



## Principal's Newsletter: *Belonging with Purpose*

## Community news



Dear Parent and Carer,

It has been some time since our last newsletter, which was published before the half-term break. I hope that your child has settled back into school smoothly this half-term; it has been very pleasing to have some early spring sunshine over the past few days which definitely establishes an even more positive atmosphere than usual.

I would like to firstly begin with thanking you for your support in our Spring Reset which we launched at the start of this half-term. I spoke to every year group in assembly last Monday to explain the changes we would be making and pupils were very respectful and receptive of them. It was clear that many pupils were already aware of our plans and this was largely thanks to the fact that parents and carers had clearly shared my letter before half-term which made the Spring Reset a lot easier to introduce. Since then, we have been acting upon these changes and, as a result, have had a calmer and more productive learning atmosphere. This Spring Reset will continue over the coming weeks and after Easter with some further developments and additions that we will be making, including a 'walk-through' of the site, starting with Year 7 pupils, which will outline clearly our expectations to enable positive, pro-social behaviours in different areas of the school.

Just before half-term, we had a number of exciting and interesting events taking place, including a dance workshop with external professionals, a drama group performing to Year 8 pupils about the dangers of alcohol abuse and our usual inter-house sports events which were enjoyed by all the pupils taking part. It was great to see Year 10 pupils' talents in netball and football on the final day before half-term.

Over half-term, we had also led a trip to Italy for 23 pupils who were an absolute credit to the school. The pupils were commended for their attitude, engagement and behaviour by multiple people. During this time they went to Rome, Sorrento and Pompei to name a few. We have also taken Year 12 students to Brabraham Science Institute and Year 8 pupils completed the Faraday Challenge for an accelerated learning programme in science and we took Year 10 and 11 pupils to a regional launch day of Cansat to develop, build and launch a satellite.

Over the past two weeks Year 11 have been completing their spring core mock exams and have once again demonstrated a really positive work ethic. They have clearly worked very hard and it has been excellent to round it off with their photographs today, as we begin the events which mark the pathway towards their final term.

Finally, it was great to welcome Year 9 families to the Academy last night for their Guided Choices evening as they start to the process to personalise their curriculum as they move towards GCSEs. It always an enjoyable evening and an exciting one with our young people starting to map out what their future might look like and the aspirations they have for themselves.

In summary, we have started the half-term with real purpose and drive, and it has been great to see.

In the words of the 35th President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

Have a great weekend.

