

## Fortnightly bulletin, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Fortnightly Round Up

The new academic year continues at pace and on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, we welcomed PC Hannah Watkins to the academy. PC Watkins is part of the safer schools initiative and she will be working with our scholars and staff every Tuesday, throughout the year. Year 11 Geographers have also enjoyed the fieldwork element of their GCSE studies at Dunwich. A detailed report on the visit can be found in this bulletin. Finally, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we welcomed over 700 members of our local community into our school for the Year 6 Open Evening. The scholars who supported the evening were an absolute credit to our school and over the next few weeks, we will be offering tours around the school.

### Uniform reminder

I would like to remind all parents and carers that as we approach the colder months, scholars should come to school with a waterproof coat. Hoodies are not to be brought to school as they are not part of our uniform and do not provide any protection from wet and windy weather. Thank you in advance for your support.

### ParentPay

A polite reminder that we operate a cashless catering system. Our Admin team have sent registration information to all our new parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who has activated their child's account. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact the main school office: [office@astreaernulf.org](mailto:office@astreaernulf.org)

### Catering

Attached in the email is a form from regarding allergies and lifestyle choices of scholars. Please, if your child has any allergies, fill out this form and return it to reception front desk or to the digitally to the office email – [office@astreaernulf.org](mailto:office@astreaernulf.org).

### Advance notices and upcoming events

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Mayor visit
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening from 4.00pm until 7.00pm
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 Post-16 interviews
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October – end of the half term

### Safeguarding

A new Bill has passed regarding Online Safety, The Online Safety Bill 2023. The purpose of the legislation is to protect users, including young people, by imposing rules on companies, such as Meta and TikTok, so that they avoid seeing harmful content. It also aims to preserve and enhance freedom of speech online and make it easier for the legal system to tackle illegal content online.

According to the government, the bill will make the UK the “safest place in the world to be online”. This aims to reduce the negative impact of online content on children, including the impact on those with mental health issues and those at risk of abuse.

The link to the NSPCC details more information in relation to The Online Safety Bill 2023 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/campaigns/end-child-abuse-online/>

## Personal Development

Ms Payne would like to thank all families who attended the PD consultation recently or completed it online. Ms Payne will be writing to you soon to summarise the results of this consultation and any actions we will take as a result.

This week, all scholars will be completing the "Respect Campaign" surveys in tutor time. This forms part of our termly "Community Survey", where scholars, families and staff share their views on the main issues affecting our scholars and their experience of being part of the Ernulf Academy community.

Over the next couple of weeks, scholars will be learning about the following topics in PD.

Year 7 - Moving to secondary school; making friends; staying safe in the community (roads and buses).

Year 8 - Vaping and smoking; energy drinks and caffeine; alcohol.

Year 9 - Peer pressure; risky behaviours; gangs.

Year 10 - Managing challenges; recognising when to seek help.

Year 11 - Emotional Wellbeing and stress; work-life balance.

If you have any questions regarding the PD curriculum, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## Attendance

### Term Time Leave

We do request that time off for holidays / appointments are arranged during the school holidays or teacher training days. If you do need to request time off for your student during term time, you will need to collect a leave of absence request form from the school office.

Any requests will then go to the principal to be reviewed and leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

### Attendance

We do encourage good attendance at Ernulf Academy, as we know this has a direct impact on scholars learning. If you have any concerns or worries about your child's attendance, these can be directed, in the first instance to our Attendance Lead – [julie.keane@astreaernulf.org](mailto:julie.keane@astreaernulf.org)

## Careers



We have a new CEIAG coordinator - Miss E Davies.

Over the next few weeks there will be communications with parents around what we will be offering to scholars this year.

The basis of our Careers Programme is that we want students to make well informed and realistic decisions about their choices at school and beyond.

Our aim is for scholars to...

- 1) Raise aspirations.
- 2) Develop a broader understanding of the world of work.
- 3) Develop their self and opportunity awareness to make decisions, review plans and cope with change.

We have a comprehensive and varied Careers Programme which every student is entitled to access. Parents and Carers are also welcomed to join in aspects of the programme in order to support their child's decision making. There is access to impartial professionally registered Careers Advisers. There is a dedicated Careers slot in tutor time as well as access to a structured programme of lessons in PHSCE. There is a wide access to a variety of enrichment opportunities for students to access from Y7 to Y11.

More than ever, we believe that it is imperative that students develop their 'essential' skills to help them deal with every aspect of their lives.



## Subjects

### Geography

Our year 11 scholars had a fantastic time on their fieldwork trip to Dunwich and Aldeburgh beach last week. As the focus of their fieldwork investigation, they were analysing the impact of coastal management strategies on sediment size and beach gradient. Scholars had the opportunity to try out using clinometers, quadrats and ranging poles to complete systematic samples of the beach gradient and pebble size. We even squeezed in time for a delicious fish and chip lunch! The Geography department would like to thank our year 11's for their impeccable behaviour and attitudes throughout the day.



