



## Principal's Newsletter: Belonging to a team

Dear Parent and Carer,

Welcome to our second edition of the academic year of the Principal's Newsletter. The first month of the academic year is almost complete and I hope your child/ren has/have had a positive start. Over the past fortnight since my last newsletter we have had so many exciting things taking place. The majority of our year 8 cohort experienced the adventures of Harlow Outdoor Centre last week, jumping (quite literally!) into situations that they hadn't faced before. The staff at the centre were incredibly complimentary about the polite and positive attitude of our pupils. Also last week, we took a significant group of pupils to see *Harry Potter* in the West End and the feedback from this has been brilliant. We have also led a trip to Barcelona for over 40 pupils and have launched our co-curricular clubs including auditions for this year's school show, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

As well as all of this, we have of course been focusing on our core business of teaching and learning. It has been great to see pupils of all ages engaged in their learning since the start of this term. When I have spoken to children about their work they have been, quite rightly, incredibly proud of what they have done. This was particularly noticeable in a year 11 art lesson, where pupils articulately informed me of the details they were adding to their impressive work. In a year 9 French lesson, I also enjoyed seeing

pupils constructing complex sentences on mini-whiteboards whilst checking their vocabulary and grammar.

We have also hosted our year 7 settling-in evening last week and it was great to hear how well our year 7 pupils have immersed themselves into secondary school life at JFAN. We are still keen to find out your views about how you feel your child/ren has/have settled into year 7 and have a dedicated "Feedback Friday" survey for this, lower down in this newsletter.

Lastly, all of our assembly themes since returning continue to focus on a sense of belonging and what this means at JFAN. One of the most pleasing things about this first month has been the way that our young people have settled back into the school environment in 'teams' where they feel they belong. This might be in their friendship group, or at a sports club, or through being in the art workshop at lunch time. Either way, it is great to see our pupils knowing where they feel they belong.

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

27th September 2024

Joyce Frankland Academy

## Community news



- **Lockdown drill:** This half-term the Academy will be completing a lockdown drill. As you are aware our site is an open one and therefore it is important that we have procedures in place if an intruder were to gain access. If this were to happen, 10 bells would ring and all access control doors would lock. Staff and pupils will stay inside classrooms and learning spaces until 10 bells sound again. We do understand that this might cause some concern amongst some of our pupil community and we will reassure them about the reasons for doing this both before and after the drill. We will inform parents and carers once the drill has been completed.
- **Fencing update:** As you may be aware, the Academy gained planning permission in the summer term to install new fencing with access control gates in certain parts, throughout the site. We have had some difficulties up to this point in the procurement process and finding a contractor. However, we have made some progress with this since returning in September and are hopeful that work may be able to start later this term. This will have a significant impact on reducing the open nature of our site.
- **School lane reopened:** It is very pleasing that School Lane has now reopened and therefore the school buses can now revert back to the usual drop-off and pick-up process which is exit via Bury Water Lane only. This should help to ensure that traffic keeps moving more fluidly. However, please can the Academy again request that parents and carers find other safe places to drop children off and pick them up instead of Bury Water Lane to reduce the amount of traffic. Please can we also politely request that you do not use Gaces Acre to do this either.



## Key updates



- **Uniform update:** Thank you once again for your support of our new uniform. It has been excellent to see the pupils looking smart and in their new garments. For those pupils in years 7-10, we understand that some new skirts have been on order and have therefore understood why some children have needed to wear a kilt whilst they wait for an order to arrive. However, by the end of next week, orders that were processed at the end of August, should have arrived. Therefore, if your child is wearing a kilt and not a new skirt, please can we ask that you write a note to pass onto their form tutor to explain why this might be the case, if you haven't already done this. We greatly appreciate your support with this change.
- **Mobile phones reminder:** A reminder that mobile phones must not be seen or heard from 8:30 - 15:15. If a pupil is using a mobile phone during the school day, it will be confiscated in-line with our behaviour for learning policy, which can be accessed on our Academy website.
- **Communication with the Academy:** We would like to politely remind parents and carers that if you need to contact the Academy for a particular reason, the first port of call should be the child's form tutor. We will aim to respond to your contact as soon as we can and within two working days.
- **Vacancies at JFAN:** It has often been the case that our best recruitment often derives from our parent body and this remains the case. Therefore, please do keep an eye out on our vacancy page if you are interested in working at our excellent school. We currently have two teaching

posts being advertised for a January start; one in maths and the other in PE. You can find out more information about these by [clicking here](#).

