



Principal's Newsletter: Belonging with Compassion

Dear Parent and Carer,

I can't quite believe I am writing to you at the conclusion of the Spring Term; it seems to have gone so exceptionally quickly! Firstly, in this edition of my newsletter, I would like to celebrate all the wonderful co-curricular experiences that many pupils have experienced over the past few weeks. Our PE team, led by Ms Dunlop, ran a very successful netball tour in Liddington a couple of weeks ago. Our pupils played brilliantly well, with Year 8a and b teams both achieving silver medals in their pools, the Year 11, Year 10a and Year 9 teams all achieving bronze medals, while the Year 10b teams were awarded best team by the umpires. Also, during the same weekend, over 40 Year 10 pupils completed their practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition as they build towards their bronze award. At the end of last week, we took pupils to see the musical, *Hamilton*, in London's West End. For all three of these events, we received such brilliant feedback about the pupils' behaviour, attitude and maturity. There was a medical incident in the

theatre involving an audience member very near to where pupils were sitting and they responded with calm and total respect. All of these pupils in each of the experiences provided, demonstrated in abundance our values of insight, imagination, inquisitiveness and independence and I would like to thank staff for all the time that they gave to provide these wonderful memories.

In school this week we have also had to respond to some different situations where we have to adapt quickly. My quote of the week this week was almost 'You don't know what you've got until it's gone' what with the internet and phone outage which took place on Tuesday. It might sound obvious, but it really is remarkable how much organisations rely on internet access now and how this has increased over the past five years. We tried to keep our community as updated as we possibly could during this time (which isn't easy with typical forms of communication unavailable). When I popped into every classroom on Wednesday morning, I was proud of the way that the community had adapted. Lessons were purposeful and pupils were working hard. There was some particularly strong and targeted intervention work with pupils approaching examinations.

Also this week, as I am sure you are aware (potentially for the wrong reasons!) our fencing project has started. Already you can see the positive impact of this work and there will be significant installation taking place over the Easter break. Hopefully, though, there will be no more secondary issues as a result of this important project. Additionally to this, the typical end of term events such as Inter-Form have had their usual positive impact on the community, sparking pupils' competitive spirit and pride in their Houses.

Next term the public examinations begin and, what with it being a five-week half-term, we expect the pace to be fast. We will also be focusing even more on our classroom culture, providing further clarity of what we expect in a lesson at Joyce Frankland and, specifically, what we want to see at the end of lessons. We will be explaining this to pupils when we return so they fully understand the reasons for making these points clear. We are now starting lessons very consistently with 'Do Now' tasks on the board as pupils enter the room calmly and it is great to see how this has been embedded. Finally, at the beginning of next half-term, Anglian Learning will be conducting the interview process for Principal from next academic year. Once this process has been completed, further communication will be shared with you.

I would like to wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling Easter break. Outside of the school gates the world remains a conflicting and unpredictable place. It seems like every day, something significant happens somewhere and it can feel very uncertain. That's why it is so important that in school and in our community, we create safe, positive and compassionate spaces for our young people to thrive and feel they belong.

In the words of Maya Angelou, our "mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style."

