representing our Academy so brilliantly.
8. Year 11 Photographs - Year 11 photographs are taking place on Thursday 14th of March during periods 1 and 2. There will be individual, form groups and a whole year group photo. Students must be in full school uniform including blazers, jumpers are not permitted. A link will be sent to parents/carers to place orders in due course.

This concludes the updates for this week.

In the words of Lt. Gen. Silveria, "It's the power that we come from all walks of life, that we come from all parts of this country, that we come from all races, that we come from all backgrounds, gender, all make-up, all upbringing... The power of that diversity comes together and makes us that much more powerful."

Best wishes,

Duncan Roberts

Principal