

OA-SUFFOLK NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2025/26

Edition No. 1



Update from the Head of Academy

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a fantastic term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved and share some exciting plans for the months ahead. During the term, it has been wonderful to welcome both new pupils and those returning, and we are delighted with the positive start everyone has made. Over the summer and throughout this term, we have been working hard to improve our learning environment with fresh painting, a new teaching kitchen and ever developing vocational area. These enhancements will be fully completed over the Christmas holidays with new doors running the length of the academy, ready for a bright start in January.

This term has also seen our team grow, and with new members joining us, we have been able to broaden the opportunities available to pupils. One of the most exciting additions is the introduction of GCSE Art, giving pupils the chance to explore their creativity at a higher level and we have pleasure in welcoming Mr Millerchip, Art Instructor, to the team.

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which will be open to some of our older pupils—a fantastic way for them to develop skills, confidence, and resilience.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have an exciting start to the new year planned. On January 6th, we welcome families for our Parent Consultation Day, an opportunity to discuss progress and plans for the year ahead. In addition to the usual meeting with tutors, we are hosting our first-ever Careers and Post-16 Fair, which is open to all families and I would encourage all to visit. This event will feature a range of colleges and local companies ready to share information about their courses and opportunities. Confirmed participants include West Suffolk College, British Sugar, the Military Preparation College, Kier Construction Ltd, Suffolk Rural College & WS Training. This is a fantastic chance for pupils and families to explore future pathways and gain valuable insights.



We are also looking forward to welcoming Care Development East who will be coming in over the first half term and working with pupils around the opportunities available in the NHS and care services.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in January for an exciting year ahead. With our Family Consultation Day taking place on Tuesday 6th January, pupils return to their normal timetables on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

Kelly Emms
Head of Academy



Information For Parents - Shopping Scams

Every year hundreds of thousands of people here in the UK fall victim to fraud when buying something online. With Xmas and Xmas sales rapidly approaching, fraud and scams will be significantly on the increase.

GetSafeOnline has a plethora of information to help with this such as:

- Information on purchase scams [HERE](#).
- Online buying tips [HERE](#).
- Scam website checker [HERE](#).

Please check the legitimacy of the company, particularly on social media such as Instagram, there will often be ads for things like clothing and gifts which look interesting and unique. When you click on the ad to take a closer look, always tap on the 3 dots on the top right and tap on "open in external browser". The reason for this is that if it is a company you are not aware of, you will want to know the details of the company before you purchase. Often when you go onto the website there are no company details, no contact details (apart from a web form), and either no reviews or perfect reviews. These are all red flags and it may not be safe to purchase from such a site.



Reminder of Key Dates For Your Diary

TERM DATES 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

TERM TIME	Monday 1 st September to Friday 19 th December 2025
INSET DAYS	Monday 1 st September 2025 (OA Trust Day) Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 Friday 28 th November 2025
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
FIRST DAY IN THE ACADEMY FOR PUPILS	Thursday 4 th September 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 3 rd November 2025
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	Monday 22 nd December to Friday 2 nd January 2026

Spring Term 2026

TERM TIME	Monday 5 th January to Friday 27 th March 2026
INSET DAYS	Monday 5 th January 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
FIRST DAY IN THE ACADEMY FOR PUPILS	Wednesday 7 th January 2026
HALF TERM	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 23 rd February 2026
EASTER HOLIDAYS	Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

TERM TIME	Monday 13 th April to Friday 17 th July 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 13 th April 2026
FIRST DAY IN THE ACADEMY FOR PUPILS	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
INSET DAY	Monday 20 th July 2026
HALF TERM	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026
FAMILY CONSULTATION DAY	Monday 1 st June 2026
LAST DAY FOR PUPILS AND STAFF	Friday 17 th July 2026



BEACH Class News

Autumn Term in Beach

A new academic year means a new class and a new focus 'Preparing for Adulthood', so Beach pupils have thought about what they would like to become - a police officer, a scientist, an inventor or even a Maths teacher.

We've also been developing essential life skills that include reading, writing, and arithmetic. Cooking has been a major part of this learning journey. Applying multiple skills: reading and following recipes, budgeting, and reducing food waste.