Best wishes,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

4 April 2025

Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport

Community news

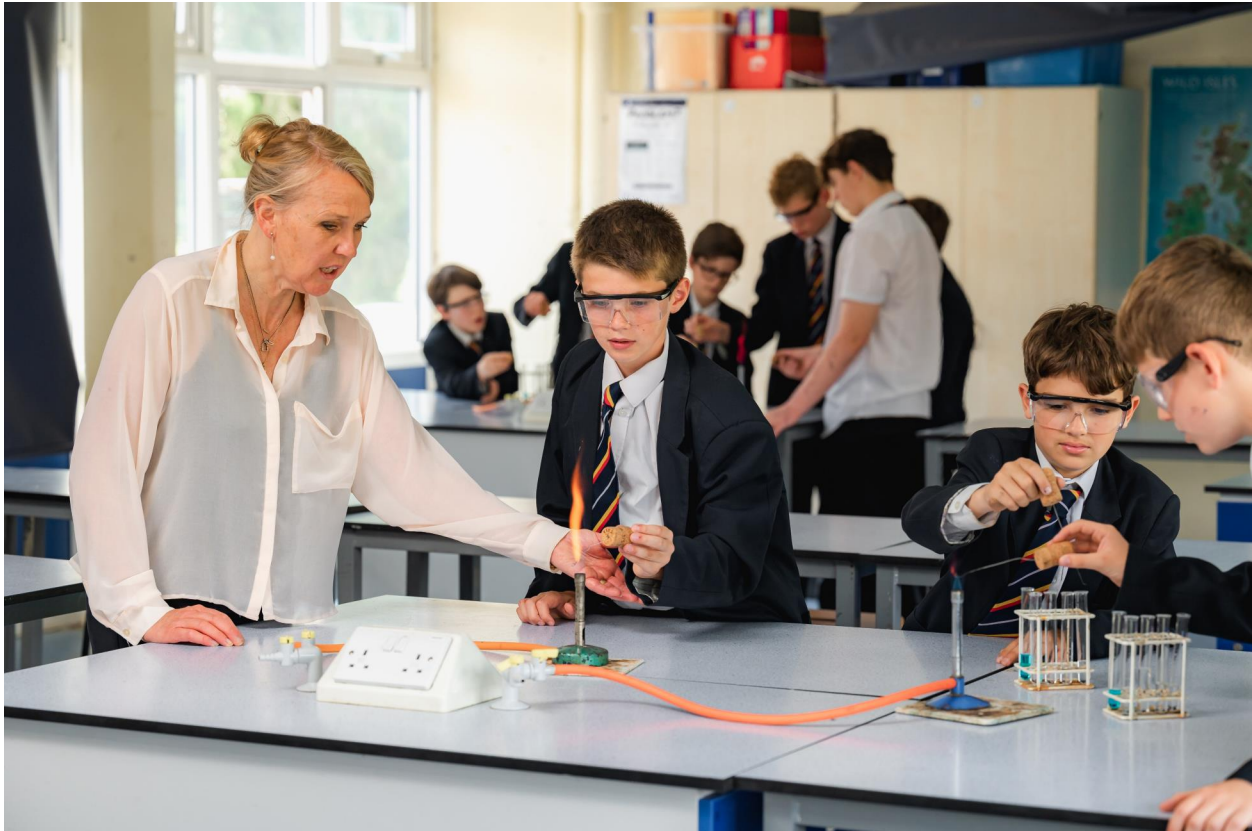


- **Fencing update:** As noted previously, our fencing project has now started which is a large-scale installation and will impact upon your access to the Academy. We will keep you updated with this as it progresses. There will be new instructions about the specific locations of how you can access the site during the school day. This information will be shared with you next half-term.

- **Next volunteer work day for our Eco Garden:** This will take place on Sunday 27th April from 9am-1pm. With the garden now secure and almost doubled in size thanks to our brand new security fence, we can assemble new raised beds, fill them, plant and tidy ready for the grand re-opening next term. We will need plenty of help on a large range of jobs for all ages and abilities. All pupils, staff, their families and friends are most welcome. Please bring your own tools and plenty of enthusiasm! A special request for those willing to help assemble two wooden raised beds - sawing, drilling and screwing. These will form the base for our pupil designs created with the DT department. Also required are wheelbarrows and shovels for moving soil to the beds which will include our newly-acquired tractor tyres. Please note: all work undertaken is at your own risk. For further details please email akennedy@joycefrankland.org. Thank you and we hope to see you there!
- **Raised beds for Eco Garden:** We will hopefully soon have around 10 raised beds as well as our newly-refurbished greenhouse (a special thanks to Mr Godfrey for his skill, materials and time on this). We now have to fill them! Four beds are already being set aside for a herb garden as well as structural and colourful plants for various lessons such as food tech, art, photography and biology. The other six beds will be mainly for vegetables and annuals. Do you have plants or other gardening equipment (planters, trowels, gloves, watering cans, materials, water butts etc...) that you would like to donate to us? We have a mainly south-facing (very!) sunny aspect with some partial shade. A potted plant, herb or chunk or two of a (non-toxic please) plant you are dividing or cutting back from a border would be most welcome. Please leave plants and other donations clearly labelled at school reception from 22nd April onwards or email akennedy@joycefrankland.org for further enquiries/collection/offers of help.
- **Eco Garden Design Challenge:** We have launched a Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) Design Project for our Eco Garden. We are looking for a series of drawn images with full colour schemes to represent the four seasons, which will then be painted onto tractor tyres and used as planters in the Eco Garden. We need a design sheet on A3, which shows the concept of pupils' designs including colour schemes. We also need volunteers who would be willing to help paint the winning designs on the tyres. There will also be an art prize for the winning design alongside having your design realised. Please see Miss Sharpe in our Art Faculty for a template design sheet.
- **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.

