

## Fortnightly bulletin, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Fortnightly Round Up

I would like to congratulate all our Year 11 scholars for their commitment to the mock examinations over the past two weeks. Mock examinations are a vital part of Year 11 to ensure core knowledge is tested but more importantly, any misconceptions can be addressed during future lessons prior to the final GCSE examinations. We have also welcomed a number of businesses and organisations promoting careers guidance and for a variety of year groups which culminated on Thursday evening with our annual careers fayre which was very well attended by families with children across Years 9 to 11. I would like to thank all parents/carers and scholars for attending the event.

### Weetabixshire

On Tuesday this week, we had an unexpected sign appear outside the academy promoting the town as 'Weetabixshire.' Upon further investigation, St. Neots sits at the centre of the wheat growing area that exclusively grows all the wheat which is used to make Weetabix. There is some further coverage of the promotion here: <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/lifestyle/weetabix-breakfast-county-petition-northamptonshire-b2447543.html>

### Attendance

The start of the academy day is 8.35am and we open the gates at 8.25am to ensure a prompt start. All scholars should arrive at the bike shed entrance before 8.35am. Any child arriving after 8.35am should proceed to the main entrance and a 'late' sanction will be given.

### Safeguarding

#### New mental health text line - HEAR 85258

A new mental health free text messaging support service has launched in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to help those who are struggling to cope. Launched by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and in partnership with the national service SHOUT, the free to use text service HEAR 85258 provides real-time support to people of all ages who are struggling with their mental health.

When texting the word HEAR to 85258, the person will be connected to a trained volunteer who will take them from a place of crisis to a place of calm. During the confidential and anonymous conversation, the texter will be supported and signposted to local and national mental health services.

Texting HEAR to 85258 is free, discreet and runs 24/7. It won't appear on any bills and requires no app, data, password, or registration. It is available for anybody who lives, works, or studies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

For more information about what mental health services are available in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, visit [www.keep-your-head.com](http://www.keep-your-head.com)

If you feel your or somebody's life is at risk due to their mental health, dial 111 and listen for the option for the mental health crisis team.

[www.cpics.org.uk/hear-text-line](http://www.cpics.org.uk/hear-text-line)

### First Aid

Could parents and careers please remind their children the importance of not spraying aerosols indoors and the affect that it could have on other scholars and staff members who suffer from things such as asthma and respiratory conditions.

Also, a reminder that scholars are not to keep hold of their own medication, whether that be prescribed or over the counter. If you would like to hold medication or for our first aid team to administer medication during school time, please collect a form from reception or first for parents and carers to sign and return with the medication. Exceptions to this rule includes epi-pens, insulin and inhalers. Please make our lead first aider aware if your child does need to carry their own medication.

Please get in touch with any questions – <mailto:samantha.brown@astreaernulf.org>

### **Personal Development**

Students will be learning about the following areas in their Personal Development lessons across the next fortnight.

Year 7: Health and Puberty: Healthy Routines (personal hygiene); physical and emotional changes in puberty.

Year 8: Emotional and Physical Health: Healthy and unhealthy coping strategies; digital resilience.

Year 9: Respectful Relationships: Commitment in relationships; communication in relationships.

Year 10: Securing a Job: Application forms and interviews.

Year 11: Post-16 transitions: Knowing the Curriculum Vitae, Producing a CV.

If you would like to discuss these topics in any further detail, particularly regarding the individual circumstances for your child, please contact Ms Payne (SLT Lead for Personal Development). The curriculum map is also available on the curriculum pages on the Academy website outlining the content to be studied in each lesson across the academic year.

### Respect Campaign Community Survey

Each term, we ask scholars, parents/carers and staff to complete a short questionnaire to give their feedback on their experience of the school so far, and in particular about the Personal Development of the young people. As part of this, we would like to invite all parents/carers to complete our Autumn Term survey accessed at the link here.

We will share the feedback from all of our community later on this half term, and also arrange further information and education around any key themes arising from this.

### Clubs and Enrichment Activities

Please find the clubs timetable for this half term below.



## Autumn Term 2 Clubs Timetable

Autumn Term 1 Clubs	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime</b>		KS3 Music Club – Mr Higgins - MU1	Music Wellbeing Club – Music Room – Mr Higgins  Ernulf Echo – Miss Davies – Media Room	Drama Club – D2 (All years) Miss Austin  GCSE Music Club – Music Room - Mr Higgins  Homework Club – COM 3 (Mrs Bellamy)	Year 7 and 8 basketball (Mr Isaac)  All school choir – For all year groups and staff! - Music Room - Mr Higgins
<b>After School (15:05-16:05)</b>	Homework Club – Mrs Brown – library.	Netball Club – Miss Moniz and Miss Foley.  Year 7 & 8 Rugby – Mr Isaac and Mr Crook.  Homework Club – Mrs Brown – library.  Dungeons and Dragons – Mr Hailstone (there is space in the week B group only!) - H3 and H6  Duke of Edinburgh – Miss Davies - H5	Football Club – Mr Hemming and Mr Isaac (until 4:30pm).  Fixtures.  Homework Club – Mrs Brown – library.	Years 9 and 10 basketball (Mr Gatulah)  Homework Club – Mrs Brown – library.	Art Club (Mrs Mansfield).  Girls Hockey Club (Miss Hewitt – Sports Hall)



### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Staff Development Day

Further to my advance notice in the previous bulletins, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November is calendared as a staff development day and the academy will be closed to scholars. The day will focus on GCSE examination moderation, safeguarding training and curriculum review/planning.