Duncan Roberts

Principal

7th March 2025

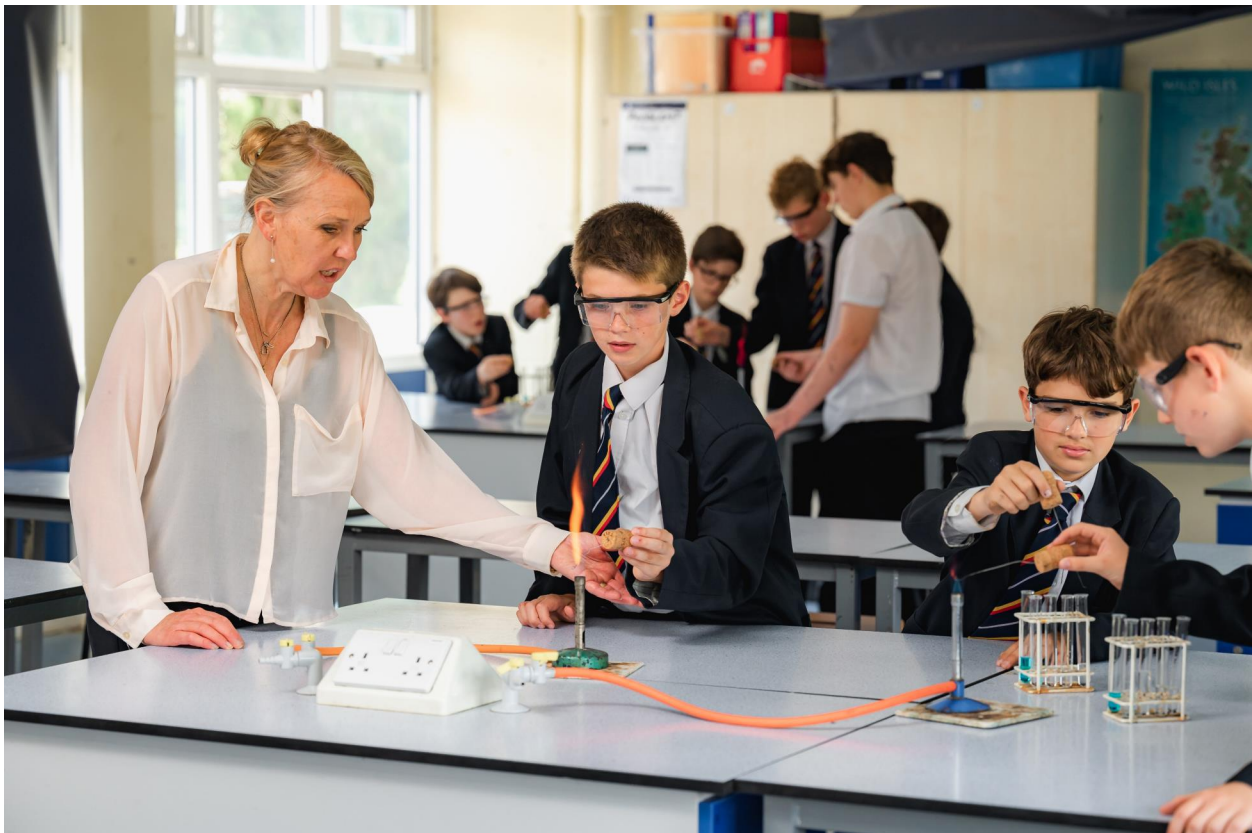
Joyce Frankland Academy

- **Fencing project:** I am pleased to announce that our extensive fencing project will begin next week and continue throughout this term and into the summer term. This is an

extensive piece of work to ensure that the site is as secure as it possibly can be. It will include new procedures for visitors which we will explain closer to the time of installing the fencing and access control gate by our visitor car park. This is the final part of a significant, two-year project to improve security at the Academy.

- **Traffic on Bury Water Lane:** Now that the weather is starting to become milder, please can we ask that you make alternative arrangements, dropping off and picking up your child, from Bury Water Lane. The traffic, alongside the buses and staff cars, remains very busy during peak times and we would like to reduce this.
- **Academy field:** The Academy field will remain closed for at least the next two weeks whilst we monitor the weather and the conditions, and reallocate staff to different duty points to ensure there is adequate supervision. Tutors will be informing their form group of this next week. As ever though, please do feel free to share this information with your child before this.

## Key reminders



- **Devices policy:** Thank you for your support with the implementation of our devices policy. If your child is caught using a mobile phone or other device between 8:35-3:15 it

will be confiscated for the day. They will be able to collect it from Pupil Reception at the end of the day. However, if it is a second time that a device has been used, seen or heard during these hours, we will ask that it is collected by a parent, carer or family member. We do understand that this can be an inconvenience. However, we would ask that you respect our Reception team when you come to collect the device. Unfortunately, there have been a minority of occasions over the past two weeks when this has not been the case. If you have a concern about our devices policy, please contact the school's email address and a relevant colleague will get back to you as soon as we can.

- **Lesson expectations:** We thought it would be useful to share our lesson expectations that we have informed our pupils about over the past two weeks so that there is absolutely clarity in what we expect. These are:
  - **Meet and greet:** We arrive on time, line up quietly and calmly, and check our uniform is correct.
  - **Entering calmly:** We always greet each other as we enter the room and sit in our allocated seats.
  - **Being prepared:** We put our equipment and books on the desk ready for learning. We quickly begin our 'Do now task'.
  - **Focused and engaged:** When the expert in the room asks us a question we think carefully about the answer and get ready to share our ideas.
  - **Taking pride in work:** We always do what we are asked to do, the first time of being asked. We take pride in our work every lesson.
  - **End and send:** At the end of the lesson, we pack away, ensuring we leave the room as we found it, neat and tidy. We leave when dismissed in a calm, orderly way.

We would appreciate it if you could remind your child of these expectations again so that there is togetherness, in what we want to see.

- **Guided choices and next steps (Year 9 specific):** A letter was shared this week for parents and carers of children in Year 9, outlining the timeline of the GCSE Guided Choices, previously known as Options. Next week we will be providing some taster lessons in Economics, Media Studies and Photography. From 12th March to 21st March, SIMS Options will be open for pupils to submit their subject preferences along with two reserve choices. From 24th March, The Academy will check these choices and hold meetings with Year 9 pupils and families to discuss and agree their curriculum choices,

where questions arise. In the summer term, pupils and families will receive written confirmation of their curriculum for next year.

### Thought of the week



"Efforts and couragement are not enough without purpose and direction." John F. Kennedy

## Dates for the diary coming up...



Thursday 20th March: Year 10 Parents evening

Friday 21st March: Liddington trip

Thursday 27th March: Hamilton trip

Friday 28th March: Year 11 Charity pyjama day

Friday 4th April: Term ends

Tuesday 22nd April: Start of Summer term



*1 - Smashed Project*



*2 - Smashed Project*



*3 - Dance Workshop*





*4 - Dance Workshop*



*5 - Library*



*6 - Library*

## Success stories



*7 - Congratulations to Anna B in Year 7 whose team won two awards in a recent Lego tournament. The team made up of 3 girls and 4 boys won the Robot Performance Award and the Innovation Project Award and will now progress through the tournament. We wish the team lots of luck for the next event.*

## 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



### **Joyce Frankland Academy**

Bury Water Lane

Newport

Essex

CB11 3TR

Tel: 01799 540237

Email: [jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org](mailto:jfaadmin@joycefrankland.org)

Visit us on our website at [www.joycefrankland.org](http://www.joycefrankland.org)

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