- **Early morning arrival on site:** We have noticed that some pupils are arriving to school significantly before 8:35. Although we would expect pupils to be punctual, the Academy is unable to supervise pupils who arrive before the school day starts. If it is the case that your child/ren have to arrive early due to work commitments, please can you inform them to go to the canteen until it is ready to go to registration and tutor time.

## Wimbish Primary Academy



### **Legendary drummer inspires primary pupils with percussion masterclass**

**Pupils from The Meadow Primary School and Wimbish Primary Academy expressed their inner rock star with the former drummer of British rock band, Status Quo.**

Jeff Rich, who was the rock drummer for Status Quo between 1985 and 2000, presented his Drum Masterclass to an excited cohort of Key Stage Two pupils from The Meadow Primary School and Wimbish Primary Academy, both part of Anglian Learning.

The unique experience saw over 200 percussion instruments provided to pupils who all had a go at playing a piece of percussion, alongside Jeff on the drums.

Jeff said “I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to The Meadow Primary School this afternoon. The pupils' high energy and brilliant participation are what make these visits special. If one child is now inspired to learn an instrument, then my work here is done!”

The Meadow Primary School works closely with Wimbish Primary Academy under their Executive Headteacher, Nichola Pickford.

Nichola said “Jeff’s masterclass brought much excitement to both our pupils and colleagues as they had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform with and learn from a world-famous musician. The pupils were engaged from start to finish and could not wait to share the experience with their families after school.

“Our vision for both schools is to create these memorable learning experiences through enriching provisions. It is important that smaller schools, such as Wimbish Primary Academy, do not miss out on these opportunities and fully benefit from being part of Anglian Learning.”

Rachael Johnston, Director of Primary Education at Anglian Learning, said “It is wonderful to see our pupils come together to express their creativity. One of our Core Principles as a multi-academy trust is that no academy is left behind. Nichola and her team utilise the skills and resources on offer at both schools to ensure pupils receive the best education, no matter their school size or location.

After the session, Jeff donated a signed pair of drumsticks used during the session which will be auctioned by The Meadow Primary School, raising vital funds.

To find out more about Wimbish Primary Academy, please visit: <https://wimbishprimary.org/>.

## Thought of the week



"Great things are never done by one person; they're done by a team". Steve Jobs

## Dates for the diary coming up...



Tuesday 22nd October Year 11 online Exams Information evening

Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November Half term

Thursday 28th November Year 8 Parents Evening

Friday 29th November INSET Day Academy closed to pupils

Friday 20th December Term ends at 1.20pm





*1 - Royal Opera House tour and Harry Potter*



*2 - Royal Opera House tour and Harry Potter*



*3 - Royal Opera House tour and Harry Potter*



*4 - Royal Opera House tour and Harry Potter*



*5 - Year 8 at Harlow Outdoor Centre*



6 - Jeff Rich with Wimbish Primary School pupils

## Success stories







*7 - Alex Year 10*

Congratulations to Alex who recently took part in the McPartlin Trophy Competition as part of the Essex Schools team. Unfortunately Essex were pipped to the post for 1st place. This was a great achievement and experience for Alex and we look forward to hearing more from him. Well done Alex!

## Newport Parents Association (PTA)



The Newport Parents Association (PTA) help to raise funds for the enrichment of the school and to co-ordinate activities for school parents, families and the local community. We are also a registered charity. We aim to bring together parents, teachers and others to raise money and to support the school raising vital funds to buy items or provide support for pupils not covered by the school budget. For example, the provision of therapy / counselling for students , the provision of new sports and dance equipment , the provision of equipment for the music department and so much more!

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers who would like to dedicate some of their time. That could be sparing an hour or two to help at an event or you may wish to join the NPA committee, new members are always welcome.

If you would like to get involved with the NPA please contact the Chair of the NPA Kerinda Trigg via the Academy's administration email address. [jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org](mailto:jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org)

**Feedback Friday: This week's Feedback Friday form is specifically for our new year 7 parents and carers to complete. You can access the form [here](#). We would love to hear your views.**



**WE WANT**

**YOUR**

**FEEDBACK**





## Vacancies



Teacher of PE

Teacher of Maths

Details for all the current Academy and Anglian Learning vacancies can be found on our website [here](#)

## Contact Us



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