Cooking also covers maths concepts such as weighing ingredients, measuring capacity, and calculating volume.

Science plays a role too — mixing dry and liquid ingredients, observing reactions, and exploring changes of state.

Outdoor Learning

During our Outdoor Learning sessions the class walked to different parts of the local area including Combs Ford. We observed the change in the seasons and went out in the minibus to Needham Lake.



Sometimes it is satisfying to sort and tidy objects whether it is straws or counters!



We try and find lots of different opportunities to recognise emotions in all lessons including Olive Way, Zones of regulation, PSHE - Jigsaw and a new lesson 'Ready to Regulate' which sometimes takes the form of games.

The class have also been taught by our new Art Instructor Mr Millerchip.



BEACH Class News cont.

Coraline

The first part of the term we looked at the book Coraline, thinking about character and the plot. This half-term has been learning about the different types of report writing.



Physical education has been varied from football, tennis, running, balance and basketball.



Every week the class have drumming lessons; the teacher has been really impressed by their musicality, listening skills and team work.

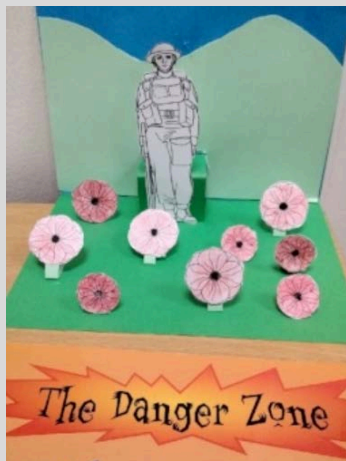
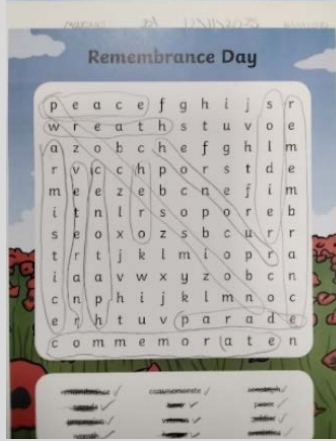
Teamwork is so important in Beach class to the point they get stars if they are seen working as a team, supporting each other and listening to one another.



BEACH Class News cont.

Remembrance Day

For Remembrance Day, the class explored why we commemorate the occasion and learned about the important role animals played during World War One. Pupils designed medals to honour these animals. One of the activities was to look closely at photographs from World War One and to share opinions on what these images might have conveyed to people who were not there.



Beach on a Bus!

As part of our Outdoor Learning, Beach Class took a trip to Needham Market on the bus. The pupils were excited to learn that we would be catching the 88 bus—a familiar sight as it often passes the school and is a double-decker! To make sure we didn't miss it, we walked into town and checked the bus timetable along with Ms. Bowers' app to see its location and whether it was on time. Once on board, the class chose their seats and sat sensibly, asking questions and sharing how they felt about the experience.



BEACH Class News cont.

Beach on a Train!

Beach class had a great day, buying tickets and seeing how the train station operates. They also looked at the train boards to learn how to know when our train was arriving and talked to the train conductor.

We walked to Abbey Gardens and pupils enjoyed the park. They read the story about the 'Wolf and the Kings Head' and visited the birds including the golden pheasant. Afterwards, we headed to McDonald's for lunch then walked back to the train station to return to school.

Once we were on the train the pupils asked if they could do 'Start of the Day'. They wrote sentences based on last weeks bus trip and then completed 60 timetables questions.



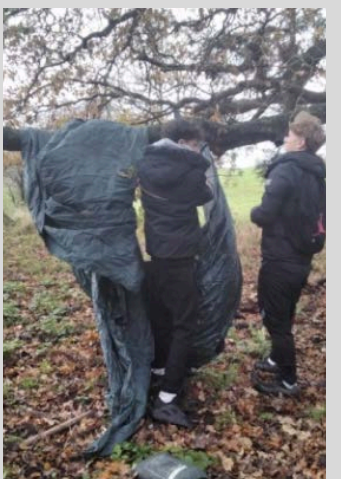
OCEAN Class News



Outdoor Education

This autumn term Ocean class has been participating in Outdoor Education delivered by East Coast Adventures. Due to Ocean Class being a new group of pupils, this September Outdoor Education has been crucial for them to form positive relationships with class peers and staff.