### Science

Scholars in all years have been introduced to an exciting start in science. All scholars have been introduced to the process of learning about the natural world through observation and experimentation. Our initial focus has been on scientific practices to develop the skills of inquiry.

Year 7 to 9 have been introduced to the scientific method. Year 10 and 11 have consolidated their learning and have embarked upon their new GCSE modules.

We would like to welcome to the department Mrs. Achampong, Mrs. Siddique, Miss. Williams as science teachers and Mrs. Nadeem as Head of Science. We are looking forward to an amazing year ahead for science.

## Computer Science

The Computer Science department is excited to start the academic year with a range of topics for our KS3 classes.

Year 7 will be kicking off with Topic 1, which is the Impact of Technology and Collaborating Online Respectfully. This includes topics such as account security, respectful online communication, cyberbullying, recognizing, and reporting inappropriate reporting and contact, and finally using presentation tools and creating presentations. Topics for the rest of the year include word processing, networks, spreadsheets, and programming essentials in Scratch.

Year 8 will be starting with practical vector graphic design. This covers basic shapes, working with paths and groups of objects. Later this year, we will cover topics including computing systems, development for the web, data representation, mobile app development, and an introduction to Python programming.

Year 9 has started off with animation in Inkscape, where we are learning to move, rotate, scale, and colour 3D models, how to use names and parenting, complex models and colours, organic modelling, and rendering. Later this year, we will cover topics like data science, cybersecurity, audiovisual representation, and Python programming.

We are looking forward to a productive and exciting academic year in Computer Science, and we hope to inspire our scholars to develop their skills and knowledge in this field.

## Music

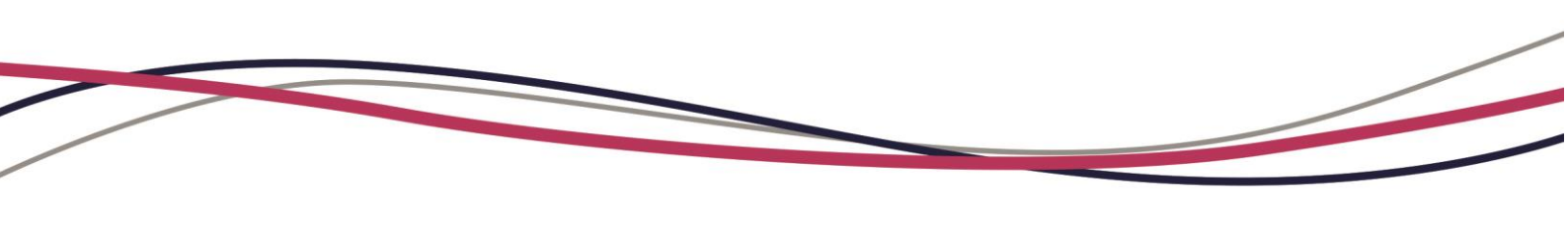
In music we have been focusing on musical elements and notation in our lessons. Year 7 have been amazing and have worked on notation, on how to play the keyboard using all 5 fingers of their right hand. They are currently playing "Ode to Joy" on the keyboard. It is amazing to see that everyone in Year 7 is trying their best and working hard!

Year 8 have been working on Blues music and a few groups have started on producing their own melodies using the blues scale. As part of the curriculum, they have also been learning how to read sheet music and music cheat sheets. Behaviour has been very good from a lot of scholars with a positive look on how to practice effectively during the lesson.

In Year 9 we have been working toward GCSE options by looking at music composition on the computer. This module is directly linked to the Eduqas GCSE music composition 2 in which scholars in GCSE have to write music to a selected brief. They have been using Cubase in the Music Computer Suite and have enjoyed lessons thus far as they can be creative in their approach to learning the module. They have been designing a piece of music to a pre-selected advert. Scholar's have made great gains in their compositional skills in the short time they have worked on Cubase.

Year 10 have started their GCSE with a good scholarly approach. They have been working at advanced Musical elements they will need to know prior to the exam. This in turn will lead onto area of study 1 (musical forms and devices) which establishes a valuable bank of musical terminology usable for further areas of study. Performance lessons have been outstanding with a high level of musical talent. The Composition element has been started with the scholars enjoying the opportunity to be creative.

Year 11 have begun well in Music this year and the scholars are starting preparations toward the November Mock examinations. They have each been given areas of study booklets which they need to bring to every Wednesday for their theory lesson. Composition 2 set briefs have been released by Eduqas and they have started working on these.



Throughout this term, Mr Higgins will be putting on clubs during lunchtimes, please encourage your children to attend as these clubs are fun, engaging, and exciting!

**Tuesday Lunchtime** – GCSE Music Performance Club – For GCSE Music scholars only

**Wednesday Lunchtime** – Music Wellbeing Club – For all year groups.

**Friday Lunchtime** – Ernulf Full School Choir – For all year groups and abilities.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Principal's Bulletin and it has given you an insight into what we have been up to at Ernulf Academy the past couple of weeks.. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Neesam".

Mr M Neesam

