



Principal's Newsletter: Making Memories of Belonging

Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope you had a positive and fulfilling Easter break and welcome back to the summer term.

The theme of this fortnight's newsletter is about making memories to create a sense of belonging because the summer term is notoriously the time when the most trips, events and experiences take place outside of the traditional curriculum which help to build great memories for our pupils of their school experience. And, if we go on the first two weeks back since the break, this term will be no different!

Last week we welcomed pupils back to school for an action-packed, four-day week. As always, I very much enjoyed leading assemblies for Years 7 to 10 over those four days, focusing on the importance of turning the positive behaviours we have developed as a result of our Spring Reset in February, into regular habits in order to ensure excellence classroom focus and high quality

work. I also introduced our two new aspects to classroom procedure which is our silent 'do now tasks' at the start of lessons and our structured end of lesson routine to ensure that we have productive beginnings to lessons from which to build upon and consistent endings where pupils move to their next lessons productively and calmly. We started embedding these initiatives on Monday and we have already started to see them having an impact this week. Additionally last week, our Year 11 cohort took part in the annual 'Fun Run' and there were some outstanding costumes. This is always a really positive event which draws a line in the sand with public exams about to start.

Over the last five days we have had some further great memories being created. One of these was the Easter Concert where there were around 50 students from years 7 - 12 demonstrating their impressive acting, singing, dancing and music skills. The performances were truly exceptional. In previous years, concerts have not been as regular as we would have hoped, for a number of reasons. It is very pleasing to have showcased our pupils' talents in these disciplines in two events this year. Of course, we look forward to our annual show which this year is *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, later this term.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Deborah Warwick, who was successfully appointed as the next Principal of Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, effective from 1st September, 2025, as announced yesterday in a letter by Mr Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning. I greatly look forward to working with Mrs Warwick for the remainder of this term to ensure a smooth, productive and effective transition.

Lastly, a word on exams for those families who are about to embark upon this stressful season. As I said to Year 11 pupils on Monday morning, this is can be a very difficult time for all involved. Of course, we will do everything we can at JFAN to support Year 11 and Year 13 to ensure that their pastoral and academic needs are met. However, this time is also an opportunity to showcase your inner strength, drive and motivation. It is a time where you can be positively surprised by what you can achieve and get through. I have no doubts that both of these cohorts this year will demonstrate these qualities and rise to the challenge.

In the words of Bob Marley, one of my most favourite quotes (especially this time of year); "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice."

Best wishes,

Duncan Roberts

Principal

2nd May 2025

Community news



- **Drop off and pick up:** If you drive your child/ren to school, we do understand that there are challenges with parking in the vicinity for drop off and pick up. However, as the weather now improves, we would strongly request that you find safe places in the village to do this with pupils walking the remainder of their journey, rather than school site and/or Bury Water Lane. On Thursday morning of this week, the traffic was particularly busy. With around a thousand pupils arriving and leaving the school at around the same time, it is becoming increasingly challenging to manage these times.
- **Lunch time:** The Academy currently has one of the longest secondary school lunch times in the region. We understand that this allows pupils to have an meaningful break and undertake a club with sufficient time. However, it also has its drawbacks which relate to increased dysregulation time and greater difficult getting back into lesson focus for period 5 in the afternoon. We have undertaken a consultation with staff about reducing lunch time slightly and we are currently going through this feedback. We will provide

you with a further update about this and the decision we intend to make at the end of this half-term.

- **Careers provision:** As ever, we are always looking for professionals within our parent community to spend some time talking to our pupils about their occupation, including the scope of the role, the types of situations you face and the ways that you got into your particular line of work. If you are interested in leading a talk with a group of our wonderful pupils this term, please email Mr Grindrod to express an interest at dgrindrod@joycefrankland.org. We would be really keen to hear from you.
- **Eco Garden:** Our Eco Garden is looking as good as we have ever seen it currently. We would like to thank all the parents and carers who have supported this transformation over the past few months. This is now being used as a calm space for pupils and staff who require it.

Key reminders



- **Device policy:** At the start of this term, we reset the list of pupils who had previously had devices confiscated. This meant that from the beginning of last week, all pupils were back to zero confiscations. This was a change we made at the start of last half-term in an

attempt to demonstrate fairness within the policy, whilst also ensuring that it was consistently followed. However, if a device is seen between the hours of 8:30-15:15 it will be confiscated and logged again.

- **Uniform:** We understand that this week has been unseasonably warm. Pupils have therefore been allowed to remove blazers in lessons and if they are doing physical exercise at break and/or lunch. However, it is too early to begin any summer uniform adaptations currently. The forecast next week seems to be back to normal for this time of year... We will review our uniform policy again next half-term when we move towards summer.
- **End of Year assessments:** This year we will be undertaking summative assessments at the end of year for Years 7, 8 and 9, alongside the usual mock exams for Year 10. This is to ensure we can effectively implement mechanisms for tracking and reporting academic progress. Assistant Principal, Mr Langley, will be communicating the procedures for this later this half-term. Please can we stress that these assessments should not be something that pupils are concerned about.
- **Supporting exam spaces:** As you are aware, we are about to approach exam season. It is vital therefore that the school community who are not taking exams are quiet and respectful outside of exam spaces. Exams must not be disturbed by activity outside of that space. We would be grateful if you could share this message with your child/ren if they are not in exam year groups.
- **Unkind or 'bantering' language:** We would appreciate parents and carers speaking to their child/ren about the impact that unkind language, or comments which might be perceived as 'banter', can have on other young people. Although this can often happen between friends, we have often seen it having a detrimental effect on the young person on the receiving end, sometimes much later after the event. This is a topic we will be coming back to in PHSEE lessons this year.

Thought of the week



"You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice." Bob Marley

Dates for the diary coming up...



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

Eco Garden and Art Department

KS3 Design Project

The Design Challenge:
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

What we need:
A design sheet (A3) which shows the concept of your designs including colour schemes.
Volunteers who would be willing to use their lunchtimes to help paint the winning design on the tyres.

ART PRIZE FOR THE WINNING DESIGN ALONGSIDE HAVING YOUR DESIGN REALISED.

See Miss Sharpe for a template design sheet

1 - Eco Garden and Art Department Design competition.



2 - Year 9 Spanish lesson



3 - Year 9 Spanish lesson



4 - Thomas, Alex and Maisie



5 - Year 11 Fun Run



6 - Eco Garden



7 - Eco Garden



8 - Eco Garden



9 - Eco Garden



10 - Eco Garden



11 - Eco Garden



12 - Eco Garden



13 - Eco Garden

Success stories



Congratulations to William B in Year 12 who has been selected for the England squad to attend the Karate World Championships in Malmo, Sweden, being held in July. Additionally, William achieved his 2nd Dan grading, meaning he is now one grade above a black belt. This is an incredible achievement for someone of this age and demonstrates the commitment and hard work that William puts in. We wish him good luck for July.

Congratulations to Thomas, Alex and Maisie in year 10 who all represented the Academy last week at the Essex Schools Golf Team Competition in Rayleigh. All 3 played really well in difficult weather conditions on a very challenging course.

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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