

Fortnightly bulletin, Thursday 14th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Fortnightly Round Up

I am delighted to welcome back all of our young people back into the academy after what I hope has been a fantastic summer holiday. Our scholars have engaged in their learning with commitment and resilience and we are looking forward to celebrating their successes throughout the year. Over the summer holidays, there has been some significant refurbishment work completed across the academy site including the installation of new fire doors and a new fire alarm system. We have also had a major internet upgrade so that WiFi coverage is available in every classroom and IT suite, enabling faster download speeds for work during lessons. There will be further developments across the school site over the coming months and I will keep you updated with our progress.

Staffing

The start of a new term brings further additions to our staffing as our school community continues to grow. In mathematics, we welcome Mr Uriri and in Technology, we welcome Mr Whitehouse. In Science, we welcome a new Head of Science Mrs Nadeem, together with Miss Carradice-Williams and Miss Opoku. Our new Head of PE, Mr Isaac has joined us along with Miss Bezuidenhout in Media and Computing.

The support we offer for our SEN scholars continues to be enhanced with the arrival of Miss Pottinger as HLTA and Mrs Cooper as a dedicated teacher of Reading.

Over the coming weeks, we will be providing a more detailed introduction for each of our new colleagues as we strive towards making our school the very best it can be.

Uniform Swap Shop

The cost of living challenges for all families remains and I would like to thank parents and carers for the generous donations to the school of unused uniform. The initiative proved very popular over the summer holidays and we would like to continue to support as many families as possible. If you have any Ernulf Academy uniform that is in 'good' condition and your child no longer uses, we would kindly ask if this could be donated to the school. Any items can be left at the main academy office. We can then offer parents and carers the option to come to the academy to swap freshly laundered school uniform with a second-hand piece from our stock. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee all sizes will be available. The Swap Shop will be open on Thursday 19th October from 3.05pm until 5.00pm. Please make an appointment using the Microsoft Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VRZxZNmAHj>

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

Catering Facilities

The new catering menu Aspens has proven very popular. Despite food inflation still over 14% compared to this time last year, we have worked hard with Aspens to keep any price rises to a minimum. Our main meal and dessert package has only seen a 6.4% increase. Furthermore, the exciting menu choices that Aspens have brought to our school together with a sharp focus on quality, healthy ingredients has created a positive atmosphere in our canteen and gallery eateries. Below is a series of images to help demonstrate the positive image that we are promoting:



Emergency Contact Information

Following our communication over the summer holidays, if you have not already submitted the emergency contact information for your child, please could you complete the short, secure Microsoft Form as soon as possible. This enables us to communicate effectively and efficiently during the school day.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gGfPFvBL70-q-gtugufqCs-o1uLxed9LrFvYD6np-ihUNURVS0ZVSUK0RTBENU1TM08xM05KTjNCOC4u>

Advance notices and upcoming events

- Tuesday 19th September - Individual School Photos being taken for Years 7-11
- Thursday 21st September – Year 11 Geography Field Work trip to Dunwich – Group 1
- Friday 22nd September - Year 11 Geography Field Work trip to Dunwich – Group 2
- Thursday 28th September – Academy Open Evening for new Year 6 from 5.30pm until 8.00pm
- Thursday 12th October – Year 7 Meet the Tutor evening from 4.00pm until 7.00pm

Safeguarding

Please see attached the September edition of the CCC Safer Schools.

Personal Development

We are thrilled to welcome our scholars back for a new year of Personal Development education. The Personal Development curriculum and wider strategy across the Academy to support our students' development is led by Ms Payne. Personal Development lessons should give young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, happy lives and meet their full potential. Our PD curriculum is delivered in weekly (KS3) or fortnightly (KS4) timetabled lessons.

Within PD, we deliver [Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education](#), as well as the statutory guidance for [Relationships and Sex Education](#), [Careers Guidance](#) and [Citizenship](#). We have structured the learning into 4 strands which students explore in an age-appropriate way each year. These strands are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Sex and Relationships

- Wider World including CEIAG (Careers Education, Information and Guidance)
- Citizenship.

