



Principal's Newsletter: Belonging in our community

Dear Parent and Carer,

We have now completed week 14 of the longest term in the calendar year and it's been another action-packed fortnight since I last published my newsletter. One of the best aspects of this time of year, is that the school comes together more regularly as a community to forge positive memories that will last for years to come. Whether it is through involvement in our competitive and exciting Inter-house sports matches in hockey or rugby, which has been hugely popular over the past two weeks, or entering our annual Christmas Card Competition (the winning entry is published below) there are always events and experiences to get involved with to demonstrate one of the best qualities of Joyce Frankland; our community ethos.

We experienced a bit of mid-week magic on Wednesday where our community once again demonstrated its talents in performing arts at our Christmas Concert. There was an hour of entertainment of the highest calibre, reflecting exactly what Joyce Frankland is truly about. All the pupils involved, across a full range of year groups, were excellent and, most impressively,

hugely supportive of each other. A colossal thank you to the staff and helpers involved. Thank you as well to everyone who came to watch and support this event; your cheers and laughter inspired our young people on stage.

The special events which bring our community together and create that sense of belonging keeps on coming. Yesterday, I had the absolute joy of being a judge at our second ever bake off competition. As far as perks of the job go, this is definitely up there... Once again, I was so impressed with pupils' baking skills. The best aspect of this was how the pupils supported each other. There was a genuine sense that they were as proud of their friends' baking as much as their own. I would also like to thank our NPA team for all their efforts today with setting up the Christmas Tuck Shop. As always, they commented on how polite the pupils were when purchasing desired items. Funds from this will go to very worthwhile causes to support the school such as an upgrade to some of our music facilities and resources.

Also today, our Year 11 pupils received their mock results at our annual mock results day. Year 11 worked very hard during the mock exam period which is always a challenging experience. Although these results provide an indication of a pupil's current working grade and, for many pupils, provide reassurance that they are on the right track, they are not the final grades and there is a great deal that can be done to address gaps, misconceptions and content which needs re-teaching between now and the summer series. We look forward to hosting our parents evening for this cohort in January where further information will be provided from teaching staff about the plans moving forward to prepare our pupils in the best possible way.

Next week there are more plans in place to bring our community together in celebration. We have inter-house competitions for Years 7 and 8, our Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and end of term reward assemblies to name a few. This segment in the academic year, between firework night and when we start to see the daffodils, is often the time when motivation and drive can be reduced. When I am at the crossing in the morning, I am always struck by how many of our pupils will say good morning, ask how I am and wish me a positive day. Granted, this isn't all pupils and some are understandably less forthcoming (I am not a morning person either...), but, broadly speaking, it demonstrates the happiness that exists, despite the winter gloom.

This is my last newsletter of the term as we approach the final week. Thank you as ever for your support over the past term. I must say that I have been so impressed with the way that Year 7 have settled into secondary school as a cohort. We also greatly appreciate your understanding of the barriers to success that all schools continue to face. Mr Grindrod has been leading assemblies this week on the importance of our community, both past and present, and how we represent in and outside of the school gates. The quote he finished on, is the one I conclude my

newsletter with today, as it sums up our philosophy at JFAN and the continued theme of feeling like you belong.

In the words of Nelson Mandela "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what different we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

I wish you all a restful and fulfilling festive season, when it arrives.

Duncan Roberts

Principal

13th December, 2024

Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **Christmas Jumper Day:** A reminder that on Wednesday the 18th of December pupils are invited to wear a festive jumper for the day to help raise funds for two great charities, Children in Need and SIDS. Donations of £2.00 can be made via MyEd Parent Pay or cash on the day.
- **Christmas Dinner 2024:** A reminder that JFAN's annual Christmas Dinner will take place on 18th December 2024. There will be a traditionally festive menu for our pupils and staff to enjoy. We have posted a menu on our website and social media pages.
- **Sickness/Diarrhoea:** This term we have had a rise in cases of sickness and diarrhoea. Please be aware of our policy. Children should not attend school until **48 hours after** the symptoms have stopped. Joyce Frankland follows the government guidelines for Sickness and Diarrhoea. Thank you for supporting us in trying to stop the spread of illness at this time of year. Further guidance on infection control can be found [here](#).
- **Dark mornings/nights:** Now that the dark mornings and nights have set in, many of our pupils have to walk to and from a bus stop or training station in the dark. Please can we stress that pupils must wear some high-vis piece of clothing so that they can be seen. This could simply be an arm bracelet or something that goes on their shoes. Some pupils have to walk along country roads without pavements and it is very important that they can be easily seen.
- **Better Housing Better Health (BHBH):** Better Housing Better Health is a service working locally in Essex to improve your domestic warmth and wellbeing. In a preventative approach, the free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for advice and support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property and lower your bills. They also provide advice on small measures grants. For more information, please see this [leaflet](#).
- **Last day arrangements:** A reminder that our last school day of this term will be Friday 20th December and school will finish at 13:20. Buses will be available to collect pupils who require this transport. If your child is unable to leave site at this time, please inform their form tutor so that the necessary supervision can be provided.

