



Principal's Newsletter: Celebrating our Belonging

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope you are well and enjoying what now, officially, feels like spring. It has been a really positive fortnight at Joyce Frankland in regard to lots of aspects of school life, particularly the pupil achievements we have had to celebrate.

Firstly, we are now four weeks into this half-term and we are noticing the positive developments that we have made as a result of our Spring Reset. We have enjoyed popping into classrooms and seeing calm environments and some impressive work from our pupils. They are also very keen to talk about their work to me and it is always a pleasure to hear their passion and pride in what they have created. Pupils we have spoken with have also commented on positive changes and the clarity with which we have communicated our expectations.

Last night we welcomed our Year 10 families for their annual parents' evening and there was clearly lots of positive and productive exchanges taking place. Attendance was excellent which is always pleasing to see the strong connection between our school and our parent body. There

was a real 'buzz' in the school which is why we have kept face-to-face parents' evenings for some year groups and will continue to do so. We understand that this brings some time pressures on the night but the impact of discussions in-person are significant.

In other celebratory news, we have had excellent sporting success this week in netball with our Year 10 team bringing back the first JFAN silverware of the season! Our 10a team won the plate for the Bishops Stortford and District netball tournament, they also scored the most goals of 19 in one game. Other year groups have also performed very well against schools with bigger cohorts to draw from, including our Year 8A team who finished second. Some of these netball players have left school today for a weekend's netball tour to Liddington. I am sure they will have a brilliantly memorable experience and develop that sense of belonging to JFAN even more strongly by the end of it.

Also this weekend we are conducting our first Duke of Edinburgh experience with over 40 pupils involved. It is such a highly regarded award to achieve and the pupils who are involved often develop strong life skills at the end of the final expedition. We wish them luck on this first adventure and hope that the weather isn't too unkind for them...

Finally, there was an interesting report published this week by the Department for Education regarding the link between pupil attendance and attainment. You can read this [here](#). In summary, at the end of key stage 4, pupils with 95-100% attendance are 1.9 times more likely to achieve Grade 5 in English and maths compared to those with 90-95% attendance. Furthermore, moving up a single attendance band can increase the chance of achieving expected outcomes by at least 10%. There is lots more in the report of interest which clearly outlines the link between excellent attendance and really positive outcomes. There is also no doubt that when a young person feels that they belong in an school environment, they are more likely to have excellent attendance, which is why our theme of belonging remains so important to the culture of our school.

In the words of Simon Sinek, "The most basic human desire is to feel you belong."

Have a great weekend.