### Advance notices and upcoming events

- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Parliament Day
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Staff Development Day and the Academy is closed to scholars
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Year 11 mock results day
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 11 Parents/Carers evening held in person at the academy
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas lunch
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term

### Catering

We are happy to inform everyone that we will once again be hosting our Christmas Lunch for all scholars. This will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and will need to be booked on the ParentPay app. Further information will follow soon.

### Careers

#### Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

We have had a great response to the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Lots of our scholars were keen to get started choosing their strands. We are looking to start our first aid sessions over the following two weeks. In their own time scholars can begin to collect evidence for their skill, volunteering, and physical strands. Evidence can be photographs, videos or written reflections. These will be uploaded to eDofE accounts. We are looking to get scholar logged on to their eDofE account in December.

A reminder that the sessions every Tuesdays. They repeat so there are no conflicts with session 6. Year 10 sessions are for Week A and repeated in Week B for Year 11. KS3 can attend either session.

### Careers Fair

We had a fantastic turn out for our careers fair this year. The halls were buzzing as we had 25 exhibitors, ranging from sixth form colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and the military services.

We had a great turnout for scholar attendance with over 120 families attending one of the 4 sessions. Scholars were asking excellent questions, and the exhibitors are keen to work with the school to provide more opportunities.

We are keen to hear your thoughts on the event so any feedback on how you found it would be amazing to help us continue with aspects that worked well and improve any areas for next year.

Further to this we have a very busy week next week. We have listed below the opportunities we are providing our young people and how they can get involved.

### Upcoming Careers Events

- Tuesday 21st November - Year 11 International construction company – SKANSKA- are delivering an assembly on working in the construction industry and apprenticeships in general. They will have an apprentice with them to take any questions scholars have.
- Wednesday 22nd November - Year 7 SKANSKA are in again to deliver a road safety event. They will begin by delivering an assembly. After the scholars will take it in turns to complete three workshops around building roads, road safety and construction.
- Thursday 23rd November - Year 7, 8, 9, 10 An outreach section of parliament will be visiting the school. They will be delivering a 30-minute talk on roles in parliament and how parliament works. After the presentations, there will be a Q&A session for selected students.

## **Subjects**

### Music

In music this half term we have been starting more lunchtime clubs for our scholars. On Tuesdays we have Keyboard club, Wednesday we have music wellbeing club, Thursdays is now GCSE club and Fridays is our Ernulf School Choir. Turnout for these clubs has been remarkable with lots of scholars from all year groups coming to enjoy the value of playing musical instruments. GCSE club is a new club which has been designed to support scholars in year 10 and 11 who need help with their performance and composition for their GCSE. I would love for as many of the GCSE cohort to come along as possible and get this fantastic 1-2-1 support, so if your child is taking music as an option, please highlight that this club is available every week.

In lessons, scholars in year 7 have been learning about Rock Music. They have been learning how to play chords, riffs to popular songs and also a new clef! The Bass Clef! They have thoroughly enjoyed playing riffs and are very keen to learn more about the history of Rock Music. Years 8 & 9 have started on some group work this year and I have been very impressed with the attitudes and their support to their peers. Scholars in Year 8 have been working on writing their own music to a short piece of film from the popular animation “chicken run”. This creative freedom they are getting is really supporting their growth and their wellbeing. Year 9 scholars have been working on how to add live music to adverts. They have enjoyed working in groups and using their own musical instruments from home.

Both GCSE groups have been working really hard and their attitudes to learning have been exemplary. Year 10 have been learning Area of Study 1 (Musical forms and devices) and are using their new word banks to support their studies as they go into Area of Study 4 (Pop Music). It's especially pleasing to see more scholars choosing to select music as an option with 3 new scholars having joined the year 10 cohort recently. Year 11 scholars are just finishing up their November Mock exams. They have worked especially hard on these and are to be commended for their attention and subject knowledge. Exam results will be out soon and the new focus for them now is to complete their first performance and their composition to a set brief by the end of this term. Please encourage your 11 children taking GCSE music to pop along to the GCSE music club on Thursday lunchtimes.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mr. Neesam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mr M Neesam  
Principal