We strongly believe in the importance of working closely with our families to ensure our PD provision meets the needs of your child as effectively as possible. As such, we would like to invite you to join us at Ernulf Academy on Tuesday 19th September for a consultation event. In order to allow as many families as possible to attend, we will run two sessions: one at 2pm and one at 5:30pm. At this event, Ms Payne will be able to show you the PD curriculum so you can see what your child will be taught and when, and see some examples of the materials used in lessons to deliver the curriculum. Please register your attendance at the link [here](#).

If you cannot attend in person, then we would also like to offer you the opportunity to participate in the consultation via an online form. This contains a series of questions relating to our PD curriculum. First, please read our Relationships and Sex Education [policy](#) and review our curriculum overview as is relevant to your child, for Key Stage 3 [here](#) and for Key Stage 4 [here](#). Then, please complete our online consultation form [here](#). Please complete this form before Friday 6th October when this form will close.

We are committed to working in partnership with our families to ensure our pupils receive the best PD education possible and as parents/carers you play a critical role in this. We would like to thank you in advance for your input in shaping our PD curriculum and I look forward to working with you this year.

This term, Ernulf Academy will be completing the Excellent in Pupil Development Award. This award evaluates the Academy's pastoral and Personal Development provision against a framework including our curriculum, scholars' behaviour, promotion of responsible citizenship, local partnerships, work with external organisations and development of our staff. We look forward to feeding back our progress towards this award to you! You can read more about the award [here](#).

Attendance

We are pleased to say that over 25% of our students achieved above 97% attendance for the last academic year, with a number of these achieving 100% for the full year. This is a great achievement and students will receive certificates to mark this over the coming weeks.

SEN

For any queries or questions regarding SEND at the Academy, please contact our SEND team via the contact details below:

Catherine Hunter - Assistant Principal - SENCo and Inclusion
catherine.hunter@astreaernulf.org

Sue McConnell - SEN Manager
sue.mcconnell@astreaernulf.org

School Photographs

Please ensure your child/children turn up to school in full school uniform with neat and tidy hair.



Subjects

English

The Ernulf English Team were really pleased with the outcomes at GCSE; we are extremely proud of our scholars! We are working with our new Year 11's to prepare them for this year and the exams next summer, running a range of targeted interventions and giving all scholars the opportunity to excel in English. Our Y10's have started their GCSE courses and are showing positive attitudes which are already contributing to their progress.

In KS3, all year groups have started their study of 19th Century Literature, with Y9 delving into 'Jane Eyre', Y8 exploring stories about 'Sherlock Holmes', and Y7 discovering the world of 'Oliver Twist'. Our writing courses have also started this week, with targeted intervention in place with support from the SEND team and Literacy Co-ordinator. We are also looking forward to the launch of Sparx Reader, which will support all scholars in developing their vocabulary and reading fluency.

PE

As we move into the new academic year the PE department look forward to welcoming students to extra-curricular clubs and fixtures. Clubs will be running from the week commencing the 18th September and fixtures will then follow. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend clubs and they are welcome to attend and try as many clubs as they like. A reminder that there is no cost for students to attend clubs or fixtures. We look forward to seeing all the students who attend. Here are the clubs currently running;

Netball Yrs 7-11 – Tuesday

Rugby Yrs 7 & 8 – Tuesday

Football Yrs 7-10 – Wednesday

Please speak with Mr Isaac if you have further question on PE clubs.

Design Technology

The technologies department has started the academic year with some very exciting lessons for the KS3 classes. The year 7's have been taking part in a 'Structures Challenge' to create a free-standing structure that supports the weight of an object as high off the ground as possible. There have been some very inventive ideas and excellent teamwork. While the year 8 and 9's have been involved in looking at flying machines, showing great effort during their group work activities. All the scholars are looking forward to testing these and competing in the class competitions.