- **Iris Parentmail:** Earlier today you received a letter regarding our move back to Parentmail. We listened carefully to your feedback and have responded so as to simply means of communication. Please check that letter carefully for further details.

Key reminders



- **End of lesson routine:** In our drive for consistently high expectations and high-quality teaching, after Easter, we shall be leading assemblies sharing with pupils what we expect them to do at the end of lessons. This will include pupils waiting behind their chairs and for the bell to sound and then being dismissed, row by row. This will help to ensure the corridors are just as calm at the end of lessons, as they are at the start of lessons. At the end of period 4, pupils who have a lunch Impact Time, will be taken to the Reset Room by their teacher to ensure consistent attendance. If you could share this information with pupils before they return, that would be greatly appreciated.
- **Silent lesson starts:** Furthermore, after Easter our teachers will be insisting on silence during the 'Do Now' task at the starts of lessons with the exception of practical lessons. This is to ensure that lessons begin in a purposeful, calm and focused manner throughout the day. Often, it is the case that this is taking place but we will be making it

mandatory from 22nd April. Again, we would greatly appreciate it if you could share this with your child/ren in preparation.

- **Device confiscation:** After Easter, the tally count for the amount of times a pupil has been seen to use a device between 8:35-15:15 will go back to zero. However, we would greatly appreciate it if you could remind your child/ren that devices must not be seen or heard during these times. We have made significant strides forward with this policy this half-term and this must continue when we return.

Belonging by Design: Mental Health



As Director of Inclusion for Anglian Learning, I wish to share our [Belonging by Design](#) strategy. This initiative is a priority for Anglian Learning for the next three years. The five strands of Belonging by Design are Attendance, Communities, Inclusion, Mental Health and Relationships.

Anglian Learning is beginning a collaboration with Cambridge-based charity, [The Foundation for Young People's Mental Health](#) (YPMH), to progress the [Mental Health](#) strand of Belonging by Design. The collaboration aims to help Anglian Learning and its schools select and implement evidence-based approaches for:

- Preventing and recognising mental health conditions, such as depression.
- Supporting and managing pupils experiencing mental ill health. The first phase will focus on providing accessible information to colleagues, pupils, parents and carers to improve understanding of:
 - What depression is and what causes it
 - How to manage personal risk factors

- How to make simple lifestyle choices that promote positive mental health

While the initial focus is on depression, the prevention strategies will promote overall mental wellbeing. YPMH's research highlights the impact of everyday factors such as food, movement, sleep, chronic stress, loneliness, and substance use on mental health. Improvements in these areas can help prevent and even reduce conditions like depression. Please see the Foundation for Young People's Mental Health flyer which is attached.

Alongside YPMH, Anglian Learning will work with existing partnerships. [Innovate IFG](#) , our school's catering suppliers and [Anglian Leisure](#) , our sport, fitness and leisure centres will help to provide easily accessible advice, nutrition guidance, support and activities for pupils and whole school communities.

As part of our strategy to identify mental health needs, by the end of this academic year, our secondary schools will ask pupils to participate in an anonymised online mental health screening tool to gain further insight into the levels of need for pupils across Anglian Learning.

Your child's wellbeing is important. We will actively share guidance on maintaining good mental health as part of our Belonging by Design: Mental Health approach. We aim for your child to have a sense of belonging within their school and to enable them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Camilla Saunders

Director of Inclusion





Innovate



As our pupils and their families get set for the Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to share some key highlights of the work Anglian Learning has undertaken during an empowering Spring term.

