



Principal's Newsletter: *Belonging without judgement*

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope you have had a positive two weeks since my last newsletter; we have finally made it out of the depths of January and are moving towards the spring which is always a positive step, especially when you start to see snowdrops and the stems of daffodils appearing. On the point of flowers emerging, there was a wonderful example of community spirit on Sunday at JFAN as staff, parents and pupils came together to tidy our Eco Garden in preparation for the months of spring. A great deal of work was completed on an area of our school that we are very proud to showcase and share. I would like to thank all of those who spent time out of their precious weekends to support this cause and of course to Mr Kennedy, who continues to drive forward his agenda, to protect and develop one of the most unique spaces in our school.

Also this week, we welcomed our Sixth Form students and their parents to Parents' Evening yesterday. Of course, this is always an important event where academic conversations take place to support students through challenging post-16 study. For our Year 13 community, it is

always tinged with some emotion as well, as families reflect upon parents' evenings of the past, over a seven year period. This cohort was my first Year 7 when I became Principal of JFAN and I am incredibly proud to have seen the development of these young people over that time. As I'm sure you're aware, our core values at our school of independence, imagination, insight and inquisitiveness are rooted in everything we try to do and it is inspiring to see how they have developed these qualities during our time with us. We greatly look forward to supporting them through their final chapter at JFAN over the next few months.

Tragically, there have been incidents in education settings in Sheffield and Sweden this week where communities have had to respond to horrendous situations, forming the worst sort of experiences. Our thoughts at JFAN go to all the communities that have been affected. This news, coupled with the threats towards schools in our region that have circulated on social media yesterday, have set a more troubling backdrop to the last few days. I hope that my note to parents and carers yesterday about this helped to provide reassurance and a sense of calm to a matter which once again had been caused by a damaging and harmful use of social media.

Next week, in our community, we will be creating lots more positive memories for our pupils in the final five days before half-term. It has been a fast-paced first segment of the spring term. We will be hosting exciting events such as our Inter-House competitions in sport which always provide a sense of togetherness and, of course, a sense of healthy competition on the side.

My thought of the week today is from Dr Carl Rogers, an American psychologist, who developed the concept of unconditional positive regard; a powerful reminder about the importance of avoiding judgement without an understanding of context.

He wrote, 'The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change. People are just as wonderful as sunsets if you let them be. When I look at a sunset, I don't find myself saying, "Soften the orange a bit on the right hand corner." I don't try to control a sunset.'

Have a great weekend.

Duncan Roberts

Principal

7th February 2025

Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **Speed limit on Bury Water Lane:** We are reminding all of our community that there is a speed limit of 20 mph on Bury Water Lane. We would like to thank those of you who continue to drop off and pick up your children in other safe places in the village if they do not travel by bus or train. In a speed check exercise last year, undertaken by Essex Highways, the average speed limit on Bury Water Lane was 27 mph; the check was conducted close to the zebra crossing.
- **Parent and carer tour:** On Tuesday, we conducted our first parent and carer tour followed by a question and answer session for families. The purpose of these tours is to provide current parents and carers a chance to see our community on a typical day which, in some schools, only happens for those whose children are about to join the school in Year 7 or as a mid-year admission. My leadership team and I very much enjoy showcasing our school and we will be running a second tour next month. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the publication date and information about how to book.
- **Sickness/Diarrhea:** This term we have had a rise in cases of sickness and diarrhea. 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 Diarrhea. 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](#).

- **Pupil achievements (outside of the school gates):** Please do keep sharing your child's brilliant achievements outside of JFAN. We really do enjoy hearing about the talents of our young people and getting to understand their passions and hobbies.

Key updates



- **Spring reset:** Next week we will be writing to all parents and carers to outline the details of a 'spring reset' after-half term to ensure high expectations and consistency, which enables high-quality teaching for all. In summary, this will outline a clear resetting of our expectations of pupils at JFAN, with specific reference to our dress code and use of devices during the school day, such as AirPods. There will be some slight changes to existing policies to support this. When you receive this letter, we would greatly appreciate your support in sharing it with pupils so that they are aware of these developments. Of course, if you have any particular queries, do contact your child's form

tutor. There will be year group assemblies immediately after half-term to explain the processes clearly to all pupils before the reset begins.

- **Excellent attendance** remains one of the key drivers to ensuring pupil success. Please can we remind parents and carers to report absence as soon as possible in the morning either by phoning our attendance line or reporting it using our Parent App. For further information about how we track attendance and our up-to-date policy and procedures, [here is a link](#) to our website.
- **Year 9 options:** We are fast approaching the time of year when our GCSE options process starts for Year 9. This is always an exciting time for pupils as they begin to consider particular aspects of our curriculum to focus upon and specialise in. We are currently finalising our Options Booklet and timeline for the process. Once this is complete, we will be sharing this with parents and carers of Year 9 pupils after half-term.

Thought of the week



'The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change. People are just as wonderful as sunsets if you let them be. When I look at a sunset, I don't find myself saying, "Soften the orange a bit on the right hand corner." I don't try to control a sunset.' Dr Carl Rogers

Dates for the diary coming up...



Monday 10th to Friday 14th February Italy Trip

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February Half Term

Monday 3rd March Year 9 Immunisations

Wednesday 5th March Year 9 Immunisations

Thursday 6th March Year 9 Options evening

Friday 7th March Year 11 Photos







1 - Year 12 trip to Emmanuel College

Success stories





*2 - **Congratulations** to Jack in Year 7 who recently competed at the London Aquatics Centre for the Essex Age Group Swimming Championships. Jack came 10th in the 200m Breaststroke winning him a finalist medal and overall, he came 14th in the 50m breaststroke and he came 17th in the 100m Breaststroke.*

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

Vacancies



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

Contact Us



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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.