Art

It has been a creative start to the new academic year in Ernulf's Art department. Year 7 are learning about the Formal Elements of art this half term, which are the basics of all art so this knowledge will develop their skills throughout their future learning journey. Year 8 have embarked on their Day of the Dead project; beginning with learning about colour theory before moving onto the culture of the Day of the Dead. Year 9 have a project this term, entitled Landscape and Natural Form and they are starting with learning various drawing techniques. Year 10 have made a positive start their GCSE Art course with creative ideas for their Food in art project and year 11 are continuing their coursework project on the theme of Identity.

Drama

In Drama this half term, students will be exploring different texts, time periods, genres and theatre practitioners. All students will create performances and perform to their class, building up vital public speaking skills, projection and confidence. In Year 7 we will be looking into how Ancient Greeks created the first form of modern theatre. In Year 8 we will be building on our knowledge of Melodrama by exploring Silent Movies. In Year 9 we are studying



Konstantin Stanislavski, the man who developed realism. In Year 10 we are studying Blood Brothers. Finally in Year 11 we are completing our devising performances and portfolios.

Media

We would like to welcome Ms Bezuidenhout to the Media department this Academic Year! Year 9 scholars are starting this new subject to get to know how the media influences and impacts their day to day lives. They will have the opportunity this Academic year to research, design and plan working from a brief to create their own media product using software programs such as Photoshop and Canva. Welcome to Year 10 Media scholars who are starting their GCSE Media Studies course with Eduqas Media Studies exam board. Year 10 students will start by exploring key concepts for media analysis and begin their course with the media form of Advertising. Lastly, Year 11 students are busily working hard at completing their coursework as well as exploring the analysis of Newspapers within the UK such as The Guardian and The Sun.

History

History enables students to study the complexity of people's lives, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups of people. Our scholars will develop their understanding of historical concepts and learn how historians use evidence to make historical claims. Scholars in year 7 will be learning about Anglo-Saxon Britain and the Norman invasion of 1066. Scholars in year 8 are studying the Renaissance and how it shaped Europe, they will also learn about the European discovery of the New World in 1492. In year 9, scholars are learning about the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the relationship of Europe with the continent of Africa. Scholars in year 10 have begun their GCSE by learning about medicine through time, including knowledge about causes, prevention, and treatment of disease. Scholars in year 11 are learning about Superpower relations, and how tension increase between the USA and the USSR post 1945.

Geography

Geography means the study of the earth, and in Geography we hope to engage students with the world around them and begin to understand how it is shaped, influenced and changed by different geographical factors. Our scholars will develop their geographical skills as well as build up their knowledge of the key processes which influence the world around them. Scholars in year 7 will be introduced to some of the skills they will need to use throughout their Geography lessons, including basic map skills, and the names of the continents and oceans. Scholars in year 8 will study how different towns and cities have developed over time, and how development is measured. In year 9, scholars will learn about the geography of the continent of Africa. Scholars in year 10 will begin their GCSE study by learning about physical geography, including coasts and plate tectonics. Scholars in year 11 are preparing to undertake their first piece of fieldwork, visiting the Suffolk coastline to measure the impact of erosion on managed and unmanaged coastlines.

The Geography field trip to the Dunwich and Aldeburgh coastline - Year 11 scholars will be attending this trip on either 20th or 21st September depending on the date allocated to them. They will need to arrive at school by 7:45am and we will aim to be back by 5pm, depending on traffic.

RE

Religious Education is all about helping our scholars to understand themselves and the world they live in. Whether they are religious or not, every child comes to our lessons with their own opinions, views, beliefs and values which have been formed over time. This is known as a "worldview". In RE, we aim to help our scholars understand their own worldview and those of others around them so they can develop respect and empathy. This year, our scholars will be exploring their own beliefs and personal identity in year 7; the beliefs and teachings of the Buddha in year 8 and the Problem of Evil in year 9. Scholars in Key Stage 4 will be following either the AQA RE GCSE short course (year 10) beginning with studying

Peace and Conflict or completing the AQA RE GCSE full course in year 11, completing their studies of Relationships and Families.

We hope that all scholars have settled well into the first term of this academic year. We are excited to see what achievements can be made from everyone and look forward to making positive change within the school, the community and for ourselves.

Yours Sincerely,

M. Neesam

Mr M Neesam