I begin with a warm welcome to Stour Valley Community School, based in Clare, Suffolk, who joined Anglian Learning alongside Clare Community Primary School on 1 March 2025.

One continued focus across all our secondary schools has been school improvement. Following the appointment of Jonathan Rockey, Deputy Director of Secondary Education, who previously led a successful secondary school and is a serving His Majesty's Inspector, we have been continuing our work to help deliver our Academies Improvement plans alongside our ongoing development of teaching for Creativity (a national Arts Council England project). More recently, there has been a focus on intentionally developing a culture of positive regard within our academies' communities. Both aspects are key to our goal to strengthen and nurture a sense of belonging.

It has been a very busy and productive term, full of focused lessons, exam preparation, applications for post-16, university and apprenticeship places alongside school productions, ski trips, European city visits and our ever increasing opportunities to engage in a wide range of clubs and societies.

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

Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education



1 - Jonathan Rockey, Deputy Director of Secondary Education and Duncan Cooper, Director of Secondary Education

Thought of the week



"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style." Maya Angelou

Dates for the diary coming up...



Friday 4th April Term ends

Tuesday 22nd April Start of Summer term

Tuesday 29th April Year 8 Immunisations

Thursday 1st May Year 8 Immunisations

Monday 5th May May Bank Holiday Academy closed

Thursday 8th May Year 7 Parents evening online

Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May Half term



2 -

- Year 11 Charity Pyjama Day raised £117.00 which will be donated to The Children's Trust.



3 -

- Year 11 Charity Pyjama Day raised £117.00 which will be donated to The Children's Trust.



4 -

- Year 11 Charity Pyjama Day raised £117.00 which will be donated to The Children's Trust.



5 -

- *Year 11 Charity Pyjama Day raised £117.00 which will be donated to The Children's Trust.*



6 - *Hamilton trip*



7 - Year 8 pupils making Spanish Tortillas



8 - Year 8 pupils making Spanish Tortillas



9 - Year 8 pupils making Spanish Tortillas



10 - Year 8 pupils making Spanish Tortillas



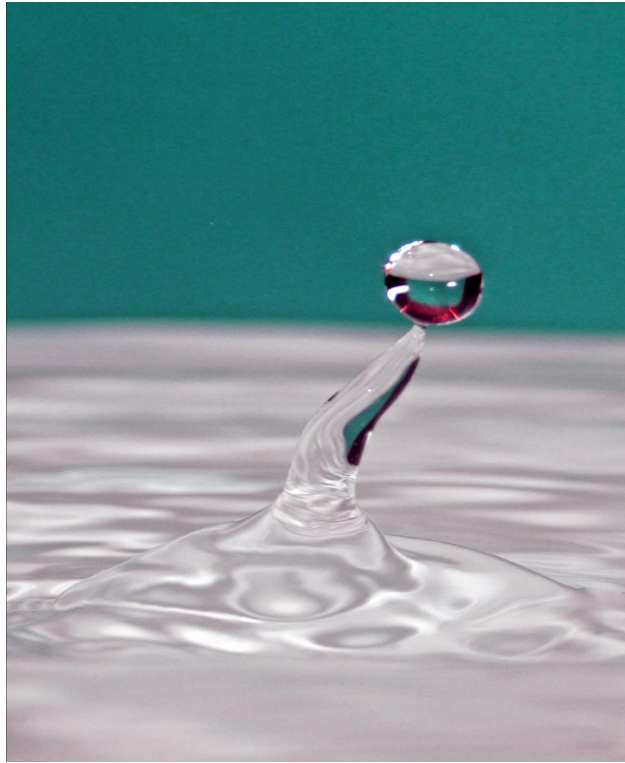
11 - Year 8 pupils making Spanish Tortillas



12 - Intermediate Stage Winner Olivia H



13 - Senior Stage Winner Will C



14 - Highly Commended Senior Stage Joseph W



15 - Highly Commended Intermediate Stage Ferris W

Success stories



Congratulations to Chloe, Lucy, Isabel and Katherine in Year 11 and Anna in Year 8 who held a bake sale this week with cakes that they all helped to bake. They raised £209 which will be donated to their chosen charity, Sarcoma UK. Well done to them all on a fantastic 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



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.