Outdoor Education has also provided opportunities for pupils to develop important skills such as problem-solving skills, teamwork & collaboration, communication, leadership, and practical life skills. Pupils have been able to develop these skills in the following activities; Archery Tag, Axe Throwing, Archery, Geotagging, Bushcraft, Climbing, Shelter Building and Mountain Biking.



OCEAN Class News Cont.



Art Lessons in the Studio

In Autumn Term, pupils in Ocean Class have particularly enjoyed Art Lesson in the Studio with Mr. Millerchip. In the studio, lessons have given opportunities for pupils to be creative and explore different artists/forms of art.

Pupils have explored the colour theory, formal elements of drawing, drawing real life objects, mono printing/two colour mono printing and group large paintings.



OCEAN Class News Cont.



Cooking

As part of preparation for adulthood, Ocean Class participated in weekly cooking sessions. This has allowed pupils to learn crucial cooking skills that they can use in their future.

The term has focused on reading recipes, measuring & weighing ingredients, and safe/correct peeling and cutting techniques.

Dishes made this term include club sandwiches, spaghetti bolognese, cottage pie, pizza, and pancakes. Pupils have also learned the importance of keeping a kitchen clean, kitchen rules, and bacteria growth.



OCEAN Class News Cont.

Construction

This term, pupils in Ocean Class have accessed construction in the Rainbow Bridge construction room. Pupils have been working with Pathway Skills Academy to complete NOCN Entry 3 Introduction into construction.

Ocean Class has completed both theory and practical learning - theory learning around the health and safety requirements needed while working in a construction role. The practical elements so far have included pupils making their initials out of wood and learning to make the different types of timber joints.



DAFFODIL Class News

Autumn Term News

This Autumn Term we began with a variety of “getting to know me “ activities and team building fun activities such as building a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows and egg drop challenge. Our pupils have played chess together too.

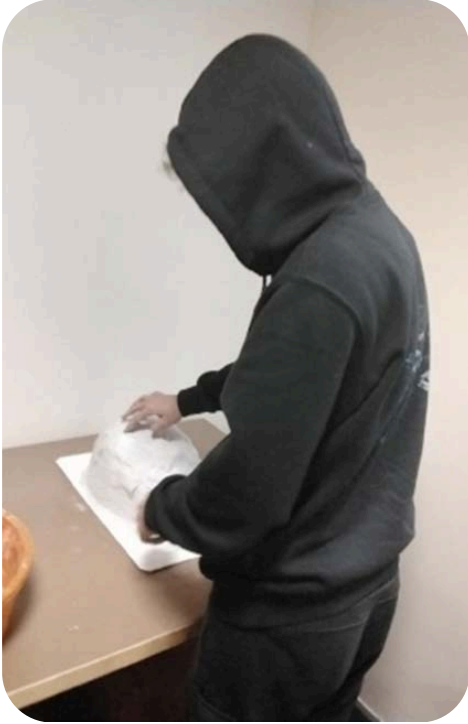
We also designed a Daffodil collage with different pupils having a section of a daffodils to create before assembling the pieces to create a whole flower. We have also created mood boards of our interesting hobbies and interests.



In Daffodil class we try to engage in our learning using practical tasks and activities. For example in Science we created Power Stations using lego, junk modelling and play.



DAFFODIL Class News cont.



Art Lessons

In Art lessons this term, Daffodil pupils have sculptured and created 3D masks using MOD ROC.



DAFFODIL Class News cont.

Preparation for Adulthood

We have enjoyed Preparation for Adulthood activities such as construction and cookery. Our students have designed and constructed a wooden photo frame and a pencil box. Sometimes the Preparation for Adulthood activities have been helping in real life situations. One student helped to install an electric heater in our classroom, using an electrical screwdriver and drill to fix the heater onto the wall.

Well done Daffodil Class, it has been a great start. Looking forward to the Spring Term!