Key updates



- **Time Out cards:** In January, the Academy will be reviewing all Time Out cards that have been issued this term. This will include an analysis of the regularity of when the card is used, the appropriacy of this measure for each pupil who has one and the process for when the measure is taken. We will write to parents about our findings from this review and the reasons for any changes, early next term.
- **Parents Evenings:** Next term, the academy will complete the majority of year group Parents Evenings. Please keep an eye on the key dates section in this newsletter to make a note of this. Two weeks before your child's evening you will receive information about how to book appointments. Our next one is on Thursday 9th January which is for Year 11. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to these upcoming events.
- **School tours for current parents/carers:** A reminder that from January, we will be once again launching our school tours for current parents and carers. As you know, parents and carers receive the option of a tour of the school when their child is in Year 6 but, once they join, this option stops. However, for the last two years we have offered tours, followed by a Q and A from a colleague in our leadership team to current parents and carers so that you can see the school on a typical day. Tours will take place one per half-

term on Tuesday mornings. Information about when the first tour will take place and how to book will be shared with you in January.

- **Uniform Rentals:** In January, if a pupil is missing an item of uniform, they will be asked to borrow an item for a new space that we are in the process of setting up. We would still ask that parents and carers write a note to explain why their child is missing this item. However, by borrowing an item, it will prevent the repeated exchanges of why a pupil is not in the correct item throughout the day and allow more time for positive, learning conversations. We will provide more information about how this will work and where it will be located in the new term.
- **Upcoming Parent Workshops:** We are delighted to announce that we will be working with parent specialist, Inga Madsen again next term. Inga will be leading two online sessions including, "Parenting anxious teens." There will be more information to follow next term, including dates and more specific details about the sessions.

Wimbish Primary Academy



Wimbish Christmas Craft afternoon: On Wednesday 18th December we will be holding an afternoon of Christmas making where we would like to invite you and any other interested

family members to come along between 1.10pm and 3pm to join the children in completing a range of Christmas activities. There will also be a Christmas cafe for you to pop into and a bottle tombola for anyone that is feeling lucky. Please save the date, we look forward to welcoming you all.



Anglian Learning



As CEO of Anglian Learning, the multi-academy Trust which supports your child/ren's school, I would like to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken in the last few months. These activities have benefitted our pupils, workforce and communities of our Trust.

As a large school trust, we received £1.8 million in government funding to enhance the condition of our schools. While this does not meet all our needs, it has allowed us to prioritise health and safety improvements, essential repairs and the energy efficiency of our buildings. A major piece of work was the [installation of solar panels](#) across all our schools, reducing energy costs and our carbon footprint. The money saved can be allocated to other areas for the education of our young people.

Other important areas we have focused on include:

- Strengthening our IT infrastructure to protect against cyber attacks
- Reviewing safeguarding in all schools
- Introducing a Teaching and Learning Framework that sets out the principles of excellent classroom teaching to be adopted by each school
- Hosting leadership conferences for headteachers and deputy headteachers on creating strong teams, supporting positive relationships with pupils and much more
- Starting our 'Belonging by Design' strategy to improve pupil attendance, SEND support and mental health, supported by the funding we have received from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Local Authorities.

Finally, in November, we celebrated our secondary school pupils' creativity with the [Platform 24](#) art exhibition at The Michaelhouse Café. The exhibition featured inspiring work from our talented KS3, KS4 pupils and A Level students.

I wish all families a restful break and thank you for your continued support as we work to transform education together. For more information on our Trust's activities, please visit our website www.anglianlearning.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Jonathan Culpin, CEO



1 - Jonathan Culpin, CEO and Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education with pupils at the Platform 24 exhibition

Thought of the week



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what different we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." Nelson Mandela

Dates for the diary coming up...



Wednesday 18th December Christmas Jumper day

Wednesday 18th December Christmas dinner

Friday 20th December Term ends - Early closure at 1.20pm

2025

Monday 6th January Term starts

Thursday 9th January Year 11 Parents evening

Thursday 16th January Careers Fayre

Thursday 23rd January Year 9 Parents evening (online)



2 - Christmas Menu



3 - Christmas Jumper day



4 - Cheerleading Club



5 - Bake Off



6 - Bake Off



7 - Bake Off



8 - Bake Off



9 - Bake Off

Success stories



This year's winners of the annual Christmas Card Competition are as follows: Anna B in 7 Saxie, Elizabeth T in 8 Morden, Caleb L in 9 Thompson and Lucinda T in 10 Trappes. Thank you to all those that took part and entered the competition. There were also a number of close runners up - it was almost impossible to decide the winners because the quality was of such a high standard!



Lucinda

10 - Lucinda Year 10



11 - Caleb Year 9



Merry



Christmas





13 - Anna Year 7

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

Friday 13th December NPA Winter Food Stall

Feedback Friday



WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK



This week we would like to hear from you if you attended our first Christmas Concert on Wednesday. Please click [here](#) to complete the short questionnaire.

Vacancies



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

WE ARE HIRING

TEACHING ASSISTANT

WE HAVE AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ENTHUSIASTIC TEACHING ASSISTANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM.

TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT THE CURRENT VACANCIES ON OUR WEBSITE



- Term Time only
- Full time/part time
- Start date January 2025
- Supportive team of specialist staff
- Career development opportunities

www.joycefrankland.org

Contact Us



Joyce Frankland Academy

Bury Water Lane

Newport

Essex

CB11 3TR

Tel: 01799 540237

Email: jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org

Visit us on our website at www.joycefrankland.org

Please follow our social media pages. [Facebook](#), [JFAN Performing Arts](#) and our dedicated [sixth form Facebook](#) page.