



## Principal's Newsletter: *Belonging in the moment*

Dear Parent and Carer,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. I hope that you had a fulfilling and positive festive break and that the January return has not been too challenging.

It has been great to welcome back our pupils this week and we have been very pleased with the positive way in which they have approached the start of the new term. I have been leading assemblies all this week, focusing once again on our key theme of belonging, this time explaining the importance of a Code of Conduct in organisations and how this fosters a culture of belonging. I have shared to the employee Code of Conduct for significant multi-national companies and compared these with our one at Joyce Frankland where there are numerous similarities. I also identified the barriers which sometimes stop us from belonging in a classroom and how we can overcome these, together. It was a pleasure to speak to all year groups throughout the week and engage them in this very important topic.

Additionally this week, we had Year 11 parents' evening last night. This is an important event in the annual school calendar and it was excellent to see how well attended it was. Five minute slots are always difficult for pupils in Year 11 as there is obviously much to cover. However, it was great to hear some of the focused and targeted conversations which were taking place. Also in Year 11, our prefects have started doing some reading interventions with our Year 7 pupils this week; a powerful reminder of the leadership qualities that our pupils have at JFAN.

Lastly, I can also inform you that on the last day of the winter term, The Department for Education informed the Academy and Anglian Learning that the application we completed to conduct a phased closure of our Sixth Form from September 2025, has been accepted.

As I said in my letter when I first informed you about this application in October, we have been, and remain, incredibly proud the achievements of our Sixth Form students. Only this week, we received our outcomes for students who were entered for GCSE re-take English and maths in November, and the outcomes were excellent; as a result of their success, there will be no need for re-take examinations next academic year.

Although the outcome is tinged with sadness, we do now have a clear mandate to help us plan for the future. Our aims will be to ensure that our current Sixth Form students have the best possible experience before they begin the next chapter in their lives and to then ensure that we use the resource and capacity that comes from this decision, to best target the needs of our pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4. Change can be daunting, but it is often exciting as well. I have no doubt that this change will bring with it fresh opportunities, on our mission for excellence, in everything we do.

In the words of Barrack Obama (and a quote which is framed on my office wall), "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Have a great weekend,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

January 2025

Joyce Frankland Academy

## Community news



- **Winter viruses:** As is often the case in January, there is an increase in circulation of winter viruses. If you suspect your child is unwell with a bug or a virus, please ensure you follow NHS guidance and keep them at home until they are well enough to attend school. Guidance can be found [here](#).
- **Drop off and pick up:** We know that during winter, there is an increase in traffic on Bury Water Lane to protect children from adverse weather. Please can we stress again though that it is very important to try to find an alternative in the village for pick up and drop off but this must not be Gaces Acre. Both Bury Water Lane and Gaces Acre can become highly congested, very quickly and we must be considerate to residents who live in these locations.
- **Christmas jumper day fundraising:** You may remember at the end of this term, the Academy conducted a fundraising initiative for Children in Need and The Lullaby Trust. The Academy raised £490 for these important causes. Thank you very much for your generosity.

## Key updates



- **New staff and governors:** We would like to welcome two new colleagues to our staffing team this week. Mr Smith has joined our PE team and our Year 8 tutor team. Mr Stanford will be joining our SEND team next week. Furthermore, the Academy has also appointed Jo Palmer, a new governor to join our Local Governing Body. We look forward to working with these colleagues in the months and years to come.
- **New Heads of Year appointments:** At the end of last term, Ms Esterhuizen was appointed Head of Year, and will be leading our Year 7 cohort with immediate effect. Furthermore, Ms Wright was appointed Head of Year for our new Year 7 cohort who will be joining us in September. We congratulate these two colleagues and look forward to working with them in this new capacity.
- **Keeping warm in the winter:** During extremely cold weather like we are currently experiencing, we understand that pupils need to wear coats, gloves and hats to keep warm to and from school and moving around the site. However, all winter clothing must be removed inside classrooms and learning spaces. A reminder that hoodies are not acceptable alternatives.

- **New lesson attendance coding:** To ensure that we are tracking lesson attendance robustly and targeting the right pupils with specific interventions, we are adopting new number codes for lesson absence next week. Although this is for internal use and cannot be seen on the Sims Parent App, there will be a 'tick' and a 'red cross' for lesson attendance. If your child receives a 'red cross' please do speak to your child about why this might be or contact your child's form tutor.
- **Term dates for next academic year:** We have published our term dates for next academic year. You can access this [here](#). We will be publishing our confirmed Inset Days for next academic year by February half-term.

### Thought of the week



"No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again." Buddha

## Dates for the diary coming up...



Thursday 16th January Careers Fayre

Thursday 23rd January Year 9 Parents evening (online)

Thursday 6th February Years 12 and 13 Parents evening

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February Half Term



*1 - Year 10 pupils The Reach Group Community Project*



*2 - Year 10 pupils The Reach Group Community Project*

## Success stories



**Congratulations to:** Year 7 pupils Harry W, Harry M and Ben M. They recently performed in a gig as a band 'Harry and the Moxleys'. They performed 4 songs including one that they had written themselves, not only that they were the youngest band performing.



3 - Harry and the Moxleys



4 - Harry and the Moxleys





5 - Harry and the Moxleys



6 - Harry and the Moxleys

## 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)

## Vacancies



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

## Contact Us



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