Duncan Roberts

Principal

21st March 2025

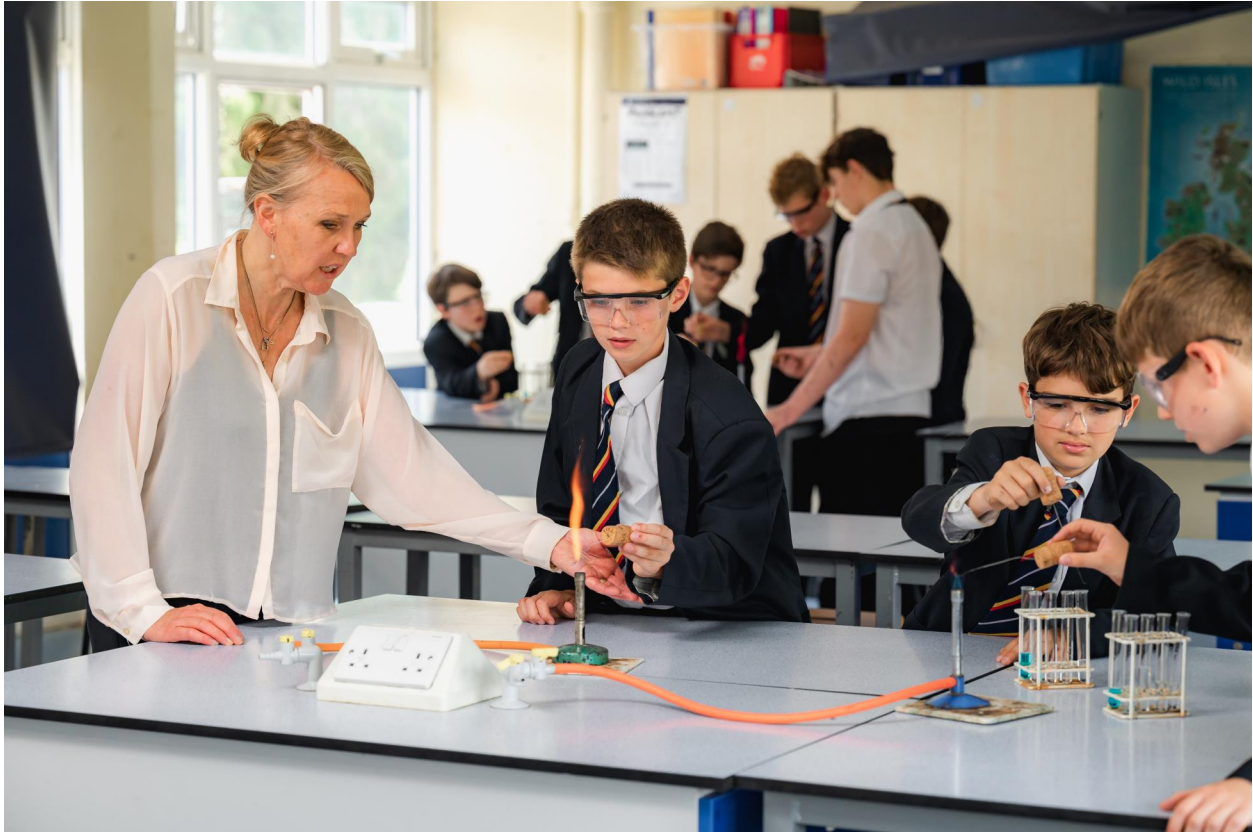
Joyce Frankland Academy

Community news



- **Road safety:** We have received some reports recently that a minority of pupils are walking in the road outside the school and not down the pavement. We do understand that the pavement is very narrow and creates the need for pupils to walk single-file. However, it is vital that they remain on the pavement as the road is very busy and therefore dangerous. If your child walks out of school at via the gate onto the high street, please can you remind them to walk along the pavement.
- **Eco-Garden redesign competition:** We are holding a pupil competition to redesign our lovely Eco-Garden. It is in need of some TLC and a refresh so that we can use it to connect with the outdoors, learn about the natural world and learn new skills. Being outside and gardening also helps with your physical and mental health. For more information about this competition, please ask your child to speak with Mr Kennedy.
- **Art resources:** If you have any old newspapers or any unwanted polystyrene fruit trays the art department would love to take them off your hands. Please send them in with your child to be dropped off in art.

Key reminders



- **Toilet use and water bottle replenishment:** We would greatly appreciate it if you could remind your child/ren that they must use the toilet and fill up their water bottle before school, during break and lunch and after school. They must not visit the toilet during lesson time unless it is an emergency or they have a medical pass. If pupils are queuing to fill up their water after lunch and during period 5, we will be asking them to go to their lesson as it should have been filled up before this time. We will be informing pupils of this in assembly next week but we would greatly appreciate it if you could also let your child/ren know about this.
- **Blazer use (Years 7-10 only):** We have seen an improvement in the way pupils are presented since half-term and thank you for your support with this progress. This week has seen some warmer weather, however, pupils in Years 7 to 10 must still wear a blazer unless they are playing sport at break and lunch or they are hot in a classroom and ask permission from their teacher to remove it. Whilst moving to and from lessons, pupils in these year groups must wear their blazers as it is a compulsory item; a jumper is not a compulsory item.

- **Guided choices update (Year 9 families only):** A reminder to Year 9 families that our Sims Options selection closes on Monday 27th March. Thank you to the large majority of families who have already completed this; once again this demonstrates the positive engagement that our families have with us and their child's education moving forward.
- **High-vis jackets:** There has been much discussion amongst pupils about staff wearing high-vis jackets whilst on duty, since the start of this half-term. We have explained why this is the case to pupils but not to parents and carers. Therefore, the reason for this use is to ensure that staff are visible for pupils and for other colleagues. It also increases our presence when we are supervising large numbers of pupils and when we are managing more challenging aspects of our school site, such as the crossing.

Thought of the week



"The most basic human desire is to feel you belong." Simon Sinek

Dates for the diary coming up...



Friday 21st March: Liddington trip

Thursday 27th March: Hamilton trip

Thursday 27th March: Year 11 Charity pyjama day

Thursday 3rd April: Closing date for Eco-Garden redesign competition

Friday 4th April: Term ends

Tuesday 22nd April: Start of Summer term

Eco Garden redesign competition

Our Eco-Garden, once a well loved area of the Academy needs a redesign.

Would you like to design our garden and see it built

Your design should

- Create a space to grow vegetables and plants
- Include a compost bin
- Take in to account the garden is south facing and hot and dry in summer

Completed designs should be handed to your form tutor, Mr Kennedy or Ms Jenner by Thursday the 3rd of April.

WWW.JOYCEFRANKLAND.ORG



1 - Raised beds and compost area



2 - Four raised flower beds and bench



3 - This area has now been cleared



4 - Aerial view

Success stories



Congratulations to Emily in year 11 who has recently qualified as an Archery Coach. Emily only started the archery coaching course last summer and is now a fully qualified Session Coach, the youngest Archery Coach in Hertfordshire and possibly in England. Well done Emily, an amazing achievement